

NASAL SOUNDS IN DOGRI

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This paper attempts to discuss the phonemic status and distribution of nasal sounds in Dogri - an Indo Aryan language of NW India. As nasal sounds of Dogri have developed from Sanskrit, a brief description of the treatment of nasals in Sanskrit has also been given.

Dogri has five nasal stops. In most of the modern Indo Aryan languages only bilabial and dental nasals appear as phonemes, while velar, palatal and cerebral nasals occur as homorganic nasals before corresponding non-nasal stops. Dogri, on the other hand, has all five nasal stops as phonemes.

Besides this category, Dogri has three more sub-categories of sounds exhibiting some aspect of a nasalization process:

1. Non-phonemic nasalization of vowels due to the presence of a nasal stop in the environment.
2. Phonemic nasalization of a vowel.
3. Homorganic nasal before a stop.

The first sub-category is generally predictable and is, therefore, not represented in writing. A peripheral vowel preceding a nasal stop in monosyllabic words is nasalized. In disyllabic words where both syllables are open, the nasal stop of the second syllable nasalizes both vowels. A nasal stop preceded by a centralized vowel and followed by a peripheral vowel does not cause nasalization of the following vowel. The last two sub-categories are represented by Anusvara, which is phonetically actualized in two different forms: as a phonemically nasalized vowel in word-final position and before vowels, and as homorganic nasal before a stop if the preceding vowel is centralized.