

Introduction to Prakrit

॥ पाउअप्पवेसिआ ॥

Lesson 7: The Beginning and the End (of the Word)

सत्तमज्झाओ - पआइअंता

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अल्लडाअरियो

THE BEGINNING OF THE WORD

✿ A few changes happen specifically at the beginning of a word:

✿ *y* becomes *j*:

yā

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✿ *y* becomes *j*:

yā → **jā**

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✿ A few changes happen specifically at the beginning of a word:

✿ A word cannot begin with more than one consonant:

kramah

THE BEGINNING OF THE WORD

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kramaḥ → **kk**amō

→ kamō

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In the “seam” of a compound, however, doubling is optional, even if there was not a conjunct in the underlying word.

māṭṛ-grāmaḥ

THE BEGINNING OF THE WORD

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✿ A word cannot begin with more than one consonant:

In the “seam” of a compound, however, doubling is optional, even if there was not a conjunct in the underlying word.

mātr̥-grāmaḥ → māu-gāmō
māu-ggāmō

THE END OF THE WORD

- ✿ Prakrit words can only end in a vowel or *anusvāra*.
- ✿ Other final consonants are either dropped:

yāvat

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yāvat → **jāva**

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yāvat → jāva

☛ Or they become *anusvāra*:

yat

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Often consonant-final stems are remade so that they end in a vowel:

☛ vipad- → vipā-

☛ vidyut- → vijjū-

THE END OF THE WORD

- ❁ Prakrit has **nasalized vowels** that occur at the end of a word.
- ❁ These are **different** from vowel + *anusvāra* sequences!

dumam̐ [vowel + *anusvāra*]

dumēhim̐ [nasalized vowel]

- ❁ Nasalized vowels are **sometimes** metrically heavy, and **sometimes** metrically short.
- ❁ By contrast, vowel + *anusvāra* sequences are always metrically heavy.

THE END OF THE WORD

- ✿ Generally only *i* is nasalized, and only in certain morphological contexts (e.g., instrumental plural). You'll learn to recognize the optional nasalized vowel.

THE END OF THE WORD

- Because of their different metrical values, they are written in different ways.
- In manuscripts they are written with or without the *anusvāra*:

दुमेहि
दुमेहिं

THE END OF THE WORD

- ❁ Because of their different metrical values, they are written in different ways.
- ❁ In printed books, they are sometimes written with a *candrabindu* to show that they are metrically light:

दुमेहि
दुमेहिं
दुमेहिँ

THE END OF THE WORD

- ✿ Because of their different metrical values, they are written in different ways.
- ✿ In transliteration, they can be written with *anusvāra* when heavy and with a tilde when light:

dumēhiṁ

dumēhĩ

- ✿ Some editors simply leave off the nasalization when the syllable is light:

dumēhi

Happy studying!
॥ सहलो होउ सज्ज्ञाओ ॥