

Multilingualism and Material Culture: A Few Rare (?) Colophons from Tamil Nadu

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Sanskrit and Tamil have been variously mixed in many colophons written on manuscripts from Tamil Nadu and surrounding areas. However, cases of colophons directly translated from one language to the other are, or at least seem to be, quite rare. Among the hundreds of manuscripts held at both the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* (Pondicherry) and the *Institut Français de Pondichéry*, only four (?) have colophons in which the same contents – titles, dates, names of the scribes, etc. – are given in both languages. This paper will present some preliminary observations on the style of composition of the Sanskrit and Tamil versions of the same colophons, and will also speculate on which questions can be asked to better understand and contextualise these unusual multilingual texts.