

# Deterrorizing Sanskrit

## Verbal classes with nasal infix

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# The nasal infix classes

The four classes 5, 7, 8, and 9 show a nasal element. The most ancient constellation can be seen in class 7. For example, the Sanskrit verb for “to join” is *yug*, *yunakti* which is best understood as

$\underbrace{yu}$  -  $\underbrace{na}$  -  $\underbrace{k}$  -  $\underbrace{ti}$   
beginning of oi. root      sign      final root      ending  
in zero grade      (strong form)      consonant      (3. pers. sg.)

At first sight, the other classes do not exhibit an infix into the oi. root:

✓	3. pers. sg.	1. pers. pl.	translation
<i>sak</i>	<i>sak-nô-ti</i>	<i>sak-nu-mas</i>	to be able
<i>tan</i>	<i>tan-ô-ti</i>	<i>tan-u-mas</i>	to stretch
<i>pū</i>	<i>pu-nā-ti</i>	<i>pu-nī-mas</i>	to purity

# The nasal infix classes

The 9. class as a special instance of the seventh class

class	<i>gāṇa</i> sign	✓	3. pers. sg.	desiderative	infinitive
7	<i>na</i>	<i>yuj</i>	<i>yu-na-k-ti</i>	<i>yōk-ṣyati</i>	<i>yōk-tum</i>
9	<i>nā</i>	<i>pū</i>	<i>pu-nā-ti</i>	<i>pavi-ṣyati</i>	<i>pavi-tum</i>

De Saussure: both verbs are similarly constructed. Two differences:

- ① *nā* versus *na*
- ② The infinitive form of *pū* shows *i* which seems to come out of nowhere.  
(Traditional Sanskrit grammarians also noted this *i*. They call *pū* a *sēt* root (*sēt* ← *sa-it*)).

# The nasal infix classes

The 9. class as a special instance of the seventh class

De Saussure postulated a sound *H* with two effects:

- ① *H* leads to the lengthening of *na* to *nā*.
- ② *H* turns into *i* between consonants.

Then,

class	* <i>gana</i> sign	✓	3. pers. sg.	desiderative	infinitive
7	* <i>ne</i>	* <i>yug̍</i>	* <i>yu-ne-k-ti</i>	* <i>yeu-k-sy-a-ti</i>	* <i>yeuk-tum</i>
9	* <i>ne</i>	* <i>puH</i>	* <i>pu-ne-H-ti</i>	* <i>peu-H-sy-a-ti</i>	* <i>peuH-tum</i>

# The nasal infix classes

The 5. class as a special instance of the seventh class

Consider

*śru, śr-nô-ti* ("he hears").

and compare

class	*sign	✓	3. pers. sg.	sign
7	*ne	*yug̍ → yuj	*yu-ne-k-ti → yu-na-k-ti	na
5	*ne	*klu → *śru	*kl-ne-u-ti → śr-nô-ti	nô

Speakers thought of oī. root *śr* and, added to that root, *nô* (similar to *nā* in *pu-nā-ti*).

# The nasal infix classes

The 8. class as a special instance of the 5. class

Traditionally,

class	✓	3. pers. sg.	<i>gana</i> sign
8	<i>tan</i>	<i>tan-ô-ti</i>	ô

But:

class	* <i>gana</i> sign	3. pers. sg.	<i>gana</i> sign
5	* <i>ne</i>	* <i>k̥l-ne-u-ti</i> → <i>śr-nô-ti</i>	nô
8	* <i>ne</i>	* <i>tn-ne-u-ti</i> → <i>ta-nô-ti</i>	ô

Remember

ie.  $\overset{\circ}{n}/\overset{\circ}{m} \rightarrow$  oi.  $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} an/am & \text{bef. vowel} \\ a/a & \text{between consonants} \end{array} \right.$

# The nasal infix classes

class signs

class	strong <i>gāṇa</i> sign	3. pers. sg.	weak <i>gāṇa</i> sign	3. pers. pl.
5	<i>nō</i>	śr- <i>nō-ti</i>	<i>nu</i>	śr- <i>ṇu-mas</i>
7	<i>na</i>	<i>yu-na-k-ti</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>yu-ñ-j-mas</i>
8	<i>ô</i>	<i>tan-ô-ti</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>tan-u-mas</i>
9	<i>nā</i>	<i>pu-nā-ti</i>	<i>nī</i>	<i>pu-nī-mas</i>

# The nasal infix classes

summary

7. class (sign na):

\*yu-ne-k-ti ?   yu-na-k-ti

5. Class (sign nô):

\*kl-ne-u-ti ?   sr-nô-ti



8. class (sign ô):

\*tn-ne-u-ti ?   ta-nô-ti = tan-ô-ti

8. class (sign na):

\*pu-ne-H-ti ?   pu-na-ti