

## Vibhakti in Pāṇini

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The term representing the seven declensional divisions was inherited by Pāṇini from predecessors like Sphoṭāyana, as attested by *Bālaṃanoramā* on *Vaiyākaraṇa-siddhānta-kaumudī*. [Cf. 2.3.46–47 (Prathamā); 2.3.2 (Dvītiyā); 2.3.18 (Tṛtīyā); 2.3.13 (Caturthī); 2.3.28 (Pañcamī); 2.3.50 (Ṣaṣṭhī); 2.3.36 (Saptamī)]. These sūtras, however, do not follow the common sequential order of these declensional divisions, perhaps, on account of some descriptive preferential needs.

Pāṇini has further widened the scope of this term in his sūtra ‘vibhaktiś ca’ (1.4.104, read with 1.4.101, 103) by designating all declensional (‘sup’) and conjugational (‘tīn’) affixes as ‘Vibhakti’. The particle ‘ca’ in the sūtra also counteracts “the one and only one designation for any one given item” jurisdictional principle carried forward from 1.4.1 through 2.2.38, thus allowing different numerical (ekavacana, dvivacana, bahuvacana) or personal (Prathama, Madhyama, Uttama Puruṣa) designations.

Vibhakti as a technical term occurs at least ten times in the sūtras [vide 1.1.38, 2.44, 64; 3.4; 2.1.6; 5.3.1; 6.1.168; 3.132; 7.1.73; 8.4.11]. Of course, it occurs as a jurisdictional technical term in 5.3.1 (prāgdiśo vibhaktiḥ) having its jurisdiction until 5.3.27. Non-elision of the final dental stop, dental sibilant, and ‘m’ is considered to be the major grammatical role played by this technical term in the context of declensional, conjugational and/or the relevant secondary derivative (‘prāgdiśīya’) affixes [vide, ‘na vibhaktau tasmāḥ’ (1.3.4)]. Besides, such surface forms like ‘aṣṭābhiḥ’ or ‘dvau’ are explained applying this ‘vibhakti saṃjñā’ [vide, ‘aṣṭana ā vibhaktau (7.2.84); ‘tyadādīnām aḥ’ (102)]. The secondary derivative forms kadā, kutra, idānīm, etc. are also explained likewise (vide, 5.3.3, 10, 15, 18; 7.2.103, 104). The term also facilitates the description of udāttasvara in ‘itāḥ, ihā’ (vide, 6.1.171).

It is proposed to discuss the various details of the transformational role played by ‘vibhakti’ used as a technical term.