

In detailing the alphabet we used I might have presented my considerations in a much more systematic form, particularly as to the consonants; but I abstained from it on purpose, in order to exclude as much as possible theoretical considerations from the practical view of the object.

2. DETAIL OF THE VOWELS.

Pronunciation of the Vowels:

a, e, i, o, u, as in German and Italian.

ä, ö, ü, as in German.

ǎ, ě similar to "u" in "but" and "e" in "herd."

ǎ, as "a" in "wall."

˜ above a vowel indicates the nasal sound of the respective vowel; or, above the second part of a diphthong, of both its component parts.

˘ above a vowel makes it long. We have used this sign, as well as others, as little as possible; as a rule we have considered it unnecessary to add this mark when the accent coincided with it and the omission would not influence the correctness of the pronunciation. Short vowels are not separately distinguished.

The vowel-system of Sanskrit.

The vowel system of Sanskrit, if including the mixed vowels, as in German, may be formed phonetically into the following group:

a
o ö e
u ü i

For many of the Asiatic languages and their dialects now in use, as also for Hindostáni, vowels of imperfect and of nasal formation have to be added; but in general the Hindostáni vowel system, in the element derived from Sanskrit, has still a decided relation to the latter.

"a" alone is produced by a simple opening of the mouth and a contemporaneous emission of the breath; the other vowels being "*coloured vowels*," their formation depending on certain modifications in the position of the tongue and of the lips.