

The Concept of Poetry in Modern Sanskrit Poetics

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The concept of poetry has been a matter of deep discussion among Sanskrit poetics. In modern Sanskrit poetics of twentieth century some new sparks of thoughts have emerged in this field. The idea of combination of word and meaning being 'kāvya' has still gained momentum. The inherent element of beauty being summum bonum of poetry also had weight in modern age. The principle of poetic beauty was propagated by Prof. Shivaji Upadhyay in his work '*Sāhitya-sandharbhah*'. The doctrine, which established that '*Camatkāra*', extra-ordinary strikingness, is essence of poetry, was strongly propounded by Prof. Ram Pratap Vedalankar in his '*Camatkāravīcāracarcā*'. Prof. Rewa Prasad Dwivedi in his book '*Kāvya-lāṅkārikā*' proposes his original view that poetry is purely cognitive. It is cognition of the embellished meaning. Neither word nor meaning is poetry. '*Vijñāna*' only is poetry. Dr. Brahmanand Sharma, refuting the theory of Prof. Dwivedi in his books '*Kāvya-satyāloka*' and '*Rasālocanam*', defines the word '*Sāhitya*' on the basis of exposition of truth in poetry. He interprets poetry with a new approach in terms of socialistic ideology.

One more poetician Prof. Radha Vallabh Tripathi in his '*Abhinavakāvya-lāṅkārasūtram*' states that poetry is 'reproduction of the world through words'. His words '*loka*' and '*anukīrtana*' are used in wider sense comprising whole of the world. Contrary to this notion Prof. Rajendra Mishra in his book '*Abhirāja-yaśobhūśāstram*' maintains that poetry is '*lokottara*' super-worldly due to new and new imaginations generated by the creative genius of the poet. New definitions proposed by modern poetics have sound footing of earlier tradition of Sanskrit literary criticism, but they certainly possess fresh approaches and original opinions. Combination of word and meaning is an inevitable factor and presentation of the element of bliss and beauty is a common feature in modern Sanskrit poetics. The matter is still open for discussion before the Sanskrit world of literature and literary criticism.