

# For Users

## Plan and procedure

The text of this dictionary is divided in paragraphs. Each paragraph deals with a single head word along with its compounds, phrases and derivatives. To avoid repetition compounds and phrases are usually truncated. For indicating truncation three signs are used. For example, see the head word मधु :

- (i) ~ ऋतु means मधु ऋतु (separated);
- (ii) °कुप्पी means मधुकुप्पी (without hyphen);
- (iii) -कोष means मधु-कोष (with hyphen).

Each paragraph contains all or any of the items in the following order : (i) Head word. In deep Nagari fount; (ii) Pronunciation. In deep Roman fount. In the first place standard pronunciation is given. It is followed by popular one, if any; (iii) Etymological or other linguistic note. Within square brackets; (iv) Notation of the word-class or parts of speech. Italicized; (v) Number of senses in case there are many; (vi) Definition (meaning). In Maithili with examples (Italicized), whenever needed; (vii) Definition. In English; (viii) Subordinate words, i.e. compounds, phrases and derivatives. In deep Nagari; (ix) Class of subordinate words. Italicized; (x) Definition of subordinate words. In Maithili as well as in English.

All words whether head or subordinate are arranged strictly in alphabetical order of Nagari script as shown at page xxix.

It is to be noted that regarding the alphabetical order there is no unanimity among the users of Nagari script. This dictionary does not follow the tradition prevalent in Hindi dictionaries; instead it follows the tradition of the great Indologists and native pandits like Sir Monier Monier Williams, V. S. Apte and others in their Sanskrit dictionaries; like George Abraham Grierson, R. L. Turner, Mahavaiyakaran Dinabandhu Jha in Maithili; and like Haricharan Bandyopadhaya in Bengali. The noteworthy points of difference are briefed below.

(i) We have preferred conjunct consonant to anusvār+consonant. Thus you will find here अङ्क, कञ्चन, कण्ठ, अन्त and कम्प (in the sequence of कवर्ग, चवर्ग, टवर्ग, तवर्ग and पवर्ग) and will not find अंक, कंचन, कंठ, अंत and पंप (in the sequence of अनुस्वार).

(ii) आनुनासिक्य or nasality accurately expressed by चन्द्रबिन्दु or a crescent with a dot over it is not a sound but only a quality of vowel-sound, and as such has no place in the Nagari/Indian alphabet. So in considering the sequence of words चन्द्रबिन्दु is altogether ignored. For example you will find अँकुसी after अकुलाएब (not near अंश).

(iii) अनुस्वार or real nasal sound (which is not followed by any stop and therefore cannot be converted to a nasal consonant) stands after औ in Nagari/Indian alphabet. Accordingly आंशिक will be found after आओर and so औ → अं → क : किऔड़ी → किंवदन्ती → किकिआएब।

(iv) क्ष, त्र and श्र are not separate letters, but only conjuncts : क् + ष् = क्ष, त् + र् = त्र and ज् + ञ् = ज्ञ. Accordingly they are placed here in the series of क, त and ज respectively.

(v) In Maithili य and ष in certain positions are pronounced as ज and ख respectively. In *tatsama* (Sanskrit) words they are always spelt with य and ष respectively and placed here following that spelling.

(vi) Maithil tongue prefers स to श. Yet श is retained in spelling out Sanskrit words and also in their pronunciation. But in the words of other sources श is usually replaced by स. So you will find सोर (not शोर), सरीफा (not शरीफा), फेसन (not फेशन).

(vii) For the sake of convenience some words are placed out of order. Mostly such deviation is done where a verb ending with °ब stands as a head word. In such cases °ब is often ignored in determining the position of their derivatives. For example, the nouns रोक and रोप stand under the verb रोकब and रोपब respectively though their proper place would be above their verbs. In some cases such displaced words are shown in their proper place by means of reference entries. For example see तिरहुता and महीप+.

## Variant and Standard Forms

Words in this dictionary appear generally only in standard form, while Maithili problematically abounds in phonetic and orthographic variants. So if you fail to find any word due to the multiplicity of variants, the table below (on page xiv) will help you. Find out the letter of your word in the first column, convert that letter to one appearing in the third column and then search the same in this dictionary, you will most probably succeed to get it. For example if you meet with the word अखन and fail to find it in this dictionary, convert अ to ए, search the word एखन, you will find the same, and take अखन to be a variant of एखन. The table itself provides ample examples.

Table to show conversion of non-standard form to standard one.

Variants		Standard	
Letters	Words	Letters	Words
अ	अखन, अतए, अहि	ए	एखन, एतए, एहि
अइ	अइपन, अइसन, कबइ	ऐ	ऐपन, ऐसन, कबै
अउ	कउआ, चउठी	औ	कौआ, चौठी
ई	कीनब, सीखब	इ	किनब, सिखब
ऊ	कूदब, सूनब	उ	कुदब, सुनब
ए	केनाइ, खेरा	अए	कएनाइ, खएरा
ऐ	ऐना, कैल, सैह	अए	अएना, कएल, सएह
ऐ	खैर, पैर	आए	खाएर, पाएर
औ	औरा, कौर	अओ	अओरा, कओर
औ	और, अन्हरौन	आओ	आओर, अन्हराओन
	अंक, कंज, कंटक, अंत, कंप	ङ्, ञ् आदि	अङ्क, कञ्ज, कण्टक, अन्त, कम्प
ँग	आँग, माँग, रँग	ङ	आङ, माङ, रङ
ँध	गँधकी, बाँध	न्ह	गन्हकी, बान्ह
ड़	आड़ि, कोड़	र	आरि, कोर
य	अयना, आयब, माय	ए	अएना, आएब, माए
य	यादि, यार, यैह	इअ+	इआदि, इआर, इएह
य/या	जियब, पियास	अ/आ	जिअब, पिआस
व	वकील, नाव, पावल	ओ	ओकील, नाओ, पाओल
व	वन, वानर, वयस	ब	बन, बानर, बएस
श	शतरंज, शरीफा, शहर	स	सतरंज, सरीफा, सहर

## How to construct words

There are two lists of suffixes or word endings (Table I and Table II) appended to this dictionary for enabling to construct countless words not covered in the text of this dictionary. So if you fail to find any word or any derivative/conjugational form, find out the nearest head word in the dictionary, take out the radical part (i.e. one or two initial syllables) from this word, find out the rest portion of the word sought in the said lists, combine both, thus the desired word is constructed. Now read the definitions of the radical word in the text and also of the suffix, you will grasp the meaning as well. For example, if you seek the word देखलकैक, find out the nearest head word देखब, take out देख as base, and find out the suffix °लकैक in Table I, combine both, देख + लकैक = देखलकैक is there. Other examples—अङ्कित = अङ्क (radical) + इत (suffix from the Table II) “marked”; कहतैक = कह (root) + तैक (suffix from Table I) “(3rd person non-honorific) will see”.