

ENGLISH-HINDI DICTIONARY

(Letterwise: 'P')

अंग्रेज़ी-हिंदी शब्दकोश

अभय मौर्या

English-Hindi

Dictionary

अंग्रेजी-हिंदी

शब्दकोश



Abhai Maurya

Foreword

As a translator, I have often faced the problem of woeful inadequacy of English-Hindi resources. Particularly, the Hindi equivalents of English words available on the internet rarely served my purpose. This frequently led to a sense of frustration, and I kept wondering whether I could ever find a dictionary or an online resource to assist me in my translation work.

It is against this backdrop that I came to know about Professor Abhai Maurya's project of preparing an English-Hindi dictionary, which was in progress at the time. The proposal made by Professor Maurya that I join the project as Copy Editor took me by surprise. Though I had indulged in sundry creative and critical ventures in Hindi and English as well as in translation, I had never attempted participating in a project of the nature and magnitude of a dictionary. Initially, therefore, I was diffident and hesitant about the proposal. In fact, my first reaction was to resist it, and I was on the verge of declining it.

However, when I was assured that there would be no pressure of meeting deadlines and that I was free to work at my own pace, I accepted the daunting task. As I went through the pages, I began to realize the significance of the tremendous labour and missionary zeal that must have gone into this fascinating dream project of Professor Maurya, who was working almost single-handedly. Once I had started the work, I felt an unexpected sense of involvement. My subsequent interactions with Professor Maurya have been highly

rewarding, and today, when the project is almost complete, I consider myself fortunate in choosing to be a part of it.

We have often seen that the Hindi equivalents of English words found in dictionaries serve only a limited purpose by providing a synonym. They don't help the Hindi-knowing reader to understand what the word in English actually means. What we need in such cases is a brief description of the import of the word, in Hindi. I'm glad to notice that Professor Maurya has taken care of this need. Many other special features of this dictionary have been given in the Introduction, and there is no point in repeating them here.

I dare say with confidence that, by filling a long-felt gap, this dictionary will prove to be highly useful. I earnestly hope that the readers will welcome it wholeheartedly. Suggestions for improvement are eagerly solicited.

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Introduction

The idea of creating an English-Hindi dictionary has been at the back of my mind for a long time. The use of existing resources right from the school days had often left me fumbling, more often than not. The need to undertake such a formidable challenge was felt by me extremely acutely while working on my lexicographical works like *Russian-English-Hindi Essential Dictionary*, *Russian-English Concise Naval Dictionary* and, finally, while translating the *Cambridge Learner's Dictionary* into Hindi (a joint project of The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad and Cambridge University Press). All this while I had an agonising feeling that the existing English-Hindi resources were either extremely inadequate or they made me feel, much against my will, that Hindi was more difficult and prohibitive than English.

Grappling with the feeling of an utter uneasiness with the existing English-Hindi resources, I embarked on the mammoth task of creating a new English-Hindi dictionary which could provide some succour to many in distress. I, however, did not realise at that time as to what sort of plunge I was taking, particularly in the unfathomable waters of English-Hindi ocean. Only a few years less than a decade of my life have been swallowed by this gigantic endeavour. The task became all the more daunting because I had to accomplish this multi-strand work almost all alone. Usually such projects are undertaken by a collective of compilers and editors. But in the Indian conditions my experience of such collective efforts had been quite frustrating. So, I had to charter out the path through

the turbulent sea of English-Hindi lexicography all alone. Thus, the result of this *tapasya* is in your hands, for better or worse.

The entire process of creating this dictionary, i.e. collection of material for all the entries, collections of Hindi equivalents to the English words, expressions, phrases, examples elucidating the meanings, etc., conceptualising the structural framework, composing it all in English and Hindi on the computer had to be carried out by me single-handedly, with intermittent help with the process of typing by my assistants.

Fortunately, through all this excruciating exercise there was one source from which I had been drawing constant sustenance. And that was my exposure and access to Russian lexicography. Indeed, the most significant factor that has contributed to the evolution of this work is the fact of Russian lexicographical sources being at my disposal through my long drawn out journey à la *The Journey Beyond Three Seas* (“**Хождение за три моря**”, 1466-1472), a voyage undertaken to India by the valiant Russian traveller Afanasy Nikitin in fifteenth century, which was also the theme of the classic Hindi film *Pardesi*.

The salient features of this dictionary:

- * Each entry, the structure of which is given below, is given in a root-based word-family linkage;
- * an up-to-date content, incorporating the latest words, including the “post-truth”;

- * the exhaustive nature of information given under each entry lends it an encyclopaedic character;
- * total number of words and the **derived words** (*dw*'s) is more than the number of words given in any modern 'Advanced Learner's...' type dictionary;
- * terms, taken from most fields of human activity, practices and disciplines, are denoted by abbreviations such as *med.* (medicine), *pathol.* (pathology), *phys.* (physics), *bot.* (botany), *tech.* (technical);
- * the para of *dw/lw* (derived word/ linked word) is a unique distinction of an entry;
- * word combinations or partner words are given under a separate para titled **collocations** of an entry;
- * a large number of phrases, idioms, proverbs and winged words given under the sub-heading **p&i** (phrases and idioms) as part of an entry;
- * each **entry** or *dw/lw* is followed by its grammatical label or category;
- * **verbs** are followed by their **conjugation** in past (*pt.*), present participle (*pp*);
- * **adjectives** of quality are followed by their comparative and superlative **degrees**;
- * a large number of national and international **abbreviations** and **acronyms** are given in their due place in alphabetical order;