

**Applied Linguistics**  
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**Lecture 8**  
**Rules of Word Formation (Singular Plural)**

We have been talking at words, right. We will continue looking at it before we reach sentences. Now, we are looking at parts of language which are becoming more and more abstract, okay, which is again underlying patterns, okay. These underlying patterns are parts of our these generative apparatus which is to say we can look at these things, we understand these things when we try to understand generative apparatus or vice versa.

So, yesterday we looked at certain underlying patterns rules, which works as a template for formation of words, where we have some templates which give us a lot of words and then the more constraints are heavier, the fewer the words, okay. With clusters of 2 consonants, we have fewer words, with the cluster of 3 consonants, we have way too fewer words, are handful of them.

And with clusters of 4 in the beginning of a word, we have none in any language whatsoever, okay. We have looked at these things, now we want to look at certain more processes, which add grammatical meaning to words and we want to see how they work. I have a question from yesterday, somebody asked about syllables any person here? No? Okay, so I will discuss that part later.

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The following examples demonstrate the plurals in Hindi:

- Masculine Nouns:

- kamar~~aa~~ kamare 'rooms'
- gamal~~aa~~ gamale 'flower pots'
- paanii~~Ø~~ paanii~~Ø~~ 'water'
- ghar~~Ø~~ ghar~~Ø~~ 'house'

- A masculine noun that ends in a sound /aa/ changes to /e/
- A masculine noun that ends in any other sound does not change form for plurals.



So let me take you through more on how to make words, okay. I want to give you some examples of Hindi, okay and at the same time, while I am discussing giving examples, I want you to look at languages that you speak, okay. And see how such rules are going to apply in those languages. Keep in mind, these rules are not going to apply verbatim, okay.

However, once you see the underlying pattern of these rules, they will help you understand underlying patterns of rules in the languages that you speak. And finally you will see how language specific rules are, how language specific rules have to say about generic rules of language and how these rules really work in our minds, okay. So let me show you some of these things.

Now what is this about? This is about a singular word, right and a plural counterpart, right. Everybody knows about singular and plural counterparts, right. So how do we make plurals in languages in general? Now the basic point is, every language will have plural counterparts of singular nouns, okay. We have nouns that we make that become plural and I and I am going to kind of rush through these things.

I am not taking you through every single step, okay. I am going to show you like I said I am going to show you some of these from Hindi and then I want you to apply them to English and to more specifically to your languages, right. Now have you heard these words before even some people who may not be speaking Hindi? Have you heard these words before? Right and you have heard their plural counterparts as well.

If we speak Hindi, we use these words quite often and these are just examples. So what is going on in this singular and plural counterpart?

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

How is it working? How is this working?

(( ))(05:42)

Sorry.

We add another sound at the end of the word to all the words.

We add another sound in the word.

At the end of it.

At the end of it.

Do we just add or do we we do something else too? So if we have 2 words; 1 is let us say “gamala” right or “kamra” and the plural is “kamre”. Are we simply adding a sound to the end of the word or we are doing something else with that.

Removing also.

Removing also.

We are?

Removing one.

We are removing one and only then we are adding the other word, see this thing. So, if someone asks, someone looks at the word “kamre” right, and you try to them do you see the end of this word? And the marker at the end of the word is actually plural marker that we have added, right this is one way to describe. But how, why should anybody believe?

If if I am not a speaker of Hindi, I would simply say “Look, this words sound like just one word to me”. Why should I believe you that sound ‘a’ at the end of this word is an addition of a sound? Do you understand my question? Why should we believe that this is an addition of a sound? This looks like a word to me, right.

Because it is happening with every word.

No, not necessarily.

How is it happening with other words, I have given you only 4 of them here and it is not happening with even 4 of them.

Majority of them.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Not necessarily that I can tell you for sure, not necessarily it happens with every single word. Now let before we go to that, let us focus on my question that I asked you. Do you understand the question; the question is “Why should I believe that something has been added to the word, it looks like just one word to me?” How will you convince someone that something has been added to it?

Then the answer to this question is, we need to look at the singular counterpart, right. And then you can show systematically that the sound 'a' is dropped, right. And only then in place out that there is another sound, right. And on top of that, this addition of a sound has a meaning. Do you see, if I simply write a word, write a sound, let us say 'aa' okay or 'e', do these sounds have any meaning? Without looking at these words, do they have any meaning?

No, right, but when they are added to a word, they have meaning. Understand this? When they are added to a word, they have a meaning. There are names for these categories, but without those names let me go ahead and talk about them.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

What is the meaning of this sound in this word in these words? The meaning of this sound is what?

Singular.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Singular. The meaning of these this sound is plural. Now everybody understands what singular is and what a plural is, right. Now, see when we are learning languages or a language or language itself, how language specific rules get triggered with the input? So no, once to remind you about the things that I have promised you that I will keep reminding you time to time that when we, when a child is learning a language.

Child comes across to the words like “kamra” and “kamre” and somebody tells them or at least at the time when this input is coming to the child, child is not in a position at the age to be told these things “That look ‘aa’ that you see at the end of it is a singular marker, ‘e’ in this another word is plural marker, do you agree with me? It is difficult for us to say these things even now, right.

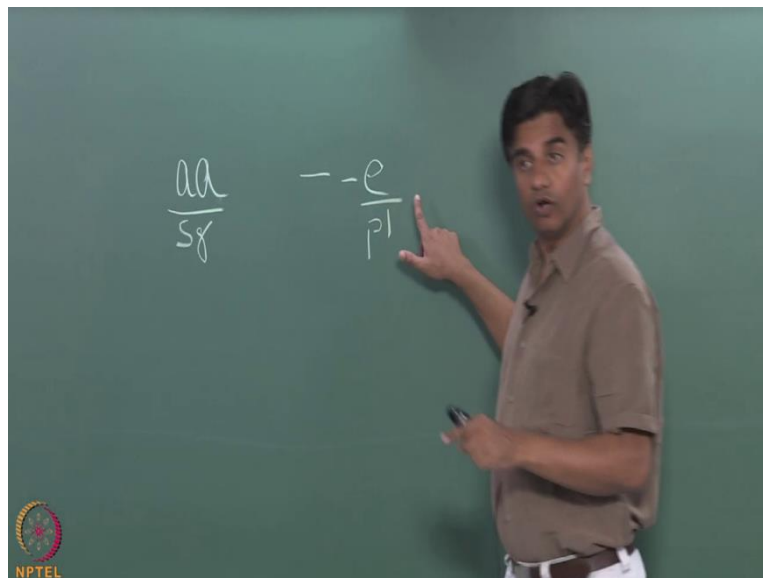
So much so that we have to put these things in colour to see them clearly, right. So it is not possible for anyone to tell a child or for a child to see these things. However, what child is figuring out all the mind is figuring out by itself is these things, okay. There is absolutely no confusion in the mind of a child after the child has acquired the language that this is the plural formation pattern, see this thing.

This is why, if I without giving this thing if I ask you, can you write down in 5 minutes the plural formation rules of Telugu or Tamil, take 20 nouns and see how nouns are changing in plural. And give me a rule or summary of rule or a set of rules, which will apply to all the nouns across the board. A, it could not be done in 5 minutes and B; it is very difficult to figure those things out.

However, you know every single noun of your language and you also know the underlying plural formation pattern of every single word of your language that consists of knowledge of language and then the on the other side it confirms that when we acquire language, these are the underlying rules of principles and parameters, which are part of universal grammar are that are getting triggered by language specific inputs, okay.

Now, what are what such rules are? Unless we look at these words, we do not even know that a particular sound may also have a meaning in a word. A particular sound may not have any independent meaning elsewhere that is outside of a word, but in a word, it may have a specific meaning. Also, and we do not stop here, also we know for sure that if this is the plural marker in a language like Hindi.

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This is not the plural marker across the board; this is the plural marker in only some words, right. For example, if you see word number 3.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

What is the word?

Paani.

Paani.

Paani.

And what is the plural marker?

Paani.

Paani.

So plural of “paani” remains “paani”, nobody has any confusion of that.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Now, not only plural form remains the same, but we know that the plural marker is 0, no plural. Now someone can argue, someone can tell you there are there are descriptive grammars given to us, which describe things like every ‘aa’ ending what will change to ‘e’. How many of you have taken Hindi classes, anybody? Some of you at least, very nice. Were you told about plural formation rules?

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

What were you told? Any idea? Others?

Rules were thought (14:27)

Right, words and rules.

Words and their plural forms.

Words and their plural forms.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

So you were given every single word and their plural rules. Do you see the problem with that at least now? If I, if you are learning a language like I am learning a language like Telugu or Malayalam, how many words can I learn? What is the length of the semester? 40 hours, right. If you put it in terms of continuity, it is less than 2 days, see this thing. That we do over a period of let us say 13 or 14 weeks.

How many words do you think I can learn if I am taking Telugu in a semester? Or for that matter if I take it for a year 2 semesters including? If I need to learn every single word and then its plural marker, plural form, many words do you think I can learn? Answer clearly is, not all. You can learn as many as you want every day, but definitely it is never going to be an exhaustive list, get this.

Now, what else were you told anybody remembers? Whatever, what else were you told? He is admitting that we were given certain words and its plural forms. Were you also told about the rule underlying it? No. So somebody was giving let us say a word like “kamra” and told the plural is “kamre” right, something like this.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Anybody else?

Some words, which do not have plural, were also thought.

Some words, which do not have plural, were also thought.

Exception.

As an exception, right.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

So, one of the things that I remember from such classes is there is a rule that is thought that ‘aa’ if you see a word ending in ‘aa’, it changes to ‘e’ and if they do not, then they are exceptions, right. If they do not work that way, then they are exceptions. The idea here is not to show you the problems of teaching and the idea is also not to blame the teachers, the idea is to show you there cannot be exceptions.

If language is part of generating apparatus, then there cannot be exception to rules because we are not talking about rules, which okay let me put it this way, we are not talking about some generic rules, we are talking about the rules that already exists. Remember what I have told you about what already exists. What is it that I have told you that it already exists, which is...

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

If in a lay man's tongue you have to describe universal grammar, how will you describe that?

We intrinsically know it.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

We know these things intrinsically, but also that is set of rules of all the languages of the world. If that, if it is that kind of innate rule, how could such rules generate exceptions? See se my point. The strength of a rule is such that it should not be able to generate exceptions. If you are generating exceptions, then if a rule is generating exceptions, then it is a weaker rule, okay.

You will you will learn about this particular aspect in your respective disciplines when you move ahead. And any rule that generates a lot of, any rule that has lots of patches is called a weaker rule, okay. So the third and fourth will be examples of exception, right that these things are exceptions. But that is not true; we are calling them exception only when we are looking at it not very carefully.

If you look at them carefully, then you see that there is absolutely no exception to rules. And the rule is the following, the rule is, first we have to look at if if we are talking about a language like Hindi, then we have to look at 2 types of its genders. You know that there are only 2 types of genders in Hindi, which is every word can only be either masculine or feminine. Now, this intuition about a word and mind it, I am calling intuition.

This intuition about a word is innate is inbuilt. For example, um okay, I will give this example in a moment. Every single word in Hindi in a language like Hindi must have a gender and that gender must manifest in sentence, okay. So if I if I say a word like let us say, give me any word in Hindi that you know.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Aurat.

Aurat it is which word, it is gender, feminine gender because that is that is natural gender applies there.

Hawa.



Hawa has what gender?

Feminine.

You see that, feminine gender. Shirt, what gender, shirt? “kameez”. Now probably this is an unfair question to ask you about it. Now my point is, shirt is masculine in Hindi and if we use for the same object a different word, let us see “kameez” have you heard these words shirt, kameez, the word “kameez” is feminine. Sorry.

Salwar kameez is kameez.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Not only, not only Salwar kameez, any shirt in Hindi is called “kameez”, shirt is English word, right. In Hindi it is called “kameez”, right. Now that word is feminine. So another point to notice is, when we say every word must have must have a gender, which is either masculine or feminine, we are not talking about the gender of the object, we are simply saying there is a gender associated with every word.

Which is arbitrary association, but it is it is inbuilt intuition and this is also identification of someone being native speaker of that language, they will immediately figure it out without any training. You just give a word to Hindi speaker or just listen to them speaking, nobody needs to tell them that “hawa” is feminine, right.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Um or Table; feminine or masculine?

Masculine.

Masculine.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Nobody needs to tell them what it is. However, you know that there is nothing masculine about table and there is nothing feminine about “hawa”, right this is intuition. Now based on that, if we look at the words of masculine gender, you find 2 types of words. One type which end with ‘aa’ okay, only such words will change to ‘e’. Masculine words which do not end in ‘a’ like “paani” or “ghar”, they do not have their plural forms.

Across the board and this 'aa' to 'e' rule applies only to masculine words, see my point. Applies only to masculine words because look at this example that we gave you, what was the example, "hawa" does this word ends in 'a'?

"Professor- Student conversation starts"

What is the plural of this?

Hawa.

Do we see it as "kamre" or "gamle"?

As in we are adding this one, we are not dropping the 'a'.

"Professor – student conversation ends"

We are doing, my point is we are not changing this word the way we are changing "kamra" and "gamla". Clearly tells that that is not a masculine word, see the thing. Now, if you look at this these 2 rules, then there is absolutely no exception. Similarly, if you look at feminine nouns of Hindi, okay there are only going to be 2 types of feminine nouns. One that ends in long 'e' am I making sense to you?

We do not need to learn Hindi or we do not need to look at it, I am only trying to show you the underlying pattern, right. Words that end in long 'e' such as "ladki" or "gaadi" and the words that does not and with long 'e'. There are only 2 categories, either they end with long 'e' or they do not end with long 'e'. If we are talking about masculine nouns, either they end in 'a' or they do not end in 'a'.

Please pay attention to the second part, we are not saying they end in a consonant or a vowel or a particular type of consonant or a particular type of vowel, nothing of that sort. We are only saying one type of masculine noun ending with 'aa' and other type, not ending in 'aa'. One type of feminine noun ending in 'e' that is a long vowel and other type not ending with 'e'. And so so that way we get 4 way classifications.

And for each type, there is a specific rule and then that rule does not generate any exception, okay.

"Professor- Student conversation starts"

So a word like "hawa" will fit where?

(( ))(25:21)

Sorry. Feminine noun which does not end with long 'e', right? And similarly there is a word which ends in long 'e', okay. Imagine, there is a word which ends in long 'e' but it is not a feminine word, okay. This is, if it is not a feminine word, then it is going to be masculine. So can you give me an, can you think of an example of such word?

Paani.

“Paani” I I already gave you this word “Paani”. A word which ends in long 'e', it is not feminine, is not going to change. There is another word that I can give you, there is, I I only picked up a few to make a point, do not need to look at exhaustive list of them. “Dhobi” another very generic word, everybody must have heard this word. “Dhobi” means someone who washes clothes, right. Is masculine or feminine?

Masculine.

Masculine.

Masculine word. It is in, but it ends in long 'e', what do you expect?

Will not change in plural form, neither is it going to work the way feminine nouns work.

“Professor – student conversation ends”


There are only 4 types and 4 simple rules for that. If they end in 'aa', then change to 'e'. If they do not end in 'aa', no change. If they end in, when we talk about feminine nouns, if they end in long 'e', they change in a particular way, right. And this is where I said, I do not need I do not want to take you through every single step because this we do not need to learn these things, we only need to see a particular point.

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**Feminine Nouns:**

- khiRkii	khiRki-y-aaN	'windows'
- gaaRii	gaaRi-y-aaN	'cars'
- kitaab	kitaab-eN	'books'
- bahuu	bahu-y-eN	'brides'

- A feminine noun ending in a sound /ii/ gets /aa/ (nasalized) as plural marker.
- A feminine noun ending in any other sound gets /e/ (nasalized) as plural marker.



Now the second part of second part of feminine noun, which is words that do not end with long 'e'. They change in a particular way, right. Can you see the rational that, in this category we cannot say words that do not end in long 'e' will not change, we cannot say that because if they do not change, then...

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Then they will be masculine.

Then there will be no difference between masculine and feminine nouns and that will create again confusion.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Now, do you see how systematically they are classified and why they generate no exceptions and creates no confusion here. This is one particular rule which is language specific, now it is about Hindi. Now I invite you to look at the underlying pattern of plural formation of your language, okay. This is, I am I giving you this as a as a as an assignment, which is optional assignment, you do not have to some it, okay.

But I promise you, usually people would not tell you what is going to be on the exams, do people tell you what is going to be on the exams? On record, on camera, I am telling you, this question will be on one of the exams, okay. So please work on that, if you need my help, I am ready to work with you, but for that you need to bring me examples.

Please look at the underlying pattern of plural formation and the only thing that I am not telling you is going to be on the coming exams, but in one of them, this question is going to come. So see how categorically I have shown you the rules. Now I had a plan to show you rules of at least one more language which is English. But I leave that for you to figure that out also.

Because English is one language which everybody has studied, which everybody has learned as second language or I remember some of you telling me you started learning English in kindergarten, right. Remember A for Apple and B for Boy, you have not forgotten and that yet. How did you learn plural formation, I just want you to think about that and just tell me how it works.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Sir, what is the question, as in you want us do that do the same thing for English?

I want you to do this definitely for English and tell me how it works and also I want you to do for the language that you speak, which is the language that grew up with.

Mother tongue?

Mother tongue. Take some examples and see the plural pattern of that language, okay that will be one application of something that you are learning. We I am not going to give such assignments every now and then because we are going to move very fast and it is difficult in a semester, in a short period of class for me to tell you to apply every rule to your language.

However, you will get a taste of how it works when you are asked to look at your own language. If your own language looks difficult to you, just look at the language of your neighbor and see how it how it works. My neighbor I mean, if you speak Tamil and Tamil sounds difficult, you can look at Malayalam or Kannada or Telugu, whatever you like. But everybody is definitely going to look English.

And I also ask you, feel free to consult any Internet, any library, any resource at your disposal, people that you know, teachers you may have interacted with, just feel free to interact with anything, consult anything, but please do work on this thing I get my point? Alright. Now this is, this is just one underlying rule that languages operate with and I wanted you to see.

Any question before I move? Any confusion about what I have just described what you need to do? No... No... So you promise that you will do it. I do not see commitment in your promise. Go ahead.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

Sir, are there no exceptions at all in any language when it comes to this?

Yes. And why am I saying so?

Their rules and...

“Professor – student conversation ends”

On the simple, the simple reason of me saying so not that I know all the languages, underlying rules of language are such that they are not supposed to generate exceptions. Suppose we still find exceptions that simply mean we have not looked at the rule hard enough. See I think you asked me this question yesterday or somebody asked me this question.

Do we have first sounds and then we apply them in a format and get words, right or do we have words and then we see them? Either way, the point is we have rules and if we have not come up with a rule of this type, I am giving I have given you a rule which I am convinced that there is no exception.

I want you as a Hindi speaker whether you speak Hindi or not, I want you to find one single example, which does not work this way, which form exception to this 4 way categorization and these rules.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

What about the line when we (( ))(34:02) that end with ‘o’?

Such as?

Suppose, “kamre”.

Um.

“kamra kamro”

“Kamro” is not plural. “Kamro” is not plural. I mean it is it is plural, but it has something else on it. Now I I I do not want to start Hindi class with you here. However, you are right, that is a very genuine question very genuine concern. “Kamro” has more than plural and if you are interested in this, look at some material, what you will find is, people use this word “Kamro” only when there is something following, which is called a post position.

Right, like “Kamro mein” or “Kamro ke baahar”. We we never use this word “Kamro” or “Kamron” without a post position. So is the effect of the following post position on the previous word, which turns it into that into “Kamro”.

In that case we do not term it as masculine?

For plurals, yes, no. “Ladkiyo, kamro, hawao, dhobio” all of them work the same way. That that is something more than singular, plural, masculine, feminine that is all I can I can tell you about plurals and singulars, only what I have told you. Are you are you convinced that “Kamro” is something else?

Yes.

Okay, so that that is a different...

(( ))(35:43)

Exactly, very true. And I am convinced that you can see patterns very well at least and I am trying to show you patterns, which are easy to see, right? Alright, anything else?

Sir if language is natural, how come Hindi has got this issue of make that nouns changing with the post position, whereas other languages do not have.

Probably, many would do, many languages would work that way, not all. So, what is important here is languages will have 2 way categorization, let us say singular and plural, this is part of universal sets of principles.

So all languages will have...

Singular and plural, okay. However, language what was the other part of your part of your question, how come Hindi...

How come some like Hindi has got this post position?

Post position and its effect.

And English do not.

English do not, right. So when we say “on table”, there is no change in the word table where as, if we say “on table” or “on tables”. When you say “on the table”, you do not see any change in singular. What is in Hindi phrase “on the table”?

Tebalon par.

Tebalon par.

No, “on the table” singular.

“Tebalon par”.

Table par. And when we say “on the tables”?

“Tebalon par”.

“Tebalon par”.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Same thing is added that you are trying 2 words, “Kamro” or “Gharo” or “Ladko” or “Ladkiyon”. Now coming back to your question, this effect is restricted only to Hindi, you are right, this is not in not in English. Now, this is exact example of what we say parameters that some rules are parametric in nature, where they will apply only to some languages and will not apply to others.

This is what becomes responsible for differences in languages, right. Otherwise, if if there were no parameters, take it this way. If there were no parameters, then it will end up with one language. See this thing, this is why both together, principles and parameters help us understand what we say language, the underlying rules of language. We would not be able to see underlying rules of language only with the help of principles.

We need to see that also with parameters, making sense? Okay. Now one more thing which I discussed with you yesterday, which is important for word formation rules and then we move ahead in the in remaining few minutes, okay. Now, are you familiar with these words? I



thought you will be familiar with a lot of that therefore, I have not even added meaning to these words. Anybody who is not familiar with all the words?

(Refer Slide Time: 39:20)

Nasals

- kaNghaa            ng gh
- paNjaa            ny j
- aNDaa            ND
- aNdhaa            n dh
- muNbai            m b



“Professor- Student conversation starts”

So what the words are? Can you read them?

“Kanghaa, panjaa, Mumbai”.

No, there are 2 of them after “pajaan”, the 1<sup>st</sup> one is...

Andaa.

Andaa.

Andaa.

Andhaa.

Andhaa and munbai. Right. Have you heard Mumbai?

Yes.

Yes.

Everybody?

Yes.

Andhaa?

Yes.

Yes a blind man.

Andhaa means a blind man or or blind. Andaa?

Heard.

Heard this one? Panjaa?

Palm.

Palm.

It means palm, “panjaa” means a palm. I I should have given meanings of these things, but nonetheless I can tell you that. And “kanghaa” is a comb that with which we set our hairs, right.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Now I want to show you something else. That is, I have shown you a rule, which is a morphological rule where we add something to the word and they give a new grammatical meaning which is plurals, right. Now I am I am trying to show you something which happens word internally, okay. This rule works internal to word, alright. To wind up the story of word and move to sentence, I need to wind this up.

Now, remember the story of clusters.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

What was the story of clusters? 2 consonant sounds will form a cluster in which way?

One will lose...

One will lose; the 1<sup>st</sup> one will lose its vowel quality and then form the cluster, too. Now, if we apply the same thing to the clusters where a nasal sound is a part of part of the clusters, okay. The 1<sup>st</sup> consonant happens to be a nasal sound. Are you with me? 1<sup>st</sup> consonant happens to be a nasal sound. Then how does it work? If you see the 1<sup>st</sup> one, what is the sound which is following the nasal?

Ghaa.

“Ghaa” which is, what is the place of articulation of this?

Back of the tongue.

Backup of course, which one?

Velum.

Velum.

Velum, right. The next one?

Ja.

“Ja”, what is the place of articulation for that?

Palate.

Palate, right. The next one is “Da da da” it is a retroflex sound, right. In our language, it is retroflex and then the next one.

Dha.

“Dha”, a dental right. And the next one is “ba”.

Bilabial.

Which is bilabial.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Do you see examples of all the 5 places of articulation in these words? Now in each of these words, the first sound is a nasal. That is, in each of these clusters the first consonant of that cluster is a nasal sound right. Now, the way it works is, if the following consonant is a labial, then the nasal is also labial. If the following consonant is dental, then the nasal is also dental okay.

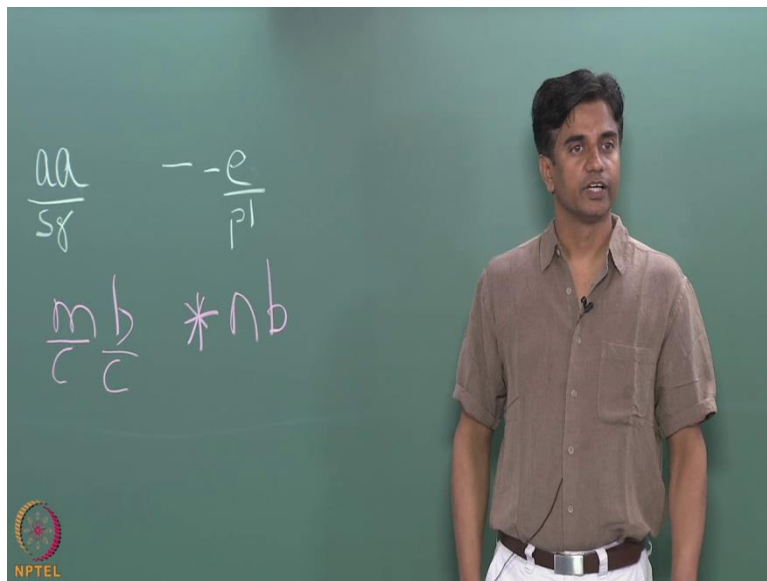
If the following consonant is a retroflex one, the nasal is also retroflex. If the following consonant is palatal, the nasal is palatal. And if the following consonant is velar, then the nasal is velar. So in a word like “Kanghaa” right “kanghaa” do you here a nasal sound?

Where do you hear this nasal sound? Right before “gha” right. Now what if if we need to talk about it, what which type of nasal is this?

Right, this is this can only be a velar nasal, and how do we know that this is a velar nasal, because the following song is a velar one. In the second one, it can only be palatal nasal because the following song is palatal and likewise in all of them. Now besides being little bit fancy and interesting, what does this tell us? That if there are 2 sounds forming cluster and the first one nasal, right.

That nasal and the following consonant must share same place of articulation. A nasal from a different place articulation and the following consonant from a different place of articulation will not be allowed, okay, which means in a word like let us say “Mumbai” in a word like “Mumbai” we have “ma” and “ba” this consonant is a nasal and it must only be bilabial nasal.

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In other words, a dental nasal “na” and “ba”, this is not going to be a warranted sequence in a word, okay. This is not going to be a warranted sequence in a word. Are you with me? Do you follow this thing? Then the nasal sound must match I am using non technical term, the technical term for this is assimilation that is, these 2 sounds assimilates each other’s quality.

This because this is bilabial, this must be bilabial and not anything else. Therefore, not warranted see this thing. Now, the examples that you see on screen, these examples are from which language?

Hindi.

Hindi, right. However, this rule is not specific to Hindi. What is the rule? The rule is,, ‘when we talk about a nasal and its following consonant, take must come from same place of articulation’, right. This rule is not specific to Hindi alone, alright. Now, I can give you some examples from English, right. If I give you a word, I want you to write that word. Let us say, the word is “possible”, okay “possible” and “patient” only 2 words, right.

“Professor- Student conversation starts”

I want you to negate this. What is the negative of these 2 words?

Impossible and impatient.

Impossible and impatient, right. Did you write both?

Yes.

Yes.

Write next to each other. Now one more example, consistent.

Consistent.

“Consistent” must have heard this word before, “consistent” English word.

Inconsistent.

The negative is? I want to hear the word.

Inconsistent.

Inconsistent.

Now, how do you write that? Let me let me first go to the writing. How do you write that?

You can only tell me the first part.

I n.

“I n”, do you write I n?

Yes.

In the previous one it was “I m”, in the following one it becomes “I n”, right. Why is this “I m” in the previous one?

Because the P is...

Because the “pa” sound is labial. If the negative is coming before that that must be a labial nasal, which is “ma”. We cannot say “impossible” okay, we cannot say that. We cannot be “inpatient”, we have to pay “impatient”. Rather we can put the same thing in the following way. It is really not, it it is really not a point that how we say that, this is how it is said, this is how it becomes.

Because if the following one is a labial, it is easier to have the previous nasal also as labial. One moment before I come to you, now the second one example that I have given you, which type of nasal is that?

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You have written them as “I n” right? And then only you write something consistent, right. Now what is this sound?

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Sound is “ka”, which is...

Velar.

Velar sound, then nasal must be a velar nasal. So it is, it is not really inconsistent, it sounds different or it is supposed to sound different, it is “inconsistent”, where the nasal is a velar nasal, see that. And and you can find tons of examples in English or in other languages, which is going to follow this rule. This was just a language internal rule.

The other one that I showed you is, which is sorry, this was word internal, the other was applying at the word boundary.

Sir, for “pleasant” one is not “impleasant”.

What is that?

For “Pleasant” it is “unpleasant”.

Then it is a different thing. You are you are absolutely right, let me first say that.

“Professor – student conversation ends”

Now why am I saying that is a different thing? I am saying the following. If it must be nasal, then it has to be this way, okay. Now “un” is a different kind of prefix, which is to understand that, we need to look at negative prefixes in English and there then we will be looking at language specific rules of English, right which will fall in a different domain.

Now, I am I am not taking a shortcut, I am not trying to avoid that thing, I am only trying to show you that there are some rules which may not be part of principles. This assimilation of nasal is a principal which works across language, right. So we are we are looking at word internal and things at word boundary. We are looking at rules that may not really change the meaning of a word if we are looking at Hindi.

And we have looked at some Hindi examples, where some addition to the words changes the meaning of the words; these are the rules which help us understand structure of words, right. Likewise, we are going to see tomorrow rules that are going to be underlying, but significant in formation of sentences, okay.

And then we will come to, once we understand such rules from sentences, with that we will conclude the story of sounds, words and sentences. And then I will take you to see more generic principles of language that apply across the board, okay. Thank you.