# Introduction to Prakrit ॥ पाउअप्पवेसिआ॥

Lesson 2: No Superheavy Syllables बिइअज्झाओ - अइगरुअक्खराभाओ

andrew ollett अल्लंडा अरियो



- A property of a syllable determined by:
  - its vowel (whether short or long), and
  - its **final consonants** (how many of them there are).

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

- In Sanskrit, we usually only distinguish between light and heavy syllables.

# prākṛtam

# prā.kr.tam

A single consonant goes with the following vowel.

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

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

(heavy syllables have two, light syllables have one)

ς prā.kr.tam **S** = the sign for a heavy syllable

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

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

(heavy syllables have two, light syllables have one)



**S** = the sign for a **heavy** syllable

= the sign for a light syllable

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

μ = mora or mātrā, the basic unit of syllable weight (heavy syllables have two, light syllables have one)



**5** = the sign for a **heavy** syllable

= the sign for a light syllable

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

μ = mora or mātrā, the basic unit of syllable weight (heavy syllables have two, light syllables have one)



**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. \*\*

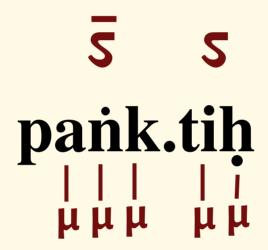
# panktih

# pank.tih

Conjunct consonants are split between the previous and following vowels.

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

A syllable with more than two moras is called superheavy.



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

# kāvyam

A syllable with

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

- 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 conjunct consonants



No conjunct consonants

No single intervocalic stops

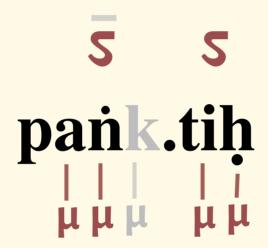
No single intervocalic stops



Syllable-final nasals become anusvāra

2 | 2

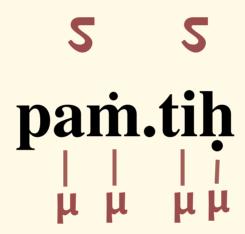
pā.u.am



No superheavy syllables



No superheavy syllables



Syllable-final nasals become anusvāra



No superheavy syllables

No superheavy syllables

**Conjuncts must be homorganic** 

Syllable-final nasals become anusvāra

Happy studying! ॥ सहलो होउ सज्झाओ ॥