

THE ACCENT PANEL III

Tamil

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DETECTIVE WORK

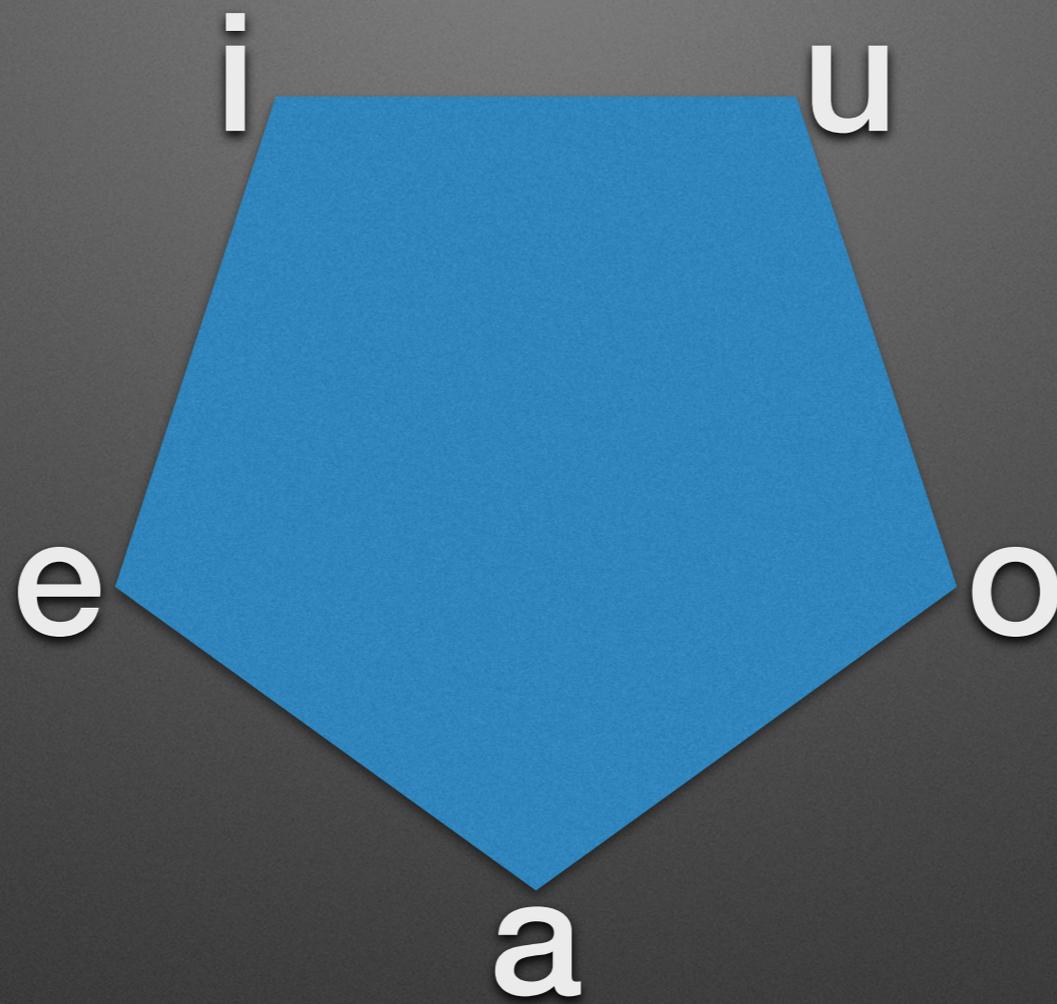
The Steps I took

Sites I visited to get started

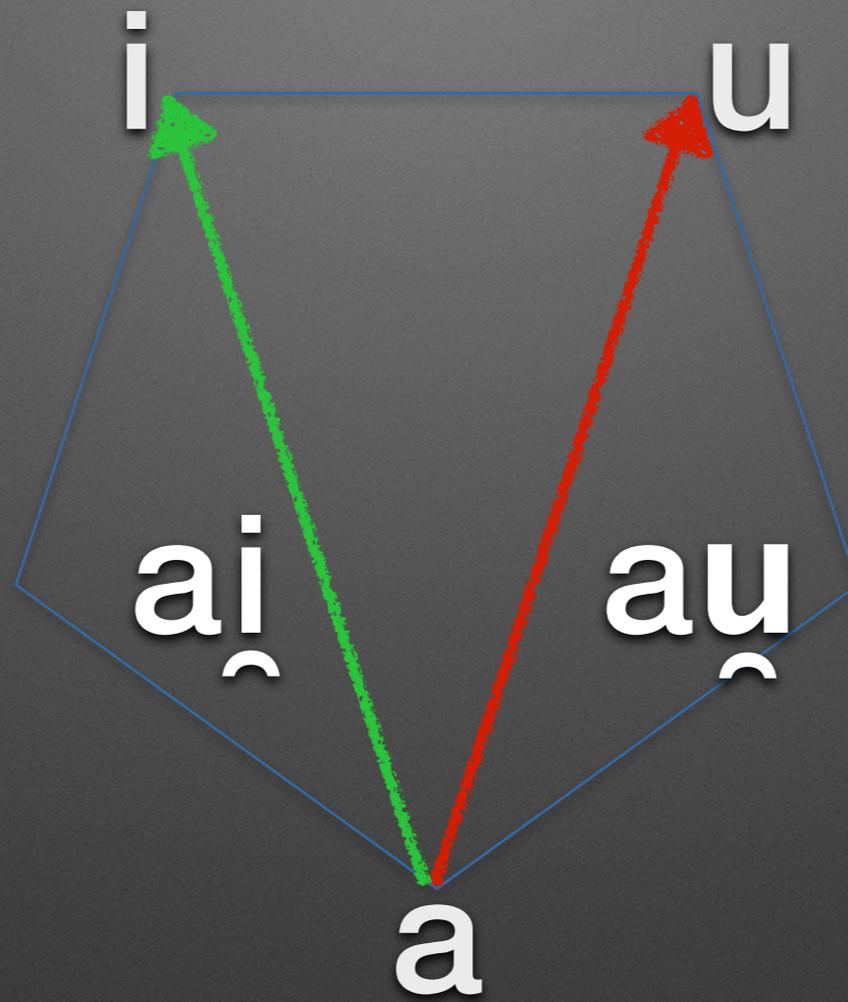
- Wikipedia
 - Tamil
 - Tamil Language
 - Tamil Phonology
- Omniglot
- Ethnologue
- **WALS online**



5 Vowel Qualities



Plus 2 Diphthongs



Stop Consonants in Tamil

- Aspirated & Unaspirated Voiceless Stops
e.g. [t^h] vs. [t^h]
- Initial stops are voiceless, intervocalic are voiced
- BUT, all other English stops are possible within LOAN words from other languages

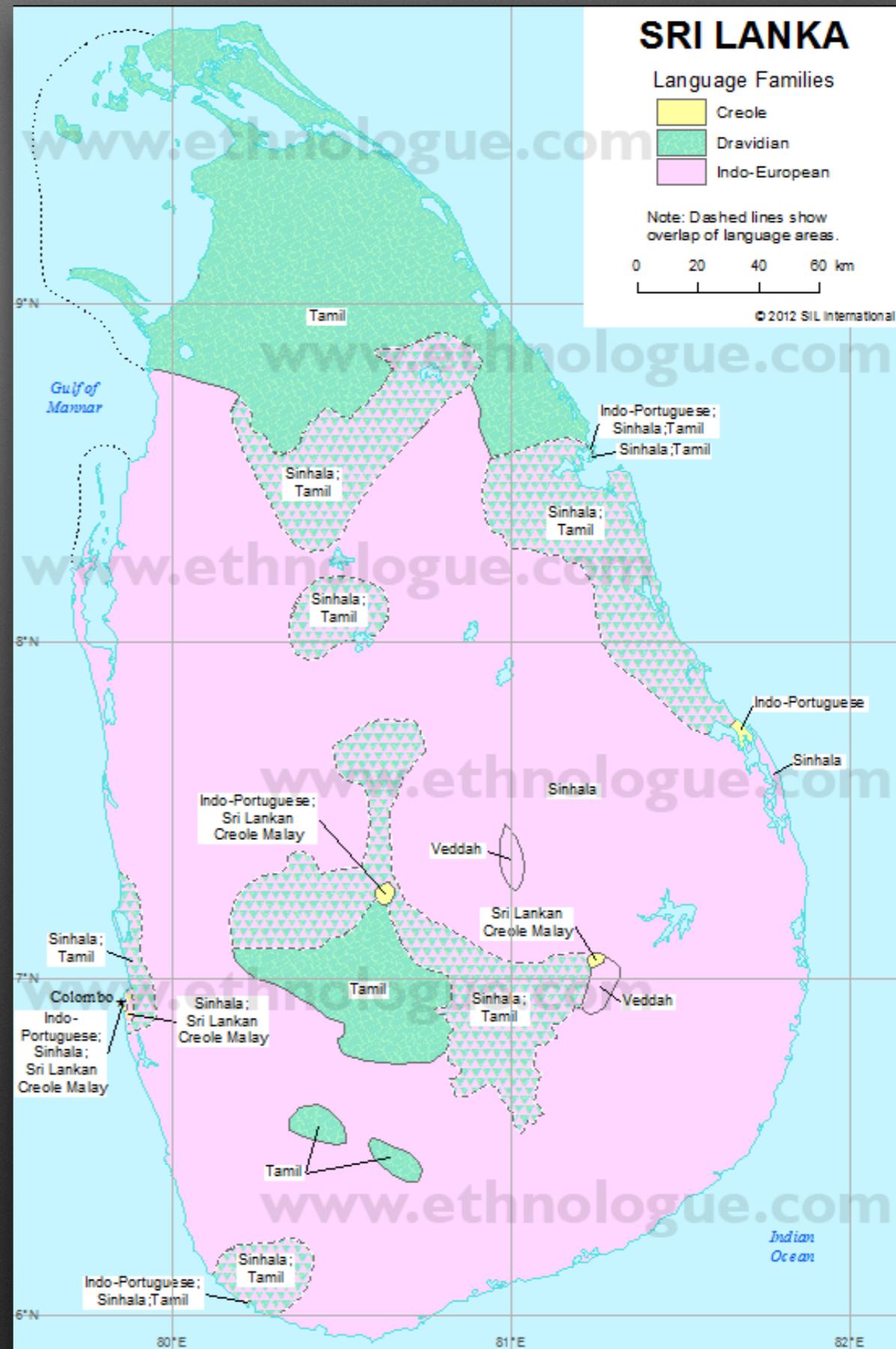
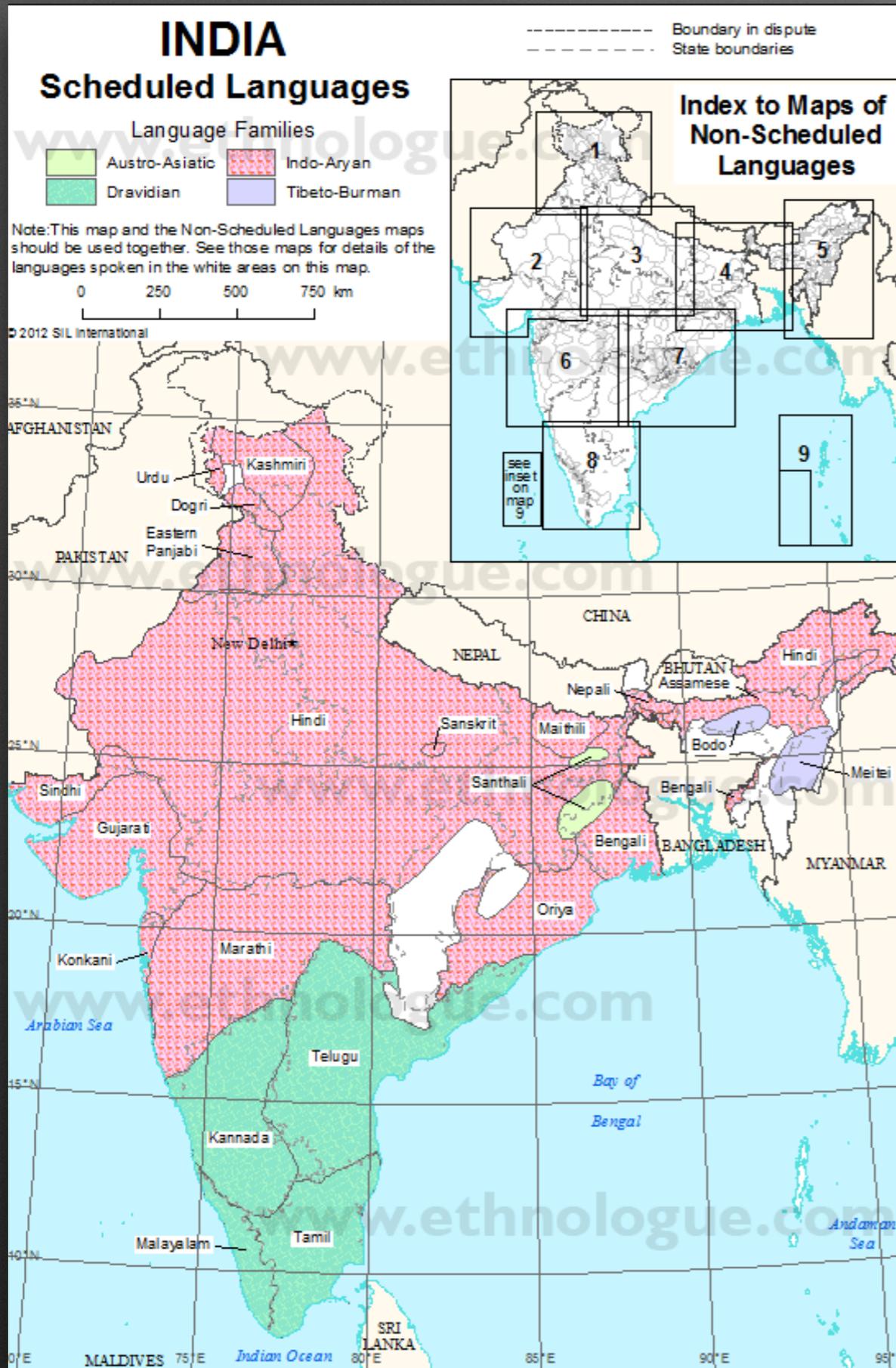
Noteworthy Tamil Consonants

- Dentalized consonants /t̪, n̪/
- Retroflex consonants /ɖ, ɳ, ʀ, ɻ, ʁ/
- Alveolo-Palatal affricates /tʃ, dʒ/
- Lots of Nasals /m, n̪, n, ɳ, ɲ, ŋ/

Tamil has an elaborate writing system that was first invented for writing on palm leaves; its curved strokes were used so as not to tear the leaves.

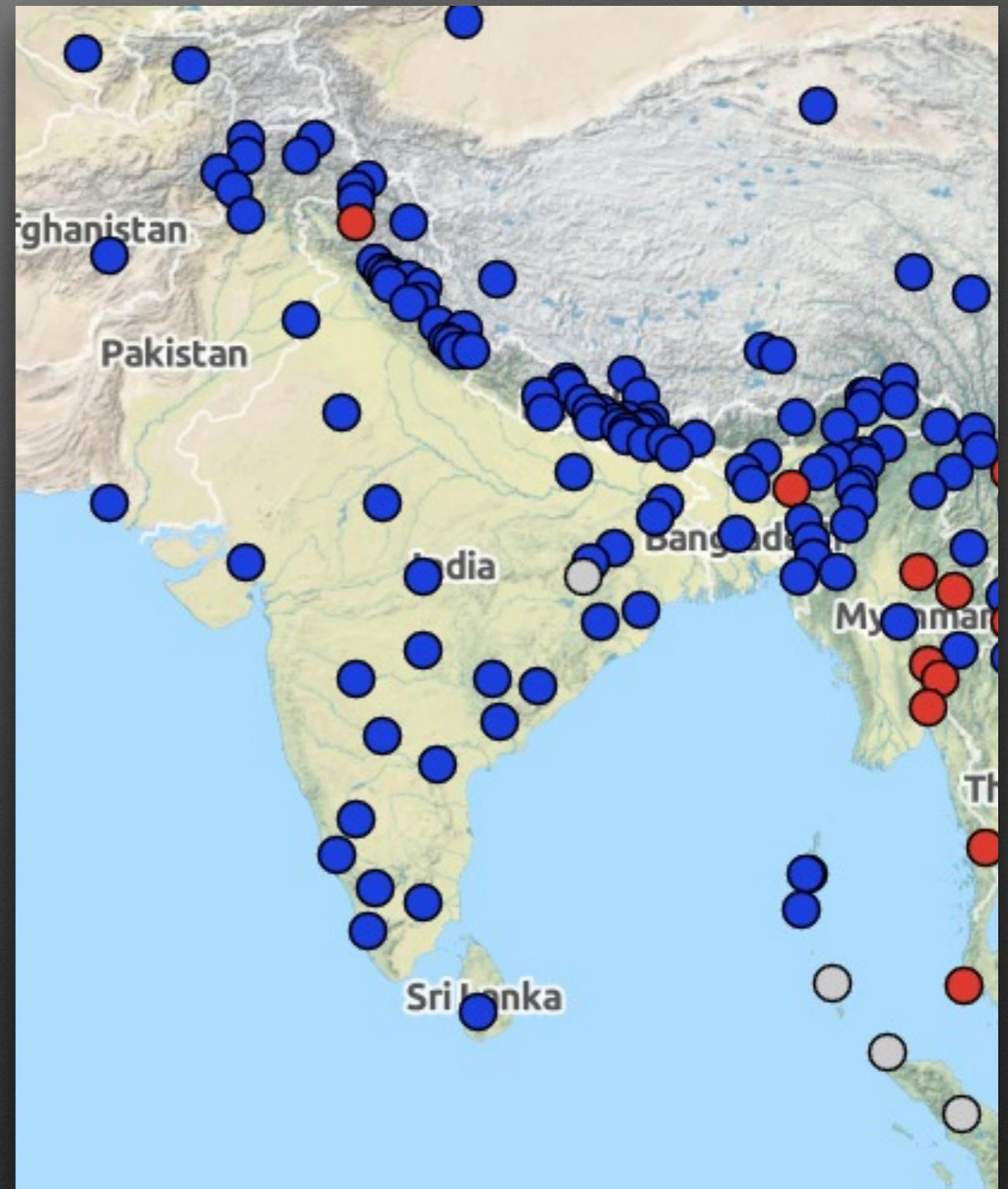
தமிழ் மொழி (Tamil language) தமிழர்களினதும், தமிழ் பேசும் பலரதும் தாய்மொழி ஆகும். தமிழ் திராவிட மொழிக் குடும்பத்தின் முதன்மையான மொழிகளில் ஒன்றும் செம்மொழியும் ஆகும். இந்தியா, இலங்கை, மலேசியா, சிங்கப்பூர் ஆகிய நாடுகளில் அதிக அளவிலும், ஐக்கிய அரபு அமீரகம், தென்னாப்பிரிக்கா, மொரிசியசு, பிஜி, ரீயூனியன், டிரினிடாட் போன்ற நாடுகளில் சிறிய அளவிலும் தமிழ் பேசப்படுகிறது. 1997ஆம் ஆண்டுப் புள்ளி விவரப்படி உலகம் முழுவதிலும் 8 கோடி (80 மில்லியன்) மக்களால் பேசப்படும் தமிழ், ஒரு மொழியைத் தாய்மொழியாகக் கொண்டு பேசும் மக்களின் எண்ணிக்கை அடிப்படையில் பதினெட்டாவது இடத்தில் உள்ளது.

Tamil Language Entry from *Tamil Wikipedia*



TONS of Detail from WALS

- With only 5-6 vowels, Tamil is in the “average” range.
- Like almost all its neighbours, Tamil is a SOV language ●, while English is a SVO one ●
- 83 entries on Morphology, Word order, nominal and verbal categories, etc.



Feature 81A: Order of Subject, Object and Verb



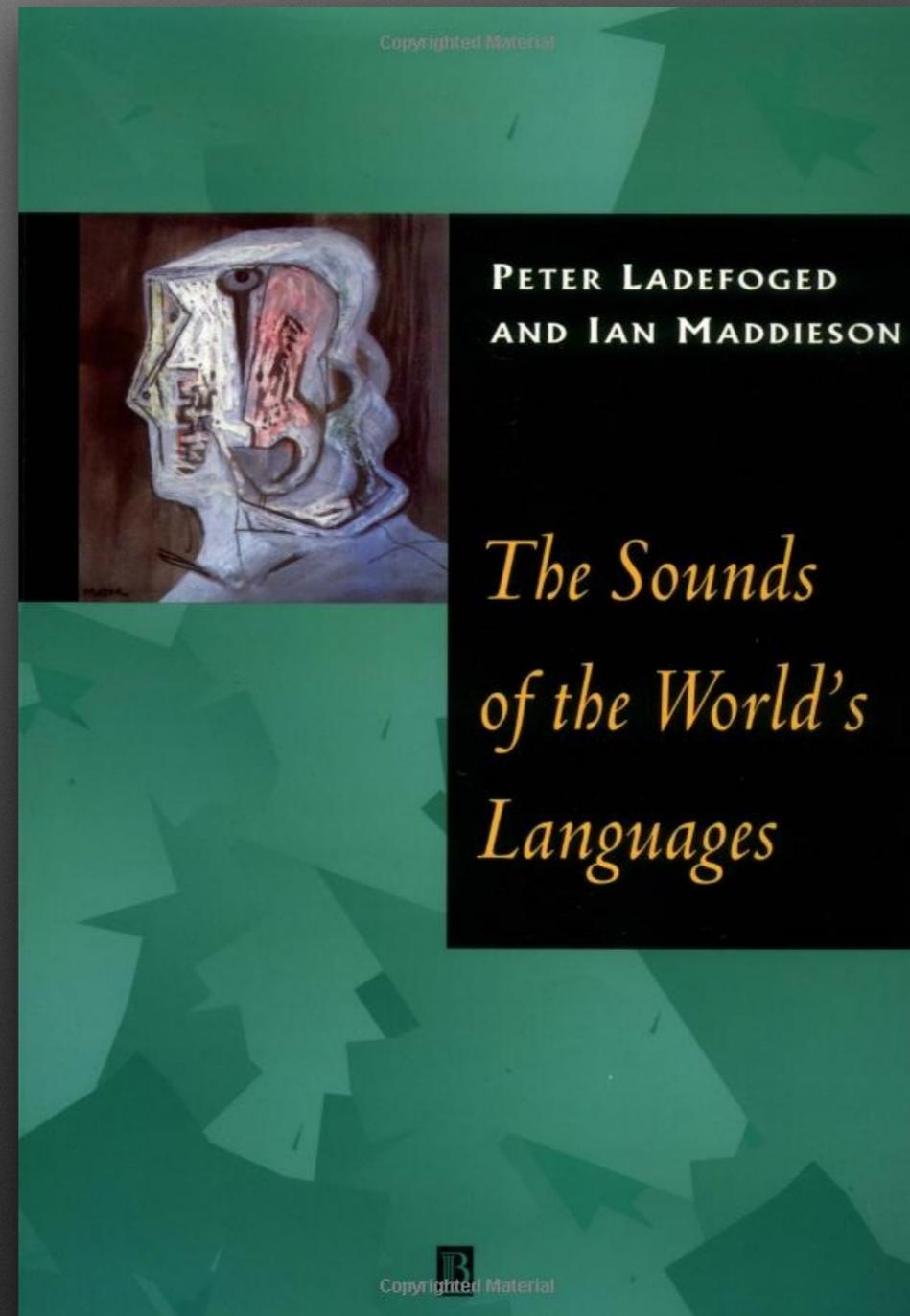
Indian English Accents: A Sampler



n.b. all videos referenced will be in a YouTube Playlist on our website.

More Language Resources

*The Sounds
of the World's
Languages*
by Peter Ladefoged
and Ian Maddieson



MORE Sites to visit

The UCLA Phonetics Lab



- Tamil Audio Samples
 - Formal (written/read)
 - Colloquial/Spoken

Ladefoged's transcription

[kʰa:ɬ̪ũ su:ɬɪjəɳũ]

[wɔɾɔɦa:ləɬ̪̄t̪̄lɛ kʰa:ɬ̪ũ su:ɬɪjəɳũ

ja:ɾð̃ã: pʰɛɬɪja vəɳ:t̪i βa:p̄əɳn̄t̪i ʃaŋdɛβa:ɬ̪̄ —

ɪnd̄ɾ̄ɪnd̄̄ɪð̄t̪̄ / kʰa:ɬ̪̄t̪̄ na:ɳ̄ɟa:m̄bɛɬɪja vəɳ:t̪̄t̪̄ /

[kʰa:ɬ̪ũ su:ɬɪjəɳũ]

[wɔɾɔɦa:ləɬ̪̄t̪̄lɛ kʰa:ɬ̪ũ su:ɬɪjəɳũ

ja:ɾð̃ã: pʰɛɾɪja vəɳ:t̪i βa:p̄əɳn̄t̪i ʃaŋdɛβa:ɬ̪̄ —

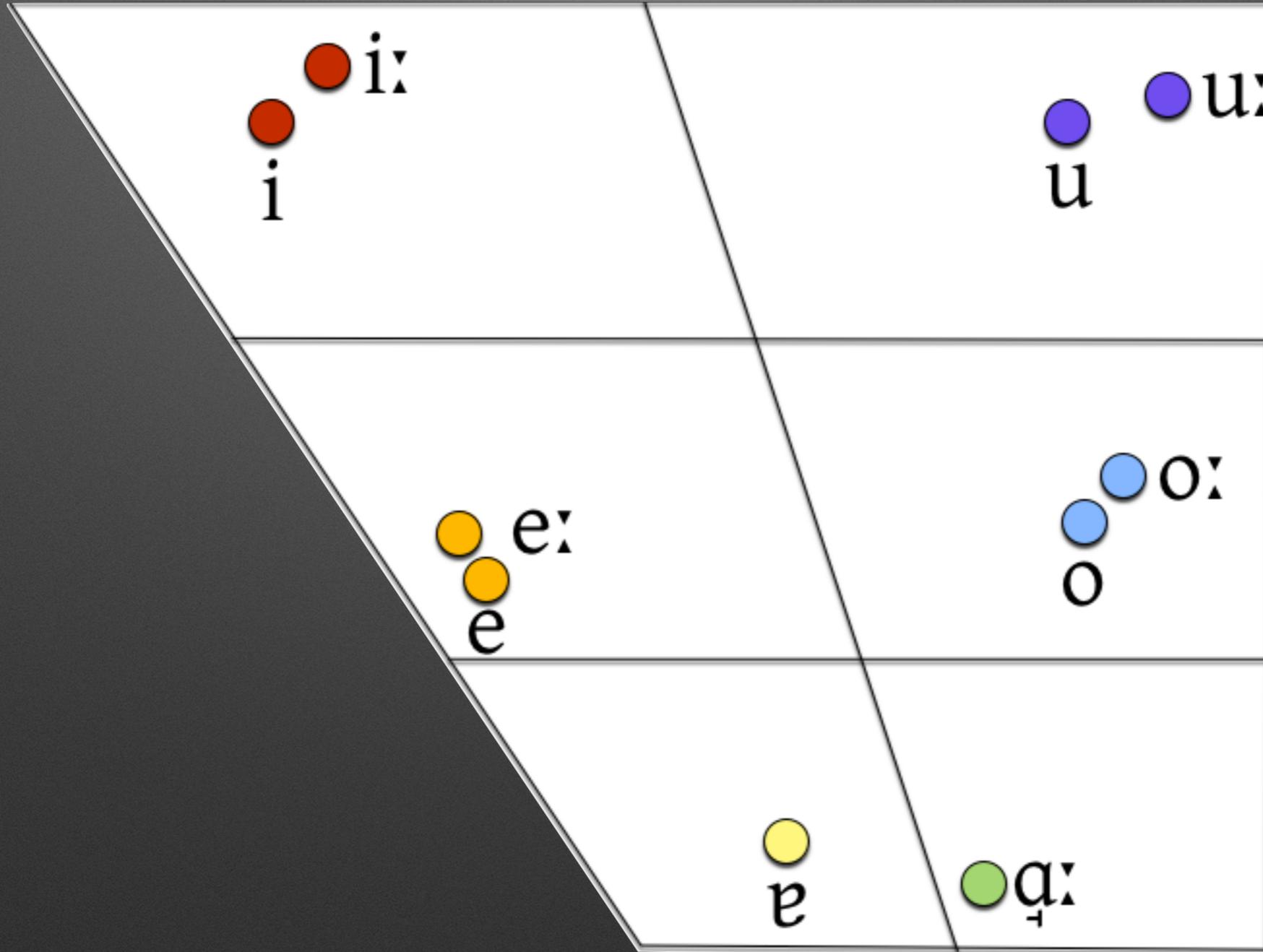
ɪnd̄ɾ̄ɪnd̄̄ɪð̄t̪̄ / kʰa:ɬ̪̄t̪̄ na:ɳ̄ɟa:m̄bɛɾɪja vəɳ:t̪̄t̪̄ /

JIPA

- *Journal of the IPA*
- Illustrations of the IPA
 - "Tamil" by Elinor Keane, through my university library.



Much more specific detail



Helpful Consonant Contrasts

p	paṭṭu	<i>pattu</i>	‘ten’	p:	apa:	<i>appaa</i>	‘father’
[b]	ṭambi	<i>tampi</i>	‘younger brother’	[v]	ko:vəm	<i>koopam</i>	‘anger’
(b)	baṭṭil	<i>patil</i>	‘answer’	t:	ṭa:ṭa:	<i>taattaa</i>	‘grandfather’
t	ṭapṭu	<i>tappu</i>	‘mistake’	[ð]	nal:əðṭu	<i>nallatu</i>	‘it is good’
[d]	paṇṇṭu	<i>pantu</i>	‘ball’	t:	paṭṭu	<i>pattu</i>	‘silk’
(d)	ḍinəm	<i>tinam</i>	‘day’	[d]	paḍi	<i>paṭi</i>	‘step’
t				k:	makəḷ	<i>makkaḷ</i>	‘people’
[d]	vaṇḍi	<i>vaṇṭi</i>	‘cart’	[ɣ]	mayəḷ	<i>makaḷ</i>	‘daughter’
k	ka:l	<i>kaal</i>	‘leg’	tʃ:	peitʃ:u	<i>peeccu</i>	‘speech’
[g]	aṅge:	<i>aṅkee</i>	‘there’				
(g)	ganəm	<i>kanam</i>	‘heaviness’				
tʃ	tʃin:ə	<i>cinna</i>	‘small’				

“But where’s the AUDIO?”

“Does the Author have the audio?”

“Can I FIND the author?”

“Will the author RESPOND?”

Meanwhile...

Found SIL site on ALL the JIPA Illustrations

Site’s editor taught me how to access Audio!

**So now I can play that audio,
using my SoundBoard App.**



Primary Samples

- My awesome BFA student researcher, **Joel Edmiston**
 - Canadian Tamil Congress
 - ???
 - Friends and Family
 - Tamil Female
 - Tamil Male



'ɹɪsɪnlɪ ɜ wi 'wɛntu 'ɪndiə 'æktʃʊli || ʌm əm 'maɪsəʃf
ən maɪ wɑɪf ɛm | maɪ 'mʌðər ɪn lə | 'ɒvə deə ənd
'lextə vi ʊə dzərɪnd baɪ ə 'kɑpləvɑː frɛndz || ɜ wi
tuəd ə'raʊnd 'kʰeəɹəl ən 'tʰɑmɪl 'nɑrə tʰu 'sʌdðən
steɪts | ɜ tu 'bjʊdɪfʊl 'sʌdðən steɪt | 'æktʃʊli
'kʰeəɹəl wɒs mɔːθ || ɜː 'bjʊdɪfʊl wɛn ɪt kʌmz tuː də
'grɪnə,ɹi æn æn di 'wɒtə wɪz ɛnː 'ʌðə tɪŋz

More YouTube!

- Famous Tamils—More 
- Lots of Guinness World Record Holders!
- Politicians
- Entertainers
- Chefs



Chef Jacob Wins Guinness Record for BBQ



- Tamil history videos
- Tamil Nadu Travel videos

Beautiful, but tend to be voiced by
Westerners

More Sites, More Videos

- Learn Tamil from English
 - Some have Tamil accents, others have General Indian Accents





- Learn English from Tamil

100

ACE AMERICAN SPOKEN ENGLISH
AMERICAN ACCENT TRAINING - I I VIDEO : 31
 VIDEO-31 UN

1	B	b, y	at + e
2	D	a, y	es
3	M	a, y	es
4	G	g, ie	at + e
5	Ng		
6	N		at + e
7	V		
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			

ed be au + Consonant, al +
 onant, au + Consonant

auk) C, paun d, Coffee (Cawfee)
 fought faught) g, Caught (Cawt)
 daughters (dawter)

ing should be before the Vowel
 e b) y + Consonant + e C, ie +

8, Long 'ee'
 a) agree b) fee c) see d)
 f. sweep g, deep h, gee i,

Examples of long 'ee'
 I see long trees
 I am in a knee deep

NO. 1 IN INDIA
 BEST IN CHENNAI

Put It All Together

- Narrow Transcription of a couple of samples
- Get the accent and a bit of the language “in my mouth”
- Breakdown of Features, phoneme by phoneme
- Write an Overview, especially Prosody, Oral Posture, and significant sound changes