

## Chapter IV

## Vowels in the Interior of words.

Vowels not in contact.

48. Owing to the predominance of initial stress in Kamarupi, the loss of interior vowels not in contact is very great. The medial vowels in the original words are dropped out of pronunciation in Kamarupi. "The tendency of the Kamarupi dialect is to shorten a trisyllabic word to a disyllabic one and a polysyllabic word to a trisyllabic one" (A. F. D. § 221).

Thus kām.	kumrā	(kumāndēka).	cf. St. coll. komorā.
	gamthā	(gulma + avasthā).	cf. St. coll. gomothā.
	kukrā	(kukkuṭaka).	cf. St. coll. kukurā.
	bhamrā	(bhramaraka).	cf. St. coll. bhomorā.

49. The loss of interior vowels not in contact is shown below :

	āhtā	(āsvattha -).	cf. St. coll. āhat.
- a -	āzni	(āñjana-)	
	uslā	'projecting'	(uccala-). cf. St. coll. usalā.
	kāslā	'blackish'	(kajjala-). cf. St. coll. kasalā.
	kamlī		(kambala-).
	kākrā	'crab'	(karkaṭaka). cf. St. coll. kēkorā.
	saklā	'slice'	(cakra - la -).
	nigai	'mouse'	(nikhanika). cf. St. coll. nigani.
	pākrī		(parkaṭī-).
	pukhri	'pond'	(puskara-). cf. PK. pokkhara; St. coll. pukhuri.
	bakhlā	'a lump'	(valkala-).
	mākrā		(markaṭaka).
	mādli	'a drum -shaped amulet'	(mardala-).
	mākrā	'mouthful'	(markara). cf. St. coll. mokorā.

- ā -	athra	(astā dasā).
	saznā	(śobhāñjana). cf. St. coll. sazinā; Hin. sahijan.
	balli	'a kind of fish' (vadāla-). cf. St. coll. barāli
- i -	tetli	(tintilī-).
	piprā	'ant' (pipīlikā). cf. Bg. pīprā.
	khantā	(khanitraka). cf. Bhoj. khantā.
- u -	akni	(utkuna-). cf. St. coll. okani.
	kurnā	(kuṭumbaka). cf. St. coll. kutum.
	bādli	'bat' (vātulī-). cf. St. coll. bāduli.
- e -	kuri	(kuhelikā).
- o -	gāśā	'towel' cf. Bg. gāchā < gā + mōchā

50.(a) In tri-syllabic words of original - a - appears as - ā - in kām, e.g.

urāh	(uddaśā).	cf. St. coll. urah.
ukhār	'dry'	(ūṣara).
karās	'ladle'	(M. I. A. kadacchu).
kalāh		(kalaśa).
sikān	'beautiful'	(cikkana)
pītāl	'be <sup>l</sup> l-metal'	(pittala)

(b) - a - > - u - , e.g.

āpun	'own'	(appana, ātmanaka). cf. kon. āpan; St. coll. āpon.
kāpur		(karpata). cf. St. coll. kāpor.
xāpur	'yoking together'	(saṅghata).

51. Interior - ā - in tri-syllabic words remains in general, e.g.

udhān	(uddhāna).
kaḱāl	(kaḱāla).
kapāl	(kapāla).

kapāh		(karpāsa).
kadāl		(kuddāla)
kapāt	'shutters'	(kapāta)
kūār		(kumāra).
satāl	'court-yard'	(catvāla).
sakhān	'cremation ground'	(śmaśāna).
niār		(nihāra)
purān		(purāna).
mādār	'a kind of tree'	(mandāra)

52. Interior - i - in certain words becomes - ā - , e.g.

barāh		(vadiśa).
balādh		(balivarda). cf. St. coll baladh.
pisāl	'slippery'	(picchila).
but. dālīn	'pomegranate'	(dādīmba).

53.(a) Interior - u - , - ū - in tri-syllabic words remain as - u - , e.g.

kukur	'dog'	(kukkura).
sorun	'a mole on the skin'	(jaṭula).
xāmukh	'snail'	(śambuka).
tāmūl	'areca-nut'	(tāmbula).

(b) - u - > - i - , e.g.

monis	as in nar-monis	'man'	(manuṣya) cf. kon. manis.
munih	'male person; husband'		(manuṣya).

54. Interior - e - sometimes > - a - , e.g.

nāirkal		(nārikela).
but in tri-syllabic words remains.	ganekh	(gaṇeśa).

55. In Kamrupi itself instances of dropping interior vowels with the addition of some syllables to disyllabic or monosyllabic words are met with, e.g.

- ā -. āghān - ā > āghnā 'one born in the month of Agrahayana'  
 maṅāl - ā > maṅlā 'one born on Tuesday'.  
 bāndār - āmi > bāndrāmi 'silliness'.  
 rāṅā - isā > rāṅsā 'red' (a little).  
 - i -. bis - ilū > bislū 'I fanned'  
 - u -. dustu - āmi > dustāmi 'wickedness'.  
 xukur - ā > xukrā 'one born on Friday'.  
 - o -. bhando - āmi > bhandāmi 'hypocrisy'.

Vowels in contact.

56. The vowels in contact have been diphthongised or retained as separate vowels by the insertion of glides; or contracted into a single vowel. The following are the examples of diphthongisation of vowels in contact :

- ai - > - oi - :  
 moirā 'peacock' (mayūra > \* maira-)  
 boithā 'oar' (vahiṣṭha).  
 - au - > - ou - :  
 soukā 'an oven' (catuska). cf. PK. AP. caukka.  
 - au - > \* - ai - > - oi - :  
 soithādinā 'fourth day' (caturtha > \* cauttha > \* caittha).

Contraction of vowels in contact.

57. The sound groups - aa -, - ava - in the initial syllable > - a - which again > - o - by vowel harmony, e.g.

- kar 'corn in hand and feet' (\*kaara, kadara).  
 kal 'plantain' (kadala). cf. Bg. kalā.

keri	'a cowrie'	(kapardikā). cf. St. coll. kari; kon. kavaḍi.
logun	'sacred thread'	(navā + guṇa). cf. St. coll. lagun.
laṣ	'elove'	(lavaṅga).
abāt	'wrong way'	(apa - vartman).
but. āṛ	'again'	(avara, apara). cf. Bg. āṛi
ālāg	'separate'	(avalagna). cf. AP. valagga.

58. The sound group - aha - in initial syllable > - a - ; in the final syllable > - a ~ , - ā , e.g.

par	'measure of time'	(prahara).
nanni	'instrument for paring nails'	(nakha + haraṇikā).
tera	'thirteen'	(teraha, trayo-daśa).
gādhā	'ass'	(gaddaha, gardabha).

59. The sound group - ava - in the interior syllable > - ā - , e.g.

karāt	'saw'	(karavatta , karapatra). cf. St. coll. karat.
puhān	'ceremony after conception'	(*pusavana, puśavana).
pārā	'pigeon'	(*pāravata , pārāvata).

but finally : - ava > - o , - u , e.g.

palo	'a bamboo basket for catching fish'	(palava).
kāsu	'tortoise'	(kaśchapa). cf. St. coll. kāsa

60. The sound group - avā - > - a - in initial syllable and - ā - in the interior of words, e.g.

pal	'a jewel'	(pravāla). cf. M. povalē 'coral'.
xad	'taste'	( * savāda , svāda). cf. St. coll. xoād.
behār		(vesavāra).
sakā	'ruddy goose'	(cakkavā, cakravāka). cf. M. cakvā.
tarāl	'sword'	(taravāri).

61. The vowel group - au - > - u - , - o - , e.g.

pun	'straight'	(pravuṇa).
xel	'a fish'	(śakula).
loru	'a goading stick'	(laguḍe).

62. Finally - ai - > - e , e.g.

ākhe	'fried paddy'	(khadikā). cf. St. coll. ākhoi
dale	'the head man of a temple'	(dalapati).
māde	'queen'	( * māsādei, mahādevī)

63. Finally - āi > - e , e.g.

zāue	'son-in-law'	( * jānātrka).
sare	'bird'	( * caṭākika, caṭaka). cf. St. coll. sarāi.
boine	'sister's husband'	( * bhaginikā + pati).

64. The sound group - ia - , - īa - , - iā<sup>īā</sup> in initial syllable > - e - , e.g.

khemā	'pardon'	( * khiamā, * khyamā, ksamā - Dr. Chatterji). cf. Bg. khēmā.
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tesā in āittgā 'the year before last year' ( \* tiajja, tṛtīya).

der	'one and a half'	(M.I.A. diyaddha, dvi - ardha).
nētā, nētā	'invitation'	(nimantra).
beṅ	'frog'	( * viaṅga, vyaṅga).
bebsāi	'trade'	(vyavasāya).
bebastā	'arrangement'	(vyavasthā).
bebahār	'behaviour'	(vyavahāra).
dhen	'attention'	(dhyāna).
deslā, desli	'match-box'	(dīpa + śalākā).
xētā, xētā	'parting of hair'	(śimanta).
bepār	'business'	(vyāpāra).
deuāli	'illumination'	(dīpāvalī). cf. Awa. dewārī

65. Owing to the addition of suffixes - ā - ā coming together contract to - ā , e.g.

ākḥā - iā > *āikhāā > āikhā	'separate into bunches as of banana'.
khundā - iā > khuindā	'to thump'
barpetā - iā > barpeitā	'belonging to Barpeta'
bhādā - iā > bhoidā	'born in Bhadrapada'

66. Insertion of Euphonic Glides.

66. Certain sound groups resist disposal of themselves by contraction and in pronunciation some glide sounds come in between them. The glides in Kamrupi are [y], [w] and rarely [h]. The glides [y] and [w] are non-phonemic as their occurrence is predictable; [y] occurring after [i] and [w] occurring after [u]. Examples:

xiāl	'fox'	(śṛgāla).	[xiyāl]
piāh	'thirst, breast'	(pipāsā).	[piyah]
diā	'island in the middle of a river'	(dvīpa).	[diya]
kūār	'prince'	(kumāra).	[kūwar]
kūā	'well'	(kūpa).	[kūwa]
dhāhā	'smoke'	(dhūma).	[dh̃ ha]. cf. St. coll. [dhōwa]
beulā, behulā	'heroine of Manasa legend'	(vipalā).	[behula]. cf. Bg. bihulā, bēhulā; Rhoj. behulā.
suār, suhār	'a term of abuse'	(sūkara).	[suwar], [suhar].

In the word bāndār 'monkey' (vānara) - d - is behaving as glide.