

Introduction to Prakrit

॥ पाउअप्पवेसिआ ॥

Lesson 2: No Superheavy Syllables

बिइअज्झाओ - अइगरुअक्खराभाओ

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अल्लडाअरियो

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

- ✿ A property of a syllable determined by:
 - ✿ its **vowel** (whether **short** or **long**), and
 - ✿ its **final consonants** (how many of them there are).
- ✿ In Sanskrit, we usually only distinguish between **light** and **heavy** syllables.
- ✿ You can think of it as roughly how long a syllable takes to pronounce.

This is true for Sanskrit and Prakrit, and many other languages, but there is some variation in whether and how languages determine syllable weight.

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

prākṛtam

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

prā.kṛ.tam

A single consonant goes with the following vowel.

If there is no following vowel, a consonant goes with the preceding vowel.

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

μ = **mora** or **mātrā**,
the basic unit of
syllable weight

(heavy syllables have two,
light syllables have one)

₣
prā.kṛ.tam
∧
μμ

₣ = the sign for a
heavy syllable

**** Long vowels add two moras ****

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

μ = **mora** or **mātrā**,
the basic unit of
syllable weight

(heavy syllables have two,
light syllables have one)

\mathcal{S} |
prā.kṛ.tam
 / |
 $\mu\mu$ μ

\mathcal{S} = the sign for a
heavy syllable

| = the sign for a
light syllable

**** Short vowels add one mora ****

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

μ = **mora** or **mātrā**,
the basic unit of
syllable weight

(heavy syllables have two,
light syllables have one)

\mathcal{S} | \mathcal{S}
prā.kṛ.tam
 / | | |
 $\mu\mu$ μ μ μ

\mathcal{S} = the sign for a
heavy syllable

| = the sign for a
light syllable

**** Final consonants add one mora (each) ****

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

μ = **mora** or **mātrā**,
the basic unit of
syllable weight

(heavy syllables have two,
light syllables have one)

\mathcal{S} | \mathcal{S}
prā.kṛ.tam
 / | | |
 $\mu\mu$ μ μ μ

\mathcal{S} = the sign for a
heavy syllable

| = the sign for a
light syllable

**** Consonants at the beginning of a syllable don't
contribute to its weight. ****

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

paṅktiḥ

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

paŋk.tiḥ

Conjunct consonants are split between the previous and following vowels.

If there are more than two, assign “extras” to the previous vowel.

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

A syllable with **more than two moras** is called **superheavy**.

 ̄ ऽ
 ऽ ऽ
paṅk.tiḥ
| | | | |
μ μ μ μ μ

In Sanskrit, there is essentially no difference between heavy and superheavy syllables.

A

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

kāvyam

A syllable with

SYLLABLE WEIGHT

̄
ς ς

kāv.yam

μ μ μ μ μ

Superheavy syllables also result when a **long vowel** is followed by a consonant in the same syllable.

A

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

- ✿ One of the **basic rules** of Prakrit, and **all other Middle Indic languages**, is that **superheavy syllables** are **not allowed**.
- ✿ They have to be “reduced” into heavy syllables by:
 - ✿ getting rid of additional final consonants; or
 - ✿ shortening long vowels.

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ | σ

prā.kr.tam

μμ μ μ μ

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

5 1 5

prā.kr.tam

μμ μ μ μ

No conjunct consonants

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ | σ

pā.kr.tam

μμ μ μ μ

No conjunct consonants

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ | σ

pā.kr.tam

μμ μ μ μ

No single intervocalic stops

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ | σ

pā.r.am
/ i | |
μμ μ μ μ

No single intervocalic stops

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ | σ

pā.u.am

μ μ μ μ

No vocalic ɾ

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ | σ

pā.u.am̐

μ μ μ μ

Syllable-final nasals become anusvāra

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

S | S

pā.u.am̄

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

̄
s s

paŋk.tiḥ

| | | | |
μ μ μ μ μ

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

̄
s s

paŋk.tiḥ

| | | | |
μ μ μ μ μ

No superheavy syllables

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ σ
pañ.tiḥ
| | | |
μ μ μ μ

No superheavy syllables

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

 ς ς
paṁ.tiḥ
| | | |
μ μ μ μ

Syllable-final nasals become anusvāra

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ σ

paṁ.tī

| | \

μ μ μμ

Final iḥ > ī

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

̄
s s

kāv.yam

μ μ μ μ μ

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

̄
s s

kāv.yam

μ μ μ μ μ

No superheavy syllables

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

σ σ

kav.yam

| | | |
μ μ μ μ

No superheavy syllables

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

ς ς

kav.vam

μ μ μ μ

Conjuncts must be homorganic

NO SUPERHEAVY SYLLABLES

ς ς

kav.vam̐

| | | |
μ μ μ μ

Syllable-final nasals become anusvāra

Happy studying!
॥ सहलो होउ सज्ज्ञाओ ॥