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A Prototype of English-Sanskrit Lexicon of 3000 New Words

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Abstract

The ongoing emergence of new lexical items highlights the inherently dynamic and continuously evolving character of language as a living linguistic system. Among the world's languages, English is particularly notable for its remarkable degree of lexical productivity. It is estimated that English generates new words at frequent intervals, a process largely driven by rapid developments in science, technology, culture, and contemporary modes of life. This high level of lexical innovation has established English as one of the most adaptive and expansive global languages of the modern era. In contrast, classical languages such as Sanskrit, despite their historical depth and structural sophistication, are often regarded as relatively static or resistant to contemporary lexical development. This reflective study critically examines such perceptions by investigating the capacity of Sanskrit to generate equivalents or construct new lexical formations corresponding to recently coined English terms. Through this inquiry, the paper seeks to assess whether the morphological and etymological resources of Sanskrit can effectively accommodate modern concepts, thereby reaffirming its potential relevance within the context of present-day linguistic innovation.

Keywords: lexical entries (words), word formation, English, Sanskrit equivalents.

Introduction

Language is a dynamic and evolving system that develops in response to changing social, technological, and cultural conditions. Among the world's languages, English occupies a distinctive position as one of the most widely used and globally influential means of communication. Its capacity to incorporate new vocabulary reflecting emerging ideas, innovations, and practices has made it particularly responsive to contemporary change.

By contrast, Sanskrit, the classical language of India, is traditionally associated with sacred literature, philosophical discourse, and enduring literary traditions. Although it possesses a rich intellectual and grammatical heritage, it is often perceived as distant from the rapid transformations of the modern world. This study seeks to examine whether Sanskrit, with its sophisticated grammatical framework and productive word-formation processes, can generate lexical equivalents for the numerous English terms that have emerged in the twenty-first century. In doing so, it aims to bridge the perceived divide between antiquity and modernity by repositioning Sanskrit as a language capable of articulating contemporary realities. A central objective is therefore to enhance the functional relevance and accessibility of Sanskrit, particularly through the development of lexical counterparts for modern concepts.

To support this inquiry, the study compiled a curated corpus of 3,000 newly coined or recently popularized English words. These were systematically collected from authoritative sources, including the official websites of the Oxford English Dictionary, Cambridge Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, and Dictionary.com. Three additional verified digital resources were consulted to ensure the breadth and reliability of the dataset. Through systematic analysis of this corpus, the study evaluates the scope, strategies, and challenges involved in formulating Sanskrit equivalents for contemporary English vocabulary, with the broader aim of reinforcing Sanskrit's relevance within the evolving global linguistic landscape.

Statement of the Problem:

A dictionary serves as a repository of a language's lexical development, systematically documenting newly emerging words and their usage. Lexical expansion reflects not only the diachronic evolution of language but also the continuous generation of new terminology driven by advances and shifting perspectives across diverse domains, including science, technology, law, culture, management, and sports. In the contemporary world, familiarity with emerging vocabulary is essential for achieving linguistic proficiency in global academic contexts and for facilitating effective participation in diverse social and cultural environments.

According to Global Language Monitor, the English language contains over one million lexical items, with approximately one new word coined every 98 minutes worldwide. In light of this rapid expansion of the English lexicon, the present study seeks to compile an abridged dictionary of 3,000 newly recorded lexical entries from the past decade and promote their practical awareness and use. More specifically, the project aims first to identify emerging English words, phrases, and expressions, and subsequently to provide their Sanskrit equivalents, along with definitions and contextual illustrations.

This constitutes the central point of departure for the study, grounded in the view that the Sanskrit scholarly community, its lexicon, and its users should remain informed of lexical developments occurring in other languages. Accordingly, this problem framework gives rise to the following research objectives.

Research Objectives:

In alignment with the broader aim outlined above, the study pursues the following specific objectives:

- To identify and examine 3,000 new lexical entries incorporated into the English lexicon in the twenty-first century.
 - To evaluate whether the corresponding Sanskrit equivalents of these English entries demonstrate comparable adequacy and precision.
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Research Questions:

Consistent with the stated objectives, the study addresses the following research questions:

- Which authenticated 3,000 new words of the twenty-first century have been incorporated into highly credible English dictionaries?
 - Do the Sanskrit equivalents of these English terms demonstrate morphosemantic accuracy and natural acceptability?
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Significance of the Study:

The significance of this study extends across linguistic, cultural, and academic domains. First, it provides language users—including scholars, students, and general readers—with a structured and reliable resource for understanding newly coined English vocabulary. As English continues to expand rapidly in response to developments in science, technology, lifestyle, and popular culture, this work offers an organized and accessible compilation of contemporary lexical additions.

Second, the study makes a substantive contribution to Sanskrit scholarship by proposing systematically developed Sanskrit equivalents for modern English terms. These equivalents are formulated with careful attention to morphological structure and semantic precision, ensuring consistency with established principles of Sanskrit word formation and lexicography.

Finally, the study plays a transformative role in repositioning Sanskrit within the contemporary global linguistic landscape. By extending its lexical range to accommodate modern concepts, the research enhances the functional scope of Sanskrit and strengthens its relevance in present-day communication. In doing so, it bridges the classical heritage of Sanskrit with the practical demands of modern discourse, enabling its application not only in traditional academic and cultural contexts but also in fields such as science, technology, and media. This work thus affirms Sanskrit's continuing potential as a dynamic linguistic system capable of engaging meaningfully with the evolving realities of the modern world.

Methodology

The methodologies adopted in Wordweb project are aligned with the lexicographic framework governed by appropriate principled approaches. The Wordweb project has adopted a nine-layered approach to enlist close equivalents of 3000 selected new English words in the following manner:

English					Sanskrit			
Index ¹	Word ²	Word Class ³	Gloss ⁴	Usage ⁵	Word ⁶	Usage ⁷	Remarks ⁸	Reference ⁹
1.								

- The first layer is the serial number of new English words sorted in alphabetical order as seen in the above table.
- The second layer provides new English words using convenience sampling technique in which the required data were retrieved from the following nine e-resources. The data of 3000 new words were prepared on the basis of new words added in the official websites of four authentic English dictionaries and five authentic web references as mentioned hereunder. All the raw data have been compiled in excel format through the following sources and resources:
 - [New words in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary](#)
 - [Time Traveler by Merriam-Webster: Words from 2011](#)
 - [Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary with 690 New Words](#)
 - [New Dictionary Words – Summer 2021 | Dictionary.com](#)
 - [New words Archives - About Words - Cambridge Dictionary blog](#)
 - [50 New Words Added to the Dictionary in the 21st Century | Stacker](#)
 - [53 Modern Words Recently Added to the Dictionary | Mental Floss](#)
 - [60+ new words in English with meanings! - iSchoolConnect](#)
 - [10 new words added to the dictionary in the past 10 years - Deseret News](#)
- The third layer provides word class or parts of speech of the selected new English words.
- The fourth layer provides gloss or description of the selected new words in terms of their meaning or paraphrase.
- The fifth layer of the lexicon provides contextual examples for the selected new words.
- The sixth layer provides Sanskrit equivalent of the selected new English words, phrases, abbreviations, and acronyms. The adequate care has been taken to coin socially accepted and linguistically credible words in Sanskrit. However, all the coined words in Sanskrit are subject to modifications as per the experts' remarks in Wordweb's online homepage.
- The seventh layer provides Sanskrit usage of the newly coined Sanskrit word for easier understanding and usage of the newly coined words.
- The eighth layer called remarks gives value added information of the Sanskrit word in terms of its word formation, context, and other information.
- The ninth layer provides the URL reference of the new English words wherefrom they have been taken.

The Progress and Discussion

The progress and achievements of this study over the period of 36 months have been both significant and encouraging. First and foremost, the study has successfully completed the target of identifying and preparing a comprehensive database of 3000 newly coined English words. Secondly, an analytical study of the collected 3,000 words revealed distinct patterns in the nature of lexical items added to the English lexicon. The newly added words fall predominantly into five broad categories, the proportions of which have been visually represented through a pie chart (referenced in the full report). This categorization offers critical insights into the domains and linguistic trends driving contemporary word formation in English. Thirdly, an important milestone of the project has been the successful coining of Sanskrit equivalents for 1500 English words and phrases. This task was carried out with rigorous linguistic precision and scholarly validation, involving due consultation with five officially nominated stalwarts and leading authorities in the field of Sanskrit linguistics. Their expert input has ensured that the newly coined Sanskrit terms are morphologically sound and semantically faithful to the original English concepts.



The project's evolving e-database does not merely stop at listing Sanskrit equivalents. It also provides syntactic usage examples for all the 1500 newly created Sanskrit terms, demonstrating their practical application within properly constructed Sanskrit sentences. This feature significantly enhances the utility of the database for learners, scholars, and educators by offering an instant ready reference of contextualized usage of newly coined Sanskrit words. In mapping the scope of modern vocabulary expansion, the project has identified that the 3,000 new English words sourced for the study originate from twelve major fields. These fields include: scientific innovation, social media, culture, information technology (IT), health, gaming, entertainment, law, workplace environments, and more. This classification underscores the interdisciplinary nature of modern word formation and highlights the diverse range of human activity that continues to drive linguistic evolution in the 21st century.

Conclusion

The development of Sanskrit equivalents for English lexical items introduced since 2019 constitutes a significant undertaking with important cultural, linguistic, and intellectual implications. Although the task presents certain practical and conceptual challenges, its potential contributions to the preservation of Sanskrit, the promotion of cross-cultural understanding, and the stimulation of intellectual inquiry render it a highly valuable scholarly endeavor. By responding to evolving linguistic needs and contemporary conceptual frameworks, Sanskrit reaffirms both its enduring significance and its continuing relevance in the modern world.

This project offers several notable benefits. First, it contributes to the preservation of Sanskrit by extending its functional range to encompass modern concepts and terminology, thereby strengthening its contemporary relevance. Second, it facilitates cross-cultural communication by providing systematic Sanskrit equivalents for newly emerging English vocabulary. Third, it promotes intellectual engagement by encouraging scholars, students, and language enthusiasts to interact more deeply with Sanskrit, fostering both analytical inquiry and cultural appreciation. Finally, the project demonstrates the adaptability of Sanskrit, challenging the perception that it exists solely as a historical or liturgical language and affirming its capacity for modern linguistic expression.

As a part of future work and considering the outnumbering lexical items on regular basis, a need is being felt to have an established cell of dictionary comprising dedicated taskforce that could consistently work on identification of emerging new English words and coining their Sanskrit equivalents authenticated by Sanskrit scholars and Sanskrit speech community.

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