

Some issues in editing the Gaṇapāṭhas in the Kāśikāvṛtti

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The composition of the text of the Kāśikāvṛtti seems not a static but a dynamic phenomenon. It is surprising to find that this has happened even though the Kāśikāvṛtti was not handed down through centuries by oral tradition unlike some other texts of Indian culture. The text of the Kāśikāvṛtti seems to have been transmitted through a silent written tradition which seems to be the cause of this dynamism. Contamination of manuscripts written in devanagari script can be considered as one of the stages of this dynamism.

Gaṇapāṭhas provide us with a crucial evidence in order to study this aspect further. Even though we do find separate manuscripts of Gaṇapāṭhas, the first and the foremost text in the Paninian grammatical tradition to provide all the gaṇas with all its details is the Kāśikāvṛtti. Even the critical edition of Gaṇapāṭhas brought out by Kapil Deva Shastri (1967) relies on the text of the Kāśikāvṛtti to determine the exact scope and nature of the gaṇas.

An attempt is made in this paper to study the dynamism that is visible in the text of the Kāśikāvṛtti with the help of the evidence provided by the manuscript transmission of gaṇas, especially the ākr̥ti-gaṇas.