CHAPTER - II

PHONOLOGY
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The language of the AT. has forty nine sounds only
of which thirteen are vowels and thirty six are consonants.
They are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple Vowels</th>
<th>Short</th>
<th>Long</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guttural</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>ā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palatal</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ĭ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labial</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>ū</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lingual</td>
<td>ų</td>
<td>ų</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>ŋ</td>
<td>ŋ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diphthongs</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palatal</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>ai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labial</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>au</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guttural</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>kh</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>gh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palatal</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>ch</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lingual</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>th</td>
<td>d(-)</td>
<td>dh(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>th</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>dh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labial</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>ph</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>bh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The place of articulation of a is indicated by the above chart.

Semi Vowels
- Palatal y
- Lingual r
- Dental l
- Labial v

Sibilants
- Palatal s
- Lingual ñ
- Dental s

Aspiration
- Guttural h

One pure nasal: mḥ called anusvāra, after sound.

Three voiceless spirants
- ṇ Visarjanīya
- p Jihvāmūliya
- ṛ Upadhmāniya

One palatal Ḗ and two linguals Ḍ and Ḍ do not occur even once in the AV., while the RV. contains all the three sounds together.

a :

The a is the most common sound of the AV., being about twice as frequent as all the others (vowels) taken together. According to the AV. Pr. it is obscured. According to Whitney's statement, "The a is the openest vowel," depends on a paninian rule. According to him although a
is regarded as open, it becomes obscure when operations are performed with it. It is a contradictory statement. Pāṇini never involves himself in contradiction; whenever he sees that some Āchāryas have considerable discordance on any topic then he takes the path of neutralization and never supports any one. He accepts the openness and obscureness of the a together.

ā

Generally the á is considered as an open vowel. But AV. Pr. unquestionably regarded it as the most open of all the sounds of the AV. Whole of the mouth organ comes in function when it is pronounced.

ı, ɨ :

The short ı, and long ɨ both are palatal and open vowels by nature. There is nothing peculiar in the AV to be mentioned in this respect.

u, ū :

The u, and ū both are libial and open sounds. According to AV. Pr. these are open vowels. These are two-time less than a and ā in the AV.

r, ŋ, ṭ, ṭ, ɿ :

It may be stated about the pronunciation of r and ɿ
that according to the AV. Pr. both are velar. 6

It should be noted here that ı does not differ in sound from the letter ı. It is also interesting to note that the vowel ı occurs in the derivative forms of the root ḫṣṭ, and this root occurs fifty four times in the AV. The long form of ı is not found in the AV nor elsewhere in the Sanskrit language.

e, o, ai, au :

The short diphthongs e and o are more frequent (5 or 6 times) than the long diphthongs ai and au in the AV. and the e and ai than the o and au a half more.

Generally e, o, ai, and au are open by nature. According to the AV. Pr. e and o both are very widely open. 7

Guttural sounds :

The k is the most common sound among the gutturals of the AV. In the AV. it occurs more often than all the other four sounds taken together. The ḫ of this series is found as final in a very small number of words of the AV.

The AV. Pr. mentions about the gutturals 'the base of the jaw is the producing organ'. 8 In Alen's view these are pronounced by the root of the tongue.
Palatal sounds

The č is more common in the Atharvan text than ẖ (about three times); șh occurs much less (a seventh of č) in the AV.; ȫh sound does not occur even once in the AV. and only once in the RV. It also occurs hardly six or seven times in whole of the Vedic language. The ṭ sound is also very rare in the AV., it occurs only in few words immediately before or after of the same series.

AV. Pr. observes that the palatals are pronounced through the middle of the tongue.\(^9\)

Lingual Sounds

From the internal evidence of the AV., it is evident that the linguals are never found in the beginning of the words. These are less than half of the entire number of mutes uttered in the AV.

Taken together the lingual sounds are the rarest class of mutes. In comparison with the RV linguals are more frequent in the AV. It may be noted that the Rg-Vedic ṭ becomes ḍ in the AV., e.g., ḷiḥiḷa(RV.) = ḷiḥiḍa(AV.), ḍeḷe(RV.) = ḍeḍe(RV.) and so on. It is a drastic phonetic change which came due to a period of transition.
According to the AV. Pr. these are pronounced by the tip of the tongue. 10

Dental Sounds

Dentals in the AV. Pr. have their occurrence just about as frequently as all the other four classes taken together. According to the AV. Pr. these are pronounced by the tip of the tongue. 11

Labial Sounds

It may be stated about the labial sounds of the AV. that b is exceeded in frequency by bh, b occurs only one hundred and nineteen times. While bh is the commonest sound of all the sonant aspirates, ph is the least common of the surd sounds. The m sound in the AV. is as frequent as all the other nasal sounds of four members of the series together.

According to the AV. Pr. the labial sounds are pronounced by the lower lips. 12

Semi Vowels

A study of Atharvapic language shows that y is more frequent than y. It should be noted here that y is a palatal sound and y is a labial sound. The AV. Pr. mentions, 'there takes
place in these cases an attenuated, utterance of \(y\) and \(y\), as regards the contact.\(^{13}\) One more point should be noted here that according to the AV. Pr. \(y\) is a labial sound.\(^{14}\) Although Brugmann also admits the same doctrine by saying that 'the Sanskrit \(y\) became labio-dental in the historical period,\(^{15}\) yet S. Varma in his treatise\(^{16}\) criticises Brugmann. As a matter of fact Brugmann borrowed this idea from the Ancient Indian Phoneteicians. According to AV. Pr. 'final \(y\) and \(v\) following a vowel, are dropped.'\(^{17}\) But further AV. Pr. mentions \(y\) is not dropped after \(a\)\(^{18}\), e.g.,

\[
\begin{align*}
dvāvimaṇa vātau vātaḥ &\quad (AV. IV. 13.2), \\
indravāya ubāh iha &\quad (AV. III. 20.6), \\
ubha indragni ā bharatām &\quad (AV. V. 7.6).
\end{align*}
\]

This rule is applied in the whole of the AV., excepting a couple of cases in Kāṇḍa nineteenth, which is not recognized by AV. Pr.

It may be stated about \(l\) and \(r\), that the sound \(r\) is much more rarer than \(l\). In the AV., \(l\) is eight times more frequent as \(r\). Some words which contain \(l\) in the RV. have \(r\) in the AV., e.g., \(āṅguli\) (RV.) = \(āṅguri\) (AV. IV. 18.6) etc.

According to the AV. Pr., \(r\) is pronounced by roots of the teeth,\(^{19}\) and \(l\) is a dental sound.\(^{20}\)
Sibilants

The s has a greater frequency than both the other two sibilants taken together in the AV. Moreover, it has very high position among the consonants in the order of frequency.

It is to be mentioned regarding the š sound of the AV. that in point of frequency, it slightly exceeds the letter ș.

According to AV. Pr. 21 š is a palatal sound. The ș sound of the AV. is a lingual sound. In the AV. Pr. we find for it a new word Drojika 22, which is never found elsewhere in the grammatical treatise, and is explained in the Bohlink-Roth lexicon as "the tongue bent together in the form of a trough".

The s is a plain character among the three sibilants. According to AV. Pr. 23, it is a dental sound. There is no discordance among the best authorities about its pronunciation.

From the internal evidence of the AV. it is evident that the remaining aspiration h is a guttural sound. 24
REFERENCES

2. Cf. Skt. g*, p. 19.
3. P. Gr. VIII. 4.68.
4. AV. Pr. I. 35.
5. AV. Pr. I. 32 & cf. T. Pr. II. 24.
6. AV. Pr. I. 26; R. Vr. I. 41; V. Pr. I. 65; T. Pr. II. 18 & Rkt IV.
7. AV. Pr. I. 34; R. Pr. I. 42, 47 & P. Śikṣā XII, XIII.
8. AV. Pr. I. 20; Phon. An. Ind., p. 51; R. Pr. I. 8, 40 & V. Pr. I. 65, 83.
9. AV. Pr. I. 21; R. Pr. I. 42; V. Pr. I. 66 & T. Pr. II. 36.
10. AV. Pr. I. 22; R. Pr. I. 43; V. Pr. I. 67; T. Pr. II. 3; P. Śikṣā 17 & Si. Kau. 17.
11. AV. Pr. I. 24; V. Pr. I. 76; R. Pr. I. 44; T. Pr. II. 38; Rkt. 7; P. Śikṣā. 17 & Si. Kau. 17.
12. AV. Pr. I. 25; R. Pr. I. 47; V. Pr. I. 70; P. Śikṣā 17 & Si. Kau. 17.
13. AV. Pr. II. 24, 21, 22.
14. AV. Pr. I. 25; R. Pr. I. 47; V. Pr. I. 70; V. Pr. I. 81; T. Pr. II. 43; P. Śikṣā. 18; Ap. Śikṣā. I. 16-17 & Si. Kau. 17.
17. AV. Pr. II. 21.
18. AV. Pr. II. 22.
19. AV. Pr. I. 28; R. Pr. I. 45; V. Pr. I. 68 & T. Pr. II. 41.
20. AV. Pr. I. 24; R. Pr. I. 45; T. Pr. II. 42; V. Pr. I. 69 & P. Sikṣā. 17.
21. AV. Pr. I. 21; R. Pr. I. 42; V. Pr. I. 66; T. Pr. II. 36; P. Sikṣā. 17 & Si. Kau. 17.
22. AV. Pr. I. 23.
23. AV. Pr. I. 24; R. Pr. I. 9-10; T. Pr. II. 38, 42, 44; V. Pr. I. 69; P. Sikṣā. 17; Yasāk Sikṣā. 212 & Si. Kau. 17.
24. AV. Pr. I. 19; R. Pr. I. 8; V. Pr. I. 71 & T. Pr. II. 46.