Chapter 2

Compounds in Sanskrit

In the world of Natural languages, grammar plays a very important role. Grammar teaches us to use the words in a proper way and it also helps to disambiguate the sentences. In the context of requirement and neccessity of the grammar in languages, पतञ्जलि says in महाभाष्यम् - "रक्षोहाऽऽगमलघ्वसं-देहाः प्रयोजनम्". Word formation is an important part of the grammar. Two distinct phenomenon are involved in word formation. One where new words are formed, and the other one where new base is derived from the old base. The former is known as inflectional morphology and the latter one is called as derivational morphology. Inflectional morpholgy deals with the base forms and affixes and generates the new forms. For instance रामः is generated from the base form राम by adding an inflectional suffix सु. In Derivational morphology, new bases are derived from old base words. For instance दाशरथि (Son of दशरथ) is derived from दशरथ by adding a suffix अण् (in meaning of अपत्यम्). The new base form thus generated denotes a totally new object that is different from the object(s) denoted by the old

base forms. Pāṇini lists 5 different ways of deriving new base forms. They are कृत्-तद्धित-समास-एकशेष-सनाद्यन्तधातु[1]. These are termed as वृत्तिs.

2.1 वृत्ति

The term वृत्ति is derived from the root वृत्(वृतु) which means वर्तनम् "the growth" followed by the suffix क्तिन् and it has been defined by पतञ्जलि as परार्थाभिधानं वृत्तिः[2]. It means "The power of expressing a sense different from what was inherent originally in word.". कैयट explains परार्थाभिधानं वृत्ति further as "परस्य शब्दस्य योऽर्थस्तस्याभिधानं शब्दान्तरेण यत्र सा वृत्तिः"[3]. The five वृत्तिs are :

- कृत्- The words or primary nouns are derived from a verbal root. For instance चेयम्, गन्तव्यम्, कारकः etc.

- तद्धित - The secondry nouns derived from Premitive nouns. For instance दाशरथिः "Son of king दशरथ", आश्वपतम् "son of अश्वपति", गार्ग्यः etc.

- समास - The nouns derived by the combination of two or more than two nouns together resulting a single word. For instance घनश्यामः, नी-लोत्पलम्, प्रियम्वदा etc.

- एकशेष - Among many similar forms only one form remains and other froms get excluded. एकः शिष्यते अन्यो लुप्यते यत्र is the defintion of एकशेषः from वाचस्पत्यम् For instance माता च पिता च = पितरौ, सा च सः च = तौ, रामश्च रामश्च = रामौ etc.

- सनाद्यन्तधातु - The derivation of verbal forms by using noun-forms and तिङ् suffixes. For instance पिपठिषति, कृष्णाति, बोभूयते etc.

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[1]Mentioned by भट्टोजिदीक्षित in सिद्धान्तकौमुदी in समासप्रकरण

[2]In महाभाष्यम् - समर्थः पदविधिः (2.1.1)

[3]In महाभाष्यम्- समर्थः पदविधिः (2-1-1)

Among these वृत्तिs, समास has a very important and crucial role in word-formation. The compound formation being very productive it forms an open set. Before going deep in compound formation, let us try to understand the meaning of a compound first. The term समास is formed by adding सम् prefix to the अस् root followed by घञ् suffix. Typical Western Linguistics definition of compound is a "lexeme with more than one stems" but in Sanskrit the meaning of compound is described very beautifully by grammarian which is समसनम् इति समासः. that means "the combination of more than one words into one word which conveys the same meaning as that of the collection of the component words together". While combining the components together, a compound undergoes certain operations such as loss of case suffixes, loss of accent, etc..

2.2   Single wordness (ऐकपद्यम्)

A Sanskrit compound is a single word (ऐकपद्यम्[4])(सुप् लोप). Although compound is formed by the combination of more than one word but resultant is a sigle-word i.e. has only one सुप् विभक्ति at the end, with an exception of *aluk* compounds.

2.3   Single accentness (ऐकस्वर्यम्)

The accentuation is the most important part in compound but unfortunately it is lost. Just as compound should be a single word with having single case suffix, compound should also end with a single accent (ऐकस्वर्यम्[5]). Panini has defined three types of accents in grammar : (1) उ-

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[4]समर्थः पदविधिः (2.1.1), ऐकपदम् ऐकस्वर्यंच समासवद्भवति - का.-2.1.46
[5]समर्थः पदविधिः (2.1.1), ऐकपदम् ऐकस्वर्यंच समासवद्भवति - का.-2.1.46

दात्त, (2) अनुदात्त and (3) स्वरित. High pitch is known as the उदात्त[6], low pitch is known as the अनुदात्त[7] and high falling pitch is known as स्वरित[8]. While explaining the रक्षोहाऽऽगमलघ्वसंदेहः प्रयोजनम् [9], Patanjali provides an example of how accent information helps in resolving an ambiguity. For example the word स्थूलपृषती can be identified either as a तत्पुरुष or बहुव्रीहि. However, if we pay attention to the accent, it is not ambiguous. If it has high picth at the end (अन्तोदात्त) then it is तत्पुरुष and if it has pitch in the begining then it is बहुव्रीहि.

2.4   Fixed word order of components

Sanskrit is an almost free word order language. For instance one can write

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विद्यायाः पतिः or पतिः विद्यायाः,

कृष्णम् श्रितः or श्रितः कृष्णम्,

पीतम् अम्बरम् यस्य सः or अम्बरं पीतं यस्य सः

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However the word order in Sanskrit compounds is fixed. Hence the compounds विद्यापतिः and पतिविद्या have different meanings. So is कृष्णाश्रितः and श्रितकृष्णः, or पीताम्बरः and अम्बरपीतः. There are a few exceptions. In कर्मधारय compound, in some cases change of word order is possible.[10] For instance

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[6]उच्चैरुदात्तः(1.2.29)

[7]नीचैरनुदात्तः(1.2.30)

[8]समाहारः स्वरितः(1.2.31)

[9]महाभाष्यम् - पस्पशाह्निके

[10]गुणशब्दयोः समभिव्याहारे विशेषणविशेष्यभावस्य न नियमः । यथा - खञ्जकुब्जः कुब्जखञ्ज इति । क्रियाशब्दयोरप्य-नियमः । यथा - पाचकपाठकः पाठकपाचकः इति । तथा गुणक्रियाशब्दयोरप्यनियमः । यथा - खञ्जपाचकः पाचकखञ्ज इति भाष्ये स्पष्टम् --सि. कौ. - विशेषणं विशेष्येण बहुलम्(2.1.57) - बालमनोरमा टीका ; अत्र हि भाष्यम् - "द्वाविमौ प्रधानशब्दौ (तिलकृष्णौ) एकस्मिन्नर्थे अवरुध्येते । न च द्वयोः प्रधानशब्दयोः एकस्मिन्नर्थे युगपदवरुध्यमानयोः किञ्चिदपि प्रयोजनमस्ति, तत्र प्रयोगादेतत् गन्तव्यं नूनमन्यतरत् प्रधानं तद्विशेषकं चापरमिति । तत्र त्वेतान् सन्देहः किं प्रधानं, किं विशेषणमिति ? स चापि क्व सन्देहः यत्र उभौ गुणशब्दौ ? तद्यथा - खञ्जकुब्जः, कुब्जखञ्ज इति । यत्र हि अन्य तरद् द्रव्यम् अन्यतरो गुणः तत्र

पाचकपाठकः and पाठकपाचकः have the same meanings viz. पाचकश्चासौ पाठकः. Only in the following cases one can change the order of constituents:

1. In case of समानाधिकरण, if both of the constituents are गुणवाची then the order of constituents can be changed. For instance खञ्जकुञ्जः[11] can be used as कुञ्जखञ्जः.

2. In case of समानाधिकरण, if both of the constituents are क्रियावाची then the order of constituents can be changed. For instance पाचकपाठकः[12] can be used as पाठकपाचकः.

3. In case of समानाधिकरण, if the constituents are like गुण-क्रियावाची then the order of constituents can be changed. For instance खञ्जपाचकः[13] can be used as पाचकखञ्जः.

2.5   Non-insertion of words (अव्यवधान)

Compounds don't allow insertion of word(s) between the components after formation. The compounded form of राज्ञः पुरुषः in राजपुरुषः. One can insert ऋद्धस्य in between राज्ञः and पुरुषः to have राज्ञः ऋद्धस्य पुरुषः. But one can't insert ऋद्धस्य in a compound राजपुरुषः.

2.6   Binary formation

There is a very good discussion in महाभाष्यम् on whether the compound formation is binary or ternary or n-ary. पतञ्जलि argues that the compound formation is binary because the compound formation follows the general rule "सहसुपा" (2.1.4). But there are some cases where more than two

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यद् द्रव्यं तत् प्रधानम् । तद्यथा - शुक्लमालभेत कृष्णमालभेत इति ।" -- म०भा० (2.1.57)

[11]सि. कौ. - विशेषणं विशेष्येण बहुलम्(2.1.57) - बालमनोरमा टीका ; म०भा० (2.1.57)

[12]सि. कौ. - विशेषणं विशेष्येण बहुलम्(2.1.57) - बालमनोरमा टीका

[13]सि. कौ. - विशेषणं विशेष्येण बहुलम्(2.1.57) - बालमनोरमा टीका

components are allowed as in द्वन्द्व and बहुपदबहुव्रीहि. It is because, in "अनेक-मन्यपदार्थे" (2.2.24), the word अनेक is used by पाणिनि which is the indication of exceptional of binary for बहुव्रीहि compound and the अनुवृत्ति of the word अनेक goes till "चार्थे द्वन्द्वः" (2.2.29) and that is why we find more than two components in द्वन्द्व compound also.

2.7 Euphonic changes (Sandhi)

संहिता[14] (Proximity) is the basic element which is required for applying Sandhi. Sandhi means "euphony transformation of words when they are consecutively pronounced. Typically when a word w1 is followed by a word w2, some terminal segment of w1 merges with some initial segment of w2 to be replaced by a "smoothed" phonetic interpolation, corresponding to minimizing the energy necessary to reconfigure the vocal organs at the juncture between the words"(Huet G., 2006). The euphonic change (Sandhi) is mandatory in compounds.[15]

2.8 Gender

Constituents of compounds may require a different gender from their original gender due to compound formation. For instance उपगङ्गम् (Near to Ganges river), पाचिकाभार्यः (a man whose wife is a cook) etc.

The compound उपगङ्गम् is an instance of अव्ययीभाव compound where उप is an indeclinable word and the word गङ्गा is a noun with feminine gender. The अव्ययीभाव compounds are typically in neuter gender and hence गङ्गा

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[14]"परः सन्निकर्षः संहिता" (1.4.109) ; The closest proximity of letters.

[15]संहितैकपदे नित्या नित्याधातूपसर्गयोः ।
  नित्या समासे वाक्ये सा विवक्षामपेक्षते ।।

changes to गङ्गम्. In the same way in पाचिकाभार्यः, the word पाचिका and the word भार्या are feminine in gender. When these are compounded to give a बहुव्रीहि compound returning to a word qualifying a male, it takes masculine gender.[16] In compounds, the last component of compound carries the gender information of the whole compound word as in पाचिकाभार्यः, the word भार्यः is in masculine in gender. It indicates that the gender in compounds can leave their originality according to the context. Panini has listed many aphorisms regarding change of the gender of the last component of compound such as "स नपुंसकम्" (2.4.17), "अव्ययीभावश्च" (2.4.18), "तत्पुरुषोऽन-ञ्कर्मधारयः" (2.4.19) etc. There is another aphorism given by Panini "परवल्लिङ्गं द्वन्द्वतत्पुरुषयोः" (2.4.26) which denotes that the gender of a द्वन्द्व compound and तत्पुरुष compound is like that of the last word in it. For instance in रामसीते (Rama and Sita), the gender of compound is in feminine in gender. It does not carry the gender of the word राम which is in masculine in gender. All these show that the gender in compounds requires a special treatment, at morphological level.

2.9 Number

The number of a compound depends on the category of compound. If the compound is an अव्ययीभाव then the number of the compound will be singular or if the compound is तत्पुरुष then the number of the last component becomes the number of the whole तत्पुरुष compound. बहुव्रीहि compounds leave their original number and adopt the number of their qualificant. For

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[16]

यल्लिङ्गं यद्वचनं या च विभक्तिः विशेष्यस्य,
तल्लिङ्गं तद्वचनं सा च विभक्तिः विशेषणस्यापि।।

instance पतितपर्णान् वृक्षान् कर्तय (Cut the trees where all the leaves have fallen out.). In this sentence पतितपर्णान् is a बहुव्रीहि compound and it is qualifier of the word वृक्षान्. The word वृक्षान् is in plural. Since the gender, number, case of the qualifier agrees with those of the qualificant, the compound word पतितपर्ण gets the same number and gender of the word वृक्ष.

The number of द्वन्द्व compound depends on the number of components. For instance राधागोविन्दौ, श्रृङ्गारवीरकरुणाद्भुतहास्यभयानकाः etc. The instance राधागो-विन्दौ contains only two components : राधा and गोविन्द so it is in dual number and the instance श्रृङ्गारवीरकरुणाद्भुतहास्यभयानकाः contains six components : श्रृङ्गार, वीर, करुणा, अद्भुत, हास्य, and भयानक and hence it gets plural number. There are, however some exceptions. For instance विशश्च शूद्राश्च > विड्शूद्राः[17] (Group of वैश्यs and group of शूद्रs), वृक्षाश्च लताश्च > वृक्षलताः (group of trees and group of branches). In these kind of द्वन्द्व compounds, if the components are related to जातिवाचक or अप्राणिवाचक then the द्वन्द्व compound with two components may be in plural.

2.10   Semantic classification

Semantically पाणिनि classifies the Sanskrit compounds into four major types :

1. अव्ययीभाव : It is an endocentric compound with head typically to the left and behaves as indeclinable. For example उपकृष्णम्, अधिहरि etc.

2. तत्पुरुष : It is en endocentric compound with head typically to the right. For example कृष्णाश्रितः, ग्रामगमी etc.

3. बहुव्रीहि : It is an exocentric compound. For example पीताम्बरः etc.

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[17]पा॰ सू॰ - जातिरप्राणिनाम् (2-4-6) - सि॰कौ॰

4. द्वन्द्व : It is a copulative compound. For example रामकृष्णौ, वृक्षलताः etc.

2.11   Syntactic classification

Later grammarian Nagesh Bhatta in his भूषणसार has given the following verse :-

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सुपां सुपा तिङा नाम्ना धातुनाऽथ तिङां तिङा ।

सुबन्तेनेति विज्ञेयः समासः षड्विधो बुधैः ।।

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The verse indicates six kinds of compounds, classified according to the part of speech of the components involved.

1. सुपां सुपा (Noun with Noun) : This kind of compounds contain only noun constituents. For instance राजपुरुषः.

2. सुपां तिङा (Noun with Verb) : This kind of compounds contain Noun as a first component and conjugated verbs as a second component. For instance पर्यभूषयत्.

3. सुपां नाम्ना (Noun with Stem (Nominal base)) : This kind of compounds contain Noun as a first component and nominal stem as a second component. For instance कुम्भकारः.

4. सुपां धातुना (Noun with Verbal root) : This kind of compounds contain Noun as a first component and Verbal root as a second component. For instance कटप्रूः.

5. तिङां तिङा (Verb with Verb) : This kind of compounds contain only Verbal form as components. For instance पिबतखादता, खादतमोदता.

6. सुपां तिङा (Noun with Verb) : This kind of compound contain Noun as a first component and Verb as a second components. For instance कालविचक्षणा.