SATYAVRAT SHASTRI

THE YOGAVĀSIŞTHA — A STUDY IN VOCABULARY

A voluminous work of some thirty two thousand stanzas in its vulgate edition, the Yogavāsistha has much to offer to a careful reader in many fields, including that of its vocabulary. Though conforming to standard Sanskrit idiom by and large it permits itself many peculiarities in the use of words and their formations. Some of these 1 are proposed to be noticed in the present study 2. The words for convenience of analysis have been divided here into two (i) unfamiliar words or familiar words with unfamiliar meanings, (ii) made-up or descriptive words. An analysis of such words (i and ii) can serve a useful purpose in that it can supplement the existing knowledge of the vocabulary of Sanskrit by supplying missing links in it. It can also bring to the fore the imaginative faculty of the author in handling words, with at least some of which he could play at times. Other peculiarities of the words include the modern look about some of them, with signs of influence of Prakrit.

Unfamiliar Words or Words with unfamiliar meanings

These include such words as angaruha 3 feather, anjas 4 manifestly, asthi 5 conch, asthi kernal 6, asthīla 7, asthīvat 8 knotty, āpātanikā 9 intro-

2. It is based on the Nirnaya Sagar Press edition, Bombay, 1937.

4. VI(ii) 137.27. The Commentary Tātparyaprakāśa (TP.) explains it as sākṣāt.

6. VI(i).45.12.

^{1.} Some such words, the author has noticed already, vide his articles: Unpāninian Forms in the Yogavāsistha, in VIJ, Hoshiarpur, Vol. I, Part II, 1963; Notes on the Language of the Yogavāsistha, in ABORI, Golden Jubilee Volume, 1968; Some Popular Etymologies in the Yogavāsistha, in «Journal of the Department of Sanskrit», University of Delhi, Vol. I, No. 2, 1972; Ka (kan) ending words in the Yogavāsistha, in ABORI, Diamond Jubilee Volume, 1978.

^{3.} V.61.5. Literally the word means growing on the body which on the face of it could be anything. Amara reads tanūruha in the sense of feather and hair (loman).

^{5.} VI(i).15.16.

^{7.} VI(ii).180.15. aṣṭhī means a big knot (granthi), aṣṭhīla then would be possessing the knot or knotty. 8. VI(i).7.7.

^{9.} II.18.49.

duction, ārabhatī ¹⁰ confused noise, hullaballoo, āvāta ¹¹ coming out, issuing forth, bhissā ¹² skin, a cover enveloping the seed (bījasārāvara-ṇabhāgaḥ), bhramī ¹³ confusion, lack of balance in thinking, carma ¹⁴ husk (used in the context of paddy), ceṇḍaka ¹⁵ a support made up of grass (to be put on the head), daṇḍapāda ¹⁶ beating of the foot, dat ¹⁷ ivory vessel, daradin ¹⁸ under the influence of poison, dhvaṁsikā ¹⁹ destruction in between the two Manvantaras (vide commentary [TP.] Manvantarasandhipralayaḥ), gargaṭa ²⁰ a kind of instrument, garta ²¹ wound, guḍuccha ²² or guluccha ²³ or gulucchaka ²⁴ a bunch of flowers or a clustor of blossoms, gharsula ²⁵ given to rubbing, i ²⁶ an expletive particle, jambulaka ²⁷ fox, janya ²⁸ a (skilled) soldier, a warrior, kaccha ²⁹

^{10.} VI(ii).73.43.

^{11.} VI(ii).137.19.

^{12.} VI(ii).127.16.

^{13.} VI(ii).4.47. The word is formed from the Kṛdanta form bhrami from \sqrt{bhram} with the feminine suffix $\bar{\imath}$ ($\dot{n}\bar{\imath}\dot{s}$). Its more wellknown meaning is «whirlpool or dizziness».

^{14.} IV.54.37. tandulasya yathā carma. Ordinarily it means skin or hide. The present sense seems to be inspired by similarity: carma iva carma, aupamikalı prayogalı. Skin protects the body. Husk protects the grain. What skin is to the body, husk is to paddy.

^{15.} III.107.9. The word is found in Hindi and some other vernaculars in the form indu or indva or innu or binnu. Sanskrit also has a word indva meaning covering for hands to protect them when removing the ukhā fire. In sound the Hindi indu and indva conform more to Sanskrit indva but in meaning they conform more to cendaka of the Yogavāsiṣṭha. As cendaka has not been found elsewhere nothing is known of its derivation. The form of it, however, suggests that it might have been a Desi word accepted into Sanskrit.

^{16.} III.49.41. The term is wellknown in texts on dramaturgy.

^{17.} V.48.8.

^{18.} VI(ii).44.34. From the word darada, poison.

^{19.} VI(i).92.25. It is a technical term.

^{20.} VI(ii).92.25. It is difficult to identify it.

^{21.} IV.27.1. Ordinarily it means pit or depression. The present usage seems to be inspired by similarity, garta iva gartaḥ, aupamikaḥ prayogaḥ. Wounds are depressions on the body.

^{22.} IV.49.4.

^{23.} III.27.39.

^{24.} VI(i).61.19.

^{25.} VI(ii).76.9.

^{26.} V.47.20. Vide the commentary (TP.): i iti khalvarthe nipātaḥ.

^{27.} IV.11.70. The reading is doubtful. Some Mss. read $ca\bar{n}culaka$ which would signify a kind of a bird.

^{28.} VI(ii).114.9. It normally means war or battle, yuddha. From this the author seems to extend it to cover the sense of one who engages himself in war, battle, a yoddhr, a soldier or a warrior. Grammatically the word could be formed with the addition of the Taddhita suffix ac: janyam asyāstīti janyaḥ.

^{29.} III.38.5. Probably it has the same meaning as Sanskrit kakṣa which would have became kaccha in Prakrit and in course of time was accepted back in Sanskrit.

armpit(?), kalamagopikā ³¹¹ the female guard of paddy, kakṣa ³¹¹ heap of straws or joint of tree-trunk and branches ³², karabha ³³ ass (gardabha) or bear (bhallūka), kaśmā ³⁴ swoon, kālikā ³⁵ ignorance (avidyā), kharolikā ³⁵ a game for merriment, kina ³¹ hollow of a tree, kirāru ³⁵ shrivelled grains, kopita ³⁵ highly tormented or excessively harassed (atipīdita), krtti ⁴⁰ separateness, variety, kuka ⁴¹ to seize, lāngūla ⁴² the tongue-like piece of iron that hangs from the hollow of a bell, lekha ⁴³ a dug up channel, matha ⁴⁴ annihilated (by the gods), mihikā ⁴⁵ mist, pādajāti ⁴⁶ of superior quality, mrdvikā ⁴¬ very soft, palyūla ⁴ð heap of dry leaves etc., paribimbitavat ⁴⁰ desired, pādū ⁵⁰ a horse shoe, paṭala ⁵¹ a flower basket, (puṣpakaranḍaka), paṭalāndhekṣana ⁵² blind of eyes because of cataract,

Monier Williams puts forward the above conjecture in the context of another meaning of the word, viz., the edge of lower garment. The same can be put forward, as done above, in the case of the meaning « armpit » too.

30. VI(i).85.17.

31. VI(ii).36.22.

32. VI(i).15.13.

33. V.14.15; VI(ii).137.11.

34. VI(ii).111.4. Though its presence could be detected in words like kaśmala, as an independent word it is rare.

35. VI(i) 44.8. Formed from $k\bar{a}la$, the word is taken in the literal sense. $K\bar{a}lik\bar{a}$ would then mean darkness which symbolizes ignorance. Hence it could means ignorance.

36. III.104.30; VI(ii).96.31. The commentary (TP.) explains it mithyākautukakrīḍā.

- 37. III.70.42. This meaning is restricted to lexicons only. The word popularly means a scar. Since the hollow in a tree can well be taken as a scar on it, kina is used to denote it. The usage, in line with many others of the kind in the work is in all probability inspired by similarity: kina iva kinah, aupamikah prayogah.
 - 38. VI(ii).97.39.
 - 39. IV.59.33.
 - 40. IV.18.8.
 - 41. VI(ii).168.31.
- 42. V.54.3. Vide commentary (TP.): lambamānajihvākāram loham. Most probably this use too is inspired by similarity: lāngūlam iva lāngūlam; aupamikah prayogah; it looks like tail. Hence it is lāngūla.

43. III.70.45. Most likely this use is inspired by the literal meaning of the under-

lying likh which is « to scratch, to scrape ».

44. III.38.39. Matha here has the sense of unmathita.

45. III.122.56. It is interesting that in sound and sense the word is nearest to English mist.

46. VI(ii).115.23.

- 47. VI(i) 92.37. The meaning of it listed in lexicons is « a vine, a bunch of grapes ». In the present work however, it seems to preserve the sense of the base word mrdu.
 - 48. VI(ii).24.8.
 - 49. VI(ii).180.24.
 - 50. III.19.8.
 - 51. III.41.8.
 - 52. IV.21.40. Paţala is a kind of disease: a film over the eyes, cataract.

patalinī 53 eye that has developed cataract, patrāla 54 covered with foliage, phalinī 55 Kalpalatā, desire-yielding creeper, pindabhāryā 56 a fleshy knot in the left side of the abdomen, pītala 57 yellow, prativisā 58 poison creeper, puryastaka 59 the Self, repha 60 a bee or its wing or its humming, rīti 61 brass, śābdika 62 one making sounds, samkhyā 63 light, samśīkā 64 doubtful, sāra 65 entire, complete, śukta 66 honey (māksika), śyāmikā 67 darkness, tarnaka 68 calf, tarsula 69 thirsty, tāndavinī 70 a female dancer, trnamani 71 a kind of stone which attracts grass to it, vācanīya 72 to be made to speak, vāstuka 73 a place of habitation, vidhurita 74 disturbed, ksubdha, vikālita 75 harrassed, yamayātrā 76 a festival in honour of Yama, the god of death.

53. V.34.103. The word occurs in the context of drsti, « sight ».

54. VI(ii).120.13. Formed probably on the analogy of jaţāla, IV.8.7; IV.59.18 or śirāla, VI(ii).81.8.

55. V.61.33. Since the Kalpalatā is always having fruits on it, hence the name phalinī for it.

56. III.38.32.

57. VI(ii).115.30. The word means the same as pīta.

58. VI(i).7.13. Kṣīrasvāmin takes it as a creeper which cures poison, pratīpavisasya agadatvāt, vide his comment on Amara, II.4.99.

59. VI(i).50.17. The term has been defined by the author himself as: eşa eva

svabhāvātmā janaih puryastakam smrtah.

60. V.44.27; V.46.9. The known word for «bee» in Sanskrit is dvirepha which is inspired, as the linguisticians would have us believe, by the word bhramara which has two rephas or r- sounds in it. May be the Yogavāsiṣṭha repha is a short form for this. The sense of «the wings of a bee» may be an extension of the first meaning.

61. VI.(i).101.40.

62. VI(ii).59.5. The usage restricts the word to the grammarian, vaivākarana. The nearest meaning to the one of the text could be the one noticed by Monier Williams on the authority of the Wörterbuch which is «relating to sounds or words». This meaning is however not warranted by Pāṇini.

63. V.80.5. The commentary (TP.) explains the word as samyak khyānam = pra-

kāśah.

64. VI(ii).140.18.

- 65. III.108.18. The word occurs in the compound sāranigīrna, swallowed wholly or completely, a very new meaning indeed. From this sāra may be traced the Hindi sārā.
 - 66. V.89.29.
 - 67. III.106.25.
 - 68. VI(i).93.18.
 - 69. V.74.18; 20; VI(ii).76.9; VI(ii).92.3.
 - 70. III.59.8.
 - 71. VI(ii).128.8.
- 72. V.28.16. Generally \sqrt{vaci} is used in the sense « to read out (letter, passage, etc.) ». The causal sense, « to make to speak » is rather unusual.
 - 73. VI(ii).120.25. Vāstu is common enough. Ka is a Prakritic suffix.
 - 74. VI(i).81.34.
 - 75. VI(ii).198.29.
 - 76. III.46.26. Vide the commentary (TP.) Yamārādhanayātrotsavaḥ.

Of the many rather little known names of divine beings and human beings occurring in the work mention may be made of $R\bar{u}pik\bar{a}s^{77}$, a species of Piśācas, and $Sanvarta^{78}$, brother of Bṛhaspati.

There are a number of obscure names of plants and trees too that find mention in the work. First we have the śleṣmātaka 19 tree a full description of which the work itself gives: 'it is a thorny tree growing in dirty or impure places, sakaṇṭakam amedhyastham.

Of the other botanical terms occurring in the work mention may be made of *bheruka* 80 name of a flower considered rather auspicious, *era* 81, a kind of grass, also called *eraka guduccha* 82, name of a creeper, or a particular medicinal herb with quick healing properties, *kuraṇṭaka* 83 a kind of thicket, *madanaphala* 84 and *mātulinga* 85, some kind of fruits, the latter believed to increase the heat in the eye (*pittam uddīpayati*) when eaten.

Of the many unfamiliar names of birds and insects occurring in the work mention may be made of $c\bar{a}sa^{86}$, $gh\bar{u}rnik\bar{a}^{87}$, $krakara^{88}$, $v\bar{a}lm\bar{i}ka^{89}$, $vat\bar{i}k\bar{a}^{90}$, and $s\bar{a}l\bar{i}^{91}$ all different kinds of birds, $pr\bar{a}cik\bar{a}^{92}$ a kind of spider with long feet, $puttik\bar{a}^{93}$ and $v\bar{a}lakhilyas^{94}$ some type of insects, $varvanas^{95}$ blue flies ($n\bar{\imath}lamaksik\bar{a}s$), $val\bar{a}ngika^{96}$ a kind of animal.

There are a few words in the work which are rather little known names of places whose proper identification is not possible. Of them mention may be made of $bh\bar{u}tagraha$ ($bh\bar{u}tamandala$), $d\bar{u}na$ ($bh\bar{u}tamandala$), $d\bar{u}na$ ($bh\bar{u}tamandala$) and $bar{s}auka$ ($bh\bar{u}tamandala$) and $bar{s}auka$ ($bh\bar{u}tamandala$).

^{77.} VI(ii).134.22.

^{78.} V.82.1.

^{79.} VI(ii).24.16.

^{80.} VI(ii).115.42.

^{81.} V.68.51.

^{82.} IV.49.4.

^{83.} III.28.40.

^{84.} V.89.28.

^{85.} IV.54.8. Amara reads mātulingaka.

^{86.} VI(i).15.22.

^{87.} V.51.35.

^{88.} IV.32.20.

^{89.} VI(ii).131.42.

^{90.} VI(i).30.102.

^{91.} VI(i).30.102.

^{92.} III.71.32.

^{93.} VI(i).8.18.

^{94.} VI(ii).99.5.

^{95.} IV.55.23.

^{96.} VI(i).7.4.

^{97.} V.45.77.

^{98.} VI.84.34. Vide the commentary (TP.) bhūtagraho bhūtamaṇḍalākhyo deśavi-sesah.

^{99.} V.45.25.

^{100.} VI(i).22.16.

Made-up words

Abhjātopala ¹⁰¹ crystal, amaraśailendra ¹⁰² and devācala ¹⁰³, the mount Meru, agrasuti ¹⁰⁴ water basin round the root of a tree, arkamaṇi ¹⁰⁵ or arkaratna ¹⁰⁶, the sun jewel (sūryakāntamaṇi), asatsaka ¹⁰⁷ a thing which has no existence in reality, asuradeśika ¹⁰⁸ Sukra (lit. deśika = guru of the Asuras), avakarānila ¹⁰⁹ (pralayavāyu), the wind at the time of Destruction, ājyapa ¹¹⁰ deity, bhavacārin ¹¹¹ the people who are wont to subsist on whatever (little) they get in return for their labour (vide commentary tattaddinaprāptānnabhakṣaṇaśīlāḥ), dhātukṣobha ¹¹² disturbance or disequilibrium in humours, jālakāra spider ¹¹³, kāmpika ¹¹⁴ winnower, khadgapṛṣṭhī ¹¹⁵ or asiśirā ¹¹⁶ the edge of the word, maruvāḥpratyaya ¹¹⁷ mirage, meghavidhi ¹¹⁸ Indra, lobhilinga ¹¹⁹ given to sexual

102. V.45.28.

104. VI(ii).7.15. 105. VI(ii).16.7.

106. V.53.30. It is a mere word play. The author has coined his own word. $S\bar{u}rya$ has a number of synonyms. Arka is one of them. He has substituted it by that just to give a new look to the word.

107. VI(i).128.83. The coinage has a peculiar construction. The commentary (TP.) explains it as asatsamāh kāyante kīryante iti (asat + sa (= sama) + ka (= \sqrt{kai}

to say, to speak, śabda).

108. V.58.13. It is a descriptive word. The idea of Sukra is sought to be conveyed by mentioning him as the preceptor of Asuras that he is. The use of *deśika* here is rather interesting. It is more prevalent in the South.

109. IV.47.79. Literally the word means the wind that scatters debris. Since it is so fierce that it would uproot everything and would reduce it to debris, the author

uses the word in the sense of pralaya-vāyu.

110. VI(ii).14.3. Literally it means one who drinks ghee, an obvious reference to

the oblations of ghee poured into the fire for deities.

- 111. VI(ii).196.17. The formative explanation of the word could be: bhavena caritum sīlam yasya. Here bhava is derived from $\sqrt{bh\bar{u}}$ (prāptau) « to obtain ». Those who are used to keeping themselves up with whatever little they get. The Commentary (TP.) rightly explains it as: prāptānnabhakṣaṇaśīla.
 - 112. VI(ii).209.11. Dhātu here means the same as in Ayurveda, the humour.

113. VI(ii).116.22. Literally it means that which makes a cobweb.

114. VI(ii).97.39. Literally it would mean one who tosses or shakes off. Since this action is connected in the mind of the author with the winnow-basket, the word is used in the sense of « a winnower ».

115. III.73.11. 116. VI(i).23.32.

117. VI(ii).186.37. It is a descriptive word. Literally it means «the place which causes the illusion of water in a desert ». This is what mirage is.

118. V.52.3. Literally it means that which causes the clouds, *meghān vidadhāti*. Since it is Indra who is god of rain and thunder, it is taken to signify Indra.

119. III.107.46. This a rather crude word meaning literally, one « with a greedy penis ». Figuratively it would mean « one given to sexual pleasures ».

^{101.} VI.35.44. Since crystal is of superior quality, the author would have his word convey it.

^{103.} V.74.13. For Meru the author coins the words amarasailendra and devācala which means the mountain of the gods. Here also general words are taken to convey a particular thing, the mount Meru, probably because of its being the favourite resort of the devas.

pleasures, nāṅgaka ¹²⁰ cupid, pāṇḍu acala ¹²¹ the mount Kailāsa, paṭa-vāsa ¹²² pollen, phalāmṛj ¹²³ fruit-plucker (fruit-gatherer), pūraṇāśā ¹²⁴ the western quarter, rāgatantrita ¹²⁵ passionate, rtutvama ¹²⁶ the Sun, sitoda ¹²⁷ the lake Acchoda; sthiramaṇi ¹²⁸ crystal, tantrībhāra ¹²⁹, a leather bag with strings, tāpaka ¹³⁰ the Sun, tāpanadī ¹³¹ mirage, taptakāñcanarut ¹³² fire, tuhināhāra ¹³³ fire, ūrṇāyu ¹³⁴ a sheep or a ram, utkara palm of the hand, vanala ¹³⁵ cloud, varakalpanā ¹³⁶ bestowing of honour on the best of the soldiers; vyomaplava ¹³⁷ an aerial car.

Prakritisms

Of some modern-looking Prakrit influenced rare words occurring in the work mention may be made of *ācchoḍa* ¹³⁸ backbone, *ācchoṭa* ¹³⁹,

120. IV.7.22. Used in place of the more popular ananga.

121. VI(ii).198.33. This also is a general word conveying a particular thing. Literally it means white mountain. In the text it stands for Kailāsa because of its perpetual association with snow and consequently the white colour.

122. IV.6.14. Literally it means that which makes the clothes fragrant: paṭān

vāsayati.

123. VI(i).7.43.

124. IV.35.34.

125. VI(ii).129.14.

126. V.47.20. The word has a peculiar construction. The commentary (TP.) explains it as: rtūnām rtutvam minoti paricchinatti iti rtutvamaḥ. The word is descriptive of one of the functions of the Sun.

127. VI(ii).213.21.

128. V.67.45. This is also a coinage after the manner of abhijātopala, already noticed.

129. VI(i).82.10. TP. explains the word as: tantrībhāro bhastrārūpas carmavisesah.

130. VI(i).2.2. Since the Sun causes heat: $t\bar{a}payati$, it is designated by that name. This replaces the usual tapana.

131.VI(ii).52.5. Literally it means « (the appearance of) river in heat ». A very

imaginative word for mirage indeed!

132. V.83.5. Rut here is from \sqrt{ru} « to give out sound », śabda. Fire is tapta-kāñcanarut for while burning it gives out sound like the one given out by the heated gold, vide the Commentary (TP.): taptakāñcanam iva rauti dhvanatīti.

133. VI(ii).145.31. It is a good instance of a descriptive word. Tuhina is frost,

mist or cold. The one whose āhāra, food, is tuhināhāra, i.e. fire.

134. VI(ii).68.37. Lit. one possessing wool. Like many other analogical formations, it is formed on the analogy of aharnyu, subharnyu for which there is express

sanction of the suffix yus by Pāṇini: aharisubhayor yus.

135. III.107.29. Monier Williams notices the word, though tracing it to lexicons only, but gives an altogether different meaning of the black species of Tulasi or holy basil. The present coinage is composed of two parts: vana and la, the possessive suffix lac. Literally it means that which has water. Cp. abbhra, jaladhara. Vana is one of the synonyms of water listed by Amara.

136. VI(ii).108.24. This is to be analysed as varasya kalpanam. Kalpana is kriyā,

hence, satkriyā.

137. VI(ii).6.32. Literally it means that which moves in the sky.

138. III. 27.47.

139. VI(ii).113.32.

plucking or gathering or the sound produced by the stretching of the knuckles (vide the comm. TP. ācchotā angulidhvanayah), ācchotana 140 to cause blossoming, ākota 141 curved or crooked (kutila), āmotana 142 to roll (pindīkarana), āsphotaka 143 shield, āsphotita 144 strong shaking (of a piece of cloth to smoothen it by removing wrinkles), dimbaka 145 a lump, a ball; gutikā 146 a small globe or ball; gutikā njana 147 collerium formed like a globe or ball, kāta 148 clash, mandaka 149 a kind of sweetmeat, pāṭa 150 tearing, peṭa 151 or peṭaka 152 a basket, a box, putaka 153 or putikā 154 a bag or vessel made of leaf, and tāla 155 avoiding.

^{140.} VI(ii).120.2.

^{141.} VI(ii).113.16. 142. VI(ii).71.48.

^{143.} III.50.26. Ordinarily it denotes a specie of plants.

^{144.} III. 106.35.

^{145.} VI(ii).137.14.

^{146.} VI(i).107.22.

^{147.} VI(ii).102.57. 148. III.38.3.

^{149.} III.108.17; IV.44.34.

^{150.} VI(ii).122.13.

^{151.} I.18.28.

^{152.} V.46.8; VI(i).14.22; VI(ii).151.5; VI(ii).183.11. 153. VI(ii).17.3-4. 154. VI(i).29.90.

^{155.} VI(ii).117.5. The word is still very much in use in India in Hindi and other languages.