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Title of the Paper: Multi-Alphabets: A Novel Model for the Simultaneous Learning of Alphabets for Five Languages by 2–5-Year-Old Children, Adding a New Dimension to the Multi-Languaging Concept and Method

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MULTI-ALPHABETICS

A Novel Model for the Simultaneous Learning of Alphabets
The Process Whereby 2–5–Year–Old Children Learn Five
Different Alphabets, Where in Each Step the Previously
Learned Information Serves as an Anchor

SESHI ACADEMY FOR
MULTI ∞ LANGUAGING

Foundational Basis

>> A foundational “study set” of 444 **images/meanings/concepts** corresponding to two keywords (instead of one, to allow for an expanded scope of learning) for each letter in the English, Telugu, Hindi, Urdu, and Sanskrit alphabets (26, 51, 57, 39, and 49 letters, respectively) formed the basis of the model. For example,

aఅఅ|अ

A/a	Apple; Astronaut (English)
అ – a	అమ్మ – am'ma; అద్దము – addamu (Telugu)
अ – a	अक्षमाला – akshamālā; अगरबत्ती – agarabattī (Hindi)
ا – a	آستين – āstīn; آتش – ātish (Urdu)
अ – a	अस्थिपञ्जरः – asthipañjarah; अजः – ajaḥ (Sanskrit)

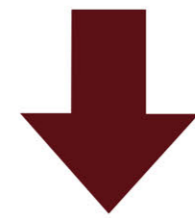
>> Observe that the first letter is the same across five seemingly disparate languages, accentuating the advantage of parallel learning.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ANCHOR CONCEPT

For example, a child of Hindi background

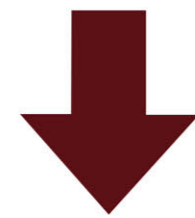
First learns to speak 444 Hindi words corresponding to 444 images

Focus: Learning to speak Hindi words



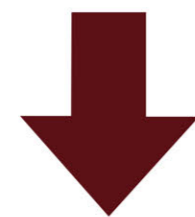
Next learns to write the 444 Hindi words in the Hindi script

Focus: Learning to read and write the Hindi alphabet



Then learns to speak the 444 words in all five languages as written in the Hindi script

Focus: Learning to speak all five language-words as if they were all Hindi



Finally learns to write the other four language scripts in succession

Focus: Learning to read and write the other four language alphabets/scripts using the words learned as an anchor

STEP 1: LEARNING TO SPEAK 444 WORDS IN MOTHER LANGUAGE, I.E., HINDI

- >> A short story or rhyme in English about each of the explored 444 images is created and translated into the other four languages.
- >> The story is told by the image itself in a playful manner using 2D/3D animation.
- >> The child watches and learns the stories/rhymes in his or her mother language (*monolingual* rhymes).
- >> From 2 to 3 years old, a child of Hindi background learns to speak 444 Hindi words corresponding to 444 images/concepts with no reference to or knowledge of any script, not even the Hindi script, thus laying the conceptual foundation for further exploration. For example,

सेब – seb; अंतरिक्ष यात्री – antariksh yātrī (Meanings that arose from English alphabet words)

माता – mātā; दर्पण – darpaṇ (Similarly meanings from Telugu)

अक्षमाला – akshamālā; अगरबत्ती – agarabattī (Meanings from Hindi)

आस्तीन (कपड़े की) – āstīn (kapare kī), बाह (कपड़े की) – bāh (kapare kī); अग्नि – agni (Meanings from Urdu)

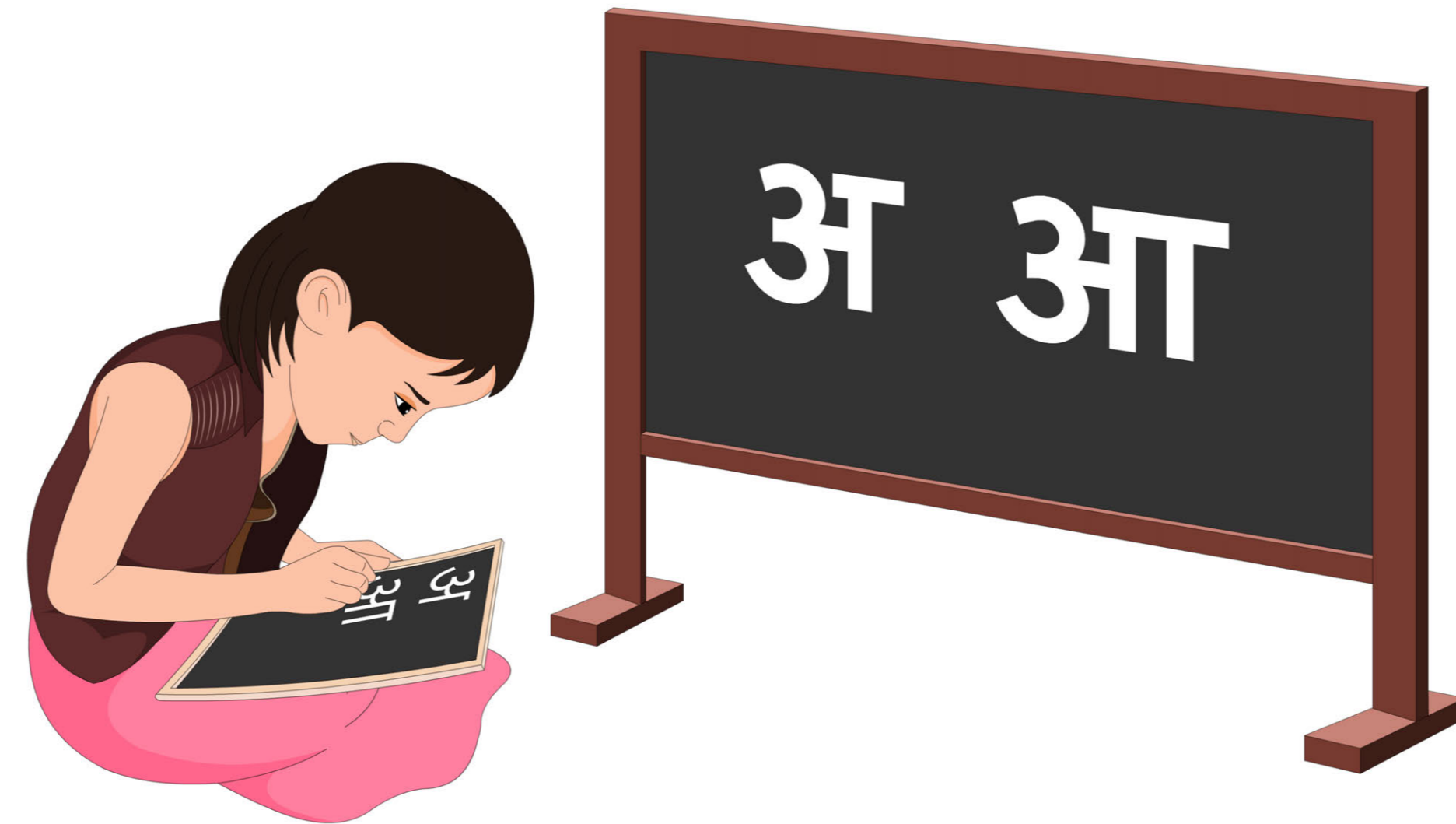
कंकाल – kankāl; भेड़ा / ब्रह्म – bherā / brāhma (Meanings from Sanskrit)

- >> Children from different language backgrounds learn to **speak the same content**, but in their own language.

FOCUS	METHOD	TIME	SPEECH	READING	WRITING	OUTCOME
Speak mother tongue words	Listen to monolingual rhymes	1 Year	Mother tongue	NA	NA	444 words spoken in mother tongue

STEP 2: LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE 444 WORDS IN MOTHER LANGUAGE, I.E., HINDI

- >> During the six months from age 3 to 3½, the child learns to read and write in the Hindi script, with the 444 Hindi words learned to speak in Step 1 serving as an anchor.
- >> The child learned the names/words of the related images and now learns the alphabet letters by correlating them with the names/words with which he or she is already familiar (114 alphabet words from Hindi) and uses the remainder of the 444 native language words (52 derived from English, 102 from Telugu, and likewise from Urdu and Sanskrit) for practicing writing the Hindi script. This process is much like the conventional path of learning.



FOCUS	METHOD	TIME	SPEECH	READING	WRITING	OUTCOME
Write mother tongue script	Write words learned in Step 1 in native script	1/2 year	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	444 words spoken and written in mother tongue

STEP 3: LEARNING TO **SPEAK AND READ** 444 WORDS FROM THE OTHER FOUR LANGUAGES (TOGETHER 1,776 WORDS) WRITTEN IN MOTHER LANGUAGE SCRIPT, I.E., HINDI, AS IF THEY WERE ALL HINDI

>> Between 3 ½ and 4 ½ years old, the child learns to speak the 444 words from the five languages (together 2,220 words, the complete set) by writing in the Hindi script learned in Step 2 and by listening to *multilingual* rhymes/vignettes/conversations in the five languages, covering the full gamut of the image set. For example,

आपिल (apple; English)

आपिल पण्डु (apple pandu; Telugu)

सेब (seb; Hindi)

सेब (seb; Urdu)

आताफलम् (aathaaphalam; Sanskrit)

बोय (boy; English)

बालुडु (baaludu; Telugu)

लड़का (ladkaa; Hindi)

लड़का (ladkaa; Urdu)

बालकः (baalakaha; Sanskrit)

>> The child is still operating under the shelter of his or her mother language.

FOCUS	METHOD	TIME	SPEECH	READING	WRITING	OUTCOME
Speak 5 language words	Listening to multilingual rhymes	1 Year	5 languages	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	2,220 words spoken in 5 languages and written in mother tongue

STEP 4: LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE THE SCRIPTS OF THE OTHER FOUR LANGUAGES

>> From 4½ to 5 years old, the child learns to write the scripts of the other four languages one after another.

English (Latin)

A B C D E F ...; a b c d e f...

తెలుగు (Telugu)

అ ఆ ఇ ఈ ఉ ఊ a aa e ee u oo ...; క ఖ గ ఘ ఙ ka kha ga gha ñ ...

हिंदी / संस्कृतं (Hindi/Sanskrit)

अ आ इ ई उ ऊ a aa e ee u oo ...; क ख ग घ ङ ka kha ga gha nga/ñ ...

اردو (Urdu)

ا آ اِ اُ اَوِ a aa e ee u oo...; ک کھ گ گھ ن kaaf kaaf-hay gaaf gaaf-hay noon ... (from left to right)

>> The child learns to firmly associate the specific words/sounds with the specific language.

FOCUS	METHOD	TIME	SPEECH	READING	WRITING	OUTCOME
Write other 4 language scripts	Write words learned in Step 3 in other scripts sequentially	1/2 year	5 languages	5 languages	5 languages	2,220 words spoken and written in 5 languages