Śabdajyotsnā: a less-known Sanskrit grammar by Pt. Bhiksharama of Kurukshetra

Shri Krishan Sharma
Kurukshetra University

The learning and teaching of Sanskrit grammar has been a continuous practice flowing down since very early times. In the same tradition, Pt. Bhiksharama of Kurukshetra composed a new Sanskrit grammar named *Śabdajyotsnā* (ŚJ) in 1942 A.D.

Sūtras of ŚJ are listed in a subject-wise style (according to *prakaraṇa*). Only *Sañjnā* and *Sandhi* chapters of this work are published in 1958. The rest of the text is still in the form of manuscripts written by the author himself on paper in *devanāgarī* script. The *samāsaprakaraṇa* and some portions of *taddhitaprakaraṇa* are lost.

ŚJ was prepared with a view to teaching the grammar to ordinary students in a simple style. *Sūtras* of ŚJ are quite briefer than those of Pāṇini. For example: '*iko yaṇaci* (Pā 6.1.77)' and '*eco'yavāyāvāḥ* (Pā 6.1.78)' are formulated in the single *sūtra* '*icāṃ yaṇayavāyāvo'ci*'.

Similarily, *sūtra* of ŚJ '*jhalāṃ jaśjhaśyante ca*' performs the operations of two *sūtras* of Pāṇini: '*jhalāṃ jaś jhaśi* (Pā 8.4.53)' and '*jhalāṃ jaśo'nte* (Pā 8.2.39)'; and *sūtra* '*sargādṛti vri subdhau vā*' formulates the purpose of '*upasargādṛti dhātau* (Pā 6.1.91)' + '*vā supyāpiśaleḥ* (Pā 6.1.92)'. *Sūtra* '*stoḥ ścuṣṭubhyāṃ ścuṣṭū*' works for '*stoḥ ścunā ścuḥ* (Pā 8.4.40)' + '*ṣṭunā ṣṭuḥ* (Pā 8.4.41)'.

Wordformation (*rūpasiddhi*) according to ŚJ is very simple and concise. According to Pāṇini, the formation of *sakhā* (*sakhi > mas.*, nominative, singular) is very long as it needs six or seven *sūtras*, while the system of ŚJ employs *ḍā = ā* substitute for *su* (= *sakhi + su > ḍā = ā*) in order that, due to *ḍit* nature of *ḍā = ā*, the elision of *ṭi* (= *i* of *sakhi*) may finalize the formation of *sakhā = a male friend*.

San + Śambhuḥ—here Pāṇini provides, by '*śi tuk* (Pā 8.3.31)', that *tuk* augment takes place and, by '*stoḥ ścunā ścuḥ* (Pā 8.4.40)', that the augment *tuk = t* is replaced by the palatal sound *c = san t śambhuḥ = san c śambhuḥ = sañ c śambhuḥ = sañ c chambhuḥ*. But ŚJ presents *c* directly by the rule '*śi cak*' so that an extra exercise regarding palatalization may not be required.

This description covers only some illustrations cited from ŚJ. The present paper intends to provide an account of such peculiarities of ŚJ by comparing this grammar with the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*.