



शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



अल्लटाचार्योद्भावितः पाठक्रमः  Designed by Andrew Ollett



ABSTRACT SUFFIXES

bhāvapratyayāḥ



भावप्रत्ययाः



NOMINAL DERIVATION (REVIEW)

Nominal derivation refers to the process of forming nominals, either from verbal roots (primary derivation) or from other nominals (secondary derivation). Remember:



NOMINAL DERIVATION (REVIEW)

So far we've covered a few **possessive adjectives** that are formed from nouns with a possessive suffix:

धन- "wealth" + वत् (possessive suffix) = धनवान् "wealthy"

दण्ड- "staff" + इन् (possessive suffix) = दण्डी "possessing a staff"

मति- "intelligence" + मत् (possessive suffix) = मतिमान् "intelligent"



ABSTRACT NOUNS

We're now going to learn about a different category of derived nouns: **abstract** nouns. They express something's *being* (*bhāvāḥ*) something else (namely, the noun or adjective from which the abstract noun is formed).



ABSTRACT NOUNS

English has similar forms:

- ❁ **happiness** (the state of being **happy**)
- ❁ **childhood** (the state of being a **child**)
- ❁ **friendship** (the state of being a **friend**)
- ❁ **performativity** (the state of being **performative**)

(from Latin, and only used with Latinate words)



ABSTRACT NOUNS

There are four main suffixes that do this in Sanskrit, and some of them are very common:

- ❁ **-tva-** (forms neuter nouns) [tvam]
- ❁ **-tā-** (forms feminine nouns) [taL]
- ❁ **-ya-** (forms neuter nouns) [ŚyaÑ]
- ❁ **-iman-** (forms masculine nouns) [imaniC]

-tvam and *-tā* can be added onto almost any stem.

The others are more restricted.



-TVA-

This is the easiest and most common suffix. It is added to a stem without any additional changes:

- ❁ *nīla-* “blue” + *tvam* = *nīlatvam* “blueness”
- ❁ *tat-* “that” + *tvam* = *tattvam* “thatness,” “reality”
- ❁ *dēva-* “god” + *tvam* = *dēvatvam* “godhood,” “divinity”
- ❁ *mūḍha-* “stupid” + *tvam* = *mūḍhatvam* “stupidity”



-TĀ-

This suffix is also added onto a stem without any changes:

- ❁ *sabhya-* “polite” + *tā* = *sabhyatā* “politeness”
- ❁ *manuṣya-* “human” + *tā* = *manuṣyatā* “humanity”
- ❁ *buddha-* + *tā* = *buddhatā* “Buddhahood”
- ❁ *mūḍha-* “stupid” + *tā* = *mūḍhatā* “stupidity”



-YA-

This suffix follows the **final consonant** of a stem, and additionally causes *vṛddhi* of the initial vowel.

- ❁ *śukla-* “white” + *yam* = *śauklyam* “whiteness”
- ❁ *kṛtsna-* “entire” + *yam* = *kārtsnyam* “entirety”
- ❁ *bāla-* “child” + *yam* = *bālyam* “childhood”
- ❁ *dr̥ḍha-* “firm” + *yam* = *dārḍhyam* “firmness”

Note that this is more restricted in its application than *-tvam* or *-tā*.



-IMAN-

This forms an *n*-stem masculine noun, replacing the final vowel of the stem, and sometimes causing *guṇaḥ*:

- ❁ *śukla*- “white” + *iman* = *śuklimā* “whiteness”
- ❁ *tanu*- “thin” + *iman* = *tanimā* “thinness”
- ❁ *svādu*- “tasty” + *iman* = *svādimā* “tastiness”
- ❁ *mṛdu*- “soft” + *iman* = *mradimā* “softness”

This is the most restricted suffix, used only with a few adjectives of quality.



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

These nouns can be used the way that we use abstract nouns in English. But a more common way of using them is to express **predication**, especially in scientific or technical Sanskrit.

Thus to express the idea “x is y” we can say “there is y-ness of x.” Hence these abstract nouns will often be modified by a **genitive**.



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

❖ गगनस्य नीलत्वम्

“There is **blueness** (*nīla-tvam*) of the sky (*gaganasya*).”

“The sky is blue.”

❖ रामस्य नृशंसता

“There is **cruelness** (*nṛśaṁsa-tā*) of Rāma.”

“Rāma is cruel.”



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

In technical Sanskrit — and occasionally bleeding into other genres as well — there are specialized **case usages** for these types of predications, which will correspond to different types of **subordinate clauses** in English.



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

ABLATIVE:

गगनस्य नीलत्वात् ...

**REASON OR
CAUSE**

“**Because of** the blueness of the sky...”

(हेतुः)

“Because the sky is blue...”



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

LOCATIVE:

गगनस्य नीलत्वे ...

CONDITION

“**Given** the blueness of the sky...”

“Since the sky is blue...”

“When the sky is blue...”

“If the sky is blue...”

Note that this is just a *locative absolute* that happens to be headed by an abstract noun.



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

LOCATIVE + API:

गगनस्यापि नीलत्वे ...

CONCESSION

“**Despite** the blueness of the sky...”

“Although the sky is blue...”

Once again, this is a locative absolute.



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

Note that **compounds** can freely enter into abstract nouns:

❁ [ब्रह्मणः] शास्त्रयोनित्वात्

“Because *Brahma* is *śāstrayōni* ...”

→ there is a debate about whether *śāstrayōni* is a *tatpuruṣa* (the source of the sacred texts) or a *bahuvrīhi* (that of which the sacred texts are the source)

