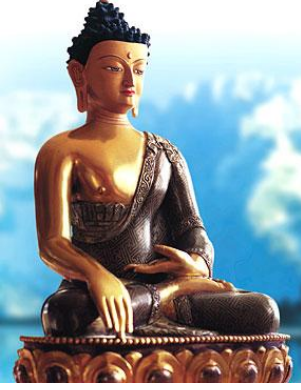


Grantha - 16 - Conjuncts V



॥ ஒம் நம: ஸ்ரீவநாய ॥

| ॐ नमः श्रीवनाय | ॐ நம: ஸ்ரீவநாய |



ந ஸுஹொ ந ஸு ஸுஹொ ஸுஹொ ஜ்ஜாநநாஸுவ
ஸஹாஸாஹிம் விஹாவிஹா மஹாஹி ஸாஸாஹிம் ஹுஹி

न पुद्गलो न च स्कन्धा बुद्धो ज्ञानमनासवम्

सदाशान्तिं विभावित्वा गच्छामि शरणं ह्यहम्

ந புத்³க³லோ ந ச ஸ்கந்தா⁴ புத்³தோ⁴ ஜ்ஞாநமநாஸ்ரவம்

ஸதாஸாந்திம்³ விபா⁴வித்வா கச்சாமி ஸாஸாஹிம்³ ஹ்யஹம்

Neither a person nor the aggregates, the Buddha, is knowledge free from [evil] outflows

Clearly perceiving [him] to be eternally serene, I go for refuge [in him]

It has been four lessons into Conjuncts and there is still lot more to go [Do Bear !].

We had seen conjuncts upto 3 consonants in a cluster in the last lesson. We will see some more conjunct formation rules in triple consonantal clusters, and then move on to clusters with four or even more consonants.

Combining-Stacking Conjuncts

So far, the Triple conjuncts we had seen were either completely stacking ^{சு}வ், completely combining சுவ, or used some special signs of -r- and -y- ^{ஸு}ய்.

What if any of the two adjacent consonants forms a combining Conjunct, and the other has only a stacking form ? As said before in [Lesson 13](#), always the Combining forms have more priority than the stacking form.

The Combining Consonants must be clustered first and then be stacked as required with the remaining third consonant. I know the description is very hazy, let's see two some examples.

Consider two Samyuktakshara-s *ndbha* ^{நந்த³ப⁴ஹ} & *stva* ^{ஸ்த்வ³ஸ்வ}. We'll apply the above rules to form the Samyuktakshara forms.

நீ + ஶீ + ஹ → நீ + ஹ → $\begin{matrix} \text{நீ} \\ \text{ஹ} \end{matrix}$

வீ + தீ + வ → வீ + கூ → $\begin{matrix} \text{வீ} \\ \text{கூ} \end{matrix}$

As seen above, first the combining conjuncts are formed and then they are stacked.
As simple as that :-)

Now, if both the adjacent consonants have combining forms, which is to be Combined and which is to be Clustered ? Well both !

ndva நீத்வ ஶ்வ

நீ + ஶீ + வ → நீ + வ → $\begin{matrix} \text{நீ} \\ \text{வ} \end{matrix}$

நீ + ஶீ + வ → நீ + ஶ்வ → $\begin{matrix} \text{நீ} \\ \text{ஶ்வ} \end{matrix}$

Both the above forms are valid. You can choose anything you like !

Quadruple (and more) Conjuncts

Before moving on to Samyuktakshara-s with 4 (or more) consonantal clusters, we'll sum up the necessary points

- The stacking limit* of Grantha is three
- Consider the combining conjuncts as a single written "akshara" during conjunct formation
- Combining Conjuncts must be formed first before attempting to stacking
- The pre-consonantal -r- is always considered last while forming conjuncts [except for -ry-]
- Post-Cononantal -r- and -y- take their usual special forms when appearing as the last part of the cluster.

Now that we know the necessary basic lets move on.

Consider the Samyuktakshara *நக்ச்வ ன்சுவ nkṣva* which has four consonants.

$$\text{ன்} + \text{க்} + \text{ஷ்} + \text{வ} \rightarrow \text{ன்} + \text{க்ஷ்} + \text{வ} \rightarrow \text{ன்} + \text{வ} \rightarrow$$

Essentially, the above is triple-stacked conjunct with three written "aksharas".

The Stack can have at most three written "aksharas" and not more than that. When they are four written "aksharas" & all of them show stacking behaviour, the last three consonants are stacked and the first consonant is written with a Virama.

நக்த்வ ன்டுவ ngdhva

$$\text{ன்} + \text{த்} + \text{வ்} + \text{வ} \rightarrow \text{ன்} + \text{வ்} \rightarrow \text{ன்வ்}$$

If the first consonant with Virama has a Special **Ligated-Virama form** it can be used too as

in ன்வ்

When a five level stacking is required (which are extremely rare), the first two consonants are stacked with a Virama and then last three consonants are stacked. (2+3)

$$\text{ஞ்} + \text{ஞ்} + \text{ய்} + \text{ஷ்} + \text{வ} \rightarrow \text{ஞ்} + \text{ய்} \rightarrow \text{ஞ்ய்}$$

Some more clusters with four or five consonants:

A complex Samyuktakshara with -y- : *த்பஸ்ய ட்ப்ச்ய tpsya*

$$\text{த்} + \text{வ்} + \text{ஷ்} + \text{ய} \rightarrow \text{த்} + \text{ய} \rightarrow \text{த்ய்}$$

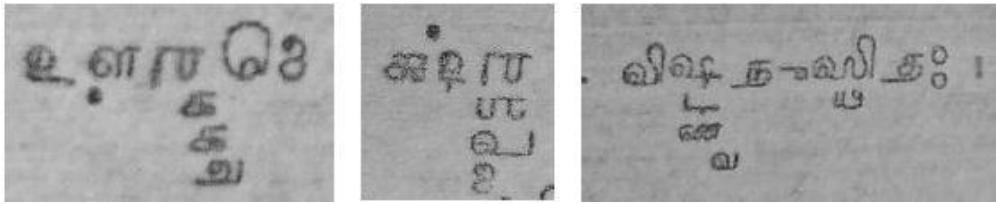
A complex Samyuktakshara with -r- : *ர்த்த்⁴ம ட்ஃ⁴ rddhma*

𑌕 + 𑌔 + 𑌙 + 𑌚 → 𑌕 + 𑌔 + 𑌚 → 𑌕 + 𑌔𑌚 → 𑌚

(Since *ddha* is a combining conjunct, the stack has been reduced to a dual-level)

Notes:

1. Grantha can have a four-level stacking, but its very rare.



For all practical purposes, the limit can be taken as three.

2. Some typesetters limit the stacking to a dual-level, in that case instead of a three level stacking, the first consonant has a virama-form and the last two consonant are stacked.

𑌕 𑌕𑌔
𑌔 𑌔

3. Grantha Typesetters have attempted to print the Conjuncts in a number of ways.

For Instance, *ந்த்வ⁴ nva* can take several forms in print.

𑌕𑌔 𑌕𑌔 𑌕 𑌕 𑌕𑌔

All of them are valid representation of */ntva/*.

Even the special forms of -r-, -y- are too not mandatory. It is quite valid to write them as stacks instead.

रु कृ कृ

What has been presented here till now is the usual conventions that are mostly applied during the Conjunct formation in Grantha Script. It doesn't mean the other possibilities are wrong, just that they are not so usually used. That's it .

So with this, the entire basics of Grantha script is covered.

(I have skipped the Vedic Grantha with the Svvara Markers and other Vedic Characters)

All that we have seen is just bits and pieces of the Aksharas :).

So, In the next few lessons, we will be seeing some basic Sanskrit words & phrases in Grantha.

॥ यद्ग्रेषु राक्षति राक्षतः ॥
