Index of Terms

affix The collective term for the three kinds of morphemes which can be added to a word in different positions: prefix, infix and suffix. (pp.34,37)
allograph One of various possible forms of a grapheme: b, B, b are all allophones of the same grapheme. (p. 21)
allophone One of various possible forms of a morpheme: ‘best-’ is an allomorph of ‘beast’ in ‘bestial’; H -ya vs. -ā, e.g. āyā vs. calā.

analytic(al) That variety of language whose syntax is based on separate words (such as prepositions) and on variations in word order, rather than on inflexion; cf. ‘synthetic’. (p. 2)
antonym A word which is opposite in meaning to another; ‘antonym’ is the antonym of ‘synonym’.
aspiration The audible breath which accompanies the production of certain sounds. (p. 20)
assimilation The tendency by which one sound is affected by or takes on the quality of a neighbouring one; or by which an unfamiliar word takes on the form of a familiar one. (p.20)

‘bound’ form A morpheme which cannot occur on its own, e.g. E ‘-ish’, ‘un-‘, ‘-er‘; HU -e in kamre, kare.

broken plural (A) A plural formed by the re-patterning of the radical letters of the singular. (p.49)
calque A loan translation, in which the various components are separately translated from one language into the other: e.g. H dūrdaršan for E ‘television’, in which Greek ‘tele’ (‘distant’) + Latin-derived ‘vision’ are respectively rendered into S dūr + daršan. (p.70)
chronogram A phrase, or verse in which numbers are cryptically represented by letters or words. (p.82)
cluster A group of consonants occurring in a word, as the initial ‘str’ in ‘street’. (p.23)
cognate A form historically derived from the same source as another, as H pīta, E ‘father’ and Portuguese padre.
compound A word made up of two or more other words, e.g. E ‘blackbird’, HU dopahar.
copula A linking word, as the verb linking subject and predicate in ‘he is old’, or the P o ‘and’ in āb o havū. (p.65)
dental A sound made by the tip and rim of the tongue against the teeth. (p.20)
derivative A word formed from or historically stemming from another.
diphthong A syllable containing two distinct and successive vowels, as E ‘mice’, ‘go’, ‘house’; HU gaī, gae. (p.43)
doublet One of a pair of words in the same language representing the same ultimate word but divergent in meaning or form; e.g. E ‘royal’, ‘regal’.
dual A grammatical form expressing duality as opposed to s. or p. number. (p.2)
elision The assimilation of a vowel, consonant or syllable in pronunciation, as e.g. the dropping of ‘-me’ in a rapid pronunciation of ‘prime minister’. (p.52)

enclitic A morpheme which always follows another word and cannot stand alone, e.g. HU hi.

epenthesis (-epenthetic) The insertion of a sound or letter into a word, as -a- in HU pronunciations of E ‘film’ as filam. (p.43)

etymon The word from which a later form has derived. (p.25)

flap An ‘r’ sound produced by rapid light contact between the tongue and the roof of the mouth. (p.20)

fricative A consonant sound produced by friction when the breath is forced through a restricted opening.

glottal A sound produced in the larynx, at the opening of the windpipe.

glottal stop The sound produced by the release of a closure of the glottis (at the back of the throat), as medially in Cockney pronunciations of ‘water’, ‘bottle’, or initially before a strongly pronounced vowel as in ‘art’. (p.43)

grapheme A letter of the alphabet, or character of a syllabary.

guṇa (A) A process of vowel extension in which a simple vowel is prefixed by a, as a > ā. (p.33)

hyperbole The use of exaggeration for rhetorical effect.

infix An affix which is inserted medially within a word. (p.42)

inflexion The expression of syntactic relationships typically through variations in termination, as in HU kamrā – kamre – kamron.

izafat (P) The suffixed -e which typically indicates a possessive relationship between the suffixed noun and the following one, e.g. zabān-e urdū ‘the language of U’, or the qualification of a noun by an adj. or noun, e.g. zamān-e darāz ‘a long period’. (p.64)

jingle-form A morpheme which, though usually meaningless independently, extends or generalizes the sense of a word by imitating its sound; e.g. -vānā in HU khānā-vānā ‘something to eat, grub’. HU also has jingle-compounds, e.g. larnā-jhagārnā. (p.149)

labial A sound produced by the lips. (p.20)

laryngeal The quality of sounds produced in the larynx, the upper part of the windpipe where the vocal cords are situated.

lateral A consonant produced with the sides of the tongue touching the teeth. (p.43)

lexicon The vocabulary of a language, as distinct from its grammar and constructions.

liquid The fluid quality of the sound ‘l’. (p.20)

loan-translation Another term for a calque, a word whose component parts are separately translated from another language. (p.70)

minimal pair Two words differentiated in meaning by only a single sound, as ‘mud’ versus ‘mug’, or hai versus hain. (p.19)

modal verb A verb in which the particular manner of an action is expressed by the combination of main verb + auxiliary; in HU the range of such auxiliaries is wide and includes lenā, denā, jānā, dālnā, rakhnā, saknā etc. (p.28)
modifier A word or phrase which limits or otherwise qualifies the sense of another.
morpheme The smallest functioning unit in syntax, a word or component part or a word: ‘sheepish’ comprises the morphemes ‘sheep’ and ‘-ish’.
morphology That part of grammar which is concerned with the form of words or morphemes, i.e. with word-formation and inflexion, as opposed to syntax. (p.18)
neologism A new word or expression, often coined from existing words or roots.
nominal A word or phrase which stands as a noun, or has some of the attributes of a noun.
palatal A sound pronounced by contact between the middle of the tongue and the hard palate. (p.20)
paradigm The pattern of inflexions of a noun, verb or other word.
parataxis (- paratactic) The arrangement in which clauses are linked only by juxtaposition and not by subordinating connectives such as conjunctions. (p.28)
periphrasis A round-about expression, one which uses a phrase rather than an inflected word, e.g. ‘greater in length’ as opposed to ‘longer’.
phoneme The minimal contrastive unit of sound in a language, e.g. any of the ten vowels of the HU sound system. (p.20)
phonetic Pertaining to the sounds of spoken language. (p.19)
phonology (- phonological) The study of the distinctive patterns of sounds of a language. (p.19)
phrase-verb A verb consisting of a sequence of separate words; in HU these are primarily verbs based on karnā, e.g. kī dekhhāl karnā ‘to look after’. (p.28)
pleonasm (- pleonastic) Redundancy of a word or words; the use of more words than is necessary to express something.
plosive A sound produced by the sudden release of air pressure, e.g. ‘b’, ‘t’.
predicate (- predicative) The word or words which make an assertion or statement about something, as ‘is green’ in ‘the grass is green’.
prefix An affix which is attached to the beginning of a word, e.g. E ‘un-’, P be-. (p.34,57)
pre-modifier A modifier which precedes the word it qualifies, as in HU angrezī bolne-vāle vakīl or its E translation ‘E-speaking lawyers’. (p.28)
prosody The study of metre and structure in verse. (p.89)
prothesis (- prothetic) The prefixing of a sound to a word to facilitate its pronunciation.
qualify (- qualifier) To express some quality belonging to something, the qualifier being grammatically dependent upon the thing qualified; in mezeñi gandi haini the adj. qualifies the noun.
radical (A) A base or root form, modifications of which form words and indicate various grammatical forms. (p.42)
reduplication The repeating of a word, for an emphatic, syntactic or rhetorical effect. (pp.40–41)
register The range and variety of language used in a particular context, e.g. literary, technical, colloquial etc.
retroflex A sound produced when the tongue is curled back against the hard palate. (p.20)
rhetoric The affective, persuasive or eloquently expressive element in language use.
sandhi Modification in the sound of a phoneme in a particular context, e.g. S t > n in jagat + nāth = jagannāth, or E pluralizing -s' realized as /z/ after a voiced sound ('dogs' vs. 'cats'). (p.32)
semantic Relating to the meaning of words.
semivowel A consonant which has some of the phonetic quality of a vowel: ‘y’, ‘v’. (p.20)
sibilant A fricative hissing sound, such as ‘s’, ‘sh’.
sound plural (A) A plural formed by the addition of suffixes (p.46).
stress The amount of force used in producing a syllable, dependent upon position in the word, and producing variations of loudness, pitch and length.
suffix An affix which is attached to the end of a word, e.g. ‘-ful’ in ‘wonderful’. (p.36, 58)
syntax That area of grammar which is concerned with the way in which words are combined in meaningful patterns. (p.18)
synthetic That variety of language whose syntax is based on inflexion rather than on the use of separate prepositions etc.; cf. analytic. (p.2)
tadbhava That form of a (usually S) word which has been through the processes of historical evolution and therefore differs in form from its etymon. (p.2)
tag A trite phrase or quotation, often intended to round off an argument.
tatsama A S word in its unchanged form, as used in a language which is historically derived from S. (p.2)
velar A sound produced by the back of the tongue against the soft palate. (p.20)
voicing The production of a sound with the vibration of the vocal chords; ‘b’ is voiced, ‘p’ is voiceless. (p.20)
vṛddhi (S) A process of vowel extension in which a guṇa vowel is prefixed by a, or a simple vowel by ā. (p.33)