



अहिंसा परमो धर्मः*

International School for Jain Studies

(A Division of Amar Prerana Trust)
C/o Firodia Hostel, 844, B.M.C.C. Road
Shivaji Nagar, Pune - 411 004 (MH), India
Email: isjs.india@gmail.com; Web: www.isjs.in



Pre-requisite: The selected scholar will be taught to acquire good proficiency in Hindi and Devanāgarī alphabets.

Teaching Program Content

• **Introductory**

- Prakrit Language and its Origin and Significance.
- Phonetic Changes.
- Introduction to Prakrit Lit. with special reference to श्वेतांबर and दिगंबर tradition.
- Division and subject matter of 45 श्वेतांबर Scriptures.
- Introduction to दिगंबर tradition of literature.
- Introduction to other than scriptural literature viz. commentaries, story, literature.
- Introduction to Anthologies, drama, Sattaka (a special type of Prakrit drama) scientific Literature.
- Inscriptional Prakrit.
- Introduction to Pali literature.
- Introduction to Devanagiri lipi, reading, writing.
- Introduction to language and linguistics, Difference between language and dialect, Introduction to language families, dialects, Classification of Indo-European language family and the place of Prakrit.
- Introduction to Prakrit language, Origin and Development of Prakrit, General characteristics of Prakrit, Salient features of different shades of Prakrit.
- Introduction to Prakrit literature: Historical development of Prakrit literature, Introduction to Jain Agamic literature - Shwetambar and Digambar, Prakrit of Post Agamic literature, Prakrit Narrative and Story literature, Prakrit Poetry literature, Prakrit of the Sanskrit dramas, Prakrit of Asoka and other inscriptions, Secular Prakrit literature.
- Introduction to Pali literature.

• **Grammar**

1. **Phonology**

- Prakrit (MIA) Sound-system
- Prakrit Vowels, Prakrit simple and long Vowels, Place of articulation of Vowels
- Prakrit single Consonants (mutes– unvoiced, voiced, non-aspirated, aspirated, nasal, semivowels, sibilants, anusvāra and visarga etc.)
- Place of articulation of Consonant, Prakrit conjunct Consonants

2. **Development of OIA sounds in Prakrit (MIA)**

- Change of Vowels – qualitative and quantitative changes.
- Accent and its importance in Prakrit, Kinds of accent, Pitch and stress accent, Free and fixed accent.
- Vedic accent and its development in Prakrit, Ablaut in Prakrit.

3. Phonetic Tendencies

- Monophthongization, Diphthongization, Hiatus, Compensatory Lengthening, Assimilation (Progressive, Regressive and Mutual), Dissimilation, Metathesis, Anaptyxis, Prothesis, Epenthesis, Paragoge, Aphaeresis, Syncope, Apocope, Haplology, Gutturalization/Velarization, Palatalization, Cerebralization, Dentalization, Labialization, Spirantization, Rhotacism, Ya-sruti, Analogy etc.

4. Sandhi in Prakrit

- Vowel sandhi, Consonantal sandhi and Visarga sandhi

• Morphology

1. Declension of Nouns

- Number, Gender, Cases, Case-termination, Stems – a, ā, ī, u, ū etc.

2. Adjective

- The comparative degree, The Superlative degree, Numerals – Cardinals, Ordinals, Multiplicative, Collective etc.

3. Pronouns

- Personal
- Demonstrative, Relative, Interrogative, Indefinite, Reflexive etc.

4. Verb

- The finite verb-Root, Person, Number, Voice, Moods, Tenses, etc.
- Primary conjugation- Present, Perfect, aorist, and future stem-systems
- Secondary Conjugation- Passive, Causative, Denominative etc
- Non-Finite -Infinitive, Participles, Gerunds

5. Indeclinable

- Adverb, Preposition, Conjunction, Interjection

Books:

Primary: Hemachandra's Prakrit Grammar (Siddha-hema-shabdanusan, edited by PL Vaidya, Published from Bhandarkar Oriental research Institute, Pune)

Other Texts:

- Introduction to Prakrit by AC Woolner, Grammar of the Prakrit Languages by R.Pischel (Translated in English by Subhadra Jha), Prakrit Grammar and Prakrit Grammarians written by Luigia Nitti Dolci, MLBD, Delhi.

- For translation purposes:

Prakrit text books [selected portions]-

[a] Prakrit narratives	--	1- Samaraiccakaha of Haribhadrāsuri 2-Kuvalayamalakaha of Uddyotānsuri
[b] Prakrit Drama	--	3-Karpuramanjari of Rajshekharsuri
[c] Prakrit Poetry	--	4- Vajjalaggam of Jayavallabha
[d] Prakrit Agam	--	5-Acarangasutta, Samansuttam 6-Astapahuda of acharya Kundkunda 7-Bhagawati Aradhana of Shivarya 8- Dravyasangraha of Nemichndra

[e] Prominent Prakrit Acharyas and Poet

[g] Some Prakrit Translation [from the book—Prakrit Svayam Shikhsaka]

A glimpse of 1st Bhagwan Mahavira fellowship to study Prakṛta in India in 2019-20



Mr. Itamar Ramot, Mr. Anando Ghosh and Ms. Corinne Smith learning Prakṛta with Prof. J.R. Bhattacharyya (left to right)



Mr. Itmar Ramot, Univ. of Chicago USA

The professor is great, extremely knowledgeable and attentive. The explanations are very good. We are expected to start reading Prakrit literature soon, so we could apply the rules that we have been learning, on examples from real texts. I am looking forward to doing so.



Ms. Corinne Smith, SOAS UK

I feel that I have learnt a great deal in a short space of time. I came to this programme as a novice with no prior knowledge of Sanskrit beyond a few common vocab associated with the study of Indian religions. The Professor has not only taught us the rules of Prakrit grammar but has also given us an appreciation of the evolution and influence of the languages over time so that I gained a deeper understanding of why changes developed in the specific form that they did. Overall, it is a great experience to be in his class and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to benefit from his great knowledge of the subject.



Mr. Anando Ghosh, SOAS UK

The professor is a very knowledgeable person with an excellent command of English, Sanskrit, Prakrit and other Indian languages. He uses a number of different methodologies while teaching the syllabus and is very attentive to students' needs. We have been examined through pen and paper tests as well as orally from time to time in order to be trained as fine scholar and future tutors of Prakrit language.