A.R. Rājarāja Varma is one of the most eminent scholars of Kerala who lived in the 19th century. He has contributed a lot to the Sanskrit and Malayalam literature. He is a great scholar and grammarian. The full name of the author is A.R. Rājarāja Varma Koyithampuran. The terms Rājarāja Varma, Thampuran and Koyithampuran refer to persons connected with the ruling class namely Kṣatriyās. These terms also figure prominently in Malayalam literature, which shows how substantial is the contribution this small community has made to the cultural life of Kerala. On account of his unique contribution to Malayalam grammar, in the form of the work, "Kēralapāṇinīya" A.R. has won the title ‘Kēralapāṇinî.’

LIFE

A.R. was born in 1863 as the son of Kidangoor pattiyala Vasudevan Nampootiri and Kunjikkāvu Thampurātti of Changanāssery Laksmipuram palace. His mother Kunjikkavu thampurati was the third daughter of the eldest sister of Kerala Varma Valiyakoyithampuran's mother. A.R. was the only son of his parents. His early stage was com-
bined with struggle. When he was two years old his family had to leave their palace and go to Anantapuram palace by the order of his Highness Ayilyamthirunal. In his childhood he was known as 'Kochappan'. He was dumb up to five or six years of his age. His parents propitiated the Goddess of Panachikkattu near Kottayam and thereafter he obtained the ability to speak.

Chunakkara Sankara Warrier and Achyuta Warrier were his family teachers. They taught him the primary lessons of Sanskrit language. Late his uncle K.V.V. went to Thiruvananthapuram with his nephew and at that time he could learn the greater portions of Sanskrit grammar and literature from his uncle. A.R. gained mastery not only in phonetics but in literature also. In the meanwhile he studied English and passed the examination in English with high distinction. Then he passed the F.A. examination with the help of a private tutor and afterwards he took B.A. Degree in Chemistry and M.A. degree in Sanskrit.

After passing the M.A examination, he was nominated to the Government Service on the recommendation of his uncle K.V.V. He worked in the capacity of an examiner in the Sanskrit Pathasala, Thiruvananthapuram. Later on he became the head of this institution. These occupa-
tions gave him the chance to work for the prosperity of Malayalam and Sanskrit languages.

In the year 1889 A.R. married Mahāprabha the queen of Mavelikkara palace. They gave birth to eight children, three boys and five girls. Two of them Raghava Varma Raja and Bhageerati thampuran are great talents in literary field. They have jointly written the biography of their father A.R. From it we are able to know the full details of the life of A.R.

WORKS

In the early childhood itself A.R. began to write poems in Sanskrit. He continued his writings and produced small as well as great works. He wrote works related to the various branches of Sanskrit and Malayalam literature. Dāntaka, Mahākavya, Chambū, Stotra, Nāṭaka etc. are the different branches in which he proved his ability. In addition to these he wrote many works on sastras like Jyotiṣa, Vyākaraṇa etc.
WORKS WRITTEN IN MALAYALAM

1. KERALAPĀṆĪṆIYA

K.P. is the monumental work of A.R. It deals with the Malayalam Grammar. It gave him the famous title ‘Keralapāṇini’. K.P is undoubtedly the most popular and widely used Malayalam grammar. It first made its appearance in 1896 followed by a completely revised version in 1917. K.P. by its clarity of expositions, the logicality of its arguments in support of the rules presented therein and above all the pleasant style of its language, eclipsed all other Malayalam grammars making it the most sought after text for use in educational institutions. A.R. in the preface to his grammar, makes it very clear that his grammar was written taking into due consideration the historical developments of the Malayalam language.

2. SĀBDAŚŌDHINI

This work deals briefly with Malayalam grammar. The subject of the work is a short summary of Kēralapāṇinīya, his own monumental work on Malayalam grammar. The work was published in 1902. The work is generally prescribed as text book for the college students studying Malayalam as the second language.
3. **PRATHAMAVYĀKARANĀ**

Prathamavyākaraṇa is a preliminary text on Malayalam grammar. The subject of the work is taken from Kēralapāṇiniya. The work was published in 1906. This work has been prescribed as text book for the primary class students.

4. **MADHYAMAVYĀKARANĀ**

Madhyamavyākaraṇa, is a work on Malayalam grammar written by A.R in 1907. The contents of the work are taken from K P. This work has been prescribed as the textbook for the students of the upper primary classes.

5. **MALAYAVISADAMALI**

Malayavilasam is a poem written by A.R in 1895. It gives a romantic description of the “Sahyādriparvata “ as seen by him during his journey to Kerala from Madras.

6. **PRASĀDAMALI**

Prasādamāla is a poem written by A.R. in 1918. It is a strotakāvya, written with a view to glorify His Highness Srimulamtrinal on the occasion of the celebration of his 60th birthday. In this poem the author admires the preceptors like Budha, Jaina, Christ, and Muhammad. In
this poem A.R. has employed both Sanskrit and Dravidian meters. The poems Malayavilāsam and Prasādamāla are the singular contribution of A.R. to the Malayalam literature.

Following are the works of A.R. translated into Malayalam from the original Sanskrit texts.

7. Malayālaśākuntalam - 1916
8. Chārudattam - 1917
9. Svapnavāsavadattam - 1917
10. Bhāṣākumārasambhavam - 1895
11. Bhāṣāmēghadūtam - 1894
12. Kāntāratārakam

Kāntāratāraka is the commentary on the Nalacharitam Attakatha of Unnāyi Warrier. This commentary is written in 1913.

13. Marmaprakāśam

Marmaprakāśam is the commentary on Mayooraśandēśa of Kēralavarmavāliyakoyithapuran. It is written in 1895.

14. Prabhantasamgraha

Prabhantasamgraha is the collection of sixteen Prabantas of A.R.
15. **Vṛttamañjari**

Vṛttamañjari is a work on prosody written in 1905. This work is meant to give a description of Malayalam and Sanskrit meters. It is based on the works Vṛttaratnākara and Vṛttaratnāvali. Vṛttamañjari is a prescribed textbook for the students of the Malayalam literature.

16. **Sāhityasāhyam**

The work Sāhityasāhyya gives the methodology of prose works. It is most helpful to the students of Malayalam language and literature. This is written in 1911.

17. **Bhāsābhūṣaṇam**

Bhāsābhūṣaṇam written in 1902 is an aesthetic work of A.R which is greatly useful for the study of Malayalam Language and Literature.

18. **Maṇidīpika**

Maṇidīpika is a work on Sanskrit grammar written in Malayalam Language.

**WORKS IN SANSKRIT LANGUAGE**

1. **Sāhityakutūhalam**

This work is a collection of fourteen Prabandhās
Uddālacaritam, Dēvīmaṅgalam, Saraswatiṣṭavam, Viṇāṣṭakam, Rāgamudrāsaptakam, Vīmānāṣṭakam, Mēghōpalambham, Hindusaavyutpatti, Citraślōkam, Pīṭvilāpam, Bhaṅgavilāpam, Sripatmanābhapaṅcakam, Devidandakam and Gairvāṇīvijayam.

2. Āṅgalasāmrajya

Āṅgalasāmrajya is the only one Mahākāvyya of A.R. It is written in 1900. This work deals with the history of British India, beginning from the arrival of the British in India and establishing their dictatorship throughout India using their policy of divide and rule. The epic begins with the exaggerated description of the world famous city of London and ends with the Great declaration of the Queen Victoria in 1857.

3. Viṭavibhāvari

This poetic work, similar to Gita Govinda is written in 1889. It is also known as Rādhāmādhavam.

4. Jyotiṣapракāsakam

This work on Jyotiṣa was written by A.R when he became the Principal of the Sanskrit College, Thiruvananthapuram. It was meant for the students of
Jyotiṣa in the college.

5. Karanapariṣkarana and Pañcaṅgāsuddhipaddhati
   It is an astrological work of A.R.

6. Tulabhāraprabantam
   It is a prabanta written to glorify the king Visākhāmtirunal on the occasion of his birthday in 1885.

7. Citranaksatramāla
   This is also a work written in glorification of the King Visakhāmtirunal.

8. Rukmiṇīharaṇam
   It is a Prabantha written in the early stage of his literary career.

9. Rgvedakārika
   This is an incomplete work of A.R. The author passed away before he could complete this work. The contest of the work is taken from Rgveda. Here the Mantras of Rgveda are interpreted in verse written Anuṣṭup metre.
10. **Laghupāṇiniya**

*L.P. is a work on Sanskrit grammar written in Sanskrit Language. It is an abridged recast of Āst.*

**REFERENCES**

1. Vide Iyer Ulloor. S. Parameswara, *Kerala Sahitya Charitram*, Volume 5, Published by Director, Dept. of Publications, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, p 45

2. Vide Varma Vadakkankoor Rajaraja
   *Keraleeya Samskrita Sahitya Charitram*
   Part 6, Publishers Sahitya Pravartaka Co-operative Society Ltd, Kottayam, p 28

3. Vide Pillai. P. V. Velayudhan
   *Malayala Sahitya Nayakanmar*
   A. R. Rajaraja Varma, Published by Dr. A. Razaludeen, Director Dept. of Publications for University of Kerala, 1993, p 10

4. Vide Pai. K. V. Ramachandran
   *Vaiyakarananaya Kerala Pāṇini*
   Bhashaposhini, Vol. 6 No. 1, 1982, pp. 69 to 74
5. Vide MSN p63
6. Vide MSN p53 & 60
7. Vide MSN p61
8. Vide MSN pp 54 to 64
9. Vide MSN p 57 & 58
10. Vide MSN pp 54 to 57