

# Voice, preverb, and transitivity restrictions in Sanskrit verb use

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In the third pāda of the *Aṣṭādhyāyī* (A. 1.3.12–93), Pāṇini states restrictive rules that govern the occurrence of verbal terminations (*tiñ*) under semantic and cooccurrence conditions. These rules range from general to particular. General rules utilize markers (*ñ*, *ñ̄*, and nasalized anudāta and svarita vowels) attached to verbal roots, and categorical semantic conditions (*gatihimsārtha*) in the *Dhātupāṭha* in order to restrict the occurrence of ātmanepada terminations. Particular rules specify the occurrence of ātmanepada terminations after certain roots when they occur with certain preverbs, in certain meanings, or intransitively (*akarmaka*). The linguistic information contained in these rules is included in comprehensive bi-lingual dictionaries such as Böhtlingk and Roth's *Sanskrit-Wörterbuch* and Monier-Williams' *A Sanskrit-English Dictionary*. Thomas Oberlies pointed out departures from such restrictions in his *A Grammar of Epic Sanskrit*. Yet the information has yet to be used in any systematic way to analyze Sanskrit syntax. The current paper describes the preparation of a module to implement these restrictive rules computationally and to evaluate the correspondence to them of a database of analyzed Sanskrit *Pañcatantra* and *Mahābhārata* sentences.