Introduction to Prakrit
॥ पाउअप्पवेसिआ ॥

Lesson 3: Only homorganic conjuncts
तइअज्झाओ – सवण्णाइं चिअ संजुत्तक्खराइं

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CONJUNCT CONSONANTS

- Two or more consonants next to each other.

- Prakrit places a lot of conditions on conjunct consonants.

  - there can never be more than **two**;

  > If you think about it, this follows from the restriction on superheavy syllables: if there are three consonants, two of them will have to be at the end of the preceding syllable, which is not allowed.

  - all adjacent consonants must share the same **place of articulation**.

CONJUNCT CONSONANTS

- In other words, two consonants with different places of articulation (velar, palatal, retroflex, dental, labial) can never stand next to each other.

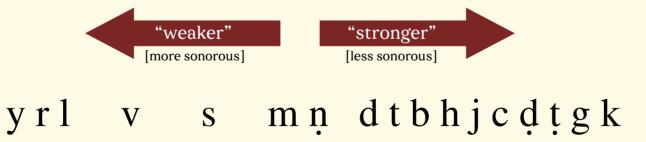- Using velar consonants as an example, the permitted conjuncts are:

  - *kk, gg* **("plain" geminates)**

  - *kkh, ggh* **(aspirated geminates)**

  - *ṅk, ṅkh, ṅg, ṅgh* **(nasal + stop)**

CONJUNCT CONSONANTS

- **Any other** type of conjunct consonant has to be reduced to one of these types.

- The general principle is **assimilation**, where the "weaker" consonant is assimilated into the "stronger" consonant:

← "weaker" [more sonorous]   "stronger" [less sonorous] →

y r l　v　s　m ṇ　d t b h j c ḍ ṭ g k

ASSIMILATION

śravyasya

ASSIMILATION

sravyasya

All sibilants become *s*.

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + sibilant

sravyasya

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + sibilant

ssavyassa

Sibilants are "stronger" than semivowels, so they win.

ASSIMILATION

savyassa

No double consonants at the beginning of a word.

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + semivowel

sa**vy**assa

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + semivowel

sa**vv**assa

v is "stronger" than *y*, so it wins.

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + semivowel

savvassa

↑

sarvasya

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + sibilant

cakraṣya

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + sibilant

cakra**sy**a

ASSIMILATION

semivowel + sibilant

cakra**ss**a

ASSIMILATION

stop + semivowel

ca**kr**assa

ASSIMILATION

stop + semivowel

ca**kk**assa

k is "stronger" than *r*, so it wins.

ASSIMILATION

rś and *rṣ*

harṣaḥ   darśanam

ASSIMILATION

rś and *rṣ*

harṣaḥ

darśanam

ASSIMILATION

rś and *rṣ*

hariṣaḥ

darśanam

One way of dealing with these clusters is through *epenthesis*, that is, inserting a vowel between the consonants.

ASSIMILATION

rś and *rṣ*

ha**ris****ō**

darśanam

One way of dealing with these clusters is through *epenthesis*, that is, inserting a vowel between the consonants.

ASSIMILATION

rś and *rṣ*

hariśō

darśanam

ASSIMILATION

rś and *rṣ*

hariśō

daṁsanam

Another way is by converting the *rś* cluster to *ṁs*.

ASSIMILATION

rś and *rṣ*

harisō

daṁsaṇaṁ

Another way is by converting the *rś* cluster to *ṁs*.

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

āsaktaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

āsa**kt**aḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsa**tt**aḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

śabdaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

śabdaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation: **turn the first consonant into the second**.

āsattō

śaddaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

saddō

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation: **turn the first consonant into the second**.

āsattō

saddō

utpannaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

saddō

utpannaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

saddō

u**pp**annaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation: **turn the first consonant into the second**.

āsattō

saddō

uppaṇṇō

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

saddō

uppaṇṇō

muktaḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

saddō

uppaṇṇō

mu**kt**aḥ

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation:

turn the first consonant into the second.

āsattō

saddō

uppaṇṇō

mukkaḥ

There are always exceptions!

ASSIMILATION

stop + stop

With **stop + stop** conjuncts, the basic principle is **regressive** assimilation: **turn the first consonant into the second**.

āsattō

saddō

uppaṇṇō

mukkō

There are always exceptions!

Coming up next...

- stop + sibilant clusters

- nasal + sibilant clusters

- palatalization (dental + *y* clusters)

Happy studying!

॥ सहलो होउ सज्झाओ ॥