

Two alphabets are employed for writing Gujarātī. One is the ordinary Dēva-nāgarī. It is not much used now-a-days, except by special tribes, such as the Nāgar Brāhmaṇs, but the first printed Gujarātī books were in that character. The other is known as the Gujarātī alphabet, and is the one in general use. It is based on the same original as Dēva-nāgarī, and closely resembles the ordinary Kaithī character employed all over Northern India. A Tirhutiyā scribe finds little difficulty in reading a Gujarātī book. In ordinary mercantile correspondence it is usual to omit all vowels except when initial, which makes the reading of a banker's letter a task of some difficulty. It then corresponds to what is known as the Mahājani script in Upper India, and in Gujarat it is known as *Vāṇiāi* or *Ṣarrāfi* (from *Vāṇiō*, a shop-keeper, and *Ṣarrāf*, a banker), or *Bōḍiā* (from *Bōḍi*, clipped or shorn).

As the Gujarātī alphabet is treated exactly like Dēva-nāgarī it is unnecessary to give any lengthy explanation of its principles,—for which the reader is referred to the account of the latter character on pp. 7 and ff. of Vol. V, Pt. ii. It will suffice to give the forms of the letters.

These are as follows:—

#### VOWELS, ETC.

अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ē, ए u, ऊ ū, ऋ ri, ऐ e, औ ai, ओ o, औ au, or ° both *anusvār* and *anunāsik*. Although Gujarātī has both a short e and a long ē, no distinction is made in writing them. Nor is any distinction made between *anusvār* and *anunāsik*, both being represented by °

#### CONSONANTS.

ક ka,	ખ kha,	ગ ga,	ઘ gha,	ઙ ṅa.
ચ cha,	છ chha,	જ ja,	ઝ jh,	ઞ ṇa.
ટ tu,	ઠ tha,	ડ da,	ઢ dh,	ણ ña.
ત ta,	થ tha,	દ da,	ધ dha,	ન na.
પ pa,	ફ or ળ pha,	બ ba,	ભ bha,	મ ma.
ય ya,	ર ra,	લ la,	વા or વા.	
શ śa,	ષ sha,	સ sa,	હ ha,	ળ ḷa.

It will be noted that Gujarātī has a cerebral *ḷa*.

The following examples show the employment of non-initial vowels:—

બા bā,	બિ bi,	બે bē,	બુ bu,	બૂ bū,	બ્રિ bṛi.
બે be,	બાિ bai,	બો bō,	બાુ bau,		

The following are more or less irregular,—

ર ru or rū, also ર ru, રૂ rū,				
જા jā (hardly irregular),	જે jē,	જુ ju,	જૂ jū,	
દ્રિ dṛi,	દ્રિ sṛi, and		દ્રિ hṛi.	

For some of these regular forms are also used. Thus, રૂ sṛi, રૂ ru.

The following are examples of compound consonants:—

કશા ksha,	કજા jā,	કના na,	ગવા gva.
ત્તા tta,	ત્રા tra,	ત્ત્વો tto,	પ્તા pta.
સ્તા sta,	દ્વા dva,	દ્યા dya,	
દ્ધા ddha,	શ્ચા ścha,	શ્વા śva,	
ઠ (or, better, ઠ) ઠ્ઠા (tḥa),		હ્યા hya,	ધ્યા dhya.

It will be seen that these all closely follow Dēva-nāgarī, and numerous other compounds (which will be found in the grammars) are formed on the same principles. When *ra* is the first member of a compound, it takes the form *r̄*. Thus, *r̄i*, *r̄tha*. When it is not the first member of a compound, it takes the form *r*. Thus, *ṣṛgya*, *ṣṛ*, *bra*.

A good deal of this has been already dealt with on pp. 329 and ff., and need not be repeated. We may add that *r̄* is often written for *i* and *u* for

Pronunciation.

*ū*. *R̄i* is often pronounced *rū* (German *ü*), but more commonly as the English *ru* in 'rule.' The letter *ṣ* is a pure labial, as explained under Rājasthānī (*ante*, p. 5.), and is not a denti-labial as in English. Before *i*, *e*, or *y* it is transliterated *v*, otherwise *w*. The letter *ś* is properly pronounced like the *ss* in 'session,' but in some dialects sounds like an ordinary dental *s*. The letter *ṣṛ* is pronounced *ṣṛya*, not *ḍnya* as in Marāṭhī. In the Charōtar tract, *ch*, *chh*, *j*, and *jh* are sounded *ts*, *tsh*, *dz*, and *dzh*, respectively (see pp. 394 and ff. below).

As a general rule, the spelling of Gujarātī is capricious, but recently steps have been taken by the Educational Department, with a view to securing a nearer approach to uniformity in this respect.

After the foregoing explanations, it is hoped that the following brief sketch of Gujarātī Grammar will enable the reader to understand the specimens.

Grammar.

# LINGUISTIC SURVEY OF INDIA

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