



A Synopsis of the Ph.D. Thesis

**A LITERARY STUDY OF SANSKRIT MAHAKAVYAS OF
TWENTYFIRST CENTURY (2001-2018)**

Submitted to

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

For the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in Sanskrit

By

Ms. Jayshree R. Gamit

Dept. of Sanskrit, Pali & Prakrit

Faculty of Arts

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Vadodara

Guide

Dr. Sweta Prajapati

I/C Director, Oriental Institute

OCTOBER, 2021

SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

STATEMENT – I

THE RELEVANCE OF THE PRESENT WORK AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SANSKRIT LITERATURE

The present work “**A Literary Study of Sanskrit Mahakavyas of Twenty first Century (2001-2018)**” is first of its kind. It is, to the best of my knowledge, attempted for the first time. Sanskrit literature is progressing day by day. Many competent and enthusiastic writers are trying their best to enrich this divine language with profound zeal and commitment. So, the Sanskrit literature is not lagging behind. In the twenty first century we find many *mahākāvyas*, *khaṇḍakāvyas*, fictions, biographies, dairies, prose works, radio plays and literature for children, short stories, poems, lyrical poems, gazals, travelogues, and other new forms. They are written keeping in mind modern sensibilities. They are in fact the products of modern time. It is interesting to say that some forms were not in the classical age. Though some traditional trends are still continuing and the poets of our time are also composing great literary works following the principles given by the ancient rhetoricians like Bhāmaha, Daṇḍin, Vishwanātha and others, still we observe changes and innovations in their creativity. The modern writers of Sanskrit compose their works keeping in mind the needs and problems of the present-day society. It is not true that Sanskrit writers are composing traditional verses only but they have also tried on modern forms of poetry and they have not composed only in traditional metres like *Upajāti*, *Anuṣṭup* etc... In our time we see that the messenger poems or *dūtakāvyas* are not composed in the imitation of the great poets like Kālidāsa. There is novelty both

in structure and content. An ardent critic will not miss this kind of innovation that is made by the writers of today with the aim of making Sanskrit language simple, sweet and popular. We find plethora of modern songs composed in the tune of modern film songs. There are plenty of fictions which are in fact good contribution for which we are proud. An area of modern Sanskrit literature that has been continuously enriched and attracting the attention of the modern readers of twenty first century is the field of translation. Many important and outstanding works especially novels have been translated into Sanskrit from other Indian languages like Odia, Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali etc.

The creative genius in Sanskrit has always shown a predilection for the poetic form. Most of our Sanskrit poets prefer to compose poems instead of prose though *Gadyam kavīnām nikaṣam vadanti* is an accepted dictum. The *Padya* form of composition has special attractive force, for it contains marvellous beauty, harmonious unity, rhythmic style and musical effect of Sanskrit Language. All of them create an inexpressible sense of sweetness loaded with sublime aesthetic rapture. Therefore, poetry has emerged as one of the best areas of Sanskrit creative literature. The poetic form has attracted many great minds of past and is also attracting the outstanding poets of modern time. In the past religious writers and the general lovers of Sanskrit who have preferred to compose the scientific and philosophical treatises like *Carakasamhitā*, *Bṛhatsamhitā*, etc., to name a few, in the poetic form.

The *mahākāvyas* are invaluable gems in Sanskrit literature. The art of composing *mahākāvyas* has prevailed since many centuries. It is well known that the tradition of poetry begins from the Vedas. The *Ṛgveda*, the first documented literature of human civilization, is written in the poetic form. The *Ādīkavi-Vālmiki* has chosen to compose his immortal work, *Rāmāyaṇa* in this form. This tradition has been continuing and at present the prominent poets are also trying to compose the epics

in the line of Vālmikī and his successors like Kālidāsa. *Mahākāvyas* have unique position in the field of Sanskrit Literature.

It is very healthy sign of the progress of Sanskrit creative literature that *mahākāvyas* are available in plenty in Sanskrit. The tradition begins from the *Budhha-caritam* of Aśvaghoṣa and it is still continuing. We know that modern writers have composed many *mahākāvyas* and hence it is necessary to make a literary study of all of them from various perspectives.

The twenty first century is an important period in the history of modern Sanskrit literature. In this century, many *mahākāvyas* are composed and published by renowned poets on various topics. They are written on the lives of great persons highlighting their noble acts and ideals. They are historical, biographical, mythological, social and also imaginary. Few of them are known but most of them have not received attention of the scholars. But it is interesting to say that the tradition of *mahākāvya* is continuing and more than thirty *mahākāvyas* are composed during the Twenty years of Twenty first Century. The present study is about all those long poems which are the treasure of Sanskrit Literature.

STATEMENT – II

METHODOLOGY, SOURCES AND ORIGINALITY

I have divided my study into five chapters with specific headings keeping in mind the systematic presentation of the contents. The analytical and critical methods have been adopted in the preparation of the thesis.

I have fully drawn upon all the relevant published and unpublished literature.

I have studied all the available Sanskrit literature of twenty first century.

To the best of my knowledge, an attempt is made for the first time to make analytical, critical and comprehensive study of the Sanskrit Mahākāvya Literature of twentyfirst century.

The study is presented in the following five chapters.

CHAPTER-I INTRODUCTION TO SANSKRIT MAHĀKĀVYAS

The first chapter of the present thesis is entitled as 'Introduction to Sanskrit Mahākāvyas'. It provides definitions of Kāvya, types of Kāvya, definitions and characteristics of Mahākāvya and definitions of the Kāvya by Modern Sanskrit Scholars. It also gives an outline of the Mahākāvyas like the Rāmāyaṇa, the Mahābhārata and the Mahākāvyas of Classical age.

CHAPTER – II MODERN SANSKRIT MAHĀKĀVYAS

The 2nd chapter of this thesis is entitled as ‘Modern Sanskrit Mahākāvyas’. This chapter provides concise details about the renowned Sanskrit Mahākāvyas of 20th Century. The details of the Major Mahākāvyas like शिवराज्योदयम्, सीताचरितम्, उत्तरसत्याग्रहगीता, स्वराजविजयम्, तुकारामचरितम्, रामदासचरितम्, ज्ञानेश्वरचरितम्, डुग्गरस्तुति महाकाव्यम्, क्षत्रपतिचरितम्, गान्धीचरितम्, श्रीरामचरिताब्धिरत्नम्, सत्याग्रहगीता, गङ्गासागरीयम्, श्री बोधिसत्वचरितम् , श्रीनारायणविजयमहाकाव्यम्, क्रिस्तुभागवतम्, नेहरुचरितम्, इन्दिरागान्धीचरितम्, यशोधरामहाकाव्यम्, नवभारतम्, सीतारामाञ्जनेयम्, पूर्वभारतम्, श्रीमत्प्रतापराणायनम्, श्री दशमेशचरितम् etc. are given in this chapter.

CHAPTER – III A LITERARY STUDY OF SANSKRIT MAHĀKĀVYAS FROM 2001-2010

The present chapter contains the List of the *Mahākāvyas* that are written during the 2001 to 2010. There is the study of 10 Mahākāvyas. Those Mahākāvyas are:

1.	<i>Sāketa-Saṅgaram</i>	Shriram Dave	2002
2.	Sāketa-Saurabham	Bhaskaracharya Tripathi	2003
3.	Bhāratamāta-Brute	Harinarayan Dikshit	2003
4.	Rādhācaritam	Harinarayan Dikshit	2005
5.	Śrī Gvalladevacaritam	Harinarayan Dikshit	2008
6.	<i>Pūrva-vīra Sāvarkara</i>	Narendra Pratap Sinh	2008
7.	<i>Uttaranaiṣadhīyacaritam</i>	Rama Laxman Goswami	2005
8.	<i>Mahābhāratabharatī</i>	Ramabhagat Sharma	2008
9.	<i>Parśuramodaya</i> <i>Mahākāvya</i>	Sudhikant Bhardwaj	2009
10.	<i>Srī Dayānanda-caritam</i>	Ramakant Upadhyay	2006

An attempt has been made to present a literary study of the above mentioned *mahākāvyas*. The study has covered the literary aspects mainly the theme, sentiment, style, language and other related features.

CHAPTER- VI A LITERARY STUDY OF SANSKRIT MAHAKAVYAS FROM 2011-2018

In this chapter I have divided the content and therefore a literary study of the following *mahākāvyas* are presented here. I have also tried to present the biographical information of the prominent poets whose contribution to the contemporary Sanskrit literature is laudable and important.

1.	<i>Swātantryasāmbhavam</i>	Revaprasad Dwivedi	2011
2.	<i>Paraśurāmacarita</i>	Pushkardatta Sharma	2011
3.	<i>Srī Gurumahārājacaritam</i>	Harinarayana Dixit	2015
4.	<i>Vaidehīcaritam</i>	Vishram Tiwari	2015
5.	<i>Gaṅgāputrāvadānam</i>	Niranjan Mishra	2016
6.	<i>Granthibandhanam</i>	Niranjan Mishra	2017
7.	<i>Rājalexmīswayaṁvaram</i>	Shrirama Dave	2018

CHAPTER – V CONCLUSION

In this chapter concluding remarks, observations, different aspects of *Mahākāvya*, including the biographical details, timelines and works of the poets are discussed. The study assessed the subject matter of the *Mahākāvyas*, as well as its title,

sources used for it, modifications to the initial text and language, metres, figures of speech etc. and the results of my investigation are made.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Bibliography will contain a detailed list of the primary and secondary sources and research articles that are used for the present research work.
