

Online Resources for Teaching Hindi Grammar

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Rationale

Hindi as a Second/Foreign language at the university level is still highly text-book oriented and there are very few online resources that directly deal with grammar. This project aims to change the situation by creating open sources of video instructions.

The Project

I created 68 short (3-5 minutes) videos explaining grammar points sequencing from basic to advanced level knowledge of Hindi Grammar. The videos are uploaded on my YouTube channel under the series "Hindi Grammar Lecture Series with Sunil Bhatt" as open-source material under a Creative Commons license.

These videos are then added to the Canvas via Kaltura and exercises are created in the form of a quiz with each video. Taking the quizzes is part of the curriculum, that way they are encouraged to watch the videos.

Projective Objectives

- To give the students autonomy over their learning and help them to become independent learners.
- To create online Hindi language learning resources that are readily available for the students anytime they need.
- To update Hindi teaching with new technological tools and shift away from heavily textbook-based teaching.
- To free up more class time for practicing the language and learning cultural aspects of the target language society.
- To create free educational material for the teachers and students of Hindi as a Second/Foreign language.

Weblink to the series:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeJWk1Bw6uGufX12EzN46OPC1-DDpKP1W>

Implications

The videos will be used as a medium of flipping the classroom and they will also serve as reference tools for students' independent learning and problem-solving. Once a grammar point is covered in the course and at a later point in time, if a student revises a grammar point and has difficulty grasping the concept, they do not have to visit the professor during office hour or ask in the classroom. They can refer to the videos that are accessible all the time.

The digital material created in the project will not only be helpful to the UBC students but to the wider community of Hindi language learners and teachers in Western Universities.

The use of the video tutorials will free up more class time for communicative language skills and cultural integration to meet the department's goals of equipping the students with intercultural competence.

The Second Year of the Project

The second year of the project will exclusively deal with teaching Devanāgarī, the writing system for Hindi and Nasta'liq, the writing system for Urdu – a sister language to Hindi. In North American universities, including UBC, Hindi and Urdu are taught as one language program, that's why we plan to make videos to learn both scripts. With this new series of videos, the heavy dependency on the textbook will be completely eliminated and the teacher's role will also become just moderating the learning process, not leading it. The full student-centeredness will be achieved in HINU102 and HINU200.

Acknowledgment

I gratefully acknowledge the in-kind support for this project provided by UBC Studios and the Centre for Teaching, Learning & Technology (CTLT) for providing consultation, training and help in designing the evaluation plan for the project.

