

Bengo and the pitta-bread – a Santali children’s story

You may remember Santali from Round 1: also known as Santal or Santhali, it is the most widely-spoken language of the Munda subfamily of the Austroasiatic languages, spoken by around 7.6 million people in north-east India, as well as Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. In round 1 we presented the data in transcription, but Santali is normally written in the Ol Chiki script, invented by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925, widely adopted in 1940.

In this exercise, we present a Santali children’s story in English, along with the Santali version in Ol Chiki and in the standard transcription. The 18 sentences are given in the correct order in the English version, but – apart from the title, first sentence and the last two sentences – the two Santali versions are given in a jumbled order.

Bengo and the pitta-bread

1. Jhore had a dog at home.
2. He was called Bengo.
3. One day, Jhore gave Bengo a pitta-bread.
4. Then unexpectedly a monkey came and snatched the pitta-bread.
5. The monkey climbed onto the roof to eat the pitta-bread.
6. A crow was watching this.
7. He swooped down and made off with the pitta-bread before the monkey could take a bite.
8. He flew to the tree in the courtyard.
9. There was a peacock resting in that tree.
10. He caught sight of the pitta-bread.
11. The crow flew off to save it.
12. Bengo barked loudly, “Woof! Woof! Woof!”
13. The crow panicked.
14. He cried, “Caw! Caw!”
15. As he did this, his beak opened and the pitta-bread fell down.
16. It fell onto the courtyard.



18. And the dog could eat it all up.

A. එය උග්‍ර වේ. ඒවායේ බල ඇතිවීමේදී ඉතිරි බල ඉවත්
වීමයි.

C. 5276006 429 171000. 92 000000 220000

[illegible][illegible]

F. ԿՈՏ ԳՂՔ ԵՅՈՉ ԳՅ ՈՇՅԵՅԸ ՇԿՈՓ ԳՇԸՈՒ ԸՂԻՍՈՒՄ։

[illegible]

H. 02362 ទ្រព្យ "លាន-... លាន-... លាន-... វិ.ព្រា ឈ្នួល 2 លាន ៦ បាត-វិ."

I. ԽՈՒՆ ԳԻՐ ԱՐԿԻՆ. ՈՒՆԱԳԻՆՍ ԲՈՒՆԵՐ ԺՈՂ ԵՍՅԵԸ ԿՈՒՆ.Ս ԸԶԸ ԸՆՆ :

[illegible]

K. ԺԵՊ ԸՂԻՈՏՊ. ԳՅ ԺԵՊ ԸՂ՝ՈՊ. ՆՇԸՇ ԳԿՆ ՇԵՊ :

L. ከገ.ሠና ቃል ሥልጣን ላይ ማሳሰቢያ ማድረግ፡

M. ԿՅԱՆ ԳԵՐԱՆԱԾԱՆԱԾ ԶԵՄ :

N. ઇલેન કુશનર ના પતિનાં મૃત્યુ પછી, ૩ માર્ચ ૨૦૧૭

0. 527 98 70 02360 42202 6868376 678 0762.9

17. ՈՇԵՐ ԳԻ ԱՅՆՑԱՅԻՆ ԳԻ.2 ԵՊՕՀ ԱՄՔՈՒՅ Պ.ԸԿ ԵՀԳ-ՊԸ :

18. ???

beṃga hāg piṭhă

1. jare midṭāṃ setāy āsul ledeyā.

a. kăhu da nañāy ñeled tăhemd.

b. ār pimḍă sur re menāg dāre re dej enāy.

c. unjakhāg hăñu da chup mente piṭhăy ar idi ked'ā.

d. uni da ṭăṭkā uḍăw āṅga enāy ār hăñu piṭhă da macā te idiyed lăhāre rej kâte idi ked'āy.

e. kăhu da piṭhă bāñcāw lăgid amḍe khane uḍăw sen enām.

f. kăhu day batar enā.

g. piṭhă jam lăgid hăñu da sărim cetān e dej enā ār kât re duṛuḍ enāy.

h. uni hamy rāg ked'ā, "kā ... kā !"

i. beṃga da "bhaa.... bhaa....bhaa...." āḍi jur e bhug ked'ā.

j. anā dāre re mārāg day jirăw ākân tăhemd.

k. mid din juyā da beṃgay emād deyā piṭhă.

l. uni da āj beṃga mente hahawāy kân tăhemd.

m. uniyāg med piṭhă re ḍhām enā.

n. uni kâ kâ ked khân ājāg macā cāhāb enă ār piṭhă da ñur enā.

o. anā piṭhă da anā pimḍă rege ñur enā.

17. ???

18. ār setā mente jam gad kād'āy.

Pronunciation guide:

a like 'aw' in *paw* (IPA [ɔ])

ā like 'a' in *cat* (IPA [a])

ă schwa like 'a' in *ahead* (IPA [ə])

c like 'c' in *acute*, not so far back as 'k' in *kick* (IPA [c])

ḍ pronounced with tongue curled back, like 'd' in *address* (IPA [d])

h indicates that the preceding consonant is aspirated (pronounced with an extra puff of air) (IPA [h])

ḥ glottal stop like the sound in *uh oh* (IPA [ʔ])

ṃ like 'ng' in *sing* (IPA [ŋ])



ṁ indicates preceding vowel is nasalised

ñ like 'ni' in *onion* (IPA [ɲ])

ŋ pronounced with tongue curled back, line 'n' in *unravel* (IPA [ŋ])

ṅ a nasalised 'w' sound (IPA [w̃])

ɾ a 'flap': this is like a 'd' pronounced very quickly (and with the tongue curled back) like the 'r' sound in Spanish (not the 'rr' sound which is trilled) or like the American pronunciation of 't' in *cutting* (IPA [ɾ]).

ʈ pronounced with tongue curled back, line 't' in *attract* (IPA [ʈ])

A doubled vowel indicates extra length, though this is not usually marked in transcription

' indicates that the preceding consonant is ejective, i.e. pronounced with extra force. Like vowel length, this is not usually indicated in transcription. Both of these correspond to diacritics in Ol Chiki and have therefore been added to the transcription to help you.

1. Your first task is to match up the three sets of sentences.
2. You will notice that for the last two sentences, one of the Santali versions is missing: you are asked to write out sentence 17 in transcription, and sentence 18 in Ol Chiki.
3. What are the following in Santali? Give your answer in both transcription and Ol Chiki.
 - a. dog
 - b. monkey
 - c. crow
 - d. tree
 - e. courtyard
4. Can you guess what the following Santali words mean?
 - a. tāḥeṁḍ
 - b. uni
5. Describe the function of the following diacritics seen in the Ol Chiki
 - a. A raised dot after a symbol
 - b. A low dot, like a full stop, after a symbol
6. Why do you think Santali uses this symbol ' to show the end of a sentence?

Source: Amar Goswami, Pratham Books, translated by Manisha Chaudhry (English) and Hopon babu (Santali). Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Some adjustments were made for the purpose of this exercise. Illustrations Partha Sengupta. <https://storyweaver.org.in/>

SOLUTION

1 match up

Eng	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
OC	O	F	E	D	L	G	A	N	C	I	H	M	B	J	K
tr	l	k	c	g	a	d	b	j	m	e	i	f	h	n	o

2 a. beṃga da harabara dăṛ kâte hālām āḡu ked'āy.

b. ពិនិត្យកម្រិតបំណុលដែលបានបង់ប្រាក់ចំណូល។

3. a. Dog setā 𐎠𐎼𐎡𐎹

b. Monkey hǎŋu (ᠬᠠᠨᠭᠤ) accept ñ

c. Crow kǎhu ㄅㄛˋ.ㄨ

d. Tree dāre 𐭩𐭥𐭮𐭥

e. Courtyard pimḍă 𐰣𐰆𐰪𐰸𐰚𐰍.

4. a. Past tense marker 'was'

b. 'he'

5. a. Shows the vowel is nasalised

b. Changes ā [a] to ǣ [ə]

6. If a full stop was used it could get confused with the symbol mentioned in 5b.

For reference, the two texts in the correct order

លុះតែ យើង ប្រាកដ .

1. តើយើង ប្រាកដ ឬទេ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
2. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
3. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
4. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
5. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
6. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
7. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
8. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
9. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
10. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
11. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
12. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
13. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
14. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
15. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
16. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
17. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។
18. យើង គួរ តែ លុះតែ យើង យល់ ថា យើង ប្រាកដ ។

beṃga hāg piṭhă

1. jare midṭām setāy āsul ledeyā.

2. uni da āj beṃga mente hahawāy kân tãhemd.
3. mid din juyā da beṃgay emād deyā piṭhă.
4. unjakhāg hăñu da chup mente piṭhăy ar idi ked'ā.
5. piṭhă jam lăgid hăñu da săřim cetān e dej enā ār kât re duṛuḍ enāy.
6. kăhu da nañāy ñeled tãhemd.
7. uni da ṭāṭkâ uḍăw āṅga enāy ār hăñu piṭhă da macā te idiyed lăhāre rej kâte idi ked'āy.
8. ār piṃḍă sur re menāg dāre re dej enāy.
9. anā dāre re mārāg day jirăw ākân tãhemd.
10. uniyāg med piṭhă re ḍhām enā.
11. kăhu da piṭhă bāñcāw lăgid amḍe khane uḍăw sen enām.
12. beṃga da “bhaa.... bhaa....bhaa....” äḍi jur e bhug ked'ā.
13. kăhu day batar enā.
14. uni ham̐y rāg ked'ā, "kâ ... kâ !"
15. uni kâ kâ ked khân ājāg macā cāhāb enă ār piṭhă da ñur enā.
16. anā piṭhă da anā piṃḍă rege ñur enā.
17. beṃga da harabara dăř kâte hālām ägu ked'āy.
18. ār setā mente jam gad kād'āy.

This is the alphabet together with standard transcription and IPA equivalents. Notable is that, unlike most writing systems used in the Indian subcontinent which are abugidas, it is alphabetic, with full-size symbols for all the vowels.

Ს	Ტ	Უ	Ფ	Ქ	Ღ	Ყ	Შ	Ჩ	Ც	Ძ	Წ	Ჭ	Ხ	Ჯ
a	t	g	m̥	l	ā	k	j	m	w	i	s	h	ñ	r
Ჱ	t	g	ŋ	l	a	k	dʒ	m	w	i	s	ɣ	ɲ	r

Ჱ	Ჲ	Ჳ	Ჴ	Ჵ	Ჶ	Ჷ	Ჸ	Ჹ	Ჺ	᲻	᲼	Ჽ	Ჾ	Ჿ
u	c	d	ɲ	y	e	p	ɖ	n	ɾ	o	ɬ	b	ɳ	h
u	c	d	ɳ	j	e	p	ɖ	n	ɾ	o	t	b	w~	h

With diacritics:

Ს̣	Ღ̣	Ყ̣	Ძ̣	Წ̣	Ჱ̣	Ჳ̣
aṁ	ǎ	āṁ	iṁ	eṁ	aa*	d'*
Ს̃	Ს̣̃	Ს̃	Ს̃	Ს̃	Ს̃	d'

* These two diacritics are not usually indicated in the standard transcription