

Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2024–25  
ELECTIVE COURSE  
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

**BSTC2019 Pāli language II**

Lecturer	Dr. Dipen Barua
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Offering Semester	Semester II
Schedule	Every Tuesday from 10:30 am to 12:20 pm
Class Venue	CPD-1.22

**Course Description**

The main focus of the course is to introduce more practical knowledge of Pāli that enables students to read easy Pāli passages both prose and verse extracted directly from the Pāli texts. It also introduces remaining grammatical components not included in Pāli I such as basic grammar together with exercises, including phonetics, parts of speech, nouns of different genders and their declensions, verbs and their conjugations, participles and their functions, syntax and classification of sentences. At the end of the course the students are expected to be able to read simple Pāli sentences and understand their religious and philosophical significance in context.

**Course Content**

This course is designed for students directly on BSTC2016 Pāli language I, expanding Pāli learning skills among students to understand and read sentences in Pāli. The main focus of Pāli language II is on the continuation of grammar which includes past, present, future participles, numerals, syntax, compounds, conditional tense, causative and reading passages from the Pāli texts such as the *Dīgha Nikāya*, the *Majjhima Nikāya*.

**Learning Outcome**

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to

- gain advance knowledge of Pāli grammar;
- build a fundamental level of Pāli vocabulary;
- demonstrate the skill of translation Pāli sentences;
- understand the content of Pāli literature and apply their knowledge to other academic disciplines to gain a better understanding;
- provide a summary of the teachings in the Pāli Canon.

## Teaching and Learning Method

Lectures, class discussions and tutorials

## Prerequisite

Prerequisite: “BSTC2016. Pāli language I” or possess equivalent knowledge

## Assessment

50% coursework and 50% examination

## Assessment Method

- Coursework (50%):
  - Class participation (15%)
  - Homework (15%)
  - Quiz (20%)
- Final examination (50%) will be held at the end of the semester. It is an open-textbook exam.

## Lecture Schedule for Semester II

Lesson	Date	Contents
Lesson 1	21 Jan 2025	(a) Class V verbs (b) Class IX verbs (c) Declension of <i>-as</i> and <i>-us</i> ending nouns (d) Exercises
Lesson 2	11 Feb 2025	(a) Present participles (b) Relative pronouns and relative clauses (c) Future tense <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conjugation of future tense of <math>\sqrt{labh}</math>; <math>\sqrt{bhū}</math></li></ul> (d) Exercises
Lesson 3	18 Feb 2025	(a) Interrogative pronouns <i>kad</i> , <i>ko</i> , <i>kiṃ</i> , <i>kā</i> (b) Interrogation and interrogative clauses (c) The optative mode (d) Future Passive Participles (FPP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <math>\sqrt{vad}</math> (<i>vadati</i>); <math>\sqrt{dā}</math> (<i>dadāti/deti</i>); <math>\sqrt{bhū}</math> (<i>bhavati</i>); etc.</li></ul> (e) Exercises
Lesson 4	25 Feb 2025	(a) Class III verbs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conjugation of <math>\sqrt{dā}</math> ‘give’</li></ul> (b) Numerals (cardinal) (c) Declensions of <i>eka</i> ‘one’; <i>dve</i> ‘two’; <i>ti</i> ‘three’ (d) Exercises
Lesson 5	4 Mar 2025	(a) Locative and genitive absolute (b) Imperative mood

		(c) Conjugation of $\sqrt{labh}$ 'obtain'; $\sqrt{kṛ}$ 'do'; and $\sqrt{sru}$ 'hear' (d) Exercises
<b>No Class</b>	<b>11 Mar 2025</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>
Lesson 6	18 Mar 2025	(a) Imperative mood (b) <i>Attanopada</i> verb forms (c) Conjugation of future tense $\sqrt{labh}$ 'obtain'; $\sqrt{kṛ}$ 'do' in the <i>attanopada</i> (d) Passive voice (pas): present and future passive verbs (e) Exercises
Lesson 7	25 Mar 2025	(a) Aorists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The root-aorist</li> <li>• Example: <math>\sqrt{dā}</math> 'give'; <math>\sqrt{bhū}</math> 'become'; <math>\sqrt{as}</math> 'be'</li> <li>• The a-aorist</li> </ul> (b) Class VII verbs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conjugation of Class VII verbs</li> </ul> (c) Exercises <b>Quiz</b>
Lesson 8	1 Apr 2025	(a) Infinitive (b) Declension of $-ū$ ending m and f nouns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Subbaññū</i> (m) 'omniscient'</li> <li>• <i>Jambū</i> (f) 'rose-apple tree'</li> </ul> (c) Exercises
Lesson 9	8 Apr 2025	(a) Suffixes and nominal derivation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary suffixes</li> <li>• Secondary suffixes</li> </ul> (b) Some irregular declensions: <i>sakhi</i> (m) and <i>go</i> (m) (c) Nominal compounds ( <i>samāsa</i> ): <i>dvanda</i> , <i>tappurisa</i> , <i>avyayībhāva</i> , <i>kammadhāraya</i> , <i>digu</i> (d) Example of Pāli sentences (e) Exercises
Lesson 10	15 Apr 2025	(a) Perfect tense (b) Agent nouns: $\sqrt{ah}$ I 'say' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declensions of <i>sattar</i> (m) 'teacher'; <i>pitar</i> (m) 'father' and <i>mātar</i> (f) 'mother'</li> </ul> (c) Periphrastic future (d) Example of Pāli sentences (e) Exercises
		(a) Ordinal numeral

Lesson 11	22 Apr 2025	(b) Nouns and adj compounded with <i>-kṛ</i> and <i>-bhū</i> (c) <i>Bahubbīhi-samāsa</i> (d) Prohibitive (e) Exercises
Lesson 12	29 Apr 2025	(a) <i>Bahubbīhi</i> formed with <i>-kāma</i> as the last member (b) Adverbial suffix: <i>-tra</i> , <i>-thā</i> , <i>-dā</i> , <i>-dhā</i> , <i>-to</i> , <i>-so</i> (c) Past Participle Active (PPA) (d) Revision and discussion about final exam

**Note:** The above contents may be modified based on students' feedback during the class. Although the textbook is prescribed, we may not exactly take materials from textbook. So, class notes and supplementary materials will be provided in class throughout the semester.

### **Textbook**

Dhammajoti, KL. *Reading Buddhist Pāli Texts: An Elementary Grammatical Guide*. Hong Kong: The Buddha–Dharma Centre of Hong Kong, 2018 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

### **Recommended Readings**

Anuruddha, Kakkapalliye. *A Guide to the Study of Pali: The Language of Theravada Buddhism*.

Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhism Studies, The University of Hong Kong, 2010.

Buddhadatta, A.P. *The New Pali Course* (Parts I & II). Sri Lanka: Buddhist Cultural Centre, 1997.

Gair, James W. and W.S. Karunatilake. *A New Course in Reading Pāli: Entering the Word of the Buddha*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Limited, 1998.

Geiger, Wilhelm. *A Pāli Grammar*. Translated by Batakrihna Ghosh. Oxford: The Pali Text Society, 1994.

Nyanatiloka. *Buddhist Dictionary, Manual of Buddhist Terms and Doctrines*. Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1988.

Rhys Davids, T.W. and W. Stede (eds). *Pali-English Dictionary*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Limited, 1993.

Warder, A.K. *Introduction to Pali*. Oxford: The Pali Text Society, 2001.

### **Pali Dictionaries (online)**

Rhys Davids, T.W. and W. Stede (eds). *Pali-English Dictionary*. Oxford: The Pāli Text Society.

Available on Digital Dictionaries of South Asia. Updated in Feb 2017.

<https://dsalsrv04.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/pali/>

Pāli Dictionary. Available on Buddhistdoor Global.

<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/dictionary/search/?k=Buddha&l=3>

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