

On the Concord and Government Relations in Sanskrit

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The syntactic relations are chiefly of two types as concord and government. In the concord both the items in the construction are marked for the concerned category of case, number or person etc., while in the government one item is marked for the category and the other governs or assigns it. The concord and government relations seem to occupy a prominent place in the syntax of Sanskrit language. In this language a noun and adjective fall in concord relation and agree in gender, case, and number, e.g. *nīlam utpalam* ‘a blue lotus’. So also a verb-form and noun (denoting an agent or direct object) fall in concord relation and agree in person and number, e.g. *Devadattaḥ gacchati* ‘Devadatta goes’. The government relation is held between a verb and a kāraka-noun, e.g. *Devadattaḥ kaṭam karoti* ‘Devadatta makes a mat’. Here the verb *karoti* governs the noun *kaṭa* in the accusative case by assigning to it the designation *karman*. A verb governs the case of a noun via assignment of a kāraka-role. Speijer’s book *Sanskrit Syntax* and Prin. V. S. Apte’s *The Student’s Guide to Sanskrit Composition* provide a sufficient account for the concord and government relations in Sanskrit. The present paper is an attempt to have a glimpse into the concord and government relations in the syntax of Sanskrit and their treatment in the tradition of Sanskrit grammar as represented by Pāṇini (c. 4th century B.C.) and his followers. Although the rules of concord are not explicitly stated by the ancient grammarians, the traditional concept of *sāmānādhikarāṇya* ‘apposition’ seems to provide a basis to explain the concord relation among items. As to the government of a noun by a verb-form, it is the concept of *anabhihita* ‘not expressed otherwise’ that provides the ground. Understanding of these concepts would help in analyzing a Sanskrit sentence.