

Christian Missionaries' Role in Creating “Unified Karnataka” Through Kannada Language

Deekshitha, Dr. Niranjana

Research Scholar, Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Mysore Manasa Gangothri- 570006

Professor, Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Mysore Manasa Gangothri- 570006

Abstract: *The contribution of missionaries in developing the Kannada language is remarkably brilliant which has grabbed the attention from many scholars and experts. The fact that Missionaries entry into Karnataka has a greater advantage for the Kannada Language and literature is undeniable. This whole development of Kannada language was not new in Karnataka but it is not wrong to say that Missionaries have created the ‘Unified Karnataka’ with the development of Kannada Literature. Through learning Kannada language for the purpose of spreading Christianity the missionaries no doubt has also contributed a major part for the modified version of the language. the study holds its scope in terms of analyzing the concept of unified Karnataka from the deeper perspective. Basically, the focus of the study is to develop the view towards the understanding the process of transformation of Karnataka as the Unified Karnataka. The study aims to analyze and understand the role of Missionaries' in creating “Unified Karnataka” through Kannada Language. Further paper also aims to elucidate role of missionaries in creating unified Karnataka through transforming oral words into printed inscriptions. The transformation from the old to new Kannada which later became the way for the unified Karnataka is the result of greatest efforts by the eminent missionaries like Mogling and others.*

Keywords: *Hermann Friedrich Mogling, Unified Karnataka, Kannada Language, Christian Missionaries.*

I. Introduction

The contribution of missionaries in developing the Kannada language is remarkably brilliant which has grabbed the attention from many scholars and experts. The fact that Missionaries entry into Karnataka has a greater advantage for the Kannada Language and literature is undeniable. Even though the purpose of the visit to India was spreading of Christianity but the love towards Kannada language and Karnataka Culture forced the missionaries into learning and developing language not only in India but also in German Countries, (Navda, 2017). This whole development of Kannada language was not new in Karnataka but it is not wrong to say that Missionaries have created the ‘Unified Karnataka’ with the development of Kannada Literature. Through learning Kannada language for the purpose of spreading Christianity the missionaries no doubt has also contributed a major part for the modified version of the language. Through them the language became the cup of tea of every individual in the land irrespective of educational qualification and social status, (Saigeetha, 2022). The Kannada language witnessed the beginning of its flourishing when the much of the contributions to Kannada literature began when Herman Mogling was sent to Mangalore by the Basel Mission. During this period Herman Mogling has expanded his love for Kannada Language resulting in the first Kannada Newspaper “Mangalura Samachara” in the year 1843 within one year of establishing printing press in Mangaluru, (Bellary, 2011). The books and prints in Kannada Language was made accessible to common man in Karnataka through the establishment of the first printing press whose credit goes to the missionaries. Fr Godfry Faigal set up a printing press in the year 1842 in Mangalore which he had received it as a gift. Fr Faigal is another missionary who wrote book on the traces of history of Kannada literature, at the time when there was no knowledge on the history of Kannada literature among the common people, (William, 2012). The Kannada Language and literature received the great treatment thereafter which has not witnessed any break. The Kannada literature and language has been developing through various mediums and has been embracing the growth and development even in the digitalized world.

II. Importance of the study

The study is a great way to analyse the role of missionaries in creating a Unified Karnataka. The irony behind this transformation is Kannada Language and literature getting prominence by such people who have chosen to learn and understand Kannada Language for the purpose of completing the missionary work. It is important to note that the development of Kannada literature and language has been the greater evidence in creating the Karnataka which is unified and well-shaped. The better connection and relationship among the different areas of Karnataka was unified and well-connected through the Kannada Language and printing of Kannada Literature. In this regard the study is crucial in understanding the role of missionaries in developing the unified Karnataka with the help of Kannada Language and literature.

III. Scope of the study

the study holds its scope in terms of analyzing the concept of unified Karnataka from the deeper perspective. Basically, the focus of the study is to develop the view towards the understanding the process of transformation of Karnataka as the Unified Karnataka. The study helps to find the important personalities who have contributed to develop and make strong base of Kannada and its literature at both in its own land as well at the foreign land. Many missionaries get credit for being the contributors towards the development of Kannada language and literature but prominent among them is Rev. Herman Mogling. Rev. Herman gets the credit for recording the hymns and short stories into written form. The transformation from oral to written form of literature made the words permanent and prominent, (Navada, 2011).

Objectives and aims of the study

The study aims:

- To analyze and understand the role of Missionaries' in creating "Unified Karnataka" through Kannada Language
- To understand the transformation of Karnataka into Unified Karnataka
- To elucidate role of missionaries in creating unified Karnataka through transforming oral words into printed inscriptions.

Research Questions

- What are the contributions made by the Christian Missionaries into Kannada Literature?
- How Christian missionaries have become the reason for creating Unified Karnataka?
- To what extent transformation of the oral words into printed inscriptions have played a role in creating unified Karnataka?
- What are the major printed inscriptions which were transformed from oral words.

IV. Literature Review

In the article published in the by the Costaldigest.com, stresses on the growth of Kannada Journalism by the German Missionary Hermann Mogling. The article writes about the life and contribution made by the missionary. The contribution to the field of Kannada Journalism has been discussed and highlighted in this article. The period of development of Kannada Language and printing press has been discussed in this paper. Present study is to analyze the coverage of development news in the regional and local newspapers. The importance of regional and local news in the newspaper has been vanishing with the aim to highlight the international news and international happenings. The paper highlights the need for the local language and local and regional events concentrating on the tradition and culture, (Naeem, 2012).

In the article, published in the Deccan Herald Newspaper highlights the early years of Kannada Journalism. The article highlights the role of Hermann Mogling in starting the Kannada press and contributing towards the development of the Kannada journalism in India. Streamlining the various roles in evolution of Kannada Journalism, Balasubramanya says, "Though it was a missionary publication, Hermann exhibited his professional journalistic skills in the selection of news items, (Balasubramanya, 2019).

In the article, published in TheNewsMinute.com highlights the journey of the missionary into the starting of the first newspaper. The story of Hermann Mogling falling in love with Kannada Language is discussed and highlighted in this article. The article writes about the life and contribution made by the missionary. The contribution to the field of Kannada Journalism has been discussed and highlighted in this article, (Bhat, 2017).

In the article published in Deccan Herald, writes about the Kannada Journalism and evolution and growth. The article highlights the role of Hermann Mogling in starting the Kannada press and contributing towards the development of the Kannada journalism in India. Streamlining the various roles in evolution of Kannada Journalism, Balasubramanya says, "Though it was a missionary publication, Hermann exhibited his professional

journalistic skills in the selection of news items. To publish the Kannada hymns and hidden culture in the oral language while unifying Kannada speaking people who had very minimum connection and interaction with each other is the greatest contribution to the unification of the Karnataka, (Balasubramanya (2015).

V. Methodology

The current study uses the content analysis method to meet the objectives of the paper. Through qualitative research method the study collects and analyses the content suiting to the theme of the paper. The major purpose of the paper is to analyze and understand the role of Missionaries' in creating "Unified Karnataka" through Kannada Language. In this regard the paper collects and reviews articles, research papers, news articles, and previously published content for validating and proving the questions of the paper. Based on the analysis and interpretation of the literature review and content the paper finds the conclusion.

VI. Content Analysis and Interpretation

The role of missionaries has been greater not only in the development of the Kannada language but also in the recording of the Kannada Hymns and rhymes into written documents. It is undoubtedly have been the greater contribution by the missionaries to secure the rich literary treasure. Through the publication of the *Dāsa Sāhitya*, the Basel Mission gets the credit for pioneering role while Hermann Mogling, gets recognition for collecting a good number of Padas and translating several of them to German. Along with Mogling there were many others who have contributed towards the collection of Dasa Padas like brother of Mogling, Gottfried Weigle. He was also the missionary with the Basel Mission, having the interest for the *Dāsa Sāhitya* and translation which was successful with few works. The essay 'Kanarese Literature' was written by Gottfried Weigle in 1846 where the first ever description on the *Dāsas* and Padas had appeared. These comments and description were mainly on the collection of Padas which were made by Mogling, (Nayak, 2017).

The printing history in India can be traced back to Goa. The evolution of printing press in India has started with Christ Missionaries, Portuguese and Danish Missionaries. Considering the Roman Catholic Missionaries, they started their mission of spreading the word of Christianity in the local language followed by Protestant Missionaries. If we consider all the printing presses in the olden days of Indian history, we can see them all in the Coastal side of the country. For example, in the Western Coastal parts Goa, Cochin, Trishoor and at the South Coastal Parts Madras, Port William, Calcutta had been the centers for printing. The efforts of the East India Company to bring out the Roman Scripts as a Universal Language was the failure. Whereas the British Ministers get the credit for being the first one for spreading the New Kannada across the country. From the year 1817 through the help from the missionaries and local scholars British Government prepared the nails to print in Kannada language. There have been proofs which shows the usage of the same printing nails for the Telugu and Kannada language, (Saigeetha, 2022).

"Through the arrival of Basel Mission in India has marked the new milestone in the era of modern Kannada," (Havanoor, 2009). The competition from other missionary was very high which made the Basale Mission to choose such candidate who were ready to learn foreign language and communicate in the local language for a better and effective result of the work. With this aim able and efficient missionaries were chosen for sending them to India for the second time. During this time Mogling gets selected naturally due to the ability and talent he had with language and literary works. Among many missionaries Hermann Mogling stands out due to the works and contribution he had done not only for the missionary but also for the local language and culture. Learning the native language Kannada was the first ever tasks missionaries had to do in order to communicate with localities. Basel missionaries are the one who have opened the doors of New Kannada while giving modern touch to the Kannada Language. Starting with the spreading of the Christianity the local language and culture was admired so much so that the language was basically developed by them which has witnessed the new edition to the Kannada Literature. From the missionary revolution the missionaries were more concentrated on the transformation of the daily lives of the people. The missionaries get the credit for being the reason for reaching the literature and literacy even for the common people with zero literacy. During the middle of 19th century there was the shaping of the new literacy in the European countries. These transformations have been brought into the land of India was by missionaries. 'Desi' literary world witnessed the new shape, new thinking and multi-concepts were gained through this revolutionary move. Herman Mogling's name comes while tracing the history of transformation from old into New Kannada, (Navda, 2011).

Herman Moegling received the Doctorate recognition in the year 1858 for the publication of the *Bibliotheca Carnataka* by the Philosophical Faculty of Tuebingen University. this is the greatest effort by the missionary which basically collected all the works of *Kumaravyasa* and compiled into one file. This is the fine example of contribution of missionaries into creating Unified Karnataka. The main purpose of this effort was safeguarding the literary treasure and bringing them into next generation. The recording of the

oral hymns and poems into the written version was the greatest contribution made by the missionaries in Karnataka. The superiors at the Basel mission were not very much interested into the Kannada Language rather than the spread of Christianity. During this time the moral and financial support for the study and unification of Kannada Language was poured by George J. Kesamajor who was the retired Judge of the Madras High Court. His special interest towards the spread of Christianity and Education made him take this step to support in this initiative. Herman Moegling approached Kesamajor for the publication of the hidden culture in the old Kannada with the aim to preserve and give it to next generation. Looking at the Mogling's love towards the Kannada Language and Kannada tradition Kesamajor's interest grew who was already learning Kannada Language from the local scholar at the age of 55. Thus, Kesamajor contributed a major part in fulfilling dreams of Mogling in collecting and publishing of the lost and hidden Kannada Literature and culture through financially supporting. *Bibliotheca Carnataka* was the result of this relationship with Kesamajor who also supported and guided Mogling in terms of selection of the scripts, editing and creative terms of the publishing. This efforts by the missionary are the greatest milestone in contributing to the Unified Karnataka through Kannada Language, (Navda, 2011).

The study of Kannada Language made Mogling fall in love with it and fetch more and more related and lost works of the literary. This also made him go deep down and recollect, compile and publish the oral poems, hymns, and many other literary treasures of Kannada Language. Learning English Language was needed for the missionary to communicate well with British Officials where learning Sanskrit was with the aim to understand the historical and tradition context of India in a better way. As Mogling had learned Sanskrit, learning Kannada Language was very quick and easier for him. He learned and mastered the language in a very short period of time. Before coming to Mangalore Mogling along with three other missionaries, (Heinrich August Losch, Johannes Layer and Henrich Frey) stayed in London for three months in the year 1836. During this time Mogling learned and studied lot of things related to England including legal systems, society and majorly the education system of the country. During this time India was completely under the control of British and many schools and educational institutions were started with the model of British education system. Mogling's vision is to start educational institutions in India along with Missionary works for which understanding and gaining deeper knowledge on the British model of education system was very important. The German education system where in Mogling had educated was completely different from that of British. For this purpose, Mogling develops the close interactions and discussions with the teachers, higher education ministers. Mogling even went as a guest lecture to the England Educational institutions in order to practically learn the system. He mentions the purpose of all these efforts and aim to start schools in India in the letter written to Dr. Hermann Gundert in the year 1836, (Nayak, 2017).

As mentioned by Dr. Havanur, as and when Mogling came in contact with Kannada and literature his love towards the language doubled and immersed, (Havanur, 1974, p.568). *Hrudaya Darpana* was small but important literature creation by Hebich and Mogling together. Hebich's efforts for spreading the word of God among common people is another field to study. He has greatly influenced people to convert people and take Baptism through creating hearts with the help of playing cards. This book, *Hrudaya Darpana* is based on these tricks played by Hebich which was published in the year 1842. This book was highly referred and was also used in schools and educational institutions during those days. The journey in and around Coastal Karnataka attracted him to the some of the words spoken orally by the local people which are peculiar in its grammatical term and means symbolically to the that particular region. During the leisure time Mogling recalled and learned all such words and adage. At the process of collecting of thoughts and words Mogling was successful in collecting around 3000 of them by the year 1847. Mogling published these collections with the title, *Kannada Gadegalu* in the year 1859 with about 3547 thoughts. (Albert, 2017).

VII. Conclusion

From the detailed analysis of the papers, we can find the immense love and knowledge Mogling was having towards the Kannada Language which not only gave him the most prestigious recognition but also contributed a greater part to the development and unification of the Kannada Language and literature. Recalling the childhood days of Mogling who was the most talented and aspirant student who continued and grew to the transformer of the foreign country literature is the dramatic and magical history. The purpose which brought Mogling to India was different but the result was the modern touch to the old Kannada and Language. The transformation from the old to new Kannada which later became the way for the unified Karnataka is the result of greatest efforts by the eminent missionaries like Mogling and others.

References

- [1]. Albert, (2017). Hermann Hermann Mogling. Karnataka Patrika Academy. Bangalore.
- [2]. Bellary, J. (2011). Kannada Patrikodyama mattu Hermann Mogling. Prasaranga, Hampi University.

- [3]. Balasubramanya, A.S (2019, June 29). The journey of the first Kannada newspaper. Retrieved from Deccan Herald website: <https://www.deccanherald.com/spectrum/the-journey-of-the-first-kannada-newspaper-743497.html>
- [4]. Balasubramanya, A.S. (2015, July 27). miscellany - Early years of Kannada journalism Deccan Herald. <https://www.deccanherald.com/content/491818/miscellany-early-years-kannada-journalism.html>
- [5]. Bhat, P (2017, December 26). How a German missionary fell in love with Kannada and started its first newspaper. Retrieved January 14, 2023, from The News Minute website: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/how-german-missionary-fell-love-kannada-and-started-its-first-newspaper-73754#:~:text=CRYPTO->
- [6]. Gundert, H. (1997). Hermann Moegling. DC Books, Kerala.
- [7]. Nayak, D. (2017). Reverend Hermann Moegling: A monograph in Kannada. Sahitya Academy, New Delhi.
- [8]. Navda, A.V. (2017). Missionarigala Kannada Vruthantharvu. Shodhana Prakashana: Mangalore
- [9]. Sayeegeetha, & Bennet, G. A. (2022). Mangalura Samachara- Kannada Samacharu, ISBN: 978-93-95283-10-6: Prasaranga, Mangalore University.
- [10]. Naeem. (2012). Mogling: The German who pioneered Kannada journalism. Coastaldigest.com - the Trusted News Portal of India. Retrieved January 14, 2023, from <https://www.coastaldigest.com/column/41805-moglingthe-gerrman-who-pioneered-kannada-journalism>
- [11]. William, (2012). Missionarigala Kannada Kayaka. Inter-Diaseason Literature Board