

Sanskrit Lesson

From the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra

तेन खलु पुनः
समयेनायष्पाद्सभृतिस्तस्यामेव
पर्षदि संनिपतितौऽभूत्संनिषण्णः।

TENA KHALU PUNAḤ SAMAVENĀVUṢMĀN-SUBHŪTIS-TASVĀM-EVA PARṢADI SAṆNIPATTITO'BHŪT-SAMNIṢANṆAḤ / "At that time the Elder Subhuti was present in the assembly, sitting down."

continued from issue #206

This lesson continues to consider the external sandhi rules for consonants.

RULE TWENTY-FOUR A voiced stop before a voiceless consonant or zero is replaced by the corresponding unvoiced stop.

explanation: The voiced stops in Sanskrit are, as listed in other lessons: g, gh, j, jh, ḍ, ḍh, d, dh, b, and bh. The voiceless consonants are the rest of the consonants. The unvoiced stops are: k, kh, c, ch, ṭ, ṭh, t, th, p, and ph. Any time a voiced stop is followed directly by a voiceless consonant, or else by no letter at all, the voiced stop becomes the unvoiced stop of the corresponding category. This is an example of assimilation. The corresponding categories are listed below.

voiced stop - corresponding unvoiced stop

g	k
gh	kh
j	c
jh	ch
ḍ	ṭ
ḍh	ṭh
d	t
dh	th
b	p
bh	ph

examples: √vid- (root) "know" → vetsi "you know;" √budh- (root) "be awake" + syate → bnotsyate "he will be awake."

RULE TWENTY-FIVE A voiceless stop before a voiced stop is replaced by the corresponding voiced stop.

explanation: See explanation of Rule Twenty-four for the voiced and unvoiced stops and their correspondances (read the chart in reverse.) "Voiceless" and

"unvoiced" mean the same thing.

examples: √śak- (root) "be able" + dhi (imperative 2nd sing. aorist ending) → śagdhi "help;" √diś- "region" + bhyas (dative/ablative plural ending) → digbhyaś "from regions."

RULE TWENTY-SIX An aspirated stop before a stop, a sibilant or zero is replaced by the corresponding unaspirated stop.

explanation: The aspirated stops are: kh, gh, ch, jh, ṭh, ḍh, th, dh, ph, bh. The stops are listed in the explanation of Rule Twenty-four. This means any stop, whether voiced or unvoiced, aspirated or unaspirated. The sibilants are: ś, ṣ, s. The unaspirated stops are: k, g, c, j, ṭ, ṭh, t, d, p, b.

aspirated stop corresponding unaspirated stop

kh	k
gh	g
ch	c
jh	j
ḍh	ḍ
ṭh	ṭ
dh	d
th	t
ph	p
bh	b


examples: √likh- (root) "paint," citralikh + ś → citralik- "painter of pictures;" √budh- + syate → bhotsyate "he will awake."

— to be continued

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