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amongst the middle classes of the region to take Indian made foreign style liquor, it is becoming generally more respectable to drink.”¹¹ Mannans are addicted to drink Indian made foreign liquor and it is one of the most important reason for their backwardness. William Logan stated that “the Vannan Caste is much given to devil charming, or devil driving as it is often called. Vannans are the high priests of this superstition and with chants, ringing cymbals, magic figures and waving lights they drive out evil spirits from there votaries of this

caste of certain epoch in their married lives. Theyyattam ceremony was practised by them. Demons like Kuttichathan venerated by them”.¹² Some of them worshipped evil spirits called pretharadhana in order to advise others and for their personal attainments. Chummar Chundal stated that “Mannans practised vayanabali in order to relieve the children from pakshipeeda (illness effected by birds eg:-Pullum pravum), bala peeda (other illness effected to children) and Prethabadha (demoniacal influence)”.¹³

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KANNADA ELEMENT IN THE PLACE NAMES OF RAYALASEEMA REGION OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Sreedhar. E

Rayalaseema has immense significance as a geographical, political, economic and cultural unit of the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is the name of the Region comprising the Districts of Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool. It was ruled by the Rayas of Vijayanagara: Hence called Rayalaseema. The places lying contiguous to Karnataka betray the influence of Kannada Language on their names. Kurnool and Anantapur are contiguous with Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur Districts. Chittoor District is adjacent to Kolar and Bengaluru Districts. Due to the development of communication and transport

Kannada type of names are found in some areas of Kadapa District though it is not contiguous to Kannada area.

Most of the modern place names of the Deccan have changed a great deal due to phonetic and other changes. Some time a new name to a place has been given and hence it becomes very difficult even to determine the original form. To have the real meaning of the place, however, the study of its antiquity is of primary importance and for that it is necessary to see the earliest reference which is found in the written documents. Since inscriptions