

Abstract No 19

Study of different Views pertaining to the Volition (Prayatna) of Sanskrit Characters

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A study reveals that there are different opinions of grammarians on the volition (prayatna) of characters. The objective of this research paper is to draw a conclusion based on the available facts. According to Dr. Pāṇinī this volition consists of two main aspects. They are internal and external volitions respectively. According to him, internal volition is four fold while external volition is eight fold. This opinion of Pāṇinī has been respected by those who provided commentaries for Astādyāyī. Although, Bhattōjīdīksitaka who wrote Mahāsiddhāntakaumudī accepted the internal volition as has been mentioned by Dr. Pāṇinī, they treat external volition is of eleven fold consisting the addition of udātta, anudātta and swarita categories to the original eight aspects. The scholar waradarāja, a student of Bhattōjīdīksitaka has written Madyasiddhāntakaumudī by shortening mahāsiddhāntakaumudī. A concised version has also been produced by him namely laghusiddhāntakaumudī. As has been mentioned in both texts the internal volition has been presented in five fold by the addition of “īshadvivṛta”. It has been indicated as “adyah pañcadhā sṛṣhteshat sṛṣhteshadvivṛtavivṛtasamvṛtabhēdhāt”. The scholar Waradarāja has included ‘ūshmakshara’ (hot characters) in “īshadvivṛta. Hence, it has been re-introduced as “īshadvivṛtamūshmañām”. In Mahāsiddhāntakaumudī, both ‘ūshma’ characters and vowels have been added in ‘vivṛtaprayatna’ by utilizing formula “vivṛtamūshmañām swarānāñca”. Among the vowels, character ‘A’ may either be ‘samvṛta’ or ‘vivṛta’. The ‘vivṛta’ character ‘A’ may be long or pluta. In usage of Vedic and classical languages, all vowels have been included in ‘vivṛtaprayatna’ except for the short character ‘A’. From formula ‘A A ithi’ Ashtadyayī, it is revealed that short character ‘A’ is ‘vivṛta’. In above formula, the first character is ‘vivṛta’ while the latter is samvṛta. It is proved by the phrase of siddhāntakaumudī below: “iti vivṛtamanūdyasamvṛtō’nēna vidhīyatē. Asya cāshtādhyāyīm sampūrñām pratyasiddhatvācchāstradrṣhtyā vivṛtatvamastyewa” According to above facts, ample evidence would be seen on the differences in opinion of same student generation on character volition. The main reason is the serious concern extended on pronunciation by grammarians.

Keywords: *grammarian, Pāṇinī, prayatna, samvṛta, vivṛta,*