



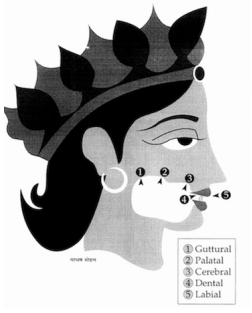
As a flute pours forth melodious music so the mouth pours forth melodious sounds and as the flute manipulates air within the chambers of its body so air is manipulated throughout the anatomy of the mouth to produce language.

A simultaneous trapping and releasing of air is the rhythm which produces the sounds we recognise as language and those places which trap and release are recognised in the Ancient language of Sanskrit as natural points of pronunciation known as the 'vargas'.

Varga means a 'group' it means a 'division' it means a 'class' and here it expresses a group of sounds belonging to a particular point of pronunciation and the first point of pronunciation is known as the 'gutturals' so named as they express sounds which begin from the throat (guttur).

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As pictured above 'gutturals' are one of five points of pronunciation progressing like the holes of a flute and descending from this lowest point of pronunciation to the 'palatals' to the 'cerebrals' to the 'dentals' to the 'labials' and as the holes of a flute they travel in a straight line along the roof of the mouth.

As the first point of pronunciation 'gutturals' produce 'ka' the first consonant of the alphabet is formed as the back of the tongue contacts the back of the throat thereby trapping the air which when released produces 'ka' the very first consonant of the Sanskrit alphabet.

Mother nature has chosen 'ka' as the first consonant as it is impossible to trap the air and produce a consonant below this point and along with 'ka' comes 'kha' 'ga' 'gha' the nasal 'na' and the long and short vowel 'A' all proceeding from this first point of pronunciation known as the 'gutturals'.



As an unambiguous language Sanskrit clearly defines consonants as 'sparsas' as in sounds produced from contact (sprsa) while vowels are known as 'asparsa' meaning sounds which are without (a) contact (sprsa) a free flowing movement which finds no impediment.

All of language rests upon vowels as even consonants cannot be pronounced without a vowel and attempting to do so is like pressing the lips together without parting them, hence consonants such as 'pa' 'ba' 'ma' could never be pronounced and some 5000 years ago the Supreme Lord mentioned their importance in his Gita.

"Of letters I am the letter A, and among compounds I am the dual word. I am also inexhaustable time, and of creators I am Brahma, whose manifold faces turn everywhere." Gita 10.33.

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As we progress from the 'gutturals' our next point of pronunciation is the 'palatals' so named as the front part of the tongue contacts the upper palate and this produces the consonants 'ca' 'cha' 'ja' 'jha' the nasal 'na' and the long and short vowel 'i'.

Observing language as it develops from one point of pronunciation to another along the natural structure of the mouth we should spare a thought for the English language whose alphabet is as scientifically arranged as the big bang, free from any form of logic, reason or rationality, as lamented by the great Sanskrit scholar Arthur A Macdonell.

“We the Europeans, 2,500 years later, and in a scientific age, still employ an alphabet which is not only inadequate to represent all the sounds of our language, but we even preserve the random order in which vowels and consonants are jumbled up, as they were in the Greek adaptation of the primitive Semitic arrangement of 3000 years ago“.

Hare Krishna Centre - Leicester, UK - Sanskrit And Five Points Of Pronunciation

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