Preface

The Naiṣadhiyacarita of Śrīharaṣṭra, which is also known as 'Naiṣadhiya' or 'Naiṣadhā' is a monumental composition in the history of Sanskrit literature. “नैषधं विभ्रूपम्” is testimony to the esteem, scholars have had towards the poem. Śrīharaṣṭra is a poet who exhibits his mastery over both literature and śāstras. Science of grammar is quite a fascination for him and supplies enough for an analysis. An earnest attempt has been made to observe and analyse the work in a grammatical perspective.

The analysis of the words are based on the verses of Naiṣadhiyacarita edited with the commentary 'Naiṣadhiya Prakāśa' of Nārāyaṇa, published by Nirmaya Sagar Press, Bombay in 1952. The thesis has in store a collection of selected grammatical applications with relevant rules from Aṣṭādhyāyī of Pāṇini. The topics chosen for the study are the Pāṇinian aphorisms incorporated in verses, Taddhita and Kṛt word formations, Compound formations, Kārkas and Sandhi which are treated in Chapters III to VIII in the thesis. The two chapters in the beginning deal with Mahākāvya tradition and a general description of the poem and the poet. Finally there is conclusion in Chapter IX.
The thesis is a comprehensive but limited study due to the vastness of the kāvya. So the grammatical applications could not be exhaustively enlisted. Only specimens are dealt with. I will feel myself amply rewarded if this thesis stimulates an urge in Sanskritists to dive deep into the kāvya for further linguistic studies.

It is indeed my great fortune to have received the inspiring guidance of Dr. G. Gangadharan Nair, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Sanskrit Grammar, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, for my doctoral thesis. I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of indebtedness to him. I extend my deep sense of gratitude to Sri T.C. Krishna Pai, my beloved teacher, who has enlightened me on the nuances of Sanskrit literature and grammar. Without his affectionate help the thesis would not have seen the light of the day.

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