

A Handbook
of
English Grammar
(for Learners, teachers and scholars)

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Prologue

Sound, Structure and Sense: The Glamour of Grammar

Sound Patterns, Lexicogrammatical **Structures** and **Sense** Configurations constitute the tristratal system of language. Without the sound patterns to back them, the orthographic symbols will lose their status as constituents of linguistic signs, So when we talk of writing systems we are actually looking at the way they reflect speech patterns. Glamour is considered the scothish variant of Grammar meaning enchantment and spelling.

The systematic study of the sound patterns of a language is its phonology. The phonology of a language has several things to take care of. It identifies the features that are ‘distinctive’ in the language and describes the feature-complexes that constitute the (phonological) segments (phonegments). For example ‘voicing’ is not distinctive in Tamil and ‘aspiration’ is not distinctive in English. Phonology describes the structures of syllables in terms of the succession of consonants and vowels, Suprasegmental features like **stress** and **tone** are to be identified. ‘Tone’ as a lexical feature is a prominent feature in East Asian languages like Vietnamese. It has a role to play in Punjabi too. Stress has an extremely significant role to play in languages like Russian and English. Punjabi also seems to make a good use of ‘stress’ for its rhythm. In Telugu and