INTRODUCTION

Kerala has made substantial contribution to enrich the Sanskrit Literature. Kerala scholars have contributed original works, adaptations and commentaries to Sanskrit texts. Some of the commentaries are as important as their original. Rasamanñjari belongs to this group. It’s a commentary on Bhavabhūti’s Malātimādhava by Pūrṇasarasvatī.

Pūrṇasarasvatī (14th Century A.D.) is an erudite scholar, poet and dramatist. The present thesis attempts to evaluate his contribution in the field of Sanskrit literary criticism with a detailed study of Rasamanñjari commentary.

A survey on dramatic works and commentorial literature has been taken up to place him in the correct historical context. Rasamanñjari has been subjected to detailed study in comparison with the other commentaries available to us.

Many commentaries do not tend to bring out the totality of poetic work, instead they go around the particulars. They miss the forest for the woods. Pūrṇasarasvatī is different in this aspect. He views the text as a whole. Yet the details do not miss his attention. He is a critic par excellence. His commentary is not only the expression of different terms but also a criticism and evaluation of the original text. Taking the drama as a whole he brings to light the cultural importance and aesthetic perfection of the work. Pūrṇasarasvatī always extends a helping hand to the reader in understanding the subtleties of the text. He, through this commentary presents new ideas to the readers in a wider perspective. Rasamanñjari, though a commentary acquires the status of an independent work.