



# **Study of the India Golden Period (200 BC – 500 AD)**

**Language and Literature**

**Prem Nagar**

# Highlights for this period can be summed up as:

- Continuing efforts in codification of language
- Standardization of grammar
- Full development of script
- Discourses on the meaning of sounds and words
- Massive development of secular literature
- Development of formal educational institutions
- Standardization of Indian Languages

# What is Language Codification?

## Codification

- prescribes the usage protocol for:
  - Phonetics (Sound)
  - Script (Symbols)
- sound strings into words
- helps develop etymology (meaning)
- helps create script symbols for representing speech sounds
- is empirical
- is the first step in developing a grammar

Sanskrit codification believed to have helped stimulate codification in other languages.

# Development of grammar and codification

- Articulation of human speech was studied empirically
- Pāṇini (400 BC) compiled literature on the location and the manner of articulation of syllables
- Grammarians established the rules of articulation that could generate the synthetic speech sounds
- Organization of parts of speech, syntax and phonetics of human speech were carefully studied, as a function of accent and geography
- Identification of syllables led to the development of script as a visual representation
- Script enabled the recording of materials, and widespread dissemination in educating the society.

# From Oral Syllables to Script

Varṇa (articulation unit) is the basic linguistic sound organized as:

- **Swaras (vowel phonemes)** uttered on their own and classified through utterance.
- **Vyanjanas (consonant phonemes):** need vowel for articulation, and categorized as per body part used to produce the sounds - namely, velar, palatal, retroflex, dental, labial, etc.
- **Aksharas (syllable):** made up of consonant plus vowel, in either the spoken mode or the written mode. Vowels are self-supported. A vowel - either with a consonant or by itself - forms a syllable.
- **Matras (vowel sign):** When vowel is attached to consonant, this vowel is orthographically (conventions for writing a language) represented in a different form, known as vowel matra. (E.g., (consonants: क (k) + Sign (अ a) ा = letter: का (kaa))
- **Modifiers:** Vowels modified by nasalization and visarga. Consonant modifiers indicate a differentiation in pronunciation E.g.: अ (a) + ः (Bindu/point) = अं (am).

# Evolution of Indian Languages

## Steps in language development

- **Tribe** – Members generally connected via blood line, live in groups, share a native language.
- **Clan** – Comprises many tribes. Language evolves and tribal language becomes dialect with limited grammar and no writing system.
- **Multiple clans** – Language takes a regional form. Both oral and written forms share a common grammar in a larger geography, and is associated with a commonly understood semantic structure.
- **Urbanization** - in cities, language evolves further due to mix of populations and foreign contamination.

# Language Evolution in India

## Example

Language in Use (200BC-500CE) /Region	Source Languages / Dialects	Derivative Languages
<b>Language Northern Belt: Prakrit - language of common people</b>		
Paiśācī Prakrit/Bhūtabhāṣa ( <b>Vindhya Mountains</b> , texts found :300-1000CE)	Prakrit, Pali, Munda	Apabhraṃśa form of Hindi Takka Apabhramsha into Lahori dialect and Vrachada Apabhramsha into Multani dialect (Punjabi)
Apabhraṃśa (अपभ्रंश, 600CE-1100CE) Prevalent in <b>Ganges (east and west)</b>	Prakrit, Pali, Khariboli, Braj., Awadhi, Maithili	
Śauraseni (शौरसेनी, 500BC (Dramatic Prakrit), <b>Central Zone of India.</b>	Śauraseni Apabhraṃśa, Khariboli, Sanskrit; Śauraseni, Eastern Punjab and Kaikeyi, Western Punjab ☐	
Gāndhārī Prakrit (300 BC-400 CE), <b>Northwestern: Gandhāra and Central Asia</b> , inscriptions in Luoyang and Anyang.	Prakrit, Vedic Sanskrit	
<b>Language Southern Belt: Dravidian languages language of common people (Tamil, Kannada, Telugu)</b>		
Old Tamil (one of the longest-surviving classical languages in world), <b>South of India and Sri Lanka</b>	Dravidian, Kurukh (East India), Gondi (Central India), Munda, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali	Tamil

Please note: Backup Slides for many more languages. Exchange and Borrowing words and ideas can be observed in most of these languages. This is not comprehensive listing and positioning.

# Phonetics (Sounds) and Script (Symbols)

## Example

Language	Script	Grammarian
<b>Language Northern Belt - Sanskrit/Prakrit Phonetics; Word Order: subject–object–verb (SOV)</b>		
Prakrit	Brahmi/Kharoṣṭhī	<b>Vararuchi</b> (Kātyāyana), <b>Prākṛt Prakāśa</b> , 64 syllables,
Apabhraṃśa	Brahmi	Apabhraṃśa (Patañjali: Language in Transition!)
Pāli	Brahmi	<b>Kaccayana</b> (Pali school of Southern India), Brahmi inscriptions by Mauryas in Prakrit (Pali),
Udra Bibhāshā (Udra Vibhasa)	Odia (descendants of Brahmi)	Not known,
<b>Language Southern Belt: Dravidian language (Tamil, Kannada, Telgu): Word Order: subject–object–verb</b>		
Old Tamil (longest-surviving classical languages in the World)	Tamil-Brahmi / Kharoshthi	<b>Agattiyam</b> by Agastya Old Tamil in Sanskrit, and <b>Tolkāppiyam</b>
Canarese or Kanarese (Kannada)	Kadamba/ Kannada script 500CE	Pāṇini's Sanskrit, Katantra / Sakatayana and Prakrit grammar, Halmidi inscription 500 CE, earliest epigraph written in Kannada language
Telugu	Bhattiprolu Brahmi	Inscriptions appeared from 600/700CE.

Please note: Backup Slides for many more languages. This is not a comprehensive listing and positioning.



# Adaptation of Paninian Structure

Language	Vowels
Sanskrit / Prakrit: Vowels: 19	अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऋ r, ॠ ṛ, ए e, ऐ ai, ओ o, औ au, अं am, अः aḥ
Pāli (Devanāgarī) Vowels: 8,	अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऐ ai, ओ o
Odia (Oriya): Vowels: 6 pure, 9 diphthongs,	ଅ a, ଆ ā, ଇ i, ଈ ī, ଉ u, ଊ ū, ଋ r, ॠ ṛ, ଓ o, ଌ l, ଐ ai, ଓ o, ଔ ou
Tamil: Vowels 12,	அ a, ஆ ā, இ i, ஈ ī, உ u, ஊ ū, எ e, ஏ e, ஐ ai, ஒ o, ஓ o, ஔ au
Language	Consonants
Sanskrit / Prakrit: Consonants: 33,	क ka, ख kha, ग ga, घ gha, ङ ṅa, च ca, छ cha, ज ja, झ jha, ञ ṅa, ट ta, ठ tha, ड da, ढ ḍa, ण ṇa, त ta, थ tha, द da, ध dha, न na, प pa, फ pha, ब ba, भ bha, म ma, य ya
Pāli (Devanāgarī) Consonants: 33,	क ka ख kha ग ga घ gha ङ ṅa, च ca छ cha ज ja झ jha ञ ṅa, ट ta ठ tha ड da ढ ḍa ण ṇa, त ta थ tha द da ध dha न na, प pa फ pha ब ba भ bha म ma, य ya र ra
Odia (Oriya): 28 consonants (3 of them retroflex), 4 semivowels	କ ka ଖ kha ଗ ga ଘ gha ଙ ṅa, ଚ ca ଛ cha ଜ ja ଝ jha ଞ ṅa, ଟ ta ଠ tha ଡ da ଢ ḍa ଣ ṇa, ତ ta ଥ tha ଦ da ଧ dha ନ na, ପ pa ଫ pha ବ ba ଭ bha ମ ma, ଯ ya ର ra ଲ la ଳ ଳa ଳି ଳିa, ଶ sa ଷ ଷa ସ sa ହ ha କ୍ଷ khja, ଳ ଳa
Tamil: Vowels 12, consonants: 18,	க் k ங் n ச் c ஞ் n ட் t ண் n த் t ந் n ப் p ம் m ய் y ர் r ல் l வ் v ழ் ழ் i ள் i ற் r ண் n

Please note: Devanagari script used to evaluate these. Backup Slides for many more languages.

# Philosophy of Language

- Bhartrihari (450-500CE, Vâkyapadîya) analyzed sentences, utterances, and meaning
- Sentences constitute: Syllables (**varṇa**), word (**pada, śabda**), sentence (**vākya**),
- Utterance of speech involves three stages: Conceptualization (**paśyantī**), Performance (**madhyamā**), Comprehension (**vaikharī**)
- **sphoṭa** (flash of insight) is a product of **pratibhā** (recall and syntactic capacity),
- Meaning is a function of a sentence as a whole and derived with: sentence and words, meanings corresponding to sentence and words, compatibility between sound and sense, and the merit of correct language
- **sphoṭa** conveys essence as integral linguistic symbols when meaning is comprehended
- The meaning of a word is fixed, eternal.

**Bhartrihari is regarded as one of the most original philosophers of language!**

# Theory of Rasa (aesthetics)

Rasa is embedded in utterance

- ‘**rasa**’ (latent condition that prevails in the body) is a psychological condition,
- Humans are endowed with ‘**bhāva**’ that connects mind through ‘**rasa**’
- Sound modulation conveys intent to listener that effects ‘**rasa**’ and activates ‘**bhava**’
- ‘**bhava**’ rooted in latent ‘**rasa**’ activates ‘**bhava**’ in the body and manifests ‘**rasa**’, in turn reinforces ‘**bhava**’ in the body, making us immersed in ‘**rasa**’.\*

# mīmāṃsā (reflection)

## Mīmāṃsā (from the Vedas, analyzed by Bhartṛhari)

- Emphasizes ‘**pratyakṣa**’ (perception) in two distinct state:
  - External perception arises from the interaction of five senses with objects
  - Internal perception is an inner sense ‘**pratibhā**’ (intuition)
- This interplay between the two perceptions leads to
  - ‘**anumāna**’ (inference), which consists of
    - ‘**pratijñā**’ (hypothesis),
    - ‘**hetu**’ (a reason), and
    - ‘**dṛṣṭānta**’ (examples).
  - ‘**upamāṇa**’ (comparison and analogy) of the existing imprints in the brain (recall)

# Literature

Following topics:

- Types of Literature
- Alaṅkāra Śāstra (science of poetic ornamentation),
- Story-telling
- Literature of Drama and Culture
- Knowledge Literature
- Literature in Prākṛit and Tamil
- Philosophical and Religious Literature
- Science and Technology Literature
- Literature on Economics
- Literary Centers, spread of education

# Types of Literatures

- **S'ruti** (श्रुति, revelations) Empirical works with long ancestry and unknown origin. **Ayurveda** has its roots in the period.
- Such literature is also termed **Samhitā** (संहिता) because of its beneficial effects.
- **Smṛti** (स्मृति, legends) Ascribed to an early human coder passed on through time. **Rāmāyaṇa** and **Mahābhārata** belong to this category, as does literature like **manusmṛti**
- **S'āstra** (शास्त्र - regulatory knowledge) is a monograph on a topic of public interest, documenting the social practices and a prescription for future use. **Arthaśāstra** (economics), **Nāṭyaśāstra** (dramaturgy) are examples.
- **Sūtra** (सूत्र, connected threads) are evocative statements useful for recall: Patanjali's **Yoga-sutras**, Pāṇini's **Ashtadhyayi**, Jaina's **Samaṇasūttam**
- Other literary styles: **Kāvya** (काव्य, Poetry) and **nāṭaka** (नाटक, Drama), etc.

# Alaṅkāra Śāstra

## (Science of Poetic Ornamentation)

- **Alaṅkāra**, ornamenting expression by use of figures of speech like metaphor (Rupaka) hyperbole (Atisayokti) and naturalistic utterances (Svabhaavokti), etc.
- **Idea of Upamā** (similes: compare two to make vivid description): In Meghadūta: using cloud as messenger and stringing stanzas into a narrative for lover
- **Use of nature as metaphors**: Meghadūta-mountain peaks and sights on cloud's journey to Himalayan city of Alaka.
- **Adornment (decorate)**: Kumārasambhavam decorated with Sringara rasa, rasa of love, romance, and eroticism, and Vira rasa (rasa of heroism).
- **Rhetorics (Persuasive)**: In Raghuvamśa, Sītā is portrayed most respected and beloved.

• **Use of Meter**: 'mandākrānta' meter known for its lyrical sweetness. Alaṅkāras were experimented with in the Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata, and were perfected in Kālidāsa's Poetry. Kālidāsa made Drama and Poetry literature for the general masses!

# Story Telling

- Storytelling casts experiences in a narrative form
- Each region developed its own style of storytelling
- Pañcatantra (300 BC), is a collection of animal stories,
- Puranas and Ramayana are stories that aim to instill moral values by revealing the consequences of human action (karma)
- At the beginning of the Mahabharata, Vyasa says, "If you listen carefully, at the end you'll be someone else".
- Katha (Story) by kathavachaka or Vyasa is a style of storytelling that recited texts and followed by a commentary (Pravachana),
- Storytelling combined poetry, music, drama, dance and philosophy.
- Many such forms and traditions are prevalent in present-day India.



Mongoose and Snake story, an inspiration.



Teejan Bai, performs pandavani (story of the pandavas) in kapalik shaili (style)



# Literature of Drama and Culture

- Kalidasa (400-500CE), was a Sanskrit poet and dramatist. He wrote:
  - 3 Dramas: Abhijnanashakuntala (Recognition of Shakuntala), Vikramorvashi (Urvashi Won by Valour), and Malavikagnimitra (Malavika and Agnimitra).
  - 2 Poems: Raghuvamsha (Dynasty of Raghu) and Kumarasambhava (Birth of the War God), and
  - the Lyrics for: Meghaduta (Cloud Messenger).
- Bharata (100BC-300CE): Wrote the Nāṭyaśāstra, a handbook of dramatic art that
  - deals with all aspects of drama and theater, including dance, music, poetics, and general aesthetics
- Shudraka, king (Ujjain), wrote three Sanskrit plays:
  - Mrichchhakatika (The Little Clay Cart), Vinavasavadatta, Padmaprabhritaka, a bhana (short one-act monologue),
- Bhasa wrote thirteen plays in Sanskrit and Prakrit



Chaturanga contained game pieces for infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots, each of which evolve into modern pawn, knight, rook, and bishop, respectively.

# Pañcatantra (पञ्चतन्त्र, Five Stories)

- Pañcatantra (300 BC), is a collection of interrelated fables (Animal stories) in Sanskrit verse and prose, attributed to Vishnu Sharma (Viṣṇuśarman)
  - **Book 1:** Mitra-bheda (मित्रभेदः)
  - **Book 2:** Mitra-samprāpti (मित्रसंप्राप्तिः)
  - **Book 3:** Kākolūkīyam (काकोलूकीयम्) Teaches:
  - **Book 4:** Labdhapraṇāśam (लब्धप्रणाशम्)
  - **Book 5:** Aparīkṣitakāraḥ (अपरिक्षितकारकम्),
- More than 200 versions of this text, in more than 50 languages, are in circulation around the world.



A Panchatantra manuscript page.



Panchatantra illustration in Nalanda Temple, 700 CE (Turtle and Geese)

# Literature in Prākṛit and Dravidian

Language	Literature
<b>Language Northern Belt: Prakrit</b>	
Paiśācī Prākṛit / Bhūtabhāṣa	Folk Narratives in verses by: <b>Guṇāḍhya's Bṛhatkathā</b> ("Great Collection of Stories"),
Apabhraṃśa (Patañjali: Language in Transition!)	Jain: Vikramorvashyam of Kālidāsa, <b>Mahakavi Swyambhudev.</b>
Śauraseni (Dramatic Prākṛit)	Jain epics (Digambara): <b>Ṣaṭkhaṇḍāgama</b> and <b>Kāsāyapahuḍa.</b>
Ardhamagadhi	Earliest versions of <b>Jain Agamas</b> known were composed in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit
Gāndhārī Prākṛit	Kharoṣṭhī Text (300BC - 400 CE) and Buddhist manuscripts in Gāndhārī: <b>Dharmapāda, Anavatapta Gāthā, the Rhinoceros Sūtra, Sangitiparyaya</b>
Mahārāshtrī Prakṛit	Sanskrit playwright <b>Kālidāsa</b>
Pāli liturgical language	Theravāda and <b>Tipiṭaka</b> Buddhist
Udra Bibhāshā (Udra Vibhasa, proto-Odia) Odra Prākṛit:	Kharavel's Hatigumpha <b>inscription (100 BC) evidence of past Odia</b> cultural, political, ritual and social status and poetic stake inscription.
<b>Language Southern (Dravidian languages) Belt: (Tamil, Kannada, Telgu)</b>	
Old Tamil (one of the longest-surviving classical languages in	<b>Sangam literature</b> ( 300 BC – AD 300), Many Pali and Sanskrit terms used,
Old Kannada: Purava HaleGannada,	language of Banavasi in the early Common Era, the Satavahana, Chutu Satakarni (Naga) and Kadamba periods and thus has a history of over 2500 years
Proto-Dravidian (Telugu)	Tamil literature as Telunga Nadu. <b>Prakrit Inscriptions with some Telugu words</b> dating back to 400 BC to 100 BC discovered in Bhattiprolu in the Guntur district.

# Philosophical and Religious Literature

- **Puranas and Upapuranas:** Devoted to Shiva and Vishnu; written in Sanskrit, in narrative couplets,
  - **Puranas** deal with five subjects: Primary creation of universe, Secondary creation after periodic annihilation, Genealogy of gods and patriarchs, Reigns of the Manus (first humans), and History of solar and lunar dynasties
  - Creation and dissolution (sarga, emission, and samhara)
  - 18 Major Puranas: Brahmada, Devi, Kurma, Markandeya, Matsya, Vamana, Varaha, Vayu, and Vishnu.
  - **Upapuranas:** Prominent Vishnu Dharmottara, Kalki Purana, Brihad Dharma
- Mahayana chronicle Arya-Manjushri-Mula-Kalpa which recorded history of India from 700 BC-700AD,
- **Buddhist:** Hinayanist Buddhist philosophers, Buddhaghosa and Buddhadatta, and Mahayanist philosophers like Asanga, Dignaga, Paramartha and Vasuvandhu.
- **Jain:** Jain literature progressed Devarthi, Gani, Siddhasena, Divakara and Akalanka Deva were the Jain writers of this age. And Bhadrabahu II wrote commentaries on Jain works.



**Dashavatara Temple:** The Golden Age of India produced many temples, decorated with various sculptures and paintings, such as the Dashavatara Temple, also known as the Vishnu Temple, in central India.

# Literature on Science and Technology

- **Mathematics and Astronomy**

- Āryabhaṭīya (499 CE) and Arya-siddhanta, authored by Aryabhata, a mathematician-astronomer who postulated that the Earth moves around its axis, and that it is not flat. Also that the Moon and planets shine due to sunlight.
- Jaina scholars created the Indian numeral systems with a base of ten.

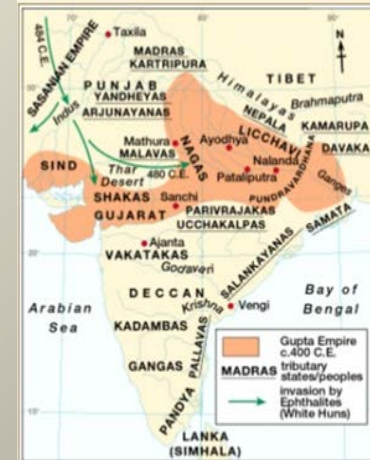
- **Medicine**

- Sushruta Samhita (सुश्रुतसंहिता): a Sanskrit text on all major surgical procedures used in treatment.
- Carakasamhitā (चरकसंहिता): a treatise on use of herbs, medicines and hygienic practice of life.
- "Bower Manuscript", an early birch bark document of Gupta era written in Brahmi script; it contains some Prakrit

# Literature on People and Society

Manusmriti (मनुस्मृति, 200BC-300CE) is a Sanskrit Text, also called Mānava-Dharmaśāstra (मानवधर्मशास्त्र) or Laws of Manu (human),

- These laws are compiled discourses given by Manu (Svayambhuva) and Bhrigu on topics such as duties, rights, laws, conduct, virtues and others,
- Manusmriti is broadly divided into four sections, and further divided into subsections
  - Creation of the world
  - Source of dharma
  - Dharma of four social classes
  - Law of karma, rebirth and final liberation
- These Sanskrit texts were translated during British rule of India in 1794, by Sir William Jones; and was used to formulate Hindu law at the time,
- This influenced the Buddhistic law of Myanmar, Thailand and beyond, to Hindu kingdoms in Cambodia and Indonesia.



**Gupta Empire, 320-600 CE,** expanded through conquest and political alliances until 395 CE, when it extended across the entire Indian subcontinent.

# Literature on Economics

- **Kautilya's Arthashastra** attempted to synergize economic wellbeing and political administration in the **Arthashastra** (1.2.11), that lead to:
  - Led to the **growth of economic activities**, promoted state treasury (through taxes) and financed security (both internal and external). Created economic welfare (1.4.1-2)
  - Asserted that **promoting prosperous activities**, abundance of crops, and keeping society away from thievery and trouble, would ensure increase in treasury (2.8.3).
  - **Upheld property rights and promoted livelihood** (8.3.28-29).
- The **resultant peaceful and orderly civility** generated opportunity, stability, prosperity and cultural and scientific achievements.

# Education Centers

sā vidyā yā vimuktaye सा विद्या या विमुक्तये। ViP\_1,19.41 (Viṣṇu Purāṇa)  
(knowledge is one that liberates)

## Takshashila (तक्षशिला, most ancient University, 700BC-470CE):

- Bharata\* founded and named after his son Taksha, first ruler,
  - **Subjects of Study:** Scientific, Vedic, Puranic, Philosophical; Military, wrestling, archery, climbing.
  - Pāṇini, Chanakya, Chandragupta (Maurya), Charaka (Ayurveda), studied here,
  - Students of 12years admitted from Benares, Rajagaha, Mithila, Ujjain, Kosala, Kuru
  - Chanakya composed here Arthashastra (knowledge of Economics)
- Earliest mentions of Taxila is in Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī,
- Buddhist Jatakas\*\* described, capital of kingdom of Gandhara and added Buddhist monastery, over Gandhāra and Punjab(470 CE \*\*\*)

## Nalanda (Rajagriha, Bihar, 414-445CE – 1200 CE)

- Unearthed eleven monasteries, six brick temples(30 acres) in area, \*\*\*\*
- Nalanda flourished in Gupta Empire (500-600CE) and later in Harsha (Kannauj),
- Jain thirthankara, Mahavira, spent 14 rainy seasons at Nalanda
- Later established as Buddhist monastery (reign of Kumara Gupta)
  - **Subjects of Study:** Vedas, logic, Sanskrit grammar, medicine, Samkhya, Yoga, archery.
  - Students of 16years of age admitted (had10k students and 2k Teachers)
  - Students came from Tibet, China, Korea, and Central Asia,
- Hiuen Tsang (China, 630-643CE) learnt Yogasastra, returned to China with 657 Buddhist texts and 150 relics, and translated 74 texts,

\*Ramayana, \*\*Jatakas contain 105 references to Takshasila, \*\*\* Archaeologist Alexander Cunningham rediscovered ruins of Taxila in mid-19th century, \*\*\*\* Archaeological Survey of India excavations unearthed



A Taxila coin, 200–100 BCE.  
British Museum.



Ruins of Nalanda Mahavihara



# Summary

- The proto forms of many present-day languages - Hindi, Pali, Odia, Marathi, Tamil, Telgu, Kanada - are rooted in this period,
- Grammar and syllabic structure developed that continued till present day
  - Pāṇini codified Syllabic structure adopted by most Indian languages, but Tamil language retained their own Syllabic structure,
  - Oral Syllabic structure was transformed to Alphabetic structure for writing.
- Knowledge empowerments led to freedom of speech, and an authoritative **literatures were created**,
  - Manusmriti (मनुस्मृति), Puranas and Upapuranas (philosophy of Vedas and Vedāngas)
- Poetry and Drama literature matured, and attained its zenith
  - Poetry and Drama development by Kalidas, Bharata Muni
- Need for Organized Knowledge dissemination led to education centers.

# Resources

- Alaṅkāra Śāstra (science of poetic ornamentation),
- Pañcatantra (पञ्चतन्त्र, Five Treatises), Vishnu Sharma
- Manusmriti (मनुस्मृति, 200BC-300CE), Manu (Svayambhuva) and Bhrigu
- Vâkyapadîya, Bhartrihari
- Kalidasa, compiled by C.R. Devadhar.
- (2003) A Phonemic Code Based Scheme for Effective Processing of Indian Languages; By: Prof. R.K. Joshi, Keyur Shroff and Dr. S. P. Mudur
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**Thank you for your attention!**

# Backup slides

# At a glance: Suggested Language Evolution in India

Language in Use (200BC-500CE) /Region	Source Languages / Dialects	Derivative Languages (500 CE)
<b>Language Northern Belt: Prakrit - language of common people</b>		
Paiśācī Prakrit/Bhūtabhāṣa (Vindhya Mountains, texts found :300-1000CE)	Prakrit, Pali, Munda	Apabhraṃśa form of Hindi Takka Apabhramsha into Lahori dialect and Vrachada Apabhramsha into Multani dialect
Apabhraṃśa (अपभ्रंश, 600CE-1100CE) Prevalent in Ganges (east and west)	Prakrit, Pali, Khariboli, Braj., Awadhi, Maithili	
Śauraseni (शौरसेनी, 500BC (Dramatic Prakrit), Central Zone of India.	Śauraseni Apabhraṃśa, Khariboli, Sanskrit; Śauraseni, Eastern Punjab and Kaikeyi, Western Punjab	
Gāndhārī Prakrit (300 BC-400 CE), Northwestern: Gandhāra and Central Asia, inscriptions in Luoyang and Anyang.	Prakrit, Vedic Sanskrit	
Mahārāshtrī Prakrit, Mahārāṣṭri Prākṛt (500 BC to 500 CE) Mid-West India (Maharashtra)	Prakrit, Korku, Varhādi, Jhadiboli, Kokani, Koli, Mangeli, Malvani, Ghati, Agri, Vaity, Warli, Dangi, Khandeshi, Ahirani, Vadvali, Samavedi, etc	Old Marāṭhī, मराठी), Old Konkani,
Pāli (300BC -500CE) (language of Magadha), Patliputra (Bihar), Magadha, Maurya Empire, Western India	Magadhi Prakrit, Prakrit, Vedic, Sanskrit, Paiśācī	Pāli ritualistic language of Buddhist
Udra Bibhāshā (Udra Vibhasa, proto-Odia) Odra Prakrit, Gangā to Gadāvari River	Sanskrit, Magadhi, Prakrit, Pali, Munda, Sābara, Ābhira, Chāndāla, Sākara, Drāvida, Udra, Banachara,	Old Odia
<b>Language Southern Belt: Dravidian languages language of common people (Tamil, Kannada, Telgu)</b>		
Old Tamil (one of the longest-surviving classical languages in world), South of India and Sri Lanka	Dravidian, Kurukh (East India), Gondi (Central India), Munda, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali	Tamil
Purava HaleGannada, Satavahana, Chutu Satakarni (Naga), Kadamba, Ganga dynasty (450CE)	Canarese, Kanarese, Prakrit	Old Kannada
Proto-Dravidian, Lower Godavari river basin, Krishna River delta and South-central-Dravidian	Descendant of Old Dravidian: Gondi, Konda, Kui, Kuvi, Pengo, Manda, Prakrit and Sanskrit	Telgu

**Please note:** Exchange and Borrowing words and ideas can be observed in most of these languages. This is not comprehensive listing and positioning.

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# Phonetics (Sounds) and Script (Symbols)

Language	Script	Grammarians
<b>Language Northern Belt - Sanskrit/Prakrit Phonetics; Word Order: subject–object–verb (SOV)</b>		
Prakrit	Brahmi/Kharoṣṭhī	<b>Vararuchi</b> (Kātyāyana), <b>Prākṛt Prakāśa</b> , 64 syllables,
Paiśācī Prakrit / Bhūtabhāṣa	Brahmi	Not known
Apabhraṃśa	Brahmi	Apabhraṃśa (Patañjali: Language in Transition!)
Śauraseni (Dramatic Prakrit)	Brahmi	Not known
Gāndhārī Prakrit	Kharoṣṭhī	Included sibilants - s, ś and ṣ
Mahārāshtrī Prakrit	Brahmi (Later on Modi, derived from Devanagari)	Not known
Pāli	Brahmi	<b>Kaccayana</b> (Pali school of Southern India), Brahmi inscriptions by Mauryas in Prakrit (Pali),
Udra Bibhāshā (Udra Vibhasa)	Odia (descendants of Brahmi)	Not known,
<b>Language Southern Belt: Dravidian language (Tamil, Kannada, Telgu): Word Order: subject–object–verb (SOV)</b>		
Old Tamil (longest-surviving classical languages in the World)	Tamil-Brahmi / Kharoshthi	<b>Agattiyam</b> by Agastya Old Tamil in Sanskrit, and <b>Tolkāppiyam</b>
Canarese or Kanarese (Kannada)	Kadamba/ Kannada script 500CE	Pāṇini's Sanskrit, Katantra / Sakatayana and Prakrit grammar, Halmidi inscription 500 CE, earliest epigraph written in Kannada language
Telgu	Bhattiprolu Brahmi	Inscriptions appeared from 600/700CE.

This is not a comprehensive listing and positioning.

# Adaptation of Paninian Structure

Language	Consonants
<b>Sanskrit / Prakrit: Consonants: 33,</b>	क ka, ख kha, ग ga, घ gha, ङ ṅa, च ca, छ cha, ज ja, झ jha, ञ ṅa, ट ṭa, ठ ṭha, ड ḍa, ढ ḍha, ण ṇa, त ta, थ tha, द da, ध dha, न na, प pa, फ pha, ब ba, भ bha, म ma, य ya, र ra, ल la, व va, श śa, ष ṣa, स sa, ह ha, ।
<b>Pāli (Devanāgarī) Consonants: 33,</b>	क ka ख kha ग ga घ gha ङ ṅa, च ca छ cha ज ja झ jha ञ ṅa, ट ṭa ठ ṭha ड ḍa ढ ḍha ण ṇa, त ta थ tha द da ध dha न na, प pa फ pha ब ba भ bha म ma, य ya र ra ल la व va, स sa ह ha ळ ṣa, ।
<b>Mahārāshtrī Prakrit: Consonant: 36,</b>	क ka ख kha ग ga घ gha ङ ṅa, च ca छ cha ज ja झ jha ञ ṅa, ट ṭa ठ ṭha ड ḍa ढ ḍha ण ṇa, त ta थ tha द da ध dha न na, प pa फ pha ब ba भ bha म ma, य ya र ra ल la व va, श śa ष ṣa स sa ह ha, ळ ṣa क्ष kṣa, ।
<b>Odia (Oriya): 28 consonants (3 of them retroflex), 4 semivowels</b>	କ ka ଖ kha ଗ ga ଘ gha ଙ ṅa, ଚ ca ଛ cha ଜ ja ଝ jha ଞ ṅa, ଟ ṭa ଠ ṭha ଡ ḍa ଢ ḍha ଣ ṇa, ତ ta ଥ tha ଦ da ଧ dha ନ na, ପ pa ଫ pha ବ ba ଭ bha ମ ma, ଯ ya ର ra ଳ ṣa ଵ va, ଶ śa ଷ ṣa ସ sa ହ ha ଳ kṣa, ।
<b>Tamil: Vowels 12, consonants: 18,</b>	க் k ங் n ச் c ஞ் c ட் t ண் n த் t ற் n ப் p ம் m ய் y ர் r ல் l ள் v ழ் ḷ ள் i ற் r ண் n
<b>Telgu: Consonant: 36</b>	క k, ఖ kh, గ g, ఘ gh, ఙ ṅ, చ c, ఛ ch, జ j, ఝ jh, ఞ ṅ, ట t, ఠ ṭ, డ d, ఢ dh, ణ ṇ, త t, థ th, ద d, ధ dh, న n, ప p, ఫ ph, బ b, భ bh, మ m, య y, ర r, ల l, వ v, శ ś, ష ṣ, స s, హ h, క్ష kṣa, ఱ ra, ।

Language	Vowels
<b>Sanskrit / Prakrit: Vowels: 19</b>	अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऋ r, ॠ ṛ, ए e, ऐ ai, ओ o, औ au, अं am, अः aḥ
<b>Pāli (Devanāgarī) Vowels: 8,</b>	अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऐ ai, ओ o
<b>Mahārāshtrī Prakrit: Vowels: 16</b>	अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऋ r, ए e, ऐ ai, ओ o, औ au, अं am, अः aḥ, अँ अँँ
<b>Odia (Oriya): Vowels: 6 pure, 9 diphthongs,</b>	ଅ a, ଆ ā, ଇ i, ଈ ī, ଉ u, ଊ ū, ଋ r, ୠ ṛ, ୠ ḷ, ୡ ୠ, ଏ e, ଐ ai, ଓ o, ଔ o
<b>Tamil: Vowels 12,</b>	அ a, ஆ ā, இ i, ஈ ī, உ u, ஊ ū, ஏ e, ஏ e, ஐ ai, ஒ o, ஒ o, ஔ au
<b>Telgu: Vowels: 13</b>	అ a, ఆ ā, ఇ i, ఈ ī, ఉ u, ఊ ū, ఋ ru, యూ ru, ఎ e, ఏ ē, ఒ o, ఓ o, ఔ au

Devanagari script used for .

# Literature in Prākṛit and Dravidian

Language	Literature
<b>Language Northern Belt: Prakrit</b>	
Paiśācī Prākṛit / Bhūtabhāṣa	Folk Narratives in verses by: Guṇāḍhya's Bṛhatkathā ("Great Collection of Stories"),
Apabhraṃśa (Patañjali: Language in Transition!)	Jain: Vikramorvashiyam of Kālidāsa, Mahakavi Swyambhudev.
Śauraseni (Dramatic Prākṛit)	Jain epics (Digambara): Ṣaṭkhaṇḍāgama and Kāsāyapahuḍa.
Ardhamagadhi	Earliest versions of Jain Agamas known were composed in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit
Gāndhārī Prākṛit	Kharoṣṭhī Text (300BC - 400 CE) and Buddhist manuscripts in Gāndhārī: Dharmapāda, Anavatapta Gāthā, the Rhinoceros Sūtra, Sangitiparyaya
Mahārāshtrī Prakrut	Sanskrit playwright Kālidāsa
Pāli liturgical language	Theravāda and Tipiṭaka Buddhist
Udra Bibhāshā (Udra Vibhasa, proto-Odia) Odra Prākṛit:	Kharavel's Hatigumpha inscription (100 BC) evidence of past Odia cultural, political, ritual and social status and poetic stake inscription.
<b>Language Southern (Dravidian languages) Belt: (Tamil, Kannada, Telgu)</b>	
<b>Old Tamil</b> (one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world)	Sangam literature ( 300 BC – AD 300), Many Pali and Sanskrit terms used,
Old Kannada: Purava HaleGannada,	language of Banavasi in the early Common Era, the Satavahana, Chutu Satakarni (Naga) and Kadamba periods and thus has a history of over 2500 years
Proto-Dravidian (Telgu)	Tamil literature as Telunga Nadu. Prakrit Inscriptions with some Telugu words dating back to 400 BC to 100 BC discovered in Bhattiprolu in the Guntur district.