Technical Note

This section contains some technical information for those readers who are interested in knowing how this book was typeset.

Although Karnataka is the main centre of the booming Indian information technology industry, modern computer typesetting in Kannada is still not a simple affair. The quality of the standard Kannada fonts and keyboard layouts in all common operating systems for personal computers (be they Linux, Mac or Windows™ machines),[1] is not altogether perfect, and it is difficult to achieve a satisfactory matching of Kannada and Latin typefaces. To be as autonomous as possible, and in view of financial limitations, the author experimented with several possibilities and finally created this book with software that is free of cost.

The original draft of the book was made using the open-source word processor **LibreOffice**[2] with Charis SIL[3] as the Latin font and Kedage[4] as the main font for Kannada. The final version of this book was made using the **ConTeXt** typesetting system[5], an international open-source project started by Pragma ADE in the Netherlands, with the XeTeX typesetting engine as the 'back end'. (The author believes that ConTeXt is the future of TeX, on which it is based. He wishes to thank the online ConTeXt users community, esp. Hans Hagen, Wolfgang Schuster and Pablo Rodriguez, for valuable suggestions towards solving technical problems that occurred along the way.)

The original LibreOffice files in ODT format were converted to ConTeXt format using the **Pandoc** document converter,[6] and the corrections of the tables and other bits of fine-tuning were done by means of small programs in the Python language which the author wrote for the purpose of the book.

All this gratis software can be used on Linux, Mac and Windows™ systems.

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Notes

[1] Information (in German) on how to type Kannada on these systems can be found on my personal website.

[2] https://www.libreoffice.org

[3] https://software.sil.org/charis/

[4] http://brahmi.sourceforge.net/downloads.html

[5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ConTeXt

[6] https://pandoc.org