

Some issues in Sanskrit syntax

The purpose of this presentation is twofold. In the first part I provide a brief critical update on major recent developments in Sanskrit syntactic studies since Deshpande & Hock 1991. The second part is dedicated to the interplay between Discourse and Syntax.

Topics covered in part 1 include especially Word Order (e.g. Schäufele 1991, Krisch 1997, Gillon & Shaer 2005, Viti 2010) and the issue of second-position clitics in Vedic (Krisch 1990, Schäufele 1991, Hale 1996, Hock 1996, Keydana 2011, Lowe 2011); Case (e.g. Lühr 1997, 2004b, Hettrich 2007, Keydana 2009, Dahl 2009b) including the issue of Oblique Experiencers (Hock 1990, Barðdal & Eythórsson 2009, Dahl 2012) and of Double Direct Object structures (Hock 1985, Hettrich 1994); Compounds and their relation to syntax (Lühr 2004a, Gillon 2007, Kiparsky 2010, Molina Muñoz To Appear); reflexives and reciprocals (Hock 2006, Kulikov 2007ab); Tense/Aspect/Voice/Modality (Kiparsky 1998, Lühr 2000b, Kulikov 2006, Dahl 2009a, 2010, Lowe To Appear); and Clause Structure (Hettrich 1988, Hock 1989, Lühr 2000a).

A large number of these publications focus on the early Vedic language, especially on the Rig Veda, or approach their topics from an Indo-Europeanist angle (Barðdal & Eythórsson 2009, Dahl 2009ab, 2010, 2012, Hettrich 1988, 1994, 2007, Hale 1996, Hock 1996, Keydana 2009, Kiparsky 1998, 2010, Kulikov 2007ab, Lowe 2011, To Appear, Lühr 1997, 2000ab, 2004ab, Schäufele 1991, Viti 2010). Some of these are also relevant for Classical Sanskrit (Barðdal & Eythórsson 2009, Dahl 2012, Hettrich 1988, 2007, Keydana 2009, Schäufele 1991). Overall, however, the Classical period has been receiving less coverage than the Vedic one.

In the second part I focus on the issue of the use of different syntactic alternatives in Discourse and in different types of texts — a topic that, to my knowledge, has not received systematic discussion, and some of the publications precede Deshpande & Hock 1991. Issues to be examined include Gonda's remarks on Amplification (i.e. the use of extraposition as an elaboration device) and the use of Personal Pronouns in dialogue (1942, 1959); Jamison's more recent observations on Demonstrative vs. Deictic Pronoun use in Vedic Prose (1991); Hock's comments on Anaphoric vs. Cataphoric uses of *tad* vs. *etad* in Vedic Prose (1982) and on Word Order differences attributable to genre rather than chronology (1997, 2000); and especially Tsiang-Starcevic's 1997 dissertation on the use of finite vs. non-finite subordination in Sanskrit narratives (epics and fable literature). I conclude this section with some additional examples that suggest avenues for fruitful research and a plea for more comprehensive investigations of the interplay between syntax and discourse or genre.

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