

# [Origin of word dravida essay](https://assignbuster.com/origin-of-word-dravida-essay/)

he English word Dravidian was first employed by Robert Caldwell in his book of comparative Dravidian grammar based on the usage of the Sanskrit word dravi? a in the work Tantravarttika by Kumarila Bha?? a (Zvelebil 1990: xx). As for the origin of the Sanskrit word dravi? a itself there have been various theories proposed.

Basically the theories are about the direction of derivation between tami? and dravi? a. There is no definite philological and linguistic basis for asserting unilaterally that the name Dravida also forms the origin of the word Tamil (Dravida -> Dramila -> Tamizha or Tamil). Zvelebil cites the forms such as dramila (in Da?? in’s Sanskrit work Avanisundarikatha) dami? a (found in Ceylonese chronicle Mahavamsa) and then goes on to say (ibid. page xxi): “ The forms dami? a/damila almost certainly provide a connection of dr(a/a)vi? a ” and “..

. tami? < tami? … whereby the further development might have been \*tami? gt; \*dami? > dami? a- / damila- and further, with the intrusive, ‘ hypercorrect’ (or perhaps analogical) -r-, into dr(a/a)vi? a.

The -m-/-v- alternation is a common enough phenomenon in Dravidian phonology” (Zvelebil 1990: xxi) Zvelebil in his earlier treatise (Zvelebil 1975: p53) states: “ It is obvious that the Sanskrit dr(a/a)vi? a, Pali damila, dami? o and Prakrit d(a/a)vi? a are all etymologically connected with tami? ” and further remarks “ The r in tami? > dr(a/a)vi? a is a hypercorrect insertion, cf. n analogical case of DED 1033 Ta. kamuku, Tu. kangu “ areca nut”: Skt.

kramu(ka). “. Further, another eminent Dravidian linguist Bhadriraju Krishnamurti in his book Dravidian Languages (Krishnamurti 2003: p. 2, footnote 2) states: “ Joseph (1989: IJDL 18.

2: 134-42) gives extensive references to the use of the term dravi? a, dramila first as the name of a people, then of a country. Sinhala inscriptions of BCE [Before Christian Era] cite dame? a-, damela- denoting Tamil merchants. Early Buddhist and Jaina sources used dami? – to refer to a people of south India (presumably Tamil); damilara?? ha- was a southern non-Aryan country; drami? a-, drami? a, and dravi? a- were used as variants to designate a country in the south (B? hatsamhita-, Kadambari, Dasakumaracarita-, fourth to seventh centuries CE) (1989: 134-8). It appears that dami? a- was older than dravi? a- which could be its Sanskritization. ” Based on what Krishnamurti states referring to a scholarly paper published in the International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics, the Sanskrit word dravi? itself is later than dami? a since the dates for the forms with -r- are centuries later than the dates for the forms without -r- (dami? a, dame? a-, damela- etc.

). So it is clear that it is difficult to maintain Dravida -; Dramila -; Tamizha or Tamil. The Monier-Williams Sanskrit Dictionary[3] lists for the Sanskrit word dravi? a a meaning of “ collective Name for 5 peoples, viz. the Andhras, Kar? a? akas, Gurjaras, Taila? gas, and Mahara?? ras”.