

Imitation Hybrid Sanskrit in the Verses in the *Kāśyapaparivarta*?

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The *Kāśyapaparivarta* is generally agreed as belonging to the group of ‘earlier’ Mahāyāna sūtras. It is extant in one almost complete Sanskrit MS, other fragmentary Skt materials, a canonical Tibetan translation, fragments of another Tibetan version, and 5 Chinese translations. It is also provided with an Indian commentary, extant in Tibetan and Chinese translation only. Of these versions, only the Central Asian Sanskrit manuscript, the canonical Tibetan translation and the latest Chinese translation preserve verses accompanying most sections of the otherwise prose sūtra. Despite what seems to be a comparatively late date for the verses, however, they appear to be transmitted in ‘Hybrid Sanskrit.’ In this paper, I explore the hypothesis that the grammar of these verses is in fact artificial, that they were composed in an intentionally archaizing style, and that therefore their morphology in particular does not represent any actual language or dialect as such.