

## Pāṇinian features of the oldest known Malayāḷam description

Émilie Aussant

CNRS Histoire des théories linguistiques, Paris

The oldest known grammatical observations from Kerala are found in a poetical treatise of the 14<sup>th</sup> century: the *Līlātilakam*. This text, composed of Sanskrit *sūtras*, describes—among other things—morphological and phonetic characteristics of the *Maṇipravāḷam*, the mediaeval literary language of Kerala, which is defined as a mixture of the *Keralabhāṣā* and Sanskrit.

The work presented in this paper is one of the first steps of a research program called “Grammaire sanskrite étendue/Extended Sanskrit Grammar” led by Jean-Luc Chevillard (CNRS, Paris), Vincenzo Vergiani (Cambridge University) and me. The idea is to study how descriptive models elaborated for Sanskrit (mainly the *Aṣṭādhyāyī* of Pāṇini) have been used to describe other languages, such as Tamil, Telugu, Malayāḷam, Algonquian languages, etc. The first task, which I will aim at in this lecture, is to surround, in an accurate way, the influence of Pāṇini’s grammar on the *Līlātilakam* with two questions in mind: what features of the Pāṇinian description have been retained? Why?