

# **A Study of the Scripts of Tamil Epigraphy and their Development**

## **Keywords (in English):**

Tamil script, Grantha, Vaṭṭeluttu, Brāhmī, epigraphy, palaeography, script development; India

## **Abstract (in English):**

This thesis discusses the history of the Tamil script, from Brahmi variants in the very south of India, to vatteluttu and its variants, to the grantha script, up until the modern Tamil script. It gives introduction to these writing systems, shows examples of their primary sources and summarizes the recent scholarship regarding their development. Special attention is paid to the Tamil script reform in the 20th century, in which context a short summary of history of the Tamil press is also given. The thesis contains a review of Czech literature about writing systems in general, a summary of the current Proto-Indic script research, as well as megalithic graffiti. A separate appendix is dedicated to Tamil script in the context of digital technologies and the history of its encoding.