# Study of Intervention of English Sounds in Phonetics of Marathi: Emergence of 'Anglicized' Marathi Language

## Santosh Prakash Patil

Lecturer, Dept. of English, KLE Society's G.I.Bagewadi Arts, Science and Commerce College, Nipani.

## ABSTRACT:

The present paper is an attempt to analyze what was the recurrent requirement to modify the phonetic sound system in Marathi language generally and adding two English vowel sounds; /æ/ & /ɔ/ particularly. Is this an unavoidability of translation theory? Or is it making of 'Anglicized' Marathi? Marathi speakers have to ponder it on with an interest in this phenomenon. This is definitely not a common lingual event if two English vowel sounds have been added to the Marathi language which is almost 2500 years old Indo – Aryan Language. Undoubtly, English is comparatively a new language in respect of age to Marathi. On account of simplifying the entry to loan words from English to Marathi English sounds are added /æ/ (as in "act" or "cat") and /ɔ/ (as in "all" or "thought"). These are represented in the Devanagari script as अॅ and ऑ, respectively, expanding the traditional set of 12 vowels to 14. Nowadays, two binary approaches are being discussed; Marathi language will have its advantage and on the other hand it's a threat for Marathi.

## KEYWORDS:

English, Marathi, Sounds, Phonetics, Science, Technology.

Loan words enrich a language vocabulary by filling gaps, introducing new concepts, or reflecting cultural exchanges. English is an example of meta–source of loanwords for many languages in the world generally due to its historical influences like invasions, trade, colonization and advent of technology & multidisciplinary world of sciences. Translation Studies, an interdisciplinary field that explores the processes, theories, and cultural implications of trans–lating texts between languages, often addresses loanwords as a key strategy for handling linguistic and cultural gaps. Translation Stud–ies scholars have developed frameworks that classify loanwords as part of broader translation procedures. This foundational typology from Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais categorizes translation strategies into "direct" and "oblique" methods. Loan–words fall under direct methods. Early models like Vinay and Dar–belnet are criticized for focusing on Indo–European languages; modern studies emphasize non–Western contexts where loanwords handle asymmetrical power dynamics.

With internet and media, loanwords spread rapidly Contem–porary Translation Studies incorporates multimodality, where loan–words appear in memes, apps, or social media. Over–relying on loanwords can marginalize minority languages; scholars like An–toine Berman advocate "translation ethics" to avoid deformation.

Technology and science have contributed numerous loan–words from English to Marathi, largely due to the dominance of English in modern scientific and technical discourse. This borrow–ing is evident in everyday speech, education, and media, though there are ongoing efforts to standardize native Marathi alternatives to preserve linguistic purity. While core scientific concepts fre–quently draw from Sanskrit–derived terms (e.g., विज्ञान for "sci–ence" or भौतिकशास्त्र for "physics"), many specific modern terms—particularly those emerging post–19th century—are direct loans or

phonetic adaptations from English. A 2022 study from the University of Mumbai analyzed English loanwords in Marathi from 2001–2020, highlighting their integration and speakers' positive attitudes toward them for efficiency in technical contexts. For instances, 'Sangnak' is a partial adaptation, but the direct loan 'computer' is widely used in speech and often retained as–is in computing; native alternative for the word system like 'pranali' is promoted but less common. Very recently, the word 'Covid Virus' is direct loan, especially in medical and biological contexts like virology.

These examples illustrate that while Marathi has a rich native vocabulary for abstract concepts, English loanwords fill gaps in rapidly evolving fields like IT and biotechnology. However, initiatives like the 2009 C–DAC glossary promote native terms (e.g., "mitra" for "buddy" in software) to reduce reliance on loans, though English terms persist in informal and globalized settings. Overall, the influx qualifies as "many," enriching Marathi while sparking debates on linguistic preservation.

Ashok Ramchandra Kelkar, books on Marathi phonology section is highlighted as particularly valuable, providing a concise yet comprehensive treatment of Marathi's sound inventory.He states clearly, Marathi has 8–10 vowel phonemes: /i, e, **ɛ, a, ɔ,** o, u, ə/, along with two diphthongs /əi, əu/ retained from Sanskrit. Marathi phonological system shaped by its evolution from Maharashtrian Prakrit and influences from Sanskrit and Dravidian languages also. Kelkar's book fills a gap in the study of modern Indo–Aryan languages.

An American linguist, Colin Masica introduces Indo–Aryan languages, their role, impact of English, sociolinguistic dynamics, and regional variations its exploration with the reference of genetic connections, migration hypotheses. This work has received a pun–

gent critical commentary on its biased theoretical assumption.

Jules Bloch, a French linguist and Indologist has surveyed in "The Formation of the Marathi Language" is the English translation of seminal French work, "La formation de la langue marathe," Bloch's approach is rooted in the comparative linguistics school of Antoine Meillet, emphasizing phonetic laws, morphological evolution, and external influences, making it a landmark in Indo-Aryan linguistics comparable to George Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India in 1905. In this context, he is drawing on literary and inscriptional evidence from 1012 CE Discussions on the linguistic environment, including Marathi's contacts with Dravidian languages (e.g., Kannada, Telugu) and its misclassification as Dravidian in early scholarship. The exploration traces from Old Indo-Aryan (Sanskrit) through Middle Indo-Aryan (Prakrit, Apabhraṃśa) to New Indo-Aryan (Old Marathi from the 11th century) Bloch views on vowel reductions, such as Sanskrit a > Marathi ə (schwa), diphthong preservation (ai, au), and nasalization patterns. Bloch highlights vowel harmony and elision in Old Marathi texts. Bloch's work is celebrated as the foundational historical study of Marathi, providing a systematic framework that influenced subsequent grammars and Indo-Aryan linguistics broadly. Its contributions include elucidating Prakrit origins of everyday words, applying comparative methods to NIA evolution, and integrating Dravidian contacts.

The comparison of both scholars draws on their key ideas regarding IA classification, historical phonology, morphology, contact influences, and Marathi specifically. It highlights agreements for instance shared emphasis on comparative reconstruction and differences like diachronic vs. synchronic priorities, and how Masica critiques or extends Bloch's framework. Their agreement on isogloss utility and dialect complexity; both see IA as a "house divided" by regional influences. Difference: Bloch's classification

is more historical–genetic; Masica's is typological–areal, critiquing Bloch–inspired models for overlooking modern variations (e.g., east–west divides). Masica references Bloch positively but updates with new data, for example on Dardic or Sinhala divergences. After the possible discussion over this commentary by earlier researchers in this venture we have received assumption that phonological system of Marathi language is shaped by influence of Sanskrit and Dravidian languages. The core discussion of this paper is regarding two additional vowels **(अॅ and ऑ)** adopted in modern usage due to English influence, bringing the total to 14 in contemporary Marathi. These are independent vowel letters, distinct from dependent vowel signs (mātrās) used with consonants. This event can be discussed either positively or negatively when it comes to discuss any language autonomously or relational. In the context of Marathi phonetics (building on the vowel list), the addition of new sounds typically refers to the incorporation of novel phonemes or allophones into the language's sound system, often through language contact like loanwords. The integration of **अॅ and ऑ** reflects English's impact during colonial and post–colonial periods, allowing Marathi to borrow words more accurately without forcing them into existing sounds.

The Devanagari–based Marathi script was updated to include these vowels, formally increasing the vowel inventory. This led to renaming the traditional "Barakhadi" (12–letter vowel chart) to "Chaudakhadi" (14–letter chart), affecting how the alphabet is taught in schools and represented in dictionaries or typing tools. They integrate as full vowels with their own mātrās (diacritics) for use with consonants, maintaining the script's abugida nature but expanding its expressiveness. These vowels introduce new phonemic contrasts, potentially creating minimal pairs or reducing ambiguity in loanwords.

## The list of Marathi Vowel sounds

| SI No | Deva-nagari | Roman (Translit–era-tion) | Approximate English Pro–nunciation | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | अ | a | As in "but" or "about" (short a) | Basic short vowel, often schwa /ə/. |
| 2 | आ | ā | As in "father" (long a) | Long counter–part of अ. |
| 3 | इ | i | As in "sit" (short i) | Short high front vowel. |
| 4 | ई | ī | As in "see" (long i) | Long counter–part of इ. |
| 5 | उ | u | As in "book" (short u) | Short high back vowel. |
| 6 | ऊ | ū | As in "boot" (long u) | Long counter–part of उ. |
| 7 | ए | e | As in "bed" or "café" | Mid front vowel. |
| 8 | ऐ | ai | As in "aisle" or "high" | Diphthong. |
| 9 | ओ | o | As in "go" (without the 'w' glide) | Mid back vowel. |
| 10 | औ | au | As in "out" or "cow" | Diphthong. |
| 11 | अं | aṃ | Nasalized, as in "um" in "num–ber" | Anusvara (nasalization marker). |

| 12 | अः | aḥ | As in "uh" in "huh?" | Visarga (aspi-rated release). |
| 13 | अॅ | æ or ă | As in "bat" or "cat" | Modern vowel from English influence (e.g., for "can-dle"). |

**(13 & 14 are newly added English sounds)**

In the name of how these additions have made Marathi more versatile for contemporary use without fundamentally disrupting its core Indo-Aryan phonology, which remains rooted in Sanskrit-derived sounds. This change reflects globalization's influence, promoting hybridity in urban speech. However, it may widen generational or socio-economic gaps, as older or rural speakers might not use them consistently, leading to diglossia. This modernizes Marathi's vocabulary, making it more adaptable in bilingual contexts, but it can contribute to code-mixing or purist debates about "Anglicization." In education, it affects literacy programs, as children now learn 14 vowels, potentially improving accuracy in spelling foreign-origin words.

Alike Encyclopedia Britannica, the Marathi Vishwakosh is a comprehensive, multi-volume encyclopedia in the Marathi language, funded by the Government of Maharashtra, India. The project was initiated in 1960 under Tarkateerth Lakshmanshastri Joshi as the first editor-in-chief, with the first volumes published in 1976. It is headquartered in Wai, Satara district, Maharashtra, and operates under the state's Marathi Language Department. Gathering, verifying, and organizing knowledge from diverse fields (e.g., history, science, arts, and technology) into structured encyclopedia. It's their duty and responsibility to avail the paraphrases for all technical & scientific terminologies existed in the register. For instance

| English Term | Marathi Loanword/ Adaptation | Marathi Word for the English Word |
|---|---|---|
| Sim Card | सिम कार्ड | Not existed |
| Online | ऑनलाईन | Not Existed |
| Mega Pixel | मेगा पक्सिेल | Not Existed |
| CT Scan | सीटी स्कॅन | Not Existed |
| App | अँप | Not Existed |
| Mouse (computer) | माउस | Not Existed |

The users or speakers may use or may not use in those words spoken Marathi but it's essential to make possible translated version of the technical and scientific words. Susan Bassnett's work in translation theory suggests perfect replicas aren't possible due to inherent linguistic, cultural, and systemic differences between languages. Her opinions are mostly focusing in the approach of literary translation as it is inclusive of socio –cultural lexical units. The arrival of English sounds into Marathi phonology has the impact on borrowed or loan words collection in Marathi language. The English loan words entry from science and technical register will be making Marathi more anglicized than to be more accessible globally. Moreover, it should be analyzed on the ground of neocolonial aspect. Neocolonialism in language, often termed linguistic neocolonialism or linguistic imperialism, describes how dominant languages—particularly former colonial power like English, continue to exert cultural, economic, and political influence over formerly colonized regions, even after formal independence. This phenomenon perpetuates power imbalances by privileging certain languages in global discourse, education, media, and institutions, marginalizing indigenous or local languages and reinforcing dependency on the 'center'.

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