



शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



अल्लटाचार्योद्भावितः पाठक्रमः  Designed by Andrew Ollett



COMPOUNDS

samāsāḥ



समासाः



COMPOUNDS

A **compound** is a word that is formed from two other words.

The use of compounds is a distinctive part of the Sanskrit language.



COMPOUNDS

English uses compounds a lot, too.

But we generally write spaces between the elements of a compound, so we don't generally think of words like "garbage truck noise" or "water buffalo race" as compounds.



COMPOUNDS

Any compound word can be analyzed into two constituents:

śāstrajñānam



COMPOUNDS

Any compound word can be analyzed into two constituents:

śāstra-jñānam



FIRST WORD

SECOND WORD

pūrvapadam

uttarapadam

“text”

“knowledge”



COMPOUNDS

A pretty common feature of Sanskrit compounds is that the first word is found in its **stem form**:

śāstra-jñānam



FIRST WORD

pūrvapadam

“text”



SECOND WORD

uttarapadam

“knowledge”



COMPOUNDS

These compounds are called **luk-samāsaḥ** after the elision (**luk**) of the nominal ending (*vibhaktiḥ*) of the first word. There are also **aluk-samāsāḥ**, in which the first word appears with its case ending:

divam-gataḥ

“heaven” + acc.sg. “gone”

COMPOUNDS

Compounds can be divided into two broad classes:

- ❁ **Endocentric** compounds
- ❁ **Exocentric** compounds

NOTE: Linguists often just use the Sanskrit names for different types of compounds, even when talking about languages other than Sanskrit, and the distinction between “endocentric” and “exocentric” (introduced by Leonard Bloomfield) is in fact based on Sanskrit grammar.



ENDOCENTRIC COMPOUNDS

An **endocentric** compound is one in which the reference of one of the words (the “head” of the compound) describes the reference of the compound as a whole:



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blackbird



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blackbird (is a bird → endocentric)

blackbeard



ENDOCENTRIC COMPOUNDS

An **endocentric** compound is one in which the reference of one of the words (the “head” of the compound) describes the reference of the compound as a whole:

blackbird (is a bird → endocentric)

blackbeard (is NOT a beard → exocentric)

ENDOCENTRIC COMPOUNDS

There are three broad categories of endocentric compounds in Sanskrit:

❁ **Coordinative** (“polycentric”) compounds

dvandvaḥ ~ द्वन्द्वः

❁ **Modifier** compounds

tatpuruṣaḥ ~ तत्पुरुषः

❁ **[Adverbial] modifier** compounds

avyayībhāvaḥ ~ अव्ययीभावः



EXOCENTRIC COMPOUNDS

Exocentric compounds only have one type (with several subdivisions):

❁ **Exocentric** compounds

bahuvrīhiḥ ~ बहुव्रीहिः



VIGRAHAVĀKYĀNI

Sanskrit compounds are usually explained either by **classifying** them in the categories just provided, or, what is usually more informative, by providing an **analytic paraphrase** in which each of the constituents of the compound appears as a separate word. The latter is called a *vigrahaḥ* or *vigrahavākyam* in Sanskrit.



VIGRAHAVĀKYĀNI

“water buffalo race”

[a race [of buffalo [that live in water]]]

“garbage truck noise”

[the noise [of trucks [that carry garbage]]]

