NOTE: This handout is designed as a supplement to the PowerPoint slides, which can be downloaded at http://tinyurl.com/JFS-DSNA2015.

This presentation compares five of the principal dictionaries of linguistics.

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Anatomy of the entry

**SANDHI** A general term, originating in the work of Sanskrit grammarians, for the phonological modifications that occur between juxtaposed forms. A distinction is sometimes made between ‘internal’ sandhi (sandhi rules that operate within **words**), e.g. the variant forms of the English plural, /z/ following a **voiced** segment as in /dɒgz) [*sic*] and /s/ following a voiceless **segment** as in /kats/) and ‘external sandhi’ [*sic*] (sandhi rules that operate across word boundaries, as in the rules for **linking r** and **intrusive r** and **assimilation**) (Brown & Miller)

*sandhi* [Old Indic *saṁ*-*dhi* ‘putting together’] Term taken from Old Indic grammar (⇒**Sanskrit**) for the merging of two words or word forms and the resulting systematic phonological changes. Internal sandhi involves two morphemes within a word; external sandhi takes place between two consecutive words. An example of the latter is the variation of the indefinite article in English: *a* with a following consonant and *an* with a following vowel (*a book* vs. *an egg*).

*References*Allen, W.S. 1962. *Sandhi: the theoretical, phonetic and historical basis of wordjunction in Sanskrit*. The Hague.   
Napoli, D.J. and M. Nespor. 1979. The syntax of word-initial consonant gemination in Italian. *Lg* [*Language*] 55.812-41.  
Vogel, I. 1986. External sandhi rules operating between sentences. in H. Anderson and J. Gvozdanović (eds). *Sandhi phenomena in the languages of Europe*. Dordrecht. 55-64. (⇒**phonotactics**) (Bussmann)

**sandhi** /'sandiː/ (*adj./n.*) A term used in syntax and morphology to refer to the phonological modification of grammatical forms which have been juxtaposed. **Sandhi forms** are forms which have undergone specific modifications in specific circumstances (i.e. various **sandhi rules** have applied. assimilation and dissimilation are two widespread tendencies which could be classified under this heading. The merit of the sandhi notion is that it can be used as a very general term within which can be placed a wide range of structural tendencies that otherwise it would be difficult to interrelate. In languages where sandhi forms are complex, a distinction is sometimes made between **external sandhi** (sandhi rules which operate across word boundaries) and **internal sandhi** (rules which operate within words). See also tone. (Crystal)

**sandhi** Ancient Indian term for the modification and fusion of sounds at or across the boundaries of grammatical units. E.g. short -*a* and *i*- fused in Sanskrit, both within vowels and across word boundaries to -*e*-. Introduced into the terminology of 20th century linguistics by Bloomfield especially. (Matthews)

**sandhi** Any phonological process which applies across a word boundary. The change of /k/ to /s/ in going from *electric* to *electricity* is an example of sandhi applying across a morpheme boundary (*internal sandhi*), while the merger of /d/ and /j/ in the pronunciation of *did you* as /dɪdʒu/ is an example of sandhi across a word boundary (*external sandhi*). (Trask)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Phonet | phono | morpho | syntax | semantics | discourse | lexic. | socio | psych | hist | typology | graph | general | encyc. |
| Bussmann (1996) | **53** | **48** | **42** | **103** | **79** | **32** | **11** | **17** | **32** | **15** | **4** | **14** | **44** | **91** |
| 11.5% | 10.4% | 9.1% | 22.3% | 17.1% | 6.9% | 2.4% | 3.7% | 6.9% | 3.3% | 0.9% | 3.0% | 9.5% | -- |
| Trask  (1997) | **22** | **15** | **24** | **42** | **15** | **9** | **11** | **21** | **27** | **16** | **22** | **8** | **26** | **68** |
| 9.4% | 6.4% | 10.2% | 17.9% | 6.4% | 3.8% | 4.7% | 8.9% | 11.5% | 6.8% | 9.4% | 3.4% | 11.1% | -- |
| Matthews (2005) | **38** | **46** | **42** | **114** | **59** | **37** | **20** | **31** | **14** | **26** | **3** | **16** | **47** | **79** |
| 8.7% | 10.5% | 9.6% | 26.1% | 13.5% | 8.5% | 4.6% | 7.1% | 3.2% | 5.9% | 0.7% | 3.7% | 10.8% | -- |
| Crystal (2008) | **66** | **140** | **42** | **142** | **63** | **14** | **11** | **54** | **35** | **16** | **2** | **16** | **86** | **1** |
| 10.9% | 23.2% | 7.0% | 23.5% | 10.4% | 2.3% | 1.8% | 8.9% | 5.8% | 2.6% | 0.3% | 2.6% | 14.2% | -- |

**Table 1. Distribution of terminology in major dictionaries**

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