

Introduction to Prakrit

॥ पाउअप्पवेसिआ ॥

Lesson 6: The Speech-sounds of Prakrit

सट्टुज्झाओ – पाउअवण्णा

andrew ollett



अल्लडाअरियो

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ ṛ and ṝ do not occur. ṛ is generally replaced by i:

dhṛtiḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ ṛ and ṝ do not occur. ṛ is generally replaced by i:

dhṛtiḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ $r̥$ and $r̄$ do not occur. $r̥$ is generally replaced by i :

dhitiḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ ṛ and ṝ do not occur. ṛ is generally replaced by *i*:

dhī

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ ṛ and ṝ do not occur. ṛ is generally replaced by *i*:

dhī

✿ At the beginning of a word, with *ri*:

ṛṣih

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ ṛ and ṝ do not occur. ṛ is generally replaced by *i*:

dhī̄

✿ At the beginning of a word, with *ri*:

ṛṣih

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ ṛ and ṝ do not occur. ṛ is generally replaced by *i*:

dhī

✿ At the beginning of a word, with *ri*:

ṛsiḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ ṛ and ṝ do not occur. ṛ is generally replaced by *i*:

dhī

✿ At the beginning of a word, with *ri*:

riṣih

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ $\underset{\circ}{r}$ and $\bar{\underset{\circ}{r}}$ do not occur. $\underset{\circ}{r}$ is generally replaced by i :

dhī

✿ At the beginning of a word, with ri :

risī

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ $r̥$ and $r̄$ do not occur. $r̥$ is generally replaced by i :

dhī̄

✿ At the beginning of a word, with ri :

risī̄

✿ And after a labial consonant (p , b , v), generally with u :

vr̥stih̄

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ $r̥$ and $r̄$ do not occur. $r̥$ is generally replaced by i :

dhī

✿ At the beginning of a word, with ri :

risī

✿ And after a labial consonant (p , b , v), generally with u :

vr̥stih̄

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ $r̥$ and $r̄$ do not occur. $r̥$ is generally replaced by i :

dhī

✿ At the beginning of a word, with ri :

risī

✿ And after a labial consonant (p , b , v), generally with u :

vustih

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ $r̥$ and $r̄$ do not occur. $r̥$ is generally replaced by i :

dhī

✿ At the beginning of a word, with ri :

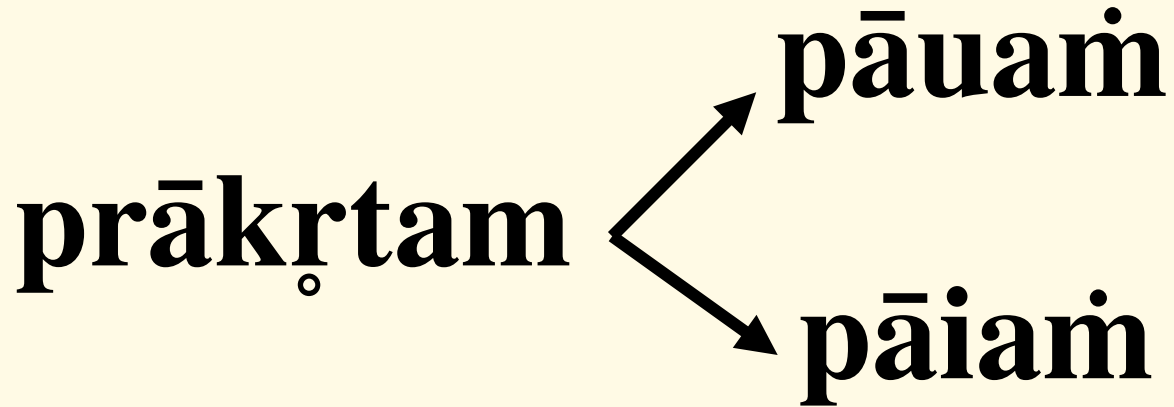
risī

✿ And after a labial consonant (p , b , v), generally with u :

vutthī

PRAKRIT VOWELS

Note that these are **general tendencies** and there is a lot of variation. You will often see “doublets” of the same word:



PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

śailaḥ
bhaumaḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

śailaḥ
bhaumaḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

śēlaḥ

bhaumaḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

sēlō

bhaumaḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

sēlō

bhaumah

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

sēlō

bhōmaḥ

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

sēlō

bhōmō

PRAKRIT VOWELS

✿ Prakrit has fewer vowels than Sanskrit.

✿ *ai* and *au* do not occur.

This is actually a consequence of the “no superheavy syllables” rule. Remember that *ai* and *au* in Sanskrit are underlyingly $\bar{a} + i$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{i}$) and $\bar{a} + u$ (or $\bar{a} + \bar{u}$), and hence they are made up of three moras.

✿ They are usually replaced by \bar{e} and \bar{o} :

sēlō

bhōmō

✿ Occasionally they are replaced by *aī* and *aū*.

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only sibilant is s. ś and ṣ become s in all contexts.

śēṣaḥ

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only sibilant is s. ś and ṣ become s in all contexts.

śēṣaḥ

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only sibilant is s. ś and ṣ become s in all contexts.

sēsaḥ

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only sibilant is s. ś and ṣ become s in all contexts.

sēsō

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only nasals are *m* and *ṇ*. *n* becomes *ṇ* in all contexts.

annam

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only nasals are *m* and *ṇ*. *n* becomes *ṇ* in all contexts.

annam

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only nasals are *m* and *ṇ*. *n* becomes *ṇ* in all contexts.

aṇṇam

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only nasals are *m* and *ṇ*. *n* becomes *ṇ* in all contexts.

aṇṇam̐



also from

anyam

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ❁ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ❁ The only nasals are *m* and *ṇ*. *n* becomes *ṇ* in all contexts.

anṇam

There is never any phonemic difference between *Ṇ* and *N* in Prakrit.

However, scribal traditions vary, with some using only *ṇ*, and others using *ṇ* generally, and *n* in two specific cases:

❁ at the beginning of a word: *na*

❁ when doubled: *annam*

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only nasals are *m* and *ṅ*. *n* becomes *ṅ* in all contexts.
 - ✿ The only nasal that can occur at the end of a syllable is *m̐*. I generally write this with an *anusvāra* in Dēvanāgarī, and with the corresponding class nasal in transliteration.

paṅkaḥ → paṅkō, पंको

aṅḍam → aṅḍam̐, अंडं

antaḥ → antō, अंतो

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ The only nasals are *m* and *ṅ*. *n* becomes *ṅ* in all contexts.
 - ✿ The only nasal that can occur at the end of a syllable is *m̐*. I generally write this with an *anusvāra* in Dēvanāgarī, and with the corresponding class nasal in transliteration.

añjanam → **añjaṅam̐**, अंजणं

ambaram → **ambaram̐**, अंबरं

vaṁśaḥ → **vaṁsō**, वंसो

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ Sanskrit *y* does not occur in Prakrit.
 - ✿ At the beginning of a word, *y* becomes *j*.

yaḥ → jō

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.

✿ Sanskrit *y* does not occur in Prakrit.

✿ At the beginning of a word, *y* becomes *j*.

yaḥ → jō

✿ Within a word, *y* is lost.

hayaḥ → haō

In these cases, however, a lost *y*—like most other single intervocalic consonants—can be represented with *yaśrutiḥ* (see the next lesson).

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Prakrit has fewer consonants than Sanskrit.
 - ✿ Sanskrit *y* does not occur in Prakrit.
 - ✿ *y* is the “weakest” sound, so it is always lost in a conjunct consonant.

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ The *visarga* (and its friends, the *jihvāmūliya* and *upadhmānīya*) does not occur in Prakrit.
 - ✿ *-aḥ* at the end of the word almost always becomes *-ō*.
 - ✿ Within a word it sometimes becomes *e* (e.g., *antaḥpura-* → *antēura-*).
 - ✿ Other combinations (e.g., *-iḥ*, *-uḥ*, *-āḥ*, etc.) tend to result in long vowels.
 - ✿ We'll see examples when we talk about morphology.

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Sometimes you might see the retroflex lateral, *ḷ*, especially in texts transmitted in South India:

valayam → **vaḷaam̐**, वळअं
valaam̐, वलअं
miḷhaiḥ, मिळ्हइ
milhaiḥ, मिल्हइ

PRAKRIT CONSONANTS

- ✿ Sometimes you might see the retroflex lateral, *ḷ*, especially in texts transmitted in South India:

valayam → **vaḷaam̐**, वळअं
valaam̐, वलअं
miḷhaiḥ, मिळ्हइ
milhaiḥ, मिल्हइ

Happy studying!
॥ सहलो होउ सज्ज्ञाओ ॥