

The Greek Root Word 'Kos' and the Trade of Ancient Greek with Tamil Nadu, India

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Abstract : The ancient Greeks were forerunners in many fields than other societies. So, the Greeks were well connected with all the countries which were well developed during that time through trade route. In this connection, trading of goods from the ancient Greece to Tamil Nadu which is presently in India, though they are geographically far away, played an important role. In that way, the word and the goods related with *kos* and *kare* got exchanged between these two societies. So, it is necessary to compare the phonology and the morphological occurrences of these words that are found common both in the ancient Greek and Tamil literatures of the contemporary period. The results show that there were many words derived from the root *kos* with the basic meaning of 'arrange' in the ancient Greek language, but this is not the case in the usage of the word *kare*. In the ancient Tamil literature, the word *kos* does not have any root and also had rare occurrences. But it was just the opposite in the case of the word *kare*. One of all the meanings of the word, which was derived from the root *kos* in ancient Greek literature, is related with costly ornaments. This meaning seems to have close resemblance with the usage of word *kos* in ancient Tamil literature. Also, the meaning of the word *kare* in ancient Tamil literature is related with spices whereas, in the ancient Greek literature, its meaning is related to that of the cooking of meat using spices. Hence, the similarity seen in the meanings of these words *kos* and *kare* in both these languages provides lead for further study. More than that, the ancient literary resources which are available in both these languages ensure the export and import of gold and spices from the ancient Greek land to Tamil land.

Keywords : arrange, kare, Kos, ornament, Tamil

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