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## REVIEW ARTICLE

### HASTALAKSHANADEEPIKA – A STUDY REPORT

# Hastalakshanadeepika – A Study report

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‘Hastalakshandeeepika’ its author place and date are unknown. But the several books, ‘Natyakalpadruma’, ‘Kerala Sahitya Charitam’, Kerala Sahitya Vijnana, Kosam are helpful for the study of Hastalakshandeeepika. In the ‘Natyakalpa druma’ Mani Madhava cakyar. Says that the mudras of Kutiyottam generally follows the Hastalakshanadeepika. Generally it could be said that its period is before the 10<sup>th</sup> century Abhinayadarpana. Because Kutiyottam is said to have acquired its form around the 10<sup>th</sup> century Abhinayadarpana. There is no other evidence about the texts are left.

Hastalakshanadeepika is the basic text for the language of Gestures is popularly used in theatre and dance art. forms of kerala is a commendable significance the experts and scholars had the least worry about the author of the root. Probably they were and many are very practical and down to the earth to realise that the plan of action and the flexibility of the Hastalakshanadeepika are so high that one need not spend undue time to stress the exact identify of the author.

The Hastalakshanadeepika follows in principle the basic of deleberation as followed by the ones mentioned in the text of known authors. Though the limited in number the actual scope of converting them into the required value and type of vocabulary is very high. The class also is simple and unique. apart form Asamyuta and Samyuta Hastas the Hastalakshanadeepika mentions Samana and Misra Mudras also. It is their taxonomical approach which clearly calls for precise orientation in actually executing the Mudras, in relation to different levels and aspects of the body. The use of specific Gestures for prepositions and cases in the theatre of Kerala is basically as suggested by the Hastalakshanadeepika. A single subject or object can be interpreted by more than one Gesture. Mudra for ‘of’ is shown by Kartarimukha, Sucimukha, or Musti. Some examples of gestures in combination may be examined.

The Hastalakshanadeepika enlists 24 Mudras to be used by single hand. Asamyuta or both hands Samyuta. Most of the Mudras bear names similas to those found in the Natyashastra. But their application (Viniyogas) are entirely different.

A mudras has a beginning a course and an end or fulfilment.

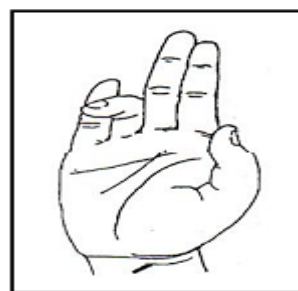
Samanmudra, e.g.

Proximity Time etc.

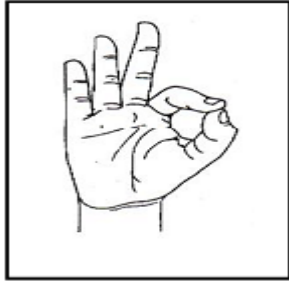
- Kartarimukha (both hands) Misramudra – e.g. : Lord Brahma – kataka + Tripataka, Bali – Mukula + Pataka etc.

The following Mudras were found in Hastalakshanadeepika.

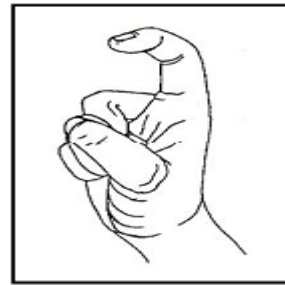
- **Pataka:** It signifies the sun. The king, Elephant, Lion, Ox, Crocodile, decoration, creeper, flag, wave, path, patalam (the mythical word below the earth), the earth, the buttocks. boll, palace, evening, afternoon, cloud, anthil,, thigh, servent, foot, wheel, seat, lightening, get tower, coldness, vehicle, serivity, curved, door, pillow, trench, bolt, day, going, tongue, forehead, body, noise, messenger, sand bank, Tender leaves.



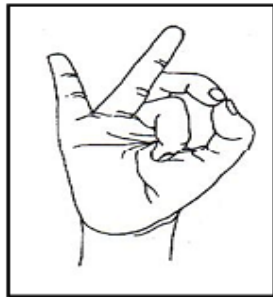
- **Mudrakhya:** It signifies, increase, movement, heaven, the ocean, death, the sacred. Thread worn by the brahmans. Truth, mind, thought, desire, self, knowledge, creation, life, displeasure, negative etc.



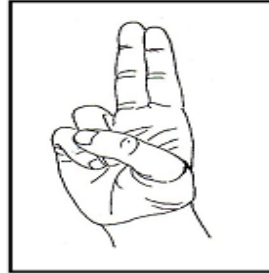
- **Kataka:** It signifies, Vishnu, Krishna, Balaram, Arrow, Gold, Silver, a femal demon, sleep, main woman, goddess Laxmi, Vina, star, blue lotus, gnost like crown. News about, flower, mirror, woman, sacrific, a little, fragrance.



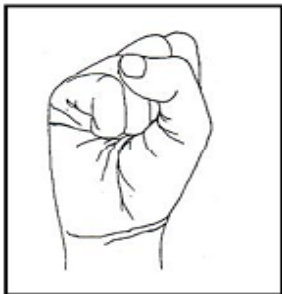
- **Kapittha:** Is used for, the tale of peacock, to drink, to touch, to fold, outside, back.



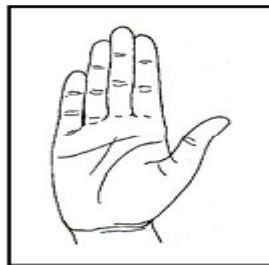
- **Musti:** This Gesture denotes, Salvation, beauty, goodness, ghost, binding, status, ankle, dety incharge of death, mud, medicinal hurb, swing, charity, mining, sacrifice, heat, scatter to give birth, synonyms of shame, minister, permission, victory, we, one, to steal, related to food.



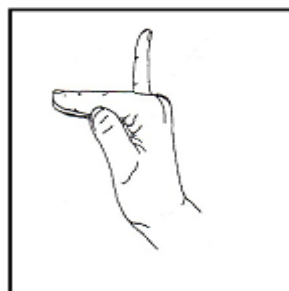
- **Hamsapaksa:** It signifies the moon, year, god of love, dwellers of the heaven, mountain valley, relatives, stone, the chest, breast, cloth, lie, people, to beat, to come, salutation, to bathe, sandle, to follow, to protect, shoulder, check, hair, blessing, fish, to worship, tortoise, sword anger, I, white axe, flames to call.



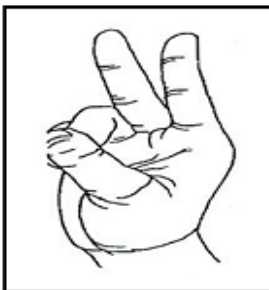
- **Kartarimukha:** It shows, seen, weariness, brahmin, the forehead of a elephant, house, purity, bank, density, dynasty, hunger, to hear, to say. Pregnancy, symbol of summing up. Plural, human being, face, verbal expressipns, child, mangoos.



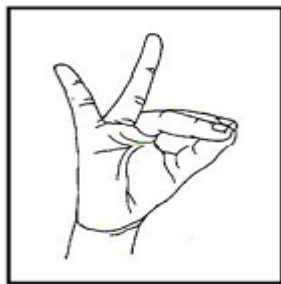
- **Sikhara:** This gesture signifies – to walk, legs, eyes, path. To search, ears, to drink.



- **Sukatunda:** It shows angle – hook, bird.

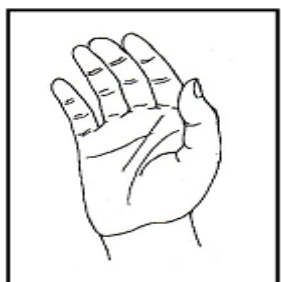


- **Hamsasya** - It signifies glance, dust, white, blue, red, mercy, pity, group of hairs, beginning of rain, hair, three fold of abdomen.



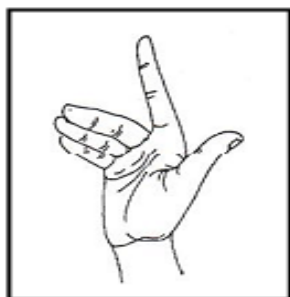
- **Anjali** – Is used for, heavy rain, omiting, fire, horse, harsh noise, light,

ear-ring, heat, anxiety, always, river, bath, flow, blood, branch, anger.

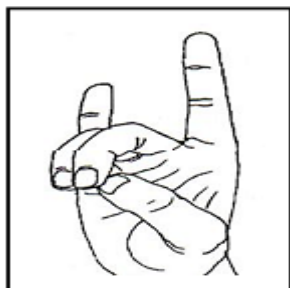


- **Ardhacandra** – It sigifies, if so, for what ?, distress, sky, memory, grasp,

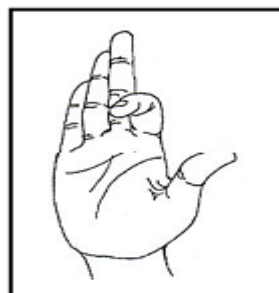
hair of man, smile, what etc.



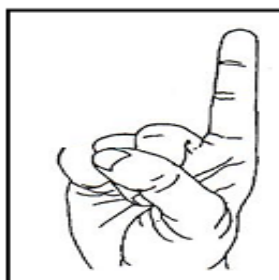
- **Mukura** – This mukura is used for – a large canine tooth, separation, the hip, the veda, brother, pillar, etc.



- **Bhramara** – It signifies – wing, song, water, umbrella, ears of an elephant, gandhrova, to come into existance, fear, to cry.

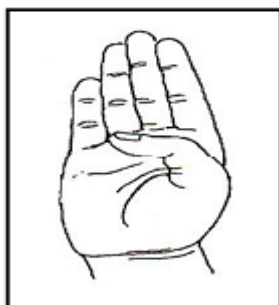


- **Sucimukha** – It signifies Devided, jump, laxmar, fall, month, eyebrow, split, Tail, dead body, knowledge, witness, etc.

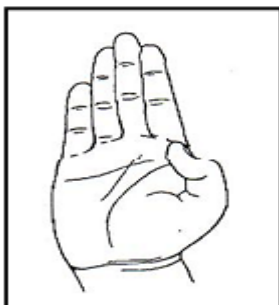


- **Pallava**: It signifies the vajrayudha, peak, ear of cows, length of eyes,

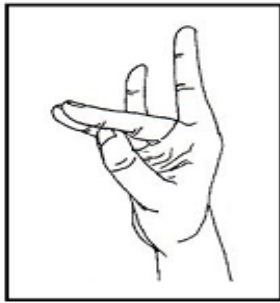
buffalo, horn of animals, distance, smoke, etc.



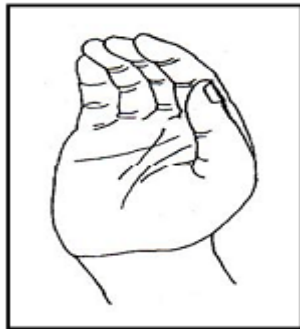
- **Tripataka**: is used to show, sunset, to denote, to address, drinking, to beg.



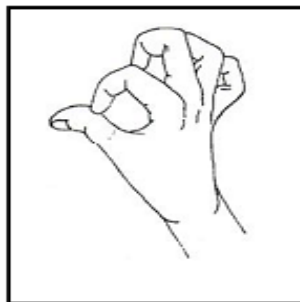
- **Mrugasirsa:** This gesture shows, deer, the supreme being.



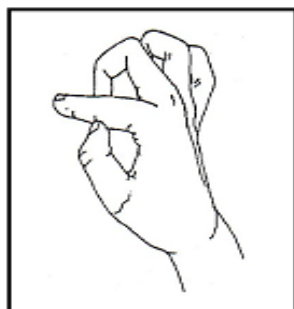
- **Sarpasirsa:** It is used to show poison, serpent, hood.



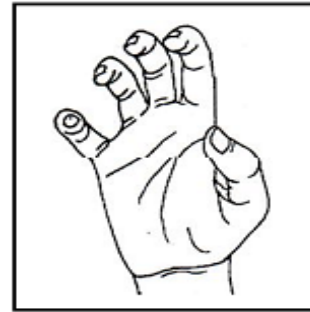
- **Vardhamanaka:** It is used to show, chain of gems, the elbow joint (knee), a huge drum, well etc.



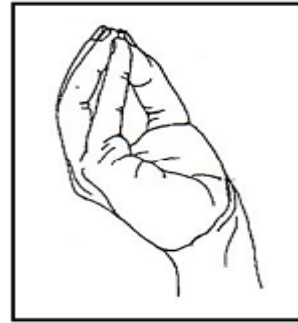
- **Arala:** This gesture shows ignorant, tree, bud, sprout.



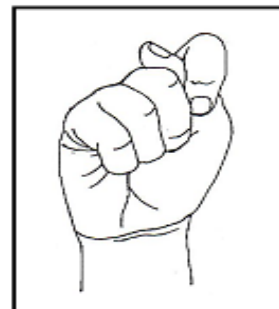
- **Urnanabha:** Shows horse, fruit, tiger, butter, lotus, etc.



- **Mukula:** It signifies, fox, monkey, to forget.



- **Katakamukha:** It signifies. Grab, servant, a short mean, releasing the arrow. To tie, etc. Mudras or hand gestures are used in Indian culture in widely. Divergent areas ranging from Iconography to dance.



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