Online Sanskrit-English Glossaries of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Music Terminology (Survey and Critical Assessment)

Ājurvēdas, jogas un indiešu mūzikas terminoloģijas tiešsaistes vārdnīcas (analīze un izvērtējums)

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Abstract

In 2017, a major Effective Collaboration Project, titled "Sanskrit-English-Latvian Online Glossary of the Basic Terminology for Indic Sciences (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Indian Music)" was launched at the University of Latvia. It is planned to include 1000 entries – Ayurveda (400), Yoga (400) and Indian Music (200). Accordingly, there are 5 expert groups – medical doctors (Ayurveda), yoga instructors and teachers, musicologists and musicians, Sanskrit language experts and linguists, and IT specialists. The program of tLex is used as a basic system for the input of words. Furthermore, several independent experts and organizations are being consulted during the compilation process, for example, State Language Centre of Latvia.

This article constitutes a part the above-mentioned project. The main objective is to find out current offer of similar open-access Ayurveda, yoga or Indian music online glossaries that would use Sanskrit and English languages as bases. Printed versions, online journals or books, pdf- or xlsx-format lists and alike are not be included. The analysis consists of a description of each site, a critical assessment of advantages / disadvantages, and a comparison with the on-going Glossary project at the University of Latvia (further in text – UL Glossary). The objective of the article is a descriptive, topical and structural analysis with an interdisciplinary approach. It does not aim at a thorough linguistic analysis. Therefore, Sanskrit words are given in simplified English transcription (mainly according to their usage in relevant webpages).

Keywords: Ayurveda, yoga, India, music, comparative linguistics, terminology.

Introduction, background and methods

In 2017, a major Effective Collaboration Project[1] "Sanskrit-English-Latvian Online Glossary of the Basic Terminology for Indic Sciences (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Indian Music)" was launched at the University of Latvia. It was initiated by two centres of the University – the Centre of Indian Studies and Culture and

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[1]   In Latvian language: LU Efektīvās sadarbības projekts.

the Centre of the Complementary Medicine. Due to this initiative and other types of close cooperation of both sides, the two institutions have merged into one – the International Institute of Indic Studies, where a highly professional scientific research is performed.

Initially, the project involved 10 experts and 4 volunteers, but with the time many new partners joined in; and currently there are around 30 scholars both from Latvian, as well as international academic institutions. There are 5 expert groups – medical doctors (Ayurveda), yoga instructors and teachers, musicologists and musicians, Sanskrit language experts and linguists, and IT specialists. The program of tLex is used as a basic system for the input of words. Furthermore, several independent experts and organizations are being consulted during the compilation process, for example, State Language Centre of Latvia.

It is planned to include 1000 entries – Ayurveda (400), yoga (400) and Indian music (200). The research has a specific linguistic approach: all keywords will be listed in Devanagari, IAST and HK scripts. Besides, they will be translated, transcribed and explained in a paralleled text of English and Latvian languages. The first stage of the project will end in 2020. By then the whole information will be available online, in an open-access database. As for references, experts of each field use printed, as well as digital resources, however, the choices of explanations are mainly based on their own practical skills and competences.

The main task of this article is to find out similar open-access Ayurveda, yoga or Indian music online glossaries which would use Sanskrit and English languages as bases. Printed versions, online journals or books, pdf- or xlsx-format lists and alike are not included. The analysis consists of a description of each site, a critical assessment of advantages/disadvantages, and a comparison with the on-going Glossary project at the University of Latvia (further in text – UL Glossary). The objective of the article is a descriptive, topical and structural analysis with an interdisciplinary approach. It does not aim at a thorough linguistic analysis. Therefore, Sanskrit words are given in simplified English transcription (mainly according to their usage in relevant webpages).

Ayurveda

The most authoritative and comprehensive open-access site for Ayurvedic terminology is **NAMASTE – Portal**[2], created by the Government of India, AYUSH (Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy). In total, there are more than 15 000 entries. Sanskrit words are given in Devanagari script, additionally it is possible to switch between 10 different scripts (among them international HK[3] Latin transliteration, Telugu, Tamil and other scripts of India), definitions and detailed explanations are provided only in English.

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[2]   National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal (Ministry of AYUSH n.d.).

[3]   Harvard-Kyoto transliteration is based on the system, developed in 1984 by Andrea van Arkel.

The site is constructed in several layers: first of all, one can choose among topical groups (basic terminology, structure and function, signs and symptoms, pharmacognosy and pharmacology etc.). For each of these groups, it is possible to set a tree view[4] or a table view[5]. In the tree view, only the main concepts are given, they are hyperlinked with their explanations, which appear in a small extra window by clicking on the word.

All Sanskrit words are nouns, given in nominative case, however, sometimes in explanations also the stem form is used; and here HK transliteration is mixed with IAST[6]. The short definition given for each word is not a literal, but rather a descriptive translation according to the usage of the term in the respective field. Some words have only long definitions (e.g., signs and symptoms). The table also contains a space for references, however, at present no references are available yet.

This portal is a good example for a glossary of terminology, even if it is not perfect from the point of linguistic approach, but that is excusable due to the immense amount of work. This site offers different scripts for basic words, but UL Glossary will offer both translation of words and extensive explanations in two languages – English and Latvian which will be a unique combination. We shall also strive to render references and an exact transcription of Sanskrit words in both target languages.

Except for this government site, all other online glossaries that were found belong to private organizations or individuals. A rather extensive webpage is **Ayurveda Portal**,[7] developed by Gabe Hiemstra (Netherlands). It comprises 3803 entries for Ayurveda and 735 entries for yoga. The first level contains English alphabet, by clicking on letters one reaches the second level, where there are alphabetical lists of Sanskrit words in English transcription. By clicking on a keyword, one reaches the third level with detailed explanation for each entry. Definitions in relation to different traditional systems of Indian science and thought (such as Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Purana, Vyakarana etc.) are given. In explanations IAST and Devanagari are used, nouns are given in their stem forms.

Ayurveda Portal keywords are hyperlinked to different articles and texts. On the one hand, it is possible to learn a very wide scope of meanings; on the other hand, however, it is hard to follow the consistency and logic of the site. Text fragments from Indian classics are given; however, there are no authoritative referencing. The site is a mixture of Ayurveda, yoga, Buddhism, Hinduism, history of India, Shaivism and many other fields of knowledge. This may suggest that the developer has no really profound proficiency in any of them.

UL Glossary team would hardly attract such a large number of classical texts, because the aim is not to find out the meanings of words in each and every

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[4]   Lists of words according to thematic divisions and subdivisions.

[5]   Divided in seven columns: term ID, parent ID, code, word, short definition, long definition, reference. Usually no reference is given. Words are listed according the divisions of the tree view, not alphabetically.

[6]   The International Alphabet of Sanskrit *Transliteration,* formalized by the Transliteration Committee of the Geneva Oriental Congress, in September 1894.

[7]   Wisdom Library: Ayurveda Portal (Hiemstra n.d.).

philosophical school. The specialization will be significantly more concrete and much deeper, referring mostly to actual scientific researches by world-wide acknowledged yoga and Ayurveda specialists.

Another kind of webpages is created by doctors who offer consultations and treatment for their patients. Along with other information, they sometimes include a summary of Ayurvedic terminology. These are usually small organizations or individuals, thus, the number of words in their glossaries never amount to a thousand. They have good explanations of words from the medical aspect, nevertheless, from the linguistic or IT perspective high-level proficiency is lacking.[8] Usually, the lists are alphabetically ordered and one can find Sanskrit keywords according to their English transcription.

The glossary of **Sanjivani Wellness Center** (Jain 2016) is very short, on a single page, yet rather specialized, as it includes only those words that are used in this website. The president of the organization Dr. Mukesh D. Jain focuses on experimental "Panch Karma, Rasayana & yogic therapeutics" and offers Ayurvedic treatment mainly for "Neuro-muscular diseases, Muscular dystrophies, Parkinson's disease, Autism, Cerebral Palsy and mentally challenged children" (Sanjivani Wellness 2016). In the meantime, he is an academic lecturer[9], researcher and author of books. Dr. Jain has also founded the Academy of Ayurvedic Medical Sciences (India) and Indian Society of Clinical Ayurveda.

A comprehensive, but linguistically and visually rather confusing webpage belongs to the company **Ayurveda For You** (Patwardhan et al. 2000). It was established in 2000, in India (Maharashtra). The company provides online consultations for domestic as well as international clients. The glossary is rather extensive – several hundreds of words, however, it has many deficiencies. Line spacing, diacritical signs, punctuation, small and capital letters are used incorrectly. Contents are not very consistent, either. It surprises that words like "three, yoga nidra, tikshna, deva, desa", which do not directly relate to Ayurveda specialization, are also included in the list. Our UL Glossary team plans to include only specific concepts which directly relate to the definite sphere and are summarized by specialists in every field (Ayurveda, yoga, Indian music).

In addition, there are many online shops that introduce and sell their Ayurveda products. For example, **Banyan Botanicals** (Banyan Botanicals 2020) has a professional and well-designed glossary. It is very user-friendly: all the words are listed continuously as a text in one window; and it is possible to scroll down until the last one. Still, there is also the option for an alphabetical search on the top of the list. Keywords in explanations are highlighted and, moving the cursor over them, the definition springs up automatically in a small flash box. This would serve as a good example for UL Glossary, too.

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8 E.g. Devanagari is not given, different transcriptions are given, and noun forms are mixed up. The design of pages are very colorful, even dazzling, but IT solutions are simple; and there is no specialized structure that would relate to levels of contents.

9 He has taught Ayurvedic Panch Karma at the Center of Alternative Medicine of Government Medical College, Raipur, and at the Ayurvedic Unit of Central Medical Institute, Bhilai, India.

A similar, but not as visually immaculate is the webpage of **Allayurveda** (Bali 2018). There are alphabetical groups, and each appears in a separate window[10], besides, it seems strange that all letters are listed, but some of them contain no hyperlinks and no words at all. **Jiva Botanicals** (Deslippe 2018) has a nicely designed list, too. The whole text is in one window, but there is no alphabetical search option and no highlighted and hyperlinked words. Some concepts, such as "Asana, Chandra, Dharma, Karma, Samadhi, Sanskrit, Yoga, Yoga Sutras, Yoga Marga", refer more to yoga and Indian philosophy than to Ayurveda. A Brief Glossary of Key Ayurveda Terms is given also by the travel recreation site **SpaDreams** (Seifried et al. 2020). However, here Ayurveda is only a small portion of the overall offer; therefore, no serious and deep research into specific terminology is to be expected. The site covers a broad spectrum of recreation offers from all over the world, topical to health-concerned people in their daily lives (e.g., Yoga, Detox, Fasting, Vitality and other programs).

The Ayurveda websites by doctors and companies mentioned above usually lack linguistic approach. However, there is one more kind of glossaries' solution offered by IT experts and linguists. These are mobile phone applications, which are exactly specialized in summarizing only Ayurvedic terminology, with no other topics. They contain several thousand Sanskrit keywords, and their technical solutions are rather professional. Two examples are **Bams Ayurved Dictionary** (Sandeep 2018) by Dr. Sandeep Sir and **Ayurvedic Dictionary** (National Institute of Ayurveda 2014) by National Institute of Ayurveda in Jaipur. These dictionaries are very convenient and user-friendly: for example, the search of words does not require special diacritical signs, but the result is still displayed in correct IAST transliteration or Devanagari script. UL Glossary team has also considered this aspect and will enable a search option just with Roman letters. Mobile applications are becoming more and more widespread, so this would be a suggestion for a further implementation of UL Glossary, perhaps in the second stage of the work.

Yoga

There are far more webpages with glossaries regarding yoga. The most comprehensive and professional glossary is **Yogapedia Dictionary** (Yogapedia 2019). The editors maintain that "Yogapedia is the world's most comprehensive yoga encyclopaedia and the fastest-growing online platform for the yoga community" (Yogapedia 2019, *About Us*). The contributors include yoga therapists, doctors and other professionals of the field.[11] This dictionary is alphabetically ordered, one can search specific terms or word groups by Roman letters. English simplified transcription is used. Keywords are provided with a literal translation, and there are definitions and thorough explanations.

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[10] This is the usual way for grouping also in other sites. However, for PC users it would be more convenient to scroll down all letters in one list.

[11] Full list and personal data are available here: Yogapedia 2019, *Yogapedia Contributors.*

Each term (each explanation) is displayed in a separate window; no scrolling down function is available. This will also be the chosen display format for UL Glossary, because each term shall include many definition levels, meanings and sub-meanings, several transcriptions and translations will be given (Devanagari, HK, IAST, English and Latvian, the last one will perhaps also include parallel forms). Each word having this much information, the document would be inconvenient for scrolling down. However, Yogapedia Dictionary could as well have used this reader-friendly scrolling down function, because data given for one entry is not very extensive. In whole the homepage cannot be regarded as perfect example of academic style site. There is too much unspecified and promotional information on the bottom of each page, e.g., related terms, sponsored content, related articles[12], related tags, featured Q&A and others. Still, one has to consider financial challenges and the level of mass interests.

A good example – a list of **200 Key Sanskrit Yoga Terms (**Yoga Journal 2020) offered by "Yoga Journal", founded in 1975 by members of the California Yoga Teachers Association. The glossary is compiled by yoga teacher Georg Feuerstein[13]. It is systematic and correct from the linguistic point of view: firstly, a literal translation of the keyword is given in brackets; then it is followed by an explanation, main terms that occur in explanations all are given in italics. The homepage list does not include Devanagari or international transliteration, but there is a 15 page-long pdf- document and a more explicate printed version available, both with Devanagari, academic and simplified transcription (Feuerstein 2006). UL Glossary is also going to parallel several systems of transcription, thus, on the one hand, the users will be able to find keywords easily, on the other – they will also know the correct transliteration that exactly corresponds to the original script.

An anonymous, but a rather extensive site – **Yoga Glossary** offers alphabetically grouped list "yoga terms, meanings, Sanskrit words and meanings, Sanskrit translations for Hatha, Kundalini, Bikram, Iyengar, Ashtanga plus other forms" (YogaGlossary.com 2020). Explanations are brief, but some of them include hyperlinks to practical yoga poses (TheYogaPoses.com 2019). A search option is available. There may be useful and informative explanations, however, data about the author of this page could not be found, hence, it is not very useful as an academic reference.

Another anonymous, but very neatly formatted and systematically arranged list of terminology is **Yoga Dictionary** (GitHub 2019). The site has three levels: 1) alphabetical search, 2) keywords' list with English transcription and Devanagari (nouns given in nominative case), 3) translation or brief explanation of each term. Judging by the extension of the domain address and Devanagari

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[12] For example, the key term "Pancharatra Agama" is followed by a "related" article "Sex, Self-Pleasure and Spirituality: Developing Orgasmic Practice". The authors of articles are not mentioned, only Yogapedia contributors as a group.

[13] He also has another interesting site – Traditional Yoga Studies, where he and his followers "promote authentic yogic teachings". See: Traditional Yoga Studies 2019.

usage, this site probably could have been created by yoga practitioners in India.[14] From the linguistic point of view, there are numerous mistakes that would be not tolerated by academic institutions – parts of speech are mixed together, endings are not systematic, basic form of nouns given is not clear (neither in Devanagari, nor in English), Devanagari endings often do not correspond to their English transcription. Actually, no Ayurveda, yoga and Indian music glossaries viewed here take parts of speech into account, and the gender is never indicated. This will be an absolute must in UL Glossary approach.

Yoga glossaries constitute also an important part of homepages of yoga practice centres all around the world. **Anamaya Yoga Glossary** (Gonzalez 2012) by Angela Gonzalez (from Costa Rica, Montezuma) is not long (ca. 100 words), still, the approach and contents are professional and systematic – first, a literal translation of Sanskrit words is given in brackets[15], then an explanation follows. No special IT solutions are used, but visual appearance and orderly system of the website (without any superfluous add-ins or offers) leaves an enjoyable and spiritual impression.

A well-designed and systematic dictionary of yoga terms is offered by **EkhartYoga Academy** (Ekhart 2018) that specializes in online yoga courses. The Academy was founded by Esther Ekhart from Nigeria, and at present more than 20 teachers and guest teachers are employed.[16] The dictionary has all the possible IT options (word search, alphabetic search, scroll down function and "scroll to top" button). Explanations of Sanskrit words appear in an extra green-background box below the word (after a mouse-click on it). However, this kind of format would not be adequate for UL Glossary, since it comprises approximately five times more entries with many sub-meanings.

Another list of yoga terminology can be found in homepage of **Dharma Yoga Center** (Wisehart 2017), based in New York, USA. It was created by education specialist and yoga teacher Robert Wisehart.[17] The list has only scroll down function, and there are many transcription ambiguities and mistakes in it.[18] Contents of explanations differ by entry: some have a bare translation, others – longish explanation, even examples. In this aspect the approach is individualistic philosophical; contents are not definition-orientated.

Only **39 Yoga Terms** are explained by yoga teacher Stepfanie Romine[19], still there is some additional value, because many keywords are hyperlinked with

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[14] No exact data about editors of the dictionary are given, only the name Gopalindians (Gopal Sharma), so perhaps it is compiled by Swami Gopal Sharma followers from Rishikesh.

[15] Sometimes parallel versions of words (commonly used in English) are given, e.g., Karma and Karman.

[16] More info about them is provided here: EkhartYoga 2018.

[17] He studied yoga, anthropology and religion at UC Santa Cruz.

[18] For example, Marga (margha); Matsyendranath (Matsyendra, Matsyendra Nath, Matsendranathe), Muladhara Chackra.

[19] Stepfanie Romine is a writer, ACE-certified health coach and registered yoga teacher based in Asheville, North Carolina, USA.

online articles by USA Yoga specialists. The site is clearly based on promotion and mass demand, not for academic needs.

A yoga glossary that includes ca. 200 words with short explanations is provided by **DoYogaWithMe** (Procyshyn 2019), founded by instructor David Procyshyn. The main objective of this community is to inform people about wide spectrum of yoga related activities both in America and in Europe. The site offers videos, online classes, forum, blog and other entertaining items.

Just like in Ayurveda's case, there are some healthcare companies and online shops which, alongside with yoga articles and services, offer their clients also lists of yoga terminology. The glossary by **HealthAndYoga** (HealthAndYoga.com 2019) is set up as an independent page, not directly related to marketing activities of the main page. It has a clear and user-friendly system with alphabetical search function and „to top" buttons. Explanations are simple and short, and not always very precise.[20] This is a fairly good and practical overview for beginners, shop clients and passers-by.

A yoga glossary or (more precisely) a dictionary with translations of Sanskrit words is given in the framework of the homepage of **The Divine Life Society** (The Divine Life Society 2019, *Glossary*), based in India (State of Rishikesh). Keywords are hyperlinked with each other, some of them lead to writings of yoga master and Ayurveda doctor Swami Sivananda[21] and his disciples. Texts include extensive accounts on certain topics (such as yoga, Karma, Sadhana, Buddha, Sankara etc.). These are not academic researches, but pertain more to personal religious and spiritual experience that is also indispensable for an authentic understanding of Indic arts and sciences.

There are also software programs and applications of yoga terminology. A rather professional one for PC, i-phone and i-pad is Glossary of Yoga Plus (Wan Fong Lam 2016), created by Wan Fong Lam. IT approach of this dictionary is more practical than that of above-mentioned websites. The program offers several search options, highlighting and bookmarking functions, interlinked words etc. However, no exact information about the background of its authors could be found.

Mobile phone applications are available also for yoga poses, both with professional explanations and with illustrative pictures. **PocketYoga** (Rainfrog 2020) platform offers PC version, as well as different app versions for phones.[22] Poses are grouped according to their practical usage and according to the difficulty level. Name, category, description and benefits are clearly indicated for each pose. Many yoga centres give lists and explanations on yoga poses, as well. Still, one should consider India's point of view in this respect. Lately, the government of India "has started the exercise of putting on record as many as 1 500 yoga postures, in its efforts to prevent the traditional practice from being pirated elsewhere in the world" (*The Times of India*, March 8, 2009).

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[20] E.g., Aham – ego; Akasha – ether, space; Guru – spiritually enlightened soul.

[21] His biography can be found here: The Divine Life Society 2019, *His Holiness Sri Swami Sivananda Saraswati Maharaj*.

[22] No exact information could be found about compilers of this program. Thus, it is not suitable for academic purposes.

Indian music

Indian music sites are more orientated toward music performance and functionality. They have no linguistic approach. Usually Devanagari script, HK or IAST are not given, only English transcription that may be rather voluntary. However, this is perhaps just an issue of the outer appearance that in most cases it does not influence the quality of contents and explanations.

One of the most professional in respect to the music research and performance is the **Glossary by ITC Sangeet Research Academy**, based in Kolkata (ITC Sangeet Research Academy 2016). It is laid out in one window with scroll down and alphabetical search functions. Still, the alphabetical search has two deficiencies: it scrolls down all words in eyes dazzling speed, but later (if one is in the middle of the list) it is not possible to automatically "scroll to top", in order to find a word-group of another letter. The visual and colour design of the page could serve as a good example for other webpage editors.

A music glossary is available also in the database of **SwarGanga Music Foundation** (SwarGanga Music Foundation 2020)**.** The organization is based in USA (State of Georgia) and functions together with SwarGanga Trust that promotes North Indian Music and musicians. The site offers extensive information about Indian Music (articles, courses, events, introduction to artists, music instruments etc.). In the music glossary there are 127 words; Roman alphabet is used for the transcription, double letters (aa, uu, ii) mark long Sanskrit vowels. This method can be observed also in some other sites.

However, there are also many other pronunciation specifics of Sanskrit, that are not (or cannot) be taken into regard. In many languages it is impossible to write down precisely Sanskrit nasals and soft consonants. In Latvian one can distinguish between short and long vowels, soft and hard consonants (*a, ā; s, š* etc.), but it is not possible to display retroflex and nasal sounds (*ṛ, ṭ, ḍ, ṇ, ṣ* etc.). In English there is one nasal sound (*ng*). There are no retroflex sounds like in Sanskrit. This is where neither English, nor Latvian transcription can possibly be precise enough.

All other webpages about Indian Music are mostly created by individuals, both from India as well as from other countries of the world. **Music of India – Glossary** (Batish 2012) by the sitar and tabla player Ashwin Kumar Batish from India (Bombay) is rather simple, it contains ca. 50 words, all listed in one window. He is primarily concentrating on promotion of his performances and concerts. Explanations are brief and visual appearance is not very coherent[23].

The **Glossary of Indian Classical Music** (Sarkar, P. n.d.) by music scholar Parmjeet Sarkar[24] distinguishes clearly North and South Music terminology. There are several hundred entries with extensive explanations. On the top of the page there is alphabetical search function. The layout of this website is rather simple, but with academic approach. Each topic (also the glossary) appears in a separate window, with no other information (menus or options) in there. This allows readers to concentrate on the given topic; besides, it is easy to copy or print out the text.

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[23] There is no proper header of the page, italics are used in an unsystematic manner, etc.

[24] M.A., Panjab University Chandigarh and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

There are several webpages that are dedicated to information particularly on South Indian music. For example, the webpage CarnaticIndia, administered by Krishnaraj S.[25], offers a nicely designed **Carnatic Music Dictionary** (Krishnaraj 2008) with a scroll down function and alphabetical search option (however, there is no "back to top" button). All Sanskrit words are given in small letters (some other websites give them all in capital letters). These two writing versions correspond precisely to Devanagari script where capital and small letters are not differentiated. UL Glossary would rather use small letters for Sanskrit words, because capital letters are reserved for HK transliteration system.

Indian Heritage site is designed and hosted by Sumathi (Saigan Connection) from Chennai (Tamilnadu) who is collecting and providing information on topics related to music, dance, painting, sculpture, gods, temples, architecture, arts, crafts, traditions, customs of India. It also contains a **Dictionary of South Indian Musical Terms** (Sumathi 2019, *Music*), articles on music (Sumathi 2019, *Articles*) and other topics by different Indian scholars. The first window of the dictionary is English alphabet; by clicking of letters, one reaches the second level, where there are groups of words and their explanations. "Back to main page" button is available.

Furthermore, there are music stores and studios who offer their products and services, as well as other materials about Indian Music. For example, the website **SudeepAudio** (with offices in Mumbai and Ahmedabad), set up by Nikhil Mehta, includes a short list of ca. 80 words with brief explanations (Mehta n.d.). They are all listed in one window with no special search functions or menu options.

Music is a relevant topic also in Sikh culture. Therefore, the site Search Gurbani[26] (based in USA, State of Texas), among many other topics, offers also a **Glossary of Musical Terms** (Gateway to Sikhism 2020). Webpage design has a rather logic structural[27] and visual solution, although the bright colouring[28] may distract the reader's attention from the content. The transcription is academic, but not perfect. Transcribed words that are not hyperlinked with their definitions (and given in red colour) are in italics. But the usage of small and big capital letters for Sanskrit words is not consistent. As for contents, the explanations of music terminology are quite exact and specific, not related to religion.

The last example for music websites is **Indian Music Glossary** (Culturalindia. net n.d.). There are ca. 100 entries, alphabetically listed in one window. Sanskrit

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[25] Editor-in-chief, Krishnaraj S. has M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication, Mahatma Gandhi University. Presently he is working in Kerala.

[26] The Guru Granth Sahib is a sacred scripture, and is the Eternal Guru of the Sikhs. The sacred verses of Sri Guru Granth Sahib are called Gurbani, which means the Guru's word or the song messages enshrined in Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Gateway to Sikhism 2020, *Boundless Scripture of Guru Granth Sahib)*.

[27] A Roman alphabet search option is possible, and in difference to other sites, here only those letters which have entries and explanations, are given. Scroll down and back to top functions are available.

[28] Sanskrit words in black, explanations in blue, keywords in text – red, background in light blue and yellow.

keywords are given in bold, explanation follow in regular script. There are no special options or functions. This glossary is not very profound and specific, as it constitutes only a small part among many other topics that (as the name of the website tells) cover nearly the whole culture of India (history, art, dances, monuments, social issues, food, clothing etc.). No data about editors of this page could be found.

If we consider these internet resources and compare them with printed materials, then it is more fruitful to make use of last ones, as they are far more informative, academic and offer real scholarly researches. As just one example I would like to mention "**The Oxford Encyclopaedia of the Music of India**" (Ghosh 2011) compiled in Sangit Mahabharati Music Academy[29]. This was a collaborative effort spanning for 12 years, supported by a group of around 250 musicians, scholars, and teachers of music from India and other countries. The book contains three volumes and more than 5000 entries, covering story of Indian music through two thousand years, from classical to film-originated, as well as dance styles, technical terms, instruments, biographies of vocalists, musicologists, composers and instrumentalists. The dictionary is partly available online, as well. This kind of academic approach is also the main method of UL Glossary research team.

Sanskrit-English dictionaries

Languages (Sanskrit, English and Latvian) are not the topic of UL Glossary's contents. Still, they constitute an integral part thereof and define the methodological approach of our research. Not only Sanskritologists in person have to be consulted, but also printed and online dictionaries. Therefore, I will mention a couple of most frequently used online dictionaries for Sanskrit and English that can serve as a good example for IT solutions. They are all edited by an academic team and possess proper references about proceedings of the compilation work.

The enterprise Spokensanskrit.de (now Spokensanskrit.org) was founded in 2005, in India (Cochin) by Sri Chidambaram Narayanaswami and Klaus Glashoff (Switzerland) with the support of many voluntary contributors.[30] The latest version of **Sanskrit-English / English-Sanskrit Dictionary for Spoken Sanskrit** (Glashoff 2017) is designed to contain common words necessary for daily communication, in addition to words from classical texts. The site is very friendly for users, as it allows any kind of input (any of widely used transcriptions or transliterations, also prefixes or parts of words could be searched). Besides, it is possible to look for the word simultaneously in English and in Sanskrit (of course, one can choose the exact source-language, too). The output is visually very well structured: there are three columns (Devanagari, transliteration, and translation); many synonyms, phrase and sentence examples are given for each word. At the bottom of the dictionary there

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[29] Saṅgīt Mahābhāratī stands out in the world of serious music education and research as one of India's premier academies. It was established in 1956 in Mumbai by the internationally renowned tabla maestro, music educationist, and author, the late Padma Bhushan Pandit Nikhil Ghosh (Chief Editor).

[30] Unfortunately, their names are not known.

is a link to a very similar in style Hindi-English-Hindi dictionary and to Monier-Williams dictionary (that will be examined further in the text). The website also includes Sandhi Engine and on-screen keyboard for writing in Devanagari script.

Sanskrit and Tamil Dictionaries (Malten 1997) show the attainment of the huge digitalization project of many printed and online dictionaries that was carried out at the University of Cologne (Germany) and coordinated by Prof. Thomas Malten. The search is possible in three online dictionaries separately or all together (in total including 325 838 entries). The search is based on HK transliteration (but not case sensitive). It is possible to search the exact word, but also prefix, substring or suffix input is possible. The English translation opens in a new window (and you must use the return arrow to get back home). This translation output is sometimes not very easily understandable for common users.[31]

Among the aforementioned three dictionaries, the Cologne Digital Sanskrit Dictionary is mainly based on **Monier-Williams Sanskrit-English Dictionary** (the first printed version published in 1899), and on the bottom of the page there is also a link to its digitalized version (Monier-Williams 2019). One can choose Basic display, List display, Advanced search or Mobile-friendly display. In all cases, one must choose one of several definite transliterations for the input and one of several definite transliterations for the output. The search result is shown below the searched string. Many meanings from different classical sources are listed. Furthermore, very important – also references for each definition and translation are given (for example, Mahabharata, Rigveda or Ayurveda, even the exact page number of printed books). This is the target of UL Glossary, as well. Even more, there is a downloadable version of this and other digitalized dictionaries, to enable the use off-line.

Although Monier-Williams dictionary may be the most professional of all above mentioned ones, it is still rather inconvenient for most of users who do not know Sanskrit at a high level. No prefix- or suffix-input is possible; one must enter exactly the basic form of every part of speech (for example, the stem of nouns and the root of verbs). Thus, if one does not know the new word and wants to find out its meaning, it would be hardly possible to do it here, without consulting another dictionary. For options of input and output our team should find a middle approach between Spoken Sanskrit and Monier-Williams.

There are dozens of online and pdf-format dictionaries, as well as mobile applications available for Sanskrit-English-Sanskrit language combination. It is not possible and not necessary to enumerate them all here. One can just check webpages **SanskritDocuments** (SanskritDocuments.org n.d.) and **Cologne Digital Sanskrit Dictionaries** (Institute of Indology and Tamil Studies 2019) which give an excellent summary of the relevant databases.

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[31] For example: **kArma** 1 mf(%{I})n. (fr. %{ka4rman} ; g. %{chattrA7di}) , active , laborious Pa1n2. 6-4 , 172.

Results, discussion and conclusions

Summarizing the results of the above overview, one can observe that there are several kinds of organizations and individuals which compile glossaries. Official initiatives and sites of Indian government have been established for Ayurveda, as well as yoga poses. Ayurveda clinics and doctors, yoga centres and yoga instructors, musicians and musical institutions offer specified glossaries, as well. The two aforementioned kinds are more professional and usable for referencing. Furthermore, there are commercial sites: health & recreation centres and shops (of Ayurveda products or yoga articles) which create short glossaries for their clients. Besides, there are webpages that include different information about Indian culture or religion. Yoga and Ayurveda are indispensable parts of Indian culture; therefore, such sites often offer diverse articles about these two topics, as well as lists of relevant terminologies.

There are highly professional Sanskrit-English online dictionaries; they have roots in a long tradition of comparative linguistics. Already for several centuries many highly qualified scholars have engaged in the work of compiling bilingual dictionaries. As experts of writing and wording, linguists continue these academic activities also in digital form. Consequently, more detailed and voluminous online databases are available for Sanskrit research than for Ayurveda, yoga or music. Three latter ones are more practice-orientated and do not always aim at displaying the knowledge in written form.

Another point observed is that there are rather numerous open-access glossaries for each field of science (Ayurveda, yoga, Indian music or Sanskrit) separately; however, there is no one that would combine Ayurveda, yoga and music, emphasizing bilingual (trilingual) approach. Most sites are created by individuals, not by a group of several experts. Only few of them (e.g., Sanskrit dictionaries) emphasize correct morphological forms and definite transcriptions. None of the currently available webpages for Ayurveda, yoga and Indian music contains bilingual explanations for Sanskrit words (only English).

The pool of open-access online resources is characterised by an extensive lack of qualitative and authoritative terminology databases for Indic sciences. However, nowadays this is the main source of information used by the younger generation. Hence, there is a great need for contribution in this field. Our University of Latvia Glossary team consists of experts in all four disciplines (Ayurveda, Yoga, Music and Sanskritology), and together with IT experts we have best resources for compiling modern and specialized digital databases. Regarding contents, it will be based on professional knowledge, field experience and high academic standards. As to the visual design and search functions, the site will be orientated toward meeting the needs and corresponding to the skills of the general audience.

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Kopsavilkums

Latvijas Universitātē 2017. gadā tika uzsākts nozīmīgs efektīvas sadarbības projekts ar no-saukumu "Indisko zinātņu (ājurvēdas, jogas, indiešu klasiskās mūzikas) pamatterminu skaid-rojošā sanskrita-angļu-latviešu (elektroniskā) datubāze". Tajā plānots iekļaut 1000 ierak-stus – ājurvēda (400), joga (400) un indiešu mūzika (200). Attiecīgi ir izveidotas 5 ekspertu grupas – medicīnas ārsti (ājurvēda), jogas instruktori un pasniedzēji, muzikologi un mūziķi, sanskrita valodas eksperti un valodnieki, kā arī IT speciālisti. Kā pamatsistēma terminu ieva-dei tiek izmantota tLex platforma. Darba procesā iesaistīti arī ārvalstu speciālisti, vairāki neatkarīgi eksperti un organizācijas, piemēram, Latvijas Valsts valodas centrs.

Šis raksts veido daļu no iepriekš minētā projekta. Tā galvenais mērķis ir apzināt un izpētīt līdzīgas atklātas piekļuves interneta datubāzes un vārdnīcas, kas piedāvā un skaidro ājuvēdas, jogas vai indiešu mūzikas terminoloģiju, par pamatu izmantojot sanskrita un angļu valodu. Drukātie avoti, tiešsaistes žurnāli vai grāmatas, pdf vai xlsx formāta arhīvi netiek aplūkoti. Analīzē tiek detalizēti aprakstītas attiecīgās interneta vietnes, kritiski tiek izvērtētas to priekšrocības un trūkumi salīdzinājumā ar minētā Latvijas Universitātes projekta plānojumu. Raksta mērķis ir aprakstoša un strukturāla analīze ar starpdisciplināru pieeju. Tomēr šis nav lingvistisks pētījums, tādēļ sanskrita termini tiek doti vienkāršotā angļu valodas transkripcijā vai arī atbilstoši to lietojumam attiecīgajās vietnēs (ja tas ir būtiski argumentācijai).

Atslēgvārdi: *Indija, ājurvēda, joga, mūzika, salīdzinošā valodniecība, terminoloģija.*