

LINGUISTICS

M.Witzel,

Poetics and pronunciation

In recent decades, the poetic devices used in the Ṛgveda have been investigated at length. However, some such features still need to be looked at more closely. One of them is the frequent use of the same vowel across one or more stanzas whose effect underlines certain themes intended by the poet. Another, more important one, transgresses poetic art: the use of alliterating vowels allows observations about the pronunciation of the hymns at the time of their composition.