Chapter Five

Spelling Reforms in India

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Chapter-Five

SPELLING REFORMS IN INDIA

Section 1

5.1 Introduction

The Simplified Spelling Society in England showed keen interest in gathering support for spelling reforms from academicians and scholars in India. On behalf of the society Professor Daniel Jones, visited India in 1912 and gave several lectures in as many centres in India as possible. At a meeting of the committee held on 13 March 1913, in London, Professor Jones gave a brief report on the lectures on simplified spelling given during his visit to India. He had lectured in Madras, Bombay and Lahore and he reported that the Indians were very enthusiastic in regard to the reform of English spelling.

However it is quite obvious that in India the idea of reforms in spellings by amending the orthography of English does not seem to have generated much interest. This area of Linguistics has been by and large ignored by most scholars and academicians especially in India. Most of the attention in Indianization or nativization of English has been in vocabulary, syntax and other areas of language. Ironically whenever the English language is being criticised the first thing that most Indians adversely comment about is the lack of consonance between sound and symbol.

A few spelling reformers like G.V. Phadke and Govind Deodhekar have studied the feasibility of amending the orthography of English and making it easier for non-native learners of English. They have suggested certain amendments in the orthography of English which according to them would make the orthography simpler, easier to learn, understand, and use especially by the non-native learners in India and in the Indian sub continent. This is especially because of the fact that most of the second/foreign language learners of English belong to the Indian sub continent and other Afro-Asian countries. One more aspect that has to be considered is that English is the second/foreign language in most of these
countries and it is used as one of the important languages for communication and business not only in these regions but also over the whole world. The researcher has suggested that there is a need for a universally accepted orthography which would consider the need of these learners especially from the phonological point of view. It also has to be remembered that many words belonging to the regional tongues in these countries are being incorporated into English. But when they are written in English the correct pronunciation of the word or rather a reasonably correct pronunciation of the word is not represented by the graphemes because English does not have the symbols to represent the corresponding sound segments. It is time that such problems in the orthography are considered and the orthography is suitably amended so that when one considers Indian English it is understood that Indian English orthography is also an important, and integral part of it.

As mentioned earlier very little work has been done in amending the orthography to make it easier for Indians learners of English. Various writers who have written books on Indian English have discussed issues like the aims and objectives of teaching and learning English, the problems faced in second language acquisition (no reference to orthography), code-mixing and code switching, the Indianization and nativization of English and many other problems related to pronunciation, syntax and grammar. Most writers have not discussed orthography in the context of Indian English and if there has been a mention of it, it is only as a passing reference to it while discussing phonetics. In India most learners of English even after learning English for about fifteen years do not have the confidence to speak or write in English. Many reasons have been given for this and one of the reasons is the difficult, irregular, confusing and outdated orthography of English.

G.V. Phadke and Govind Deodhekar are two Indian reformers who have worked for a long period on this subject and they represent the Indian contribution to the history of spelling reform. In this chapter the spelling reforms of the two Indian reformers, Phadke and Deodhekar have been studied in great detail. An analytical and a comparative study of the works of both the reformers has also been done.
5.2 Deodhekar’s LOJIKON

Govind N. Deodhekar was born in March 1919 in the Western part of India and was educated in Mumbai where he took a degree in Science and in Law. He was a resident of London from June 1951 and he taught Science in London schools for over 20 years. Aware of the difficulties of Indian students in mastering English spellings he was struck by the fact that much of the difficulty non-native learners of the language as well as ‘remedial’ English children experienced in learning to read and write stemmed from the unpredictability and inconsistencies of English spelling. This led him to join the Simplified Spelling Society, of which he had been a member since the early 1980s, a committee member since 1985, serving as a vice-chairman for five years. He made several spirited calls to non-English users of the English language to rebel against the illogical spelling system and was supported by many people especially the non-natives living in England in those days. He hoped that his work in the suggestion of reforms in the spelling system might result in some changes and eventually facilitate a rapid further spread of the English language.

Deodhekar has suggested that the LOJIKON system of simplified spellings by the lojikal use of onsonants be used and it should replace the existing spelling system, as this would simplify the learning of English for the learners of the non-English speaking world. Deodhekar believed that more and more people whose native language was not English were interested in learning English because of the importance that the language was gaining at the international level. However most people vary of learning it because of several reasons, especially the complicated spelling system. He has proposed several changes in the orthography of the English language, as a result of which learning the pronunciation and the spelling of words would not pose any problems to a learner of the language.

In 1995, Deodhekar published a booklet THE LOJIKON’ system of simplified English spelling by the lojikal use of onsonants: simplifying the learning of English for the non-speaking English speaking world. In his introduction he says that the fact that everyone has accepted that English has emerged as the most popular international language highlights the need of developing countries for
English. He gives the example of the Cambodian students who rioted in Phnom Penh in September 1995 to demand that they be allowed to study English rather than French. His contribution to spelling reform has been supported by the Simplified Spelling Society, London. Bob Brown, secretary, Simplified Spelling Society, in his preface to THE LOJIKON has mentioned the fact that the society supported the dissemination of LOJIKON as a useful contribution to spelling reform. Deodhekar has not used the phonetic symbols currently being used, in his manuscripts. He has used the normal vowel and consonant letters as present in the alphabetic system of the language. The researcher has used the phonetic symbols (IPA) which represent those sounds.

According to Deodhekar, English has emerged as the most popular International language that has wide acceptance. However, the greatest obstacle to the learning of English is its illogical spelling. There are several inconsistencies which arise from the fact that there is no one-to-one correspondence between the English letters and their pronunciation. LOJIKON is an alternative optional writing system for international use employing logical and reasonably consistent symbols for consonant sounds. Vowels are adjusted where necessary. Deodhekar cites many examples to show the illogical way in which words in English are spelled. For example, the letter s is pronounced in different ways in sea - /siː/ and she - /ʃiː/. In the words cease and sun the first letter i.e., c and s respectively have the same /s/ sound. The /ðu/ sound is also written in different ways as in so, soul, soap and slow. The letter u is pronounced in many different ways as in put, but, mute, flute and in the first syllable of busy and bury. The letter a is pronounced differently in different words as in fat, father, fate, fall and in the first syllable of account.

Some people may believe that there is no need for any reforms in any aspect of the English language especially in the spelling system, as, though it lacks precision it provides flexibility. For example, Toni-Tony, Robyn-Robin, etc are some names of boys and girls which are spelled with only a slight change. Several words in English are homophones, i.e., though the words are spelled differently they are pronounced in the same manner as meet — meat, there —
their, pear – pair. One spelling and one sound can also stand for different meanings depending on the context, as when right contrasts with wrong, or with left, or with duty. Thus, rite, write and right are three different words with different spellings but are pronounced in the same manner. According to Deodhekar, it is not at all logical. Assuming that everyone needs English, clearly native speakers of English need only one language. Others, for example in India, the Hindi speaking need to learn two languages, English and their mother tongue (Hindi), and the non-Hindi speaking, (about 60% of the population) three languages English, Hindi and their mother tongue. Even in Pakistan no amount of prominence given to Urdu can suppress the regional languages spoken by about 80% of the people, who therefore need to learn three languages, one of them being English. Deodhekar believes that the English will not reform their spellings, and the rest of the world cannot wait for an indefinite time period for reforms to take place in the orthography of the English language, and so it is time to rebel! He also suggests a logical and reasonably precise system in such a way that no English speaker will have any difficulty in reading and understanding what is meant.

Deodhekar believed that if the rest of the English speaking world was not interested in amending the orthography of English, they should continue to enjoy the illogicality, imprecision and ‘flexibility’ of English spelling. Indians should use a logical and reasonably precise system at least for the consonants, in such a way that no English user will have any difficulty in reading and understanding what is meant. It is obvious that the changes that Deodhekar has suggested would benefit the learners in the Indian sub-continent where English is used in several countries as the chief means of communication and the medium of education in schools, colleges and universities. The use of the LOJIKON system proposed by Deodhekar could act as a spur to the English language establishment which accepts alternative spellings for a few words such as goal/jail, gray/grey, phantasy/fantasy etc. The use of LOJIKON would imply a vastly increased number of such alternative spellings, but they would cause no problems in reading or comprehension.
5.3 Features of LOJIKON

According to Deodhekar reform is normal and is a continuous process in every aspect of life and more so where languages are concerned. Spelling reform is normal and is a subject which has interested many who have been suggesting changes in the orthography of the English language. Though the Simplified Spelling Society was established in 1908 and proposed a complete scheme of reform in 1910, the response of the public had been disappointing. Deodhekar states that LOJIKON is an alternative optional writing system for international use, employing logical and reasonably consistent symbols for consonant sounds. He believes that both the LOJIKON and the present system are mutually comprehensive and that LOJIKON is compatible with the present spelling system. Deodhekar also believed that reforms in the orthography of English were very necessary, especially in the Indian context. According to him, it is not easy for non-native learners of English to articulate the words exactly like the native speakers because of the interference of the mother tongue. Obviously this will bound to have an impact on the way the words are spelled, which is logically speaking (according to Deodhekar) according to the pronunciation. According to him, readers used to the present system may not have any difficulty in reading LOJIKON because most of the letters do have familiar values. The great gain for LOJIKON users will be the liberation from the tyranny of having to learn several illogical ways of spelling the same consonant sounds in hundreds of different words. Deodhekar has proposed several reforms in the letters of the alphabet. According to him it would not be too difficult to implement the changes, because the changes he has proposed would only make the spelling system easier for all the learners of the language. A discussion of Deodhekar’s spelling proposals and the changes and amendments he has suggested follows in the following sections.

In the examples given in every section it is to be noted that along with the phonemes and graphemes which are being discussed, other necessary changes in spellings (according to Deodhekar’s spelling reform) have also been made. These changes have been discussed in the relevant sections.
5.4 Deodhekar's spelling proposals

Deodhekar has proposed several changes in the English orthography but his main focus has been on consonants rather than vowels. He has given a detailed account of the various changes and amendments in the English orthography where consonants were concerned but he has only suggested a few changes in the vowels. He admits that he has ignored the vowels and the reasons he gives is that they are so complicated that it is better if they are left to the experts in the language in England and Australia.

5.4.1 Consonants

Deodhekar has suggested the substitution of one consonant/consonant cluster by another consonant/consonant cluster. The substitution can take place with the following consonant letters:

i  the letter f
   It can replace ph which usually denotes Greek origin as though it may be interesting it is not essential.
   
   For example,
   telephone = telefone,
   philosophy = filosofi
   phantom = fantom

ii  the letter k
   It can replace c, ch, ck where they have the sound /k/.
   Hence,
   car = ka
   rock = rok
   chemist = kemist

iii the letters kw
   It can replace qu or q where so pronounced.
   Hence,
   acquit = akwit
   acquaint = akwaint
   quarter = kwarter

iv the letter q
   This letter can be dropped and be replaced by ku. (see above)
v the digraph sh

It can replace many confusingly different spellings for the sound /ʃ/ as in ship.

Hence,

machine = mashine
sugar = shugar
Asia = Ashia

vi the letter s

It can replace c where c is pronounced with a /s/ sound.

Hence,

celing = seiling
cede = sede
cell = sell

vii the letters s or z

The frequent use of s for the sound /z/ can cause confusion. The letter z can be used where so pronounced.

Hence,

result = rizult
advise = advize but advice = advise.
his = hiz

Many plural and possessive forms of nouns and present tense third person singular verb forms ending in s are pronounced as /z/ as in dogs, girls, says etc. but some plural nouns are pronounced with a /s/ sound as in cats, eats etc. For these cases LOJKON gives simplicity and consistency priority over phonetic spelling and recommends that all such derived words including possessives retain the letter s rather than change to letter z. Hence though there is a difference in pronunciation because of the plural morpheme there will be no change in the spelling of such words.

viii the digraphs th and dh

The digraph th can be used for the sound in thick -/θɪk/ or thin - /θɪn/ but dh can be used for the sound as in this /ðɪs/ or then /ðen/. It should be used consistently as this change will affect many frequently used words.

Thus,

this = dhis
that = dhat and the = dhe

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the digraph **ch**

It can also replace **tu** where clearly so pronounced.

Hence,

- *feature* = *feachure*
- *picture* = *pikchure* but *tune* = *tune*
- *suture* = *suchure*

the letters **ks** and **gz**

It can replace **x** where so pronounced.

Hence,

- *box* = *boks*
- *exist* = *egzist*
- *examine* = *egzamine*

Removal of the following consonants:

The letter **x** can be replaced by the letters **ks**, and **gz** can replace **x**.

The letter **q** can be dropped and be replaced by **kw**.

The letter **v** like **q** and **x** can be dropped and be replaced by the letter **w**.

According to Deodhekar the letter **v** consists of a combination of sounds, i.e. it is composed of /w/ and /h/ sounds which are already there in the alphabet chart. For example, the letter **v** in **van**-/væn/ and **vain**-/vein/ is pronounced with a combination of /w/and /h/sounds. So he believes that along with **q** and **x**, **v** also can be dropped and be replaced by the letter **w**. In British RP the sound /v/ is not pronounced with a /h/ sound, but obviously Deodhekar pronounces it with a /h/ sound, and hence his suggestion about the replacement of the letter **v** with the letter **w**. He has suggested that there should be one to one correspondence between letters and their sounds.

Thus,

- **van** = **wan**
- **vain** = **wain**

the digraph **ch**

It can stand for the one sound as in **church** and will not be used as in the first syllable in **chemist** and as in the second syllable in **machine** etc.
xiii  the letter g

It can stand for the initial sound as in get, but not in gem for which the letter j will be used e.g. jem.

Thus,
\[
\begin{align*}
gelatin &= \text{jelatin} \\
gemini &= \text{jemini}
\end{align*}
\]

xiv  the letter j

It can stand for its normal sound replacing g and dg. But, jam can be spelled as jam

Hence,
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{judge} &= \text{juje} \\
\text{pledge} &= \text{plej}
\end{align*}
\]

xv  the letters zh

It can be used instead of the letter s in pleasure, as s is pronounced as zh.

Thus,
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pleasure} &= \text{pleazhure} \\
\text{measure} &= \text{meazhure}
\end{align*}
\]

In British R.P the letter s in measure is pronounced with a /ʒ/ sound. Deodhekar, obviously, like many Indians pronounces /ʒ/ with a slight aspiration. To make it easier for everyone he suggests that the letter s in such words be replaced by zh.

xvi  the ‘gh’ problem

According to Deodhekar, the use of the digraph gh is superfluous in some words where it is silent, as in night and cough. In such words it can be dropped. For example,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{plough} &= \text{plou}
\end{align*}
\]

Sometimes gh and a vowel letter in the cluster may have to be dropped.

For example,
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{through} &= \text{thru} \\
\text{ought} &= \text{ot}
\end{align*}
\]

Sometimes it may be necessary to substitute a vowel in the cluster with another vowel and substitute gh with f.

For example,
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{cough} &= \text{kof} \\
\text{rough} &= \text{ruf}
\end{align*}
\]
Doubled consonants

In some words, consonants are often doubled, for example, in *tanning* and *sinner*, to show that the preceding vowel, in this case, the vowel letters *a* and *i* respectively are short. In contrast the words *tan* and *sin* are pronounced with a comparatively longer vowel in i.e., *a* and *i* respectively, which precedes the consonants. Some examples of words with doubled consonants are: *canning*, *comma* and *supper*. These words can be differentiated from words such as *can*, *come* and *sup* because of the doubling of the consonant letters *n*, *m* and *p*. The context could provide meaning but the LOJIKON system has suggested retention of double consonants to prevent any ambiguity, where it serves its function. Elsewhere doubled consonants are simplified.

Thus,

accommodation = akomodashun
committee = kamiti

Deodhekar also adds that a distinction has got to be made between doubled consonants in various words. For example if a word has two *d* and one *d* is not pronounced, it may be safely omitted, for example, one *d* in the word *muddier* can be omitted. Thus, *muddier* = *mudier*. There are certain words where there is a doubled consonant but a ‘*d*’ cannot be dropped because its presence is in accordance with the approved rules of grammar. Hence, even if one of the doubled consonants is superfluous neither of the doubled consonants can be dropped

For example,

to *can*, but *canned*, *canning*
to *drop*, but *dropped*, *dropping*
to *omit*, but *omitted*, *omitting*

Silent consonants

Silent letters abound in the spelling system of the English language. There is no reason for the existence of these letters, which are written but not articulated. Silent consonant letters can be dropped. Thus: *b* can be dropped from *debt*, *doubt* etc. It is too late to teach millions of people especially in the Asian countries that *plumber* is pronounced as *plummer* and that it rhymes with
summer not with number. So, Deodhekar suggests that the b in plumber be retained. Other than silent consonant letters, the following letters too can be dropped.

xix the letter d

It can be dropped when dg is pronounced as j. In many words the digraph dj is followed by an e which is 'silent'.

For example, judge, wedge, pledge, gadget, ledge etc.

Deodhekar suggests that along with the letter d, the final e also be dropped, as it is silent.

Hence,
judge = juj
pledge = plej

xx the letter g

It can be dropped from sign, and other words where g is silent. Deodhekar has also suggested dropping certain vowel letters like i in the word foreign. He has proposed that in words like sign the letter g be dropped and the vowel letter e be introduced before the final consonant. This change would bring out the difference between words like fin and fine.

Hence,
sign = sien
foreign = foren

However, the consonant letter g cannot be dropped in a word like signature, as g is pronounced in this word, it is not silent. Thus, signature = signechur.

Deodhekar has also made other changes in the spelling of the word signature which is in keeping with the changes he has proposed in the English orthography.

xxi the letter h

It can be dropped from words such as honour and honest.

Thus,
heir = eir
ghost = gost
ghastly = gasty
xxii the letter k

It can be dropped from words like knave and knee

Thus,
knife = nife
know = noe
known = noen

know is adjusted to noe as, if it is spelt as no or now it can be ambiguous, especially as know is used very frequently.

Thus,
knot = not

The k in knot can be dropped and knot can be spelled as not, as, though it might be ambiguous the ambiguity can be accepted, as the word knot is not very frequently used.

xxiii the letter l

The words calm, talk, walk have silent l. The vowel can be adjusted and the silent l be dropped.

Hence,
calm = kaam
palm = paam

xxiv the letter n

solemn has a silent n, which can be dropped but the letter n can be retained in solemnity, as it is articulated.

Thus,
solem = solem.
condemn = kondem
damn = dam

xxv the letter p

The letter p in words like psalm and psychology is silent and it can be dropped.

Thus,
psalm = saam
psychology = sykoloji
xxvi the letter s
The letter s is silent in some words like isle and island. They can be written as ile and iland.

xxvii the letter t
The letter t is silent in words like catch, often which can be written as kach and ofen.

xxviii the letter w
This letter is silent in many words such as wring. In such words it can be dropped.

Hence,
write = rite
wrong = rong

The words rite, write and right are pronounced in the same manner. Write and rite can have the same spelling i.e. rite, while right can be written as riet. This is unavoidable, as LOJIKON doesn't tackle the vowel system except for minor adjustments. Deodhekar suggests that the vowel letter e be placed before the final consonant t as in riet, which is the opposite of rong, to differentiate it from rite as in rite and read.

xxix the digraph rh
In words like rhombus, the h in the digraph rh, in the first syllable is silent, but it can be retained by speakers in Asia who pronounce it in words like rhyme and rhythm. These words can be written as they are. The rh in words like rhyme is pronounced differently by native speakers of English. Many Indian learners have difficulty in pronouncing the word and the /h/ sound is heavily aspirated.

xxx the digraph wh
In many words especially question words like why, what and where the h is articulated by Asian speakers of English while the same is not the case with native and some speakers of English. Thus when, where, why etc. are to undergo no changes in spellings.
The letter r can be retained even when it is not pronounced in the medial and the final positions. In words like mother, brother, near, car etc where r is in the final position and in perm, murder, cork in the medial position, r is not articulated by native speakers. However Deodhekars believes that it would be very difficult for non-native speakers to learn to pronounce these words like native speakers. He believes that it is better to pronounce and write words with the r in words like far, farm, more and cart.

5.4.2 Vowels

When a study for simplifying spellings is undertaken it automatically follows that both vowel and consonant letters must be considered. While LOJIKON examines the consonant letters at some depth, it does not tackle the vowel letters except for minimum adjustments. In his LOJIKON Deodhekאר wrote that there was a necessity to simplify the English spelling system, since, definite rules do not seem to have been followed while constructing the current spellings, while it is implied that in any studied language its sounds have corresponding signs/letters in its alphabet chart. Some of the consonant sounds have already been discussed earlier, and now the vowel sounds such are taken up for discussion. English consists of words in which a variety of vowel sounds can be observed. For example, the vowel letter a can be pronounced in various ways, as in along, bat, car, caught, etc. Similarly the letter o can be pronounced in various ways, as in pot, poor, soul etc. However to produce all these sounds and also some more in English there are only five vowel letters a, e, i, o and u. All these vowel letters are required to produce two or more sounds. DeodhekKar has proposed some changes in the use of the vowel letters a, e, i, o, and u.

They are as follows:

i the letter a

According to DeodhekKar a produces four sounds which are /ɑː/ in along-
\[ /ɔːlŋ/ , /ɑː : / in park - /pɑːk/ , /ɔ : / in ball and one more sound /eɪ/ as in rain -
\[ /reɪn/ and cake - /keɪk/ .

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Deodhekar proposes that the letter \( a \) not be used to produce the sounds /ə/ as in ball and /aː / as in park. The vowel letter o can be used for the sound of a as in ball while the sound /aː/ as in park can be written as the LOJKON approved aa i.e., doubling of the letter a. The letter a as in rain can be retained. The remaining two sounds i.e., /ə/ as in along and /æ/ as in and can also be retained as long as the sound pertains to monosyllabic words. There are very few monosyllabic words in English beginning with the letter a. In some of these words it is pronounced as a diphthong /eɪ/ as in ace and ail or as /æ/ as in an and ant or as /aː/ as in alm, arm, are etc. Obviously, Deodhekar has not taken this into consideration. In other words Deodhekar proposes that the letter a produce the following sounds:

- a /æ/ as in and
- a /ə/ as in along
- a /eɪ/ as in rain

The remaining two sounds of a as in park and ball can change as follows:

- park = paark
- ball = boll

ii  the letter e

One of its sounds is /e/ as in pen. It also produces other sounds like /ə/ as in her, as /ɛ/ as in the first syllable of England, and as /iː/ as in be, etc. All these sounds are acceptable. Deodhekar expresses his surprise at the fact that the letter e is used to produce a long sound /iː/ as in be - /bɪː/ when the letter e is doubled to produce the same long sound in deed - (dɪːd). Thus, both be and deed have the long e - /iː/ sound but in be there is only one e and in deed the letter e is doubled. It also produces the same long sound in words like seen, eve, these, etc. Its use in clerk and sergeant in the first syllable where the e is pronounced as /aː/ can be stopped. A doubling of the letter a has been suggested instead.

- clerk = klaark
- sergeant = saarjent

Similarly the long sounds produced by it with the help of the letter a as in heat and peak may be discontinued. In the word heat Deodhekar suggests that the letters ii be used in place of the letters ea as in heat.
Thus,
peak = piik
heat = hiit

The sounds obtained by placing the letters e and a side by side in words like heard and heart are totally unjustified and hence it can be discontinued. The word heard is pronounced as /h3:d/ and it can continue with the same spelling but without the letter a, while the letter a can be doubled in the word heart - /ha:t/

Thus,
heard = herd
heart = haart

Its liberal use in spellings like give, glimpse, prince, height, little, kettle, etc. is unnecessary and hence the superfluous e there can be omitted.

Thus,
give = giv
glimpse = glimps
prince = prins

Deodhekar has suggested that the e can be written at the end of words like kind and child.

Thus,
kind = kainde
child = chailde
blind = blainde

Its use after o in shoe, foe, toe, etc. currently is not justifiable and hence can be stopped.

Thus,
shoe = shoo
foe = fo
toe = to

In other words Deodhekar suggests the following uses of e as in:
pen, England, her, be, deed and eve

The use of e as in the following words can be discontinued:
heat little
head clerk
heard height
iii  the letter i

Its main and only sound can be only as in the word it. Its use for other sounds as in sir, girl, bird, drive, file, white and shirt can be discontinued. But when it becomes necessary to make changes to suit the following consonant letter, the vowel letter i should be replaced by y.

Thus,
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{rife} &= \text{rife} \quad \text{but} \quad \text{rifle} &= \text{ryflle} \\
\text{drive} &= \text{drive} \quad \text{but} \quad \text{driver} &= \text{dryver} \\
\text{wire} &= \text{wyre}
\end{align*}
\]

The letter a as in aim and brain will continue to be used because it is quite logical according to Deodhekar. The digraph ei as in ceiling and receipt and the digraph ie as in chief and grief can continue to be used instead of the letter e. The letter i also can also be used for obtaining its long sound as in reel by doubling it and new spellings such as brii, diip, riil, bliid, and biich can be introduced instead of using the letters ea or ee. But this was not accepted by Deodhekar as there are already in practice three ways to obtain the long sound of the letter e

- use of e itself as in be, he, me, she
- use of ee
- the combination of i with e such as ie or ei

Deodhekar had the firm opinion that it was not desirable to change the old order as far as possible just for the sake of change. However if such changes do take place and if the use of ‘ii’ is accepted, the use of ‘ee’ will have to be stopped.

iv  the letter o

It is quite necessary that its sound be strictly as in God. This is so because in practice it is also used for a nearly similar sound as in go, no, so, comb, etc. This does not keep with the principle- one sound one letter- which should as far as possible be the main aim in simplifying the spelling system. Further there is also a strange practice in which the sound of the letter o is obtained by placing the letters a or e just after it. For example, boat, foe, woe, etc. Deodhekar wonders how the letters a or e that are not even distantly related be used to produce the sound of the letter o as in foe and hoe. He suggests that such a practice can be discontinued, and that the digraph au as in august can be replaced by the letter o

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and the letters \textit{oa} as \textit{boat} and \textit{o} as in \textit{no} be replaced by the letters \textit{au}. The spelling changes will be as follows:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{boat} = \textit{baut}
  \item \textit{august} = \textit{ogast}
  \item \textit{moan} = \textit{maun}
  \item \textit{author} = \textit{othar}
\end{itemize}

The vowel letter \textit{o} also has a short sound as in words like \textit{to}, \textit{do}, and \textit{woman}. Such a frequently used sound cannot be accepted as a satisfactory basis for a long sound as in \textit{boot} by doubling it. To obtain the long vowel therefore double \textit{u} - \textit{uu} and not \textit{oo} will have to be used. In some words the letter \textit{o} is seen doubled but if the first of them is the ending of a prefix as in \textit{‘co’} in \textit{co-opt} the two vowel letters \textit{o} cannot be considered as the usual double \textit{o}. For example, \textit{co-operate} and \textit{co-ordinate}, etc. In words like \textit{blood}, \textit{book}, \textit{door}, \textit{poor}, etc, the letter \textit{o} is doubled. Their spellings can be \textit{blud, buk, daur, puar}, etc. The use of the letter \textit{o} for sounds such as \textit{son, done, one, gone}, can be stopped. The proposal for the use of the letter vowel \textit{o} is as follows:

To use the letter \textit{o} only in words like:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{God}
  \item \textit{sort}
\end{itemize}

To discontinue the use of the letter \textit{o} in words like:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{go boat}
  \item \textit{one gone}
\end{itemize}

To replace the letters \textit{oa} in words like \textit{boat} with \textit{au}, the letters \textit{oo} in words like \textit{boot} with \textit{uu} and the letters \textit{oo} in words like \textit{blood} with \textit{u}.

Thus,

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{boat} = \textit{baut}
  \item \textit{boot} = \textit{buut}
\end{itemize}

\textgreater{} the letter \textit{u}

This vowel letter \textit{u} is and should be meant only for two short sounds of the letter \textit{u} as in \textit{but} and \textit{put}. By doubling it a long sound as in \textit{boot} is obtainable. This spelling can be changed to \textit{buut}. The letter \textit{u} also can produce its name like sound in \textit{bugle, cube, fume, use}, etc. The other vowel letters \textit{a, e, i, and o} very
rarely produce their name like sounds. The words are few as e in be, he, she and me, i in child, mine and wild, and o in go, no and so and u in union, tutor and during. In clusters of letters such as scen, cak, dol, mul, the vowels e, a, o and u respectively are present but because of their inability to produce their name like sound, the clusters remain incomplete words with no meaning. Thus scen can be pronounced as /seu/ but it makes no sense till e is added.

\[
\begin{align*}
    \text{cak} & \quad /\text{kak}/ & \text{but} & \quad \text{cak} + e & = & \text{cake} - /\text{kæk}/ \\
    \text{pol} & \quad /\text{pol}/ & \text{but} & \quad \text{pol} + e & = & \text{pole} - /\text{pəl}/ \\
    \text{mul} & \quad /\text{mul}/ & \text{but} & \quad \text{mul} + e & = & \text{mule} - /\text{mjəl}/
\end{align*}
\]

vi the silent e

The letter e which is silent in many words, gives shape to certain words, produces certain sounds and also gives the clusters the desired meanings. In the words scent, cake, pole, and mule the letter e is silent, but these words are pronounced in a particular way only because of the presence of the letter e. Without the letter e these words would be meaningless clusters. Thus in such words the vowel letter e can be retained. However, there are many words where the letter e is superfluous and silent and it makes no sense in retaining this vowel letter. Deodhekar has suggested that the silent e be dropped in such words.

Thus,

\[
\begin{align*}
    \text{flue} & = & \text{flu} \\
    \text{blue} & = & \text{blu}.
\end{align*}
\]

vii The silent u

There are words in which the vowel letter u is followed by the vowel letters a, e or i. For example, in words like guarantee, guard, guess, guest, guide, guild, guise, blue, flue, fruit, glue, and suit. It is clear from these examples that in some words the letter u and in others the letters a, e or i are silent. The intention behind such an arrangement is not understood. The silent letters can therefore be omitted and its use in such words can be discontinued.

Thus,

\[
\begin{align*}
    \text{guarantee} & = & \text{garenti} \\
    \text{guard} & = & \text{gaard} \\
    \text{buy} & = & \text{bai} \text{ and } \text{busy} = \text{bizi}
\end{align*}
\]
Of all the five vowel letters u in particular seems to act in its own way in defiance of the proposed rule. Thus in words like union, futile, future, fuel, during, human, mutiny, pupil, the letter u is pronounced with its name like sound /jːu/. It is also seen that a name like vowel sound of the letter u as in use can be obtained by placing the letter e just after it. For example, due, hue, sue, Tuesday etc. But this cannot be accepted. To be scientifically correct the letter e should be placed just before and not after u. The spelling of the word Europe gives strong support to this. If this suggestion is accepted then the relative spelling changes will be as follows:

union = eunion    utility = eutility
futile = feutile   future = feuture

The changes that Deodhekar proposes for the use of the vowel letter u are as follows:

- to use the vowel letter u only in words like put and but
- to place the vowel letter e in front of the vowel letter u, as in
  union = eunion
  futile = feutile
- to double the vowel letter u as uu in words like boot = buut.
- To omit the letter u where it is silent as in guest = gest

viii the letters w and u

The letter w is a consonant while the letter v is a vowel. However, w is a semi-vowel because it functions as a vowel but is articulated like a consonant. According to Deodhekar, sometimes, w also acts as a vowel and seems to possess some common qualities with the other vowel letters. This finding has a strong support in the current practice in many words. He suggests that the use of w is rendered superfluous in words like dew, flew and blew. The letter w acts as a vowel and hence in such words the letters eu can be used instead of w.

Thus,

dew = deu
def = feu

ix the letters w and y

They are consonants but sometimes are useful as vowels. As vowels however there is in their nature a small difference. That difference is that w cannot act as a
vowel without the help of the letters a, e or o preceding it. For example in words like raw, jew, new, owl and cow, the letter w which functions as a vowel is preceded by a vowel letter in each of the words. But y doesn’t need any vowel letters to function as a vowel. For example, in words like baby, tiny, wily, holy and jury the letter y functions like the vowel letter i. This can also be seen in words like city, happy, my and sky.

5.5 Analysis of Deodhekar’s spelling reforms

Deodhekar has tried to simplify the established English spelling system, which is a very complicated and difficult task. He has done much in the field as is clear in his booklet ‘LOJIKON’. Many of his thoughts and suggestions are very valuable and could be put to practice, and need very thoughtful consideration. Many of his suggestions are acceptable but some relevant points seem to have escaped his notice and some points cannot be agreed with. Deodhekar has suggested several changes in the orthography of the English language. Words are composed of vowel and consonant letters. When a study for simplifying spellings is undertaken, it automatically follows that both vowels and consonants must be taken for consideration. While Deodhekar’s LOJIKON examines consonants in great detail it does not tackle vowels in great depth, except for minimum adjustments. According to Deodhekar, all the rules stated above will not only help to simplify the English spelling system but also regularise it on a large scale. Deodhekar has in his own way tried to make the alphabet more phonetic and believed that it should be amended in such a way that it fulfills the needs of the non native speakers for a more logical and simpler orthography. He has suggested various changes such as the dropping of certain consonants entirely from the alphabet, replacing a consonant by another consonant, dropping of doubled consonants etc. He has suggested a few changes and minor adjustments in the vowels in order that the system of English spellings may be simplified. An attempt is therefore made to submit a few suggestions on the subject.

Obviously, the ‘LOJIKON’ system may not be acceptable to the educational authorities and government in those countries where English is the native language. Deodhekar suggests that it needs to be used and popularized partially
or fully step by step. Very lightly he suggests the use of a legend that should appear above texts using the ‘LOJIKON’ system saying ‘Dhis komunikashon uzez dhe LOJIKON sistim of English speling’. Pressure might build up on the educational authorities to officially give consent for this system to be used in schools etc. and to take a serious interest in the reform of English spelling as an aid to learning the language. According to Deodhekar the logic of ‘LOJIKON’ is simple enough for anyone to follow. The question is, is ‘LOJIKON’ compatible with present spellings? Deodhekar believes that it is and the readers used to the present spelling system will have no difficulty in reading ‘LOJIKON’ because most of the letters have familiar values. Thus a word like kash (cash) or det (debt) is not at all difficult to understand. The difference in the spelling system will be slight. Deodhekar has submitted a very simplified spelling system with the hope that they may add substantially to what the English Spelling Society has collected so far and also may help them to speed up the programme.

The main features of Deodhekar’s reform proposals are as follows:

i fewer number of consonants

The current list of the letters of the alphabet includes 21 consonant letters. Deodhekar suggests that 3 of the consonant letters be dropped. Hence there will be only 18 consonant letters to be learnt by a learner of English. The letters he has suggested to be dropped are q, x and v. However he suggests that the letter x be used instead of the digraph th as in than. So in effect only two consonants are to be dropped.

ii the removal of q, x and v

Different combinations of these letters, for example, kw and wh and ks can be used as digraphs instead of the letters q and v and x respectively.

iii the final list of the consonants:

- b as in bar
- g as in get
- l as in let
- r as in run
- y as in yet
- c as in cake
- h as in hen
- m as in man
- s as in sun
- z as in zip
- d as in dear
- j as in jam
- n as in nut
- t as in tool
- f as in far
- k as in king
- p as in pen
- w as in when
Deodhekar has retained the vowel letters in the current alphabet chart but has suggested a few changes. Thus the use of the vowel letters a, e, i, o, and u can be limited to a few words where it will result in a one-to-one correspondence between the spelling and the word. Other changes like using the letters zh in measure instead of s and several other changes have also been suggested. But they do not affect the number of letters in the alphabet.

He has suggested the following changes in the English spelling system.

i The use of the existing vowel letters can be as follows:

  a - as in and, ace, rain
  e - as in pen, her, England, be, deed, eve
  i - as in it, silt, singing
  o - as in God, morn, sort
  u - as in but, put.

ii The doubling of a, i and u can be as in the following words:

  a as in paark - /pa:k/    klaark - /kla:k/    haart - /ha:t/
  i as in briid - /bri:d/    diip - /di:p/    riil - /ri:l/
  u as in buut - /bu:t/    suun - /su:n/    puul - /pu:l/

iii Certain vowels in some words can be removed as in the following:

  a as in heat, head, heard, heart, ball
  e as in little, clerk, height, glimpse
  e after the letter o in shoe, foe, toe
  i as in sir, girl, bird, shirt
  o as in go, boat, son, foe
  u as in guise, buys, suit.

iv Certain vowels in some words can be substituted, for example,

  i by y as in kind, child, Christ, blind
  oo by u as in blood, book, door
  ea by i as in heat, meal, peak
  o by au as in boat, moan, go
  au by o as in august author, fault
  u by eu as in union, die, Tuesday
  u by i as in busy, business

v The letters eu can the letter eu in words like blew and new.

vi Silent letters like a, e, i and u in the following words can be omitted:
a in beauty, head, beneath
e in heart, believe, freight
i in fruit, suit, juice
u in guarantee, guard, guess

vii  the letter ch

Deodhekhar has proposed that the digraph ch could be used only for the ch sound /ʧ/ as in church. Its use for the sound /k/ as in chemist could be stopped. Why is there no special letter in the present alphabet for the sound /ʧ/ as in chain - /ʧein/? Strangely enough, the sound has been obtained from the digraph ch. Instead of obtaining the sound /ʧ/ for the digraph ch as in church, perhaps it would be better if an entirely new phonetic symbol is created.

viii  the letter g

The current name of the letter g- /ʤ/: is misleading. To be true to its real sound the name should be changed to /g/. Not only is the name misleading but the letter g in many words is also used for the sound /ʤ/, as in age- /eʤ/, digit- /dʤitt/, fugitive- /fjuːʤitʃuːtʃi/, gem- /ʤem/, judge- /ʤʤʤ/, etc. This can be stopped and the letter g be exclusively used for its real sound /g/. At the same time the letter j can be exclusively used for the sound as in judge- /ʤʤʤ/. This suggestion is quite logical. As a result some spelling changes will be as follows:

age  = aje,
digit = dijit,
gen  = jent.

ix  the letter k

The letter k can be exclusively used for sound /k/ as in king. One undesirable thing about k is that it appears in some spellings but remains silent. For example, knee, knot, knowledge etc. As the new rule has it the silent k should be omitted. At the same time when replacing c, ch and ck with the letter k wherever there is a /k/ sound, a change in spellings will certainly follow. Thus,

cup  = kup
back = bak

Deodhekhar has suggested that the word know would be ambiguous if spelled now or no and hence the spelling can be adjusted to noe, hence also noen
(known) nue (noen). He also suggests that the ambiguity of the word knot to be spelled as (not) has to be accepted, as it is not a very frequently used word. The researcher believes that when Deodhkar has suggested that silent letters are dropped and ambiguity removed, how can these exceptions be accepted? In the words noe and noen the vowel letter e has no purpose so its retention cannot be accepted in the framework of Deodhkar’s proposals.

x the letter q

This letter cannot exist in the spelling of any English word, currently in use without the help of the vowel u. Thus: quake, queen, query, quote etc. This makes q a combination of two sounds, as in actual practice it is q+u. This sound can also be obtained by combining the letters k and w. Thus these four words can be written as kwake, kween, kwery, kwote respectively. Therefore, q can be omitted from the current English alphabet and the digraph kw can replace it. The researcher however wonders if it is necessary to replace one consonant by two.

xi the letters s, sh, z

Deodhkar suggests that the digraph sh be exclusively used for the sound /ʃ/ as in shine - /ʃain/, machine- /məʃi:n/, pension - /ˈpensən/ etc. In other words wherever a letter is pronounced with a /ʃ/ sound, the digraph sh can be used. This may give rise to some peculiar looking spellings like nashon – nation, shugar – sugar, speshal – special, oshan – ocean etc. Currently the letter s produces three sounds: /s/ as in sun - /sʌn/, /z/ as in the plural s in dogs - /dɒgz/ and /ʃ/ as in sugar- /ˈʃægər/. Deodhkar suggests that the letter z be used wherever the word has the /z/ sound as in his /hɪz/. This change might result in some awkward looking words like result-результ, raise-raise, etc. However it may be accepted by most people. The letter s in plural nouns like eyes, bags, dogs, tubes, mangoes etc. is pronounced as /s/ by many Indians unlike the naïve speakers who pronounce the letter s in these words as /z/.
the letters th and dh

According to British RP the digraph th is pronounced in two ways. They are as follows: The sound /θ/ as in think = /θŋk/ and the sound /ð/ as in this - /ðɪs/. Deodhekar suggests that the digraph th as in think could be retained but the digraph th as in then can be replaced by the digraph dh. Thus words like that, this, though etc would be spelled as dhat, dhis and dho respectively. As he himself had admitted this change could affect many frequently used words. This may not be acceptable to many people.

the ‘gh’ problem

Deodhekar suggests that the ‘gh’ in many words like sight, though, cough and rough be dropped as it is silent in these words. Sometimes it may be necessary to substitute a vowel or a consonant. Thus the spelling changes would be as follows sight = siet, night = niet, cough – kof etc. It may be logical to drop the ‘gh’ but the spelling change after the ‘gh’ is dropped seems to be quite unacceptable especially the words siet and niet.

the letter x

This is another consonant letter with two sounds k and x as in ox-/ɒks/. As the sound can be obtained by the digraph ks, x can be safely removed from the present alphabet. Somehow it seems to be quite appropriate to use a single letter for a sound rather than a digraph. One can easily accept the letter x as a symbol of a sound which is a combination of the letters k and s.

the letters zh

Deodhekar has suggested that the digraph zh should be used instead of the vowel letter s in words like pleasure and measure. The word measure is pronounced as /mezə/. The letter s is pronounced as /z/ and r in the final position is not articulated. Deodhekar proposes that measure be pronounced as /meʒər/. This change if accepted would greatly benefit Indian learners. Many learners find it difficult to articulate that word and substitute it with /dʒ/. However it would be quite difficult to know the difference between measure and major, if both are to be pronounced and spelled in a similar manner as: mezher
Doubled Consonants

Deodhekar has suggested that doubled consonants in certain words should be discontinued but they can be retained if it results in ambiguity. Thus, if caning and canning are spelled in the same manner i.e. caning it will result in ambiguity. In English doubled consonants prevail in several words as in account, affair, addition, allow, announce, appoint, dotted, begged, etc. The researcher believes that doubled consonants can be retained as it does make a difference in pronunciation.

the letter g

Deodhekar suggests that after dropping the silent g from the word sign, the letter e should be added at the end of the word and not inserted in between as it is unscientific. The word sign should have the letter e at the end of the word. Thus, sign can be written as sien. The suggestion regarding the dropping of the letter g is quite logical but perhaps it would be more appropriate to have the vowel letter after n. Thus, sign = sine.

the letter l

Deodhekar has suggested that the letter a can substitute the letter l in words like calm and balm where the letter l is silent. The idea can be extended to other similar words where the letter a is followed by a silent letter. Accordingly the words, are, bar, dark, clerk etc. can be spelt as aar, baar, daark, claark etc. He adds that it would be a good idea to remove the letter a in the word talk and substitute it with o in place of a and l. Thus talk = tok. The researcher doubts whether this would be acceptable to many people, because of the strange looking spellings.

the letter s

Deodhekar’s suggestion regarding the removal of s from the word isle does not affect the pronunciation of the word. Thus the word isle could be written as ile. This seems to be quite logical and it may also find acceptance with the general public. But that is not the case with island. After removing s from the word island, the letter i in the word i.e., iland cannot produce the name like sound /aɪ/
required to suit the pronunciation. It is possible that most people might pronounce the word *land* as /iːlɔnd/ rather than /aɪlɔnd/. According to Deodhekar, under the circumstances *i* can be replaced by the letter *y* and the spelling can be *yland*. According to the researcher this looks quite awkward and it may not be acceptable to most people.

Section 2

5.6 Phadke’s spelling reforms

G.V Phadke was born in 1912 in Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra. He was deeply interested in Sanskrit grammar and published several monographs on this subject. He was very interested in the subject of spelling reforms in English. He examined the rules which governed the orthography of English and carried out independent, minor research work on the subject. Phadke was highly critical of the orthography of English and compiled a lot of material to prove that it was very illogical and ambiguous. He has published several monographs on this subject too and has worked for more than 50 years on the subject. He is a member of the Simplified Spelling Society and regularly corresponds with them.

The researcher had the pleasure of meeting Phadke several times and was very fortunate to listen to his views and suggestions for spelling reforms especially in the Indian and global contexts. Phadke spoke to the researcher at great length about the problems of the English orthography, and his proposals for spelling reform. Phadke is 85 years old now but his interest in spelling reforms has not diminished. In fact the last time the researcher met him he had fresh insights to offer on the subject, which according to him would make English easier to learn especially for non-native learners. In 2002 he published a monograph entitled *Revised English Spelling System: A New Proposal*.

Phadke is a very staunch supporter of spelling reform and has suggested various changes and amendments that can be made to make the English orthography simpler especially for non-native learners of the language. He believed that it was necessary to simplify English spellings and it was sufficiently obvious that while
constructing the current spellings, definite rules and /or scientific methods were not followed. He wrote,

It is extensively realized that the current English spelling system is unscientific at many places and also unintelligible to many people.

G.V. Phadke 2000:1

In a letter to Phadke, Paul Fletcher of the Simplified Spelling Society wrote that the society was anxious to build up relations with the sub-continent where so many people speak English as a second language or are learning it as a foreign language. He wrote that Phadke should make it quite clear as to whether his proposals aim primarily to improve the spelling or to reform it radically and make it more phonetic. He commented that Phadke had proposed quite some radical changes yet he showed a certain conservatism which was not evident among other would be reformers.

Phadke was very critical about the current orthography. According to him, letters of the English alphabet have names, sounds and letters. The letter b as in bat has a name bee - /bi:/ and it has a sound /b/ as in bat. In the same way, w as in war has the name doublew - /dablju:/ and the letter w and so on. He believed that the existing arrangement of the English alphabet was deficient, as there was no consonance between the letters, the sounds and the names. For example the letter g has the sound like the letter j - /dʒ/ in germ - /dʒɜːm/, while in get it has the sound /g/ - /get/. The letter c has the sound /s/ in cinder - /ˈsɪndər/ and /k/ in cat - /ˈkæt/. The letter h has the name 'etch' - /ɛtʃ/ but the sound /h/ as in hat - /hæt/. Thus the letter g has the name jee - /dʒiː/ but the sound /ɡ/; the letter c has the name sea - /siː/ but the sound /k/ as in the word cat and the letter w has the name doublew /dʌbljuː/ but the sound /w/.

Phadke believes that the main defect in English is the practice of obtaining more than one sound from one letter. All his suggestions have their origins in his belief that there should be a proper and logical way of spelling the words of the language. According to him, sometimes there is no rationality in spelling a word.
in a particular way. This causes many errors. He feels that one of the reasons as to why English orthography is so complicated and difficult for learners is that there is no one to one correspondence between the spelling and the sound it represents. He believes that the present arrangement of spellings is deficient, as it is unscientific from the point of view of the source of the oral sounds. He suggests that every letter of the alphabet should have a name that is in consonance with the letter when it is said in isolation. For example the letter w is uttered as **dublew** - /dʌblju:/ in isolation but when it is a part of a word it changes its sound. Thus the letter w is pronounced as /v/ in the word **which** - /wɪʃ/. Phadke suggests that changes be made so that there is one to one correspondence between the letter and the sound it represents.

5.7 Phadke’s new alphabet chart

According to Phadke’s new alphabet chart there are 20 consonants and 6 vowels. As far as consonants are concerned, he has omitted four letters, q, v, w and x and introduced three new letters. According to him there was a need to introduce the new letters because it should never happen that letters used in speech or writing have no place in the alphabet. Thus, in the current orthography sounds like /θ/ as in **think** and /ð/ as in **then** are not represented by any symbol. But Phadke has introduced two new symbols in his alphabet chart to represent these sounds. He also believes that every letter should have three aspects: sound, letter figure and name. For example, the letter b in **bat** has a name **bee** - /bɪ:/ and it has a sound /b/ as in **bat**. In the same way, w as in **war** has the name **dublew** - /dʌblju:/ and the letter w and so on. But in the current orthography there was no consonance between name letter and sound. According to him, in order to evolve a revised English spelling system there should be correspondence between sound and letters.

Several other foreign reformers have suggested that there should be more consonance between sound, letter-figure and name. According to many reformers one of the reasons for mispronouncing a word is the lack of such a consonance.
Phadke’s new alphabet chart for consonants is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>/bi:/</td>
<td>/b/ as in bit-/bit/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>/si:/</td>
<td>/s/ as in sun-/sun/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>/di:/</td>
<td>/d/ as in deep-/di:p/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>/ef/</td>
<td>/f/ as in fat-/fæt/</td>
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<td>/etʃ/</td>
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</tr>
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<td>/kei/</td>
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<td>t</td>
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<td>/t/ as in top-/tɒp/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>/jʊu/</td>
<td>/y/ as in yes-/ʃes/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>/zu:/</td>
<td>/z/ as in zink-/zɪŋk/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ɾ</td>
<td>/heɪ/</td>
<td>/h/ as in hat-/hæt/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ɋ</td>
<td>/θ/</td>
<td>/θ/ as in thin-/θɪn/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>/ðʊu/</td>
<td>/ð/ as in that-/ðæt/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5.1

According to Phadke, the English orthography should have the following 14 vowel sounds: /ɑ/ for the letter a as in about, /æ/ for a as in at, /a:/ for a as in are, /ɪ/ for i as in it, /ɨt/ for ea as in eat, /u/ for u as in pull, /u:/ for oo as in pool, /e/ for e as in pen, /ɛt/ for ai as in pain, /eə/ for ai as in paisa, /ɔ:(GIE) for o as in boat and ou as in bout, /ɔt/ for o as in boy, and y pronounced as /aɪ/ as in my. The letter y appears to be like a vowel but it is different. None of the 5 vowel
letters of the current orthography can produce it. Therefore the consonant y is
made to improvise as a vowel to obtain the sound /at/ from it as in my /maɪ/.

Phadke’s new alphabet chart for vowels is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>/æ/</td>
<td>/æ/ as in about-'əbaut/, an- /æn/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>/ɛ/</td>
<td>/ɛ/ as in pen-/pen/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>/ai/</td>
<td>/aɪ/ as in pit-/pit/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>/ɔu/</td>
<td>/ɔ/ as in boy-/bɔɪ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>/ju:/</td>
<td>/ʊ/ as in but-/bʊt/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>/jɔu/</td>
<td>/aɪ/ as in sky-/skæɪ/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5.2

Phadke has also considered the problems that several Indians as well as other
learners from the Indian sub continent and the Afro-Asian countries face when
learning English. He believes that certain symbols should be changed and
substituted by others which reflect the pronunciation of the word which need not
be strictly according to British RP. An analysis of his reform proposals reveals
that many of the changes he has suggested in the orthography of English reflects
the pronunciation of non-native speakers. Many of them may not be accepted by
native speakers but there are also some very logical solutions which he has
suggested in his reform proposals to remove several irregularities in the
orthography of English.

Phadke has suggested reforms in both the consonants as well as vowels. Many of
the changes reflect the pronunciation of most educated Indians, in whose speech
the mother tongue interference is reflected.
5.8 Phadke’s spelling proposals

5.8.1 Consonants

The changes that Phadke has suggested in the consonant letters are as follows. He has also made other necessary changes in the spellings of the words.

a Substituting one consonant or consonant cluster with another consonant or consonant cluster.

i the letter c

The letter c is sometimes pronounced as s. This makes it difficult for some learners to know whether the words beginning with the letter c are to be pronounced with a /s/ sound as in city - /sti/ or with a /k/ sound as in cut - /kʌt/.

Phadke proposes that the letter c be used to produce the /s/ sound as in sun - /sʌn/.

Thus, c should replace s wherever it is pronounced with a /s/ sound.

sun = cun
is = ic
dogs = dogc

ii the letter s

Since s would be written as c the letter s can be used for the sh sound /ʃ/ as in shut - /ʃʌt/

sharp = saarp
shop = sop
cherish = heris.

The digraph sh can thus be cancelled. The name of the letter s is /es/. It can be changed to /ɪʃ/

iii the letter d

The use of the letter d should be for the sound /d/ as in dog - /dɒg/. The letter d is pronounced as /dʒ/ as in educate - /ɛdʒuˈkeɪt/. Instead, in words like educate, gradual, immediate etc d should be pronounced with a /d/ sound not a /dʒ/ sound as it is especially in the Indian sub continent. In some words the letter d just before the letter g is silent. Thus edge is pronounced as /ɛdʒ/. It should then also be written as ej. Other spelling changes are:

judge = /dʒʌdʒ/ = juːdʒ
lodge = /loʊdʒ/ = loʊdʒ
the letter g
The letter g should be pronounced only as /g/ as in /get/. The name can be changed from /dʒiː/ to /get/. Its sound can be /g/ as in the first phoneme in gate /get/. It’s use in words like gem - /dʒem/ and giant - /dʒaɪənt/ can be stopped and the letter j can be used in its place.
Thus,
gate = geit
guard = gaad but
gem = jem
giant = jyant

the letter h
The letter h can replace the digraph ch as in church i.e., ch = h. Hence the digraph ch can be cancelled.
Thus,
church = hurh
cheque = hek
change = hanje
For the consonant letter h as in hand a new letter can be introduced whose figure is ∩
Thus,
Heart = ∩aart
who = ∩oo
his = ∩ic
A new letter is therefore created with the name /heɪ/ and the figure ∩. The letter h is silent in the words hour and honest. It should be retained in hour to differentiate it from our but it should be removed from honour as it is silent.
Thus,
honest = onect
honour = onur

One to one correspondence between letters and their sounds.

the letter j
The letter j can have only one sound /dʒ/ as in jam-/dʒæm/.

the letter k
The letter k can have only one sound /k/ as in king. Relative spelling changes are:
cup = kup
scholar = skolar

iii the letter t

There can be only one sound of t, /t/ as in ten-/ten/ and tin-/tin/ For example, in the word match /mætʃ/ the letter t is silent and in factual, /fæktʃəl/ the letter t has a /tʃ/ sound. These should be written as they are pronounced.

Thus,
situation = cihuasun
actual = akhual

c Removal of four letters from the alphabet

The following four letters can be removed from the alphabet: q, v, w and x. According to Phadke, these letters are unscientific and unsuitable. Each of the letters is a combination of more than one sound which causes the greatest amount of confusion in the learner's mind. For example, the letter q is a combination of the letters k and u, while x is a combination of k and x. Hence these letters can be removed from the alphabet. The letter q is too weak and it needs a vowel u to produce its sound as in quake and quality. The sound of the letter q as in quake can be obtained by using the digraph ku. Thus words beginning with q could be written as follows:

quality = kuoliti
quench = kuenh

The sound of the letter v is composed of the letters w and h. Sometimes the letter w takes the place of the letter v. Hence both v and w must be removed from the alphabet. Thus v will be replaced by u as in the word vacancy which will be spelled as uekuncy.

Thus,
vain = ein
vast = aact

In the existing system w has the name dublew (dʌbljuː). Compared to the other names of the letters this name sounds rather lengthy. The letter and the sound don't correspond. Hence, Phadke has suggested that the letter w should be written as u and it should be called, not dublew, but way - /wei/.
Thus,
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{window} & = \text{uindau} \\
\text{wash} & = \text{uos}
\end{align*}
\]
A problem arises when the letter u the proposed substitute for w is followed by the same letter u. The remedy is to put an apostrophe mark ['] just after the first u letter to distinguish it from the letter u which follows it. The sound of the letter x can be obtained by the use of the digraph ks. The relative spelling changes are as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{box} & = \text{boks} \\
\text{axe} & = \text{aks} \\
\text{relax} & = \text{rilaks}
\end{align*}
\]
There are some words which have the letter x which is pronounced like the letter z. They should be written as they are pronounced.

Thus,
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{luxury} & = \text{lagzhari} \\
\text{auxiliary} & = \text{ogzilari}
\end{align*}
\]
It's obvious that Phadke has suggested the use of the letters ‘gzh’ in luxury because that's how he pronounces the word. Thus though luxury is pronounced as /lɑkʃəri/, Phadke has suggested that it be pronounced as /ləgʒərɪ/.

d  Removal of certain digraphs from the alphabet

There are several consonant digraphs, which can be removed. They are as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ck} & \text{ as in back} \\
\text{dg} & \text{ as in judge} \\
\text{ph} & \text{ as in pharmacy} \\
\text{sc} & \text{ as in science} \\
\text{sch} & \text{ as in schedule} \\
\text{th} & \text{ as in than}
\end{align*}
\]
Phadke has suggested that these digraphs be replaced by more phonetic symbols which he has mentioned in his spelling reforms. Thus, the use of these digraphs can be discontinued.

e  Inclusion of three new consonants

i  ⊥ can be the letter or symbol for th as in think. Its name would be ith. It can replace the digraph th pronounced as /θ/
Thus,
thin = lin
thought = lot

ii x can be the letter or symbol for th as in the first two letters of the word though. Its name can be though. It can replace the digraph th pronounced as /ð/.
Thus,
then = xen
they = xe

iii ∩ can be the letter or symbol for h as in hen. Its name would be hay.
Thus,
hat = ∩ at
harp = ∩ aarp

The spellings of the following words would change.
thatch = ∩ ah, thrash = ∩ ras, health = ∩ e ∩
this = xic, those = xauce

f Retention of some old spellings

Phadke suggests that some spellings be retained out of respect for the special English style and tradition. Thus words which have the letters ‘igh’ as in sigh, high can be retained without any changes. The sound also obtained from the letters ‘igh’- /æt/ in sigh - /sat/ can also be obtained from the letter y functioning as a vowel as in words like fly, my, try - /flæt/, /mat/, /træt/ etc. This practice can continue and there need not be any changes in the spellings of these words. Phadke also believes that in some words like lie - /læt/ and cried - /kraíd/ this sound i.e. ‘igh’ - /æt/ has been obtained by the vowel letters i and e. In such words he suggests that the vowel letters be replaced by ‘igh’.

Thus,
die = digh
dye = digh

The same spelling for both die (as in a game) and dye, according to Phadke, does not matter as the spelling could be understood through the context. However die as to lose one’s life can be written as dy.
Retention of the letters ‘ight’ as in might, light.
There can be retention of the letters ‘eight’ as in height, but not in eight, straight and weight as their pronunciations are not like might - /matt/.
They would be written as: eit, streit and weit.

The letters ‘ough’ as in bough, cough and dough etc. can be retained too just like ‘aught’ and ‘ought’ as in caught, taught and nought. These spellings can remain because they are very common and widely used and any change in these spellings will result in a lot of confusion.

The letters ‘tion’ in the third syllable of condition and the letters ‘ture’ as in the third syllable of furniture can be retained. But the letters ‘s/session’ can be replaced by the letters ‘sun’.

Thus,
decision = desisun
occasion = okesun
passion = pasun

5.8.2   Vowels
Phadke suggests the following changes in the spellings of the English language with reference to the vowel letters a, e, i, o and u.

a sound and letter correspondence
i the letter a

From the vowel letter a, according to Phadke, presently five sounds are obtained as in account, man, car, ball and April. Only two sounds should be obtained, a as in about - /oʊˈbaut/ and as in man - /mæn/.
The following sounds of the letter a can be changed.
a- /a:/ as in car - /kaːr/ can become aa - kaar
a- /ə/ as in ball - /bɔl/ can become o – bol
a- /eɪ/ as in April - /eɪprəl/ can become e – epril
The new addition in the orthography would be the digraph aa.
Thus,
car = kaar
park = paark
bar = baar
the letter e

Only two sounds should be obtained, /e/ as in pen- / pen / and / 3 : / as in her / h 3 : /. However, e - / h in the first syllable in England -/ɪŋlənd/ should be retained. The following sounds of the letter e can be changed:

- e /a : / as in clerk -/ kla : k / can become klaark
- e /i : / as in bee -/bi : / can become ii – bii

The new addition would be ii.

Phadke also refers to the magic power of the vowel letter e, where it is silent, distant, but active as in gate, these, file, joke and tune respectively. The vowel letter e has a magic power. It enables principle vowels to produce name like sounds e.g. the letter a which has the sound /ei/ in gate, and the letter e which has the sound / i / in these. This also occurs with the letter i which has the sound / ai / in file, the letter o which has the sound / o u / in joke and the letter u which has the sound / u / in tune.

the letter i

Only one sound should be obtained, /i/ as in pit and hit etc. is retained. / ai / as in island -/aɪlənd/ can be spelled as yland. Thus fine = fyne, mine = myne, line = lyne etc. The major change would be y. Other sounds of the letter i as in bird, child, kind, island etc can be stopped. The use of the letter y for the sound /ai/ as in eye is quite confusing and hence can be discontinued. In words like wise and rise the vowel letter i can be changed to y.

Thus,

- boil = boyl
- nile = nyle

the letter o

Only one sound should be obtained. /o/ as in God- / god / is retained. o- as in do-/du : /can become uu – duu. o as in monday-/mændəl/, gold-/geuld/ and boat-/beut/ can be written as maundey, gauld and baut respectively.

Phadke has suggested the same digraph au for monday, gold and boat. Obviously he pronounces the vowel sound in these three words in the same
way when actually the vowel sound in gold and boat and the first syllable of monday are different. Thus there is a new digraph au instead of o.

v the letter u

Only two sounds should be obtained. u -/u/ as in put-/put/ and u - /ʌ/ in but-/bat/. The other sounds of u can be stopped.

Thus,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buy</td>
<td>bai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>business</td>
<td>bizniz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bury</td>
<td>beri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wherever the vowel letter u is silent it can be removed from that word.

Thus,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>build</td>
<td>bild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guide</td>
<td>gide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guard</td>
<td>gaard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The use of the vowel letter u in words like buy, business, busy, bury and mutiny can be stopped.

vi the letter y

The letter y produces two sounds as in empty-/empt/ and sky-/skai/. It also has the power of the magic e, in words like many, deny, tidy, holy, duty etc. It has influenced the pronunciation in these words. The main vowels in these words i.e., a, e, i, o and u produce their name like sounds (fig.5.1) because of the influence of the letter y. Thus, man = /mæn/ but many = /men/. In the word many the letter a has its name like sound. The letter y in brandy, city, body, study, truly etc has not changed the pronunciation of the initial letters in these words. Thus stud - /stʌd/ and study /stʌdi/. The letter i can be replaced by the letter y in words like boil, wise and rise.

Thus,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wise</td>
<td>wyse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rise</td>
<td>ryse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boil</td>
<td>boyl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

vii the letter w

w is a consonant letter but functions as a vowel letter. It needs to be preceded by the letters e, a or o in words like paw, dew, bow etc. Thus w is
as good as the vowel letter u. So Phadke proposes that the vowel letter u replace the letter w wherever necessary. Thus, new = neu, bow = bau etc.

b  Doubling of the vowels a, e, i and u in certain words:
   Thus,
   a as in car - /ka:/ = aa as in kaar
   e as in street - /strɪːt/ = ee as in cstreet
   i as in deep - /dɪ:p/ = ii as in diip
   u as in rule - /ruːl/ = uu as in ruul and guuc as in goose.

c  the use of certain vowel digraphs to be stopped
   Phadke has also suggested that the use of certain vowel digraphs be stopped. Thus, the use of the following digraphs can be discontinued:
   oe as in toe          oa as in boat
   ea as in learn       au as in fault
   ae as in aerate      ou as in trouble
   ow as in bow         us as in due
   ui as in build

d  the use of long vowels
   Four vowels in English have long sounds. They are a, e, i and u. Thus, the letter a is pronounced with a short sound as in sack - /sæk/ and with a long sound as in sake - /sæk/. The vowel letter e has a short sound as in met - /met/ and a long sound as in bread - /breːd/ (GIE). The vowel letter i has a short sound as in pill - /pɪlj/ and a long sound as in peel - /piːl/ and the vowel letter u has a short sound as in pull - /pʊl/ and a long sound as in pool - /pʊl/. Mr. Phadke believes that this is unsuitable. It’s preferable to have elongation by doubling the vowel letters. Thus pool = puul. Phadke suggests that it may be laid down as a general rule that long sounds be obtained by doubling of the vowel letters. He has also suggested that dark be written as daark. Currently a is not doubled in any word. In fact for both the forms of a only one single sound is used. Thus car and man both have just one vowel letter a where a in car is a long vowel and a in man is a short vowel, the same vowel letter a is used to represent both the sounds the long and the short one. It is suggested that this practice be dispensed with. Thus kar = kaar.
The vowel letter e is doubled in some words such as **ee** in **deep**. However it does not look appropriate in terms of the general rule discussed just above. Though e has both the short and the long sounds as in England - /ɪendl/ and evil/-i:vɪl/ respectively the sound /e/ obtained from the vowel letter e is more common than the sounds /ɪ/ and /iː/. By doubling the vowel letter e in deep the sound /iː/ and not /e/ is obtained. Therefore the doubled e can be used for words like **bread**, **head** etc, where the e is slightly elongated. By doubling the vowel e therefore the long sound as in **head** and **bread** are obtained and not necessarily as in the word **deep**.

Thus the spelling changes would be as follows:

- **tread** = treed
- **straight** = ctreeet
- **great** = greet

Obtaining the long sound of the letter i as in **deep** will probably be, in terms of the general rule quoted just above by doubling i.

Relative spelling changes will be as follows:

- **deep** = diip
- **street** = ctriit
- **reach** = riih

Phadke obviously pronounces **bread** and **head** not as /bred/ and /heɪd/ respectively, as in British RP where the vowel sound /e/ is a short vowel but as /breːd/ and /heːd/ His pronunciation of both words with an elongated e is typical of the Indian English (GIE) spoken by most Indians. It would be incorrect to consider the words **tread**, **straight**, **neigh** and **great**, as words with an elongated e. The relative spelling changes would make no sense in these circumstances. The vowel letter o as in **foot** is doubled to obtain the sound /u/. Instead the vowel letter u itself can be doubled. Thus **foot** = **fuut**.

The spelling change will be as follows:

- **boot** = buut
- **whom** = uum
- **wool** = vuul
5.9 Analysis of Phadke’s spelling reforms

i Number of letters in the alphabet

According to Phadke’s spelling proposals three new consonants are to be introduced into the alphabet. They are as in **thick-/-lɪk**, **x** as in **that-/-x æt/** and **ɔ** as in **hen-/-ɛn/** But he has also suggested dropping three consonants **q, v, w** and substituting the **x** as in **box** with the letters **ks**, thus, **box = boks**. The symbol **x** will remain in the alphabet but it would represent **th /θ/** as in **that-/-ðæt/**. So, that should bring the total number of consonants in the chart to 21. This is the same number of consonant letters in the existing alphabet.

ii Only two sounds of the vowel letter **a** and **u**

Only two sounds of the vowel letter **a** as in accompany - /əˈkɒmpənt/ and **man - /mæn/** are to be obtained. Other uses of the vowel letter **a** are to be discontinued. Only two sounds as in **nut - /næt/** and **put - /pʊt/** are to be obtained from the vowel letter **u**. The use in vogue for the other sounds are to be discontinued.

iii Only one sound of **e, i and o**

Only one sound of the vowel letter as in **pen /pɛn/** is to be obtained. The sound of the letter **e** as in **her - /h3:ɛr/** and **England - /ˈɛnɡlənd/** can be retained as a special case because of current extensive use. All other sounds of **e** are to be discontinued.

Only one sound of **i** as in **pin - /pɪn/** is to be obtained. All the other sounds obtained from the vowel letter **i** are to be stopped.

Only one sound of the vowel letter **o** as in **God** is to be obtained. Other uses of **o** are to be discontinued. A new digraph for the digraph **oa** as in **boat**, a new digraph **au** is to be formed.
iv  Doubling of vowels

Phadke suggests that the long vowel sound be obtained by doubling the more appropriate vowels. For example the long sound as in fool can be obtained by doubling the vowel u. Thus fool = fuuul, deep = diiip.

v  The magic power of e

Phadke suggests that the vowel letter e be retained though it may be silent in some words. This is because e has a magic power by which principal vowels produce their name like sounds. Thus, the vowels a, e, i, o and u in the words gate, these, files, joke and tune respectively, have their name like sounds. He has suggested a number of changes in both vowels and consonants and in the spelling of several words. He has not introduced any new vowels but has (according to him) used them in a more phonetic manner. He has also suggested doing away with some digraphs. Where consonants are concerned he has proposed introducing three new letters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/ą/</td>
<td>thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/oʊ/</td>
<td>than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/æ/</td>
<td>hen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He has suggested removing four consonants:

- q (to be replaced by ku),
- w (to be replaced by u )
- x (to be replaced by ks)
- v ( to be replaced by u )

He suggests that certain features of the English language be retained for the sake of the style of the language. For instance he wishes to retain the letters ‘ough’ and ‘igh’ in words like high and cough respectively. However words with the letters ‘ough’ and ‘igh’ are often the first irregularities which reformers seize upon to emphasize the need for reforms in the orthography of the English language as many errors in spellings occur in words like bough and cough.

The ‘magic e’, which changes prim to prime, both words very different in pronunciation is also unique. It is silent and enables the name like sound of the principal vowels to be produced, for example gate, these, file, joke and tune. He
suggests that though the vowel letter in words like these is silent it should be retained.

According to Phadke’s reforms the foreign learner has to learn different ways of writing i and e as in e, ee, and ii in the words pen - /pen/, breed - /bred/ and diip - /di:p/. He doesn’t discuss many of the diphthongs like /iə/ and /ua/. He suggests that the use of certain digraphs like au among others be stopped. Although many foreign learners of English find v, w and y a little difficult to understand, most reformers prefer to leave them as they are. However Phadke has made some changes in the use of these letters.

The consonant letter c has been exclusively kept aside for use for s as in sun = cun, and all sounds of /s/ in the original alphabet. Thus all words which have a /s/ sound will have the letter c instead of s. According to Phadke, the confusion among foreign speakers of the language regarding words like cease, cinder etc will considerably be reduced. However the researcher is unable to understand why the letter c has to be used for the sound /s/ when there is already a letter for this sound. Instead it would be better to use the letter s instead of the letter c in words which begin with a c letter but have a /s/ sound. Since s would be written as c what about the letter s? It would stand for the digraph sh with the name /ʃ/ according to Phadke. Thus shock = sok, sharp = saarp. The possibility of mistakes in spellings would be considerably reduced, as there will be one letter for one sound. Thus,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{baskets} &= \text{baacket} & \text{since} &= \text{cinc}, \\
\text{justice} &= \text{juctic} & \text{mars} &= \text{marc} \\
\text{hence} &= \text{henc} & \text{is} &= \text{ic}
\end{align*}
\]

A question does arise in one’s mind. Why not have s standing for the s sound and c for the /k/ sound? This way instead of c being used for s and s being used for /k/ there will be only one change i.e., c can replace the digraph sh and the letter s can replace the letter c where so pronounced. All the words which have a c and which are pronounced with the /k/ sound will have the letter k instead of the letter c. For example the letter c in cake can be replaced by the letter k. Thus, cake = kek. This suggestion would certainly be welcomed by many people.
In the prevailing spelling system the letter a has five sounds, as in mad, car, account, ball and april. The reforms proposed by Mr. Phadke have only two sounds of a, i.e. /ə/ as in account and /æ/ as in mad. For the remaining sounds he has proposed changes. Thus for the sound of the letter a- /a:/ as in car - /ka:/ he has proposed the doubling of the letter a as car = kaar. The letter a would be written as bol in ball, and as e in april (eril). All these changes are obviously more phonetic and hence may be easier to remember by non-native speakers of English. However the letter a still has two sounds as in account and mad there still is a small amount of confusion regarding both these sounds. Mr. Phadke doesn't seem to have any solution to this problem.

Presently five sounds are also obtained from the letter e. They are /ə/, /æ:/, /u/, /i:/ and /e/, as in her, clerk, England, be and pen respectively. Phadke has suggested that the short /e/ sound as in pen be the only sound obtained from the vowel letter e. The sound of e, /æ:/ as obtained from clerk can be discarded. It can be written as klaark. Obviously the needs of the non-native speakers have been considered. A native speaker would not articulate r after a vowel and in the final position. The vowel letter e in be would be written as bee as it is an elongated version of the vowel letter e. Thus the vowel letter e would be doubled (ee) to show the /i:/ sound. Here there is a possibility of confusion between words like be and bee. Phadke has suggested that it would be better if the single e remains in words like England, be and her due to its extensive use. There seems to be no logical reason for their retention. Phadke has also suggested that the long vowel sound /eI/ as in pain be obtained by doubling of e.

Thus,
pain = peen,
fail = feel
they = thee.

The researcher believes that it would be a little difficult for most people to adjust to this change. Since the word fail would be spelt as feel, Phadke, for the word feel, has suggested the doubling of the vowel letter i instead of the vowel letter e. Thus, feel = fiil. This can be a little confusing for all learners of the language.
According to the proposed reforms the sound *i* as in /pin/ should be the only sound to be obtained from the vowel letter *i*. The use of *i* as in words like *sir, child, island* has to be stopped. Instead, *island* would be written as *ylend, child* as *hyld* and *sir* as *car!* It might take some time for most people to get used to these changes especially *sir = car*. The doubling of the vowel letter *e* in *deed* would be replaced by doubled *i*. Thus *deed = diid*. This is very logical and easy to grasp, it makes sense and is also easier to understand. Thus *meet = miit, key = kii, neat = niit* etc. The letter *y* is pronounced in two ways as in *city* and *my*, when used as a vowel. The letter *y* replaces the vowel letter *i* in *tire, idle* and *island*. In words like *yes* and *yellow* the letter *y* is written as it is.

Thus,

\[
\begin{align*}
yes & = \text{yes} \\
tire & = \text{tyre} \\
island & = \text{ylend}
\end{align*}
\]

Many sounds can be obtained from the vowel letter *u* for e.g. *buy, busy, bury, fuel* etc. In each of these cases the letter *u* has a different sound. Phadke believes that the spellings of such words can be changed. The spellings of words such as *use, cube, fume* etc. can be changed to *euse, ceub* and *feum* respectively. In other words, the letter *u* is used to form a digraph *eu*. Phadke has suggested that the letter *u* should be doubled, where it is articulated as a long vowel. Thus, in words like *boot, tool* and *food* the letters ‘oo’ should be replaced by the letters *uu*. Thus, *boot = buut, tool = tuul* and *food = fuud*. Phadke believes that, the doubling of the letter *o* is unscientific as it is not phonetically in consonance with the spelling. In words like, *sir, girl, work, search, learn* etc. it has been proposed that, the letter *a* should be used instead of the letters *i, o*, and *ea*. This seems to be a little ambiguous. According to Phadke there seems to be no substitutes for the use of the letters *ir, or*, and *ear*, in the words *sir, work* and *learn*. The researcher believes that it may be a good idea to have spelling reforms for such words.

Phadke also suggests, that all silent letters should be scrapped e.g. *b* in *debt*. However, he suggests that, *k* in *knot* and *w* in *write* are retained because they
make clear the different meanings of relative words with and without them. For e.g. knot and not, write and right. It is suggested that, k, p and w should be dropped in words like knee, psalm and wrist as in each of the cases the first letter is redundant.

The digraph th has been extensively dealt with by Phadke. According to him, though the dictionary meaning of a digraph has been given as ‘two letters expressing but one sound, the present practice according to Mr. Phadke has three sounds obtained from the digraph th, for example, th in thank /θ/, th in them /ð/ and th in this /ð/. Strangely, Phadke has discussed the third sound of the digraph th as in this, when the IPA has recognised only two sounds of th as in thank and them. By identifying the third sound Phadke has considered the problems of the non-native speakers of the Indian sub-continent. He has also suggested that th as in thank be called ith /θ/ and the symbol of the digraph be ɹ. The second digraph th as in that would have the name ‘though’, /ðu/ and its symbol would be x. He has suggested that for the third sound of the digraph th as in this a new name or letter is not necessary. Thus, this = xic.

Phadke has considered the relationship between phonetics and orthography to a very large extent in words like luxury and leisure. Many Indian speakers would pronounce the word luxury as Phadke seems to have pronounced it too. According to him the word luxury would have to be written as lugirury and pronounced as /lʌgdʒɪri/. However, according to British RP luxury is pronounced as /lʌkʒɪri/. Many Indians substitute the sound /ʒ/ in luxury and leisure with the sound /ʃ/ in both words. Most Indians find it difficult to articulate this sound and this is one of the major causes of unintelligibility of Indian English. The native speaker may not readily accept the change in the pronunciation or the spellings.

In conclusion the researcher would like to make the following comments:
According to Phadke’s spelling reforms the first thing that has to be considered is that the number of letters in the alphabet has not changed much. It consists of 26
chars. 6 vowels a, e, i, o, u, and y and 20 consonants, b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, y, z, ñ, ñ and x.

Phadke has suggested the removal of three letters (q, v, w) from the alphabet chart and adding two new letters as in the first two letters of the word thin, and as in the first letter of the word hen. Their names would be ith - /ɪθ/ and hay - /heɪ/ respectively. The letter x would replace the digraph th as in that and its name would be though - /θuː/. The letter y would be used as a vowel and a consonant depending upon its position in the word. He has suggested that henceforth the letter s as in sun should be written as c. Thus, sun = cun. The letters sh as in shark would become s. Thus shark = saark. The digraph ch as in church would become h. Thus church = hurh. In other words, while q, x and w do not exist in Phadke’s alphabet chart, (the letter x is given a new value, that of the digraph th as in the digraph th in this) different sounds are obtained from the letters c, s and h.

He has also suggested that, v and w be removed from the alphabet and be substituted by a combination of u and or u and another vowel for example, vogue = uaug and what = uot. However both the letters are pronounced differently. According to British RP there is no /h/ sound after the sound /v/ i.e. van is pronounced as /væn/ not as vhan - /vʰæn/.

Phadke has suggested that the use of the letter d in educate be stopped and letter j be used instead, thus the spelling of educate = ejuket. But many native speakers say the word educate with a /d/ sound rather than /dʒ/ sound. It is mainly in the Indian sub-continent that the /dʒ/sound is used in words like educate and graduate. He seems to have kept the needs of the Indian speakers in mind rather than that of other foreign learners. He has also suggested that the vowel i would have only one sound as in pit. This is a very logical suggestion as it would remove any confusion in the foreign learners mind as to whether i in wine should be pronounced as /ɪ/ or as /aɪ/. He has suggested that i in wine be written as y because y has the name /wai/. He suggests that, the letter a should have two sounds, /æ/ and /ə/ as in man and accounts respectively. This is an
improvement in the spellings as the letter a in the existing orthography has five sounds.

From the analysis of Phadke’s proposals in spelling reform, it is quite clear that he has tried to introduce reforms in the orthography of English which would benefit non-native learners of the language. He has also, he had mentioned during a talk that he had with the researcher, tried to make it more phonetic keeping in mind the sound and spelling correspondences in Sanskrit and Marathi. He also mentioned that just as foreigners find it difficult to pronounce Indian words Indians find it difficult to pronounce English words. Hence there is a need for reforming the spellings and making it more phonetic.

Most of the Indian languages have a phonetic script. Hence most Indians are used to one to one correspondence between phoneme and grapheme. When they are confronted with the English orthography most of them find it difficult to either pronounce or spell the word correctly, which is one of the causes for poor language skills especially reading and writing. The pronunciation of most educated Indians does not reflect British Received Pronunciation as they are not able to articulate the sounds of British English correctly with the proper accent, stress and intonation. As a result Indian English is unintelligible to most native speakers of English. Both Deodhekar and Phadke have suggested orthographical changes that would benefit most Indians.

Why, he asked, should we Indians be compelled to pronounce the English words just like the native speakers? Why should we not have an orthography that would suit our needs? He has thus made an attempt to simplify and ‘Indianize’ the English orthography. Deodhekar on the contrary has focused more on making the orthography simpler and logical though he too did keep the needs of the non-native speakers in mind. He however did not go into too many details regarding changes in vowels. It would be worth while to explore the possibilities of an orthography Indian English.
Section 3

5.10 A comparison of the reform proposals

A comparison of the reform proposals of Deodhekar and Phadke reveals that there are many aspects of their spelling reforms which are similar and there are several differences as well. However the one significant point that stands out is the fact that both of them wished to make English simpler and easier to learn for the non native learners of English. However Phadke adopted a different approach towards spelling reforms. He wanted to Indianize it to quite a large extent, and wanted to change the orthography of English and make it more phonetic. He has also suggested three new symbols. Deodhekar on the other hand has suggested only a few changes in the vowels His focus was more on the consonants and the changes suggested by him, according to him, would also be more universally accepted because he had devised a very logical way of spelling words. A comparison of the spelling reforms suggested by Deodhekar and Phadke follows. From the comparison it is obvious that while Phadke has studied and suggested reforms among both consonants and vowels, Deodhekar’s main focus was on consonants. However he has suggested a few changes among the vowels for convenience.

5.10.1 Similarities

i replacing certain consonants

The letter **f** can replace the letters **ph** as in **phone** =**fone**.

The letter **g** can represent the sound /g/ as in **get**. Where it is pronounced with a /ʤ/ sound as in **gem** - /ʤem/, it can be replaced by the letter **j**.

The letter **k** can replace **c, ch, and ck** where these have the sound /k/ as in **car, rock and chemist**. Thus, **kar, rok and kemist**.

The letter **x** can be replaced by the letters **ks** where so pronounced. Thus **box = boks**.

ii removal of three consonants, **q, x and w** from the alphabet.

iii dropping of silent letters .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b in debt</th>
<th>d in judge</th>
<th>g in sign</th>
<th>h in honesty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>k in knee</td>
<td>l in calm</td>
<td>n in solemn</td>
<td>p in psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s in island</td>
<td>t in often</td>
<td>w in wrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
iv doubling of vowels

The word calm for example is to be written as kaam. These suggestions are more phonetic, logical and practical according to both Phadke as well as Deodhekar. The researcher believes that these changes are likely to be welcomed by most speakers of English as not only are they easily understood but also there in no ambiguity.

5.10.2 Differences

a vowels

Deodhekar has not discussed the vowels in great detail, except for some limited instances. He has mostly confined himself to the consonants unlike Phadke who has dealt with all the consonants as well as the vowels in detail.

b digraphs

i Deodhekar has proposed that the digraph ch as in chemist and character be replaced by the letter k. Thus, kemist and karekter. He has also proposed that the digraph ch be retained in words like church. Phadke on the other hand has proposed the scrapping of the digraph ch entirely and replacing it by the letter h.

ii According to the LOJIKON system the letters qu in words like quarter can be replaced by kw where so pronounced. Thus acquit = akwit, quarter = kwarter, queen = kween and quick = kwik. But qu can remain as qu in words like queue and in the word mosquito it will become moskito. Phadke has suggested the scrapping of the letter q and replacing it with k or the digraph ku. Thus spelling changes will be quay = kii, quality = kualiti and quit = kuit.

iii Deodhekar has suggested that certain consonants be replaced by the digraph sh. Thus,

s in sugar = shugar
c in machine = mashin
c in special = speshul
sch in schedule = shedule
sc in conscious = konshous
tia in negotiate = negoshiate
x in luxury = lukshury
However the researcher feels that there is no uniformity in these rules and one has to have a good command over the sound system before one can master the spelling system. One cannot have one common rule and say that the letters sh can replace s, c etc because the sound of the consonant differs from word to word. In other words one cannot generalize. Thus, if in the word machine the digraph ch is replaced by the digraph sh as in mashine ie, what about the digraph ch in church? Foreign learners have to be fully knowledgeable about the pronunciation of a word so that they can decide how to spell the word. Deodhekar has suggested that one should use one’s ear in such cases and go by only the phonetic aspect. Phadke on the other hand has suggested that the letter c be used instead of s and he has also suggested the scrapping of the digraph ch.

iv The digraphs th and dh as in thank and then. Deodhekar has suggested that the digraph th remain as it is in words like than, thin etc., However he suggests that the digraph dh can replace th in words like then, there etc. He has suggested replacing the letters tu by the digraph ch where so pronounced. Hence feature = feachure, picture = pikchure etc. But tune can remain tune. Phadke has introduced a new symbol ↓ as the th in thick-
↓/↓lk/

v Similarly the letter x can be replaced by the digraph kx as in box = boks. But the letter x in examine can be replaced by the digraph gz as in examine = egzamine. However many Indians pronounce examine as egzamine, infact some pronounce it as egzhamine i.e. with a /h/ sound. Both the reformers are in agreement about this.

vi The letters zh can be used instead of s in words like pleasure, treasure, measure etc. These words will be spelt as plezhure, treazhure and meazhure respectively. However Deodhekar has not considered the fact that the native speakers don’t pronounce it thus. They may not accept this change.
Phadke has suggested that three new consonant symbols be introduced. They are \( \mathring{\text{n}} \) for the letter \( \text{h} \), \( \downarrow \) for the digraph \( \text{th} /\theta/ \), and \( \mathring{x} \) for the digraph \( \text{th} /\theta/ \).

Changes in consonants

Deodhekhar has recommended the replacement of \( s \) by \( c \) in words which have the \( z \) sound but are spelt with a \( s \). Hence, \textbf{result} = \textbf{rezult}, \\
\textbf{raise} = \textbf{raize}, \textbf{advise} = \textbf{advize}.

However he makes exceptions for derivatives, plurals, possessive forms of names and the present tense, third person singular of verbs which mostly have a /z/ sound but are spelt with a /s/. For example, \textbf{his} is pronounced as \( z \) with a /z/ sound. Thus \textbf{dogs} = \textbf{dogz}. However some plural nouns do have a /s/ sound as \textbf{cats} = \textbf{cats}. Deodhekhar has thus suggested different rules for different words. This may create confusion for the foreign learners. The researcher believes that to avoid inconsistencies and confusion it would be advisable to have one general rule i.e. replacement of \( s \) by \( z \) wherever so pronounced.

5.11 Conclusions

It is quite obvious that, as expected, the views of spelling reformers are bound to vary. The spellings of words have not changed much in the last few years except for a few minor changes. These changes have mostly occurred in American English. The researcher believes that there may be several reasons as to why it is quite difficult to introduce reforms on a very large scale.

Firstly, the pronunciation of words varies from country to country, and within the country itself, from region to region. There are other reasons like the interference of the mother tongue which has a great impact on the way words are pronounced and consequently spelt. Obviously it would be quite difficult to tackle this problem on such a large scale. Only widespread education of a very high quality and uniformity can solve this problem. This would necessitate the overhauling of the entire educational system from the grassroot level. All this would require a great amount of planning and precision. All this would also take a lot of time. Some of the proposals suggested by Deodhekhar and Phadke are quite logical and
practical. Perhaps some of them can be gradually introduced in several Asian countries.

Another reason for the lack of enthusiasm in spelling reforms is that people have, to a certain extent, got used to some of the strange spelling like cough and tough, and are willing to put up with the other spellings difficult though them may be. Perhaps the reason lies in the fact that people don't want change especially if it would mean that they have to put in some extra effort and re-learn something they have learnt several years ago. However these views may not be held by many people. Spellings have been the subject of much discussion among students and teachers. There has always been dissatisfaction about the way words are spelled in English and many people do feel that there has to be a spelling reform. However it must be remembered that Indian English has been recognised and accepted as one of the varieties of English. Many deviations from British English at the phonological, semantic, lexical and syntactic levels have become a regular feature of Indian English. All these deviations are accepted and the variety of English spoken by most educated Indians is understood by most people belonging to different countries.

The researcher believes that it is time that the orthography of Indian English is also given some importance and reforms in the orthography of English are implemented at the earliest. The new orthography could be amended to make it have a greater phoneme-grapheme correspondence which would make it less complicated, irregular and ambiguous to learners of the language. This would go a long way in enabling foreign learners of the language to learn it more quickly and more effectively. It is hoped that this research would exert a strong catalytic influence and bring about amendments in the orthography of English.