

Grantha - 6 - ya - ha



॥ ॐ नमः समन्तभद्राय ॥

| ॐ नमः समन्तभद्राय | ॐ नमः समन्तभद्राय |



नमः शक्यमुनये तथागताय अर्हते सम्यक्सम्बुद्धाय

तद्यथा ॐ मुने मुने महामुनये स्वाहा

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Time to move away from the Varga-Consonants to the end of the Vyanjana group. There are two classes of Consonants that we will see in this lesson - Semivowels and the Fricatives.

Semi Vowels

The Semi Vowels are called as antahstha अन्तःस्थ अन्तःस्थ. Four Consonants (Five, if we include the Retroflex l) come under this class.

ॐ नमः समन्तभद्राय

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ya य य

य

ra र र

𑌒

la ல ல

𑌓

va வ வ

𑌔

ḷ ள ள

𑌕

A note on the above retroflex l. It is not usually included in the Traditional Varnamaala. The above letter appears in Vedic Sanskrit and in South Indian Sanskrit. One might note the usage of the retroflex l in South Indian Languages when expressing several Sanskrit words. Words like प्रलय प्रलय (pralaya), वेताल वेताल (vetala) are all spelled with Retroflex l in South Indian languages. The same applies to Sanskrit in Grantha script, where this letter appears often.

In Vedic Sanskrit, it occurs as an allophone of 𑌓. The first verse of the Rigveda goes, agnimīḷe अग्निमीळे அக்³நிமீளே சுயி^௩ஜீ^௩ளெ [īḷa has transformed īḷa, with ḷ become 𑌓] using the Retroflex variant.

Even in Pali, The /d/ in Sanskrit becomes /ḷ/. The Pali equivalent of the word Vaidūrya
வைடுர்ய வைர்ய is Veḷuriya வேளுரிய வேலுரிய, with /d/ becoming /ḷ/ again. As expected, ḷ has a
corresponding aspirated [Mahāprāṇa] form which is the allophonic counterpart to ூ. It does not have
a separate letter, it is just formed by adding /h/ to the former.

ḷha ள்ஹ ஹ

ḷha
ஹ

In Pali, the above two are considered separate letters per se.

Fricatives

The last set of consonants in the Vyanjana list are the Fricatives i.e. ūṣman ऊष्मन् ஊஷ்மந் ூஷ்மந்

ṣa ஷ ஷ

ṣa
ஷ

śa ष²|ष १†

ष

sa ष स

ष

ha ष ह

ष

Notes on Pronunciation

ऌ & ऍ are retroflex consonants. They must be pronounced with the tongue curled up.

Closely note the position of the tongue while pronouncing the more-common retroflex plosive ऌ. The tongue must in a similar position while pronouncing these letters. [Even in Tamil, many are blissfully unaware of the variant pronunciation of ऌ which is quite different from ல. The differentiation now-a-days is getting more and more orthographical - Small ல (சின்ன ல) Vs Big ல (பெரிய ல)]

ष is palatal, that is pronounced near the palate (the position while articulating 'ja'). Thus the

palatal ष is quite distinct from the retroflex ऌ. Perhaps, one must be forced to take a Sanskrit version of the Shiboleth* Test (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiboleth>) :: Ideally,

षिबोलेत षिपोलेत् Vs शिबोलेतषिपोलेत् :-P or even better a Tamil one, ஷிப்போளெத் Vs ஷிப்போலெத் :-)

*Jean-Luc Chevilliard should take the credit for this :-)

Letters same as Tamil

ய வ ஷ ஹ

Letters similar to that in Tamil

ர ர ஸ ஸ

It is interesting to note that, ஸ a so-called "Grantha" letter in Tamil Script has a different from than that of the "real" Grantha /sa/ :-)

So the 6th part is over with this. We have completed all the Vowels a.k.a Svara-s and the Consonants a.k.a Vyanjanas-s until now.

The next lesson will be a complete summary of the all the letters covered.

|| யவொ ரகூதி ரகூதஃ ||
