

Students of Sanskrit can choose among several good manuals. Whichever they may choose, learning Sanskrit is a daunting task. This book is not an alternative textbook for learning Sanskrit. Instead, it is to accompany these textbooks and written in the hope to make Sanskrit learning easier by explaining words and grammatical forms from an Indo-European point of view. Consider, for example Old Indian *ad* which means “to eat”, but is also historically related to both English (abbreviated by E) *eat* and New High German (NHG) *essen*. There was an Indo-European (IE) root *ed* that branched out into all these words over some millennia. Even E *tooth* and NHG *Zahn* stem from IE *ed*.

Comparative Indo-European philology and the study of Sanskrit have been going their separate ways for too long. What students of Sanskrit would greatly profit from is a book that points out the parallels between Sanskrit and early European languages like Latin or Greek that they know, for example, from loanwords present in English and many other languages.

“Sanskrit as an Indo-European Language” does this in all the detail one could hope for: it offers systematic comparative accounts on all relevant levels of language, from phonology to morphology and lexicology, and gives readers the background knowledge that will also let them recognise all the parallels that are not immediately obvious. This comprehensive study will be of great benefit to students of Indo-European and Sanskrit alike.

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