CHAPTER IX

SYNTAX
After dealing with single words in their phonetic, their derivative, and their inflexional aspects of the AV., we now turn to their treatment in syntax which contains their adjustment and reciprocal meaning when they are joined to construct a sentence and is the declaration of a connected and exact unit of idea. The syntactical arrangement of words in the AV. consists of nouns, adjectives, pronouns, indeclinables, verbs, nominal verbs and participles.

With the exception of a few hymns, the AV. Samhitā is composed in the verse order, which are of various types, and the construction of sentences has consequently been subordinated to the necessities of rhythm. So it is difficult to define the order of words in the AV. Samhitā. The AV. contains some hymns in prose order by which we can judge the normal order of words. In the AV., subject generally opens a sentence while the verb ends it, the remaining parts of the sentence coming in between, e.g.,
We shall discuss here each aspect of the syntax accordingly.

**Nouns**

In the AV, nouns denote the subject or object of a proposition by the different modifications of number, gender, and case. Its relations to other parts of a sentence depend specially on the object.

**Cases which are Associatéed with the Nouns in the Atharva-Veda**

**Nominative Case**

The nominative case expresses the simple sense of a word in the AV, e.g.,

- *manugyaḥ* (AV. VIII. 11.2), 'a man'
- *marutah* (AV. V. 24.6), 'a wind'.

It is used in a sentence with the verbs as an agent but sometime it is used in a sentence as possessive when the agent of a noun is in instrumental case.

In the AV, the nominative case is concerned with the active verb, when it indicates the agent, e.g.,

*avastūṃ enam āsvagam āprajasam karoti* (AV. XII. 9.7).
When the nominative case is connected with the middle, then it expresses the object, e.g.,

\[ \text{sa}ḥ \ \text{nākam-abhi} \ \text{ārohāti} \ \text{yatra} \ \text{śulkāḥ na kriyāte (AV.III. 29.3).} \]

When two or more nouns are joined together in the AV. by a copulative combination, then they mostly govern a verb in the plural number, e.g.,

\[ \text{pra}jām \ \text{ca lokam ca...vidūh (AV. IV. 11.9).} \]

**Accusative Case**

It is employed in the language of the AV. in various senses. It indicates the object of the action, after a transitive verb\(^2\), e.g.,

\[ \text{svargam lokām abhi nāḥ nayāsi (AV. XII. 3.17),} \]
\[ \text{himaṁ ghramsam ca ādhava (AV. XIII. 1.4.7),} \]
\[ \text{sarvān kāmān pūravati (AV. III. 29.2).} \]

In some instances of the AV., it is employed with primary suffixes\(^3\), e.g.,

\[ \text{vatsaṁ ca ghatuko vikah (AV. XIII. 4.7), etc.} \]

In some instances it is used after a word, which qualifies an action\(^4\), e.g.,

\[ \text{yo devo mrātvāni ati (AV. XX. 127.7), etc.} \]
In some instances it is employed with the indeclinable words⁵, e.g.,

\[ \text{ye devā rāstra bhrto abhito yanti suryam (AV. XIII. 1.35)}. \]

In some instances it expresses the thing given, e.g.,

\[ \text{harimāgam te āngebhyāh (AV. IX. 13.9)}. \]

**Instrumental Case**

In the AV. the instrumental case expresses the agent by which anything is done⁶, e.g.,

\[ \text{yātra sulkāh na kriyate abālēna bālīyase (AV. III. 29.3)}, \]

\[ \text{kriyate haviḥ (AV. XVIII. 2.1), etc.} \]

In some instances it is found to signify the prepositions 'with' 'alongwith'⁷, e.g.,

\[ \text{sākām sajāiḥ pāyasa sahā edhi (AV. XI. 1.7)}. \]

In some instances it is employed when the word is joined with another word meaning 'like to', e.g.,

\[ \text{samam jyotih-sūryena (AV. IV. 18.1), etc.} \]

**Dative Case**

The dative case is used to express the object...
of a gift, either literal or figurative and denotes so
many other things, e.g.,

\[ \text{vairupāya ca vai saḥ vairājāya ca (AV. XV. 2.17)}, \]

\[ \text{suseva suyamā grhebhyaḥ (AV. XIV. 2.17)}. \]

And it is also employed in the sense of religious
invocations, e.g.,

\[ \text{svadhā pitṛbhyaḥ (AV. XVIII. 4.78–80), etc.} \]

The root 'śap 'to curse' is employed in connection
with the object of the act in dative case when some special
feeling is used by it, e.g.,

\[ \text{yasca dvīṣad śāpati naḥ (AV. I. 19.4)}. \]

The roots 'krudh, 'druh, govern the accusative
case in the AV., e.g.,

\[ \text{yo māhyam krūḍhyati (AV. IV. 36.10)}, \]

\[ \text{yad dudrūḥita ṣepiṣe (AV. V. 30.3)}. \]

The dative case is used in the AV. in denoting the
object of that verb which is suppressed in a sentence,
e.g.,

\[ \text{rāṣṭryaya māhyam badhyatām sapatnebhyaḥ (AV. I. 29.4), etc.} \]

In some instances of the AV. the dative case is
employed in connection with the infinitive verb, e.g.,

\( \text{isum krnvāna āsanāya (AV. ).} \)

**Ablative Case**

In the AV. the ablative case expresses 'a taking away', 'a separating of or from', removal or departure of any kind, e.g.,

\( \text{yaḥ vidyāt sapta (AV. X. 10.2),} \)
\( \text{ye daksinātān jūhvati (AV. IV. 40.2).} \)

In the AV. the ablative case denotes the case or motive of any act or feeling, or the origin from which anything proceeds literally or figuratively, e.g.,

\( \text{vātāt jātāh antārikṣāt vidyūtaḥ (AV. IV. 10.1),} \)
\( \text{samudrāt jātāh manih (AV. IV. 10.5).} \)

In some instances of the AV. the ablative case shows the disappearance, e.g.,

\( \text{vi avāt te jyotih (AV. VIII. 1.21),} \)
\( \text{ye sūrvāt parisarpanti (AV. VIII. 6.24).} \)

In some instances the ablative is found with the paraḥ, which signify relative place, e.g.,

\( \text{paro divāḥ (AV. IX. 4.21).} \)
The preposition अ requires the ablative case in the AV. in the sense of 'limitation', either of place, time, events, or things, e.g.,

अ अगत उत अगत अयम (AV. II. 92.2).

In some instances, the ablative speaks about an action, e.g.,

ह्रदायत ते पारी क्लोनम (AV. II. 33.3), etc.

Genitive Case

Genitive case is used in the AV. when one noun follows another, and indicates some relationship with each other, e.g.,

िन्द्रध्या प्रधाम्परं राथ (AV. X. 4.1) 'The rathah of the Indra',
िन्द्रध्या कुक्षी अशि (AV. VII. 116.1).

In the AV. verbal roots, विः, व्रज expressing the object are denoted by the genitive case, e.g.,

िैरे पासुपतिः पासुनम (AV. II. 34.1),
तासैन्या मद्ये राजति (AV. X. 10.28).

In some instances the genitive case is found with the root श्म्र and the others, which keep the same meaning, e.g.,

रथा मामा श्मरत असायु (AV. XI. 130.3),
भागस्या नो दहेहि (AV. XIX. 4.3).
In some instances, the primary suffixes govern the genitive case\(^1\), e.g.,

\[\text{asya dātā īse (AV. IV. 11.5),}\]

\[\text{dātā abhi manasyēta (AV. XI. 3.25).}\]

The genitive case is employed after those words from which specification is made\(^2\), e.g.,

\[\text{vīrūdhām vīryāvati}\]

The genitive case is used after the words when they are indicating the sense of master\(^3\), e.g.,

\[\text{būtaḥ sarvasya īsvāra (AV. XI. 6.1), etc.}\]

Locative Case

In the AV. the locative case indicates the site of any object, whether substantial or ideal, in or upon or over which any other thing is situated, any act performed, any prosperity exhibited or any notion comprehended\(^4\), e.g.,

\[\text{sārve asmin devā ekavrtah bhavanti (AV. XIII. 5.8),}\]

\[\text{hiraṇya varne subhage surya varne vapustame (AV. V. 5.6),}\]

\[\text{asmin brāhmaṇī asmin karmanī asyām-puraḥ dhayām (AV. V. 24.1) etc.}\]

In the AV. the locative case is mostly required in connection with prepositions expressing ‘being over’ or
'upon' in any manner, e.g.,

upeha upapercana asmin (AV. IX. 4.23),
upa hva.ye sudugham dhenum (AV. VII. 77.7).

In some instances the locative case is employed to explain the thing or purpose for which any act is performed, or the time of another action is indicated, e.g.,

ašitavati atithau asniyat (AV. IX. 6.38), etc.

**Vocative Case**

The vocative case is not regarded as a distinct case in the AV., but the nominative is used in addressing with a slight modification of the singular number only. Its application in the AV. is the same as in Classical Sanskrit, e.g.,

agne yat te tapah (AV. II. 19.1),
agne yat te harah (AV. II. 19.2), etc.

**Adjectives**

The use of the adjectives in the AV. does not, in general, differ from that of substantives, e.g.,

tev|h|a|n|a|m yonim (AV. I. 11.5),
vīčh|a|r|a|ti (AV. I. 1.1),
tev|pit|ā|r|a|m parjānyam satāvṛṣṇya (AV. I. 3.1).
When a common adjective occurs in a sentence with more than one noun or pronoun, then the verb takes the plural number, and agrees with them collectively, e.g.,

\[\text{esām yajñam uta...ahām rāyāḥ poṣam uta...asmat ādhre bhavantu (AV. I. IX. 4.)}\]

In some instances the verb remains in the singular number, e.g.,

\[\text{esā te rājan...sā mātūḥ badhyatām (AV. I. 14.2),}\]
\[\text{esā te kulapāh rājan tām-u te pari dadmāsi (AV. I. 14.3), etc.}\]

There are many other instances in the language of the AV. regarding the adjectives, which are useful to form the sentences.

**Pronouns**

From the viewpoint of syntactical arrangement, the pronouns play a great role to form the sentences in the AV. The personal pronouns verify their gender accordingly to the noun to which they relate, e.g.,

\[\text{aśam ahām āyudha (AV. III. 19.5),}\]
\[\text{sah eti savita (AV. XIII. 4.1),}\]
\[\text{sah eka vrātyaḥ (AV. XV. 1.6),}\]
\[\text{esā purāṇi (AV. X. 8.30).}\]
Some pronouns as ma, me, nau, nah, tvā, te, vām, and vah, are not to be employed in the AV. at the beginning of a sentence, nor in formation with the conjunctions ca, eva, and vā. For the details of mechanism of pronouns in the AV., see the fourth chapter.

Indeclinables

The term indeclinable means those forms which remain unchanged in all genders, numbers, and cases and which cannot be declined. We can divide them into three categories; adverbs, prepositions and participles as are available in the AV.

Adverbs

In the AV. a number of adverbs are constructed with yathā, and bahi, etc., e.g.,

- yathā asitah prathayate (AV. VI. 72.1),
- yathā vatah cyavayati (AV. X. 1.13),
- bahih sadah pitarah (AV. XVIII. 1.51),
- bahih bilam niḥ dravatu (AV. IX. 13.11).

Prepositions

Prepositions in the language of the AV. generally has an independent meaning and is prefixed to verbs27, as
also to their derivatives. These prepositions modify and sometimes totally change the sense of verbs to which they are prefixed, e.g.,

ā vartate punah (AV. XII. 2.52),

vasānāḥ divam ut patanti (AV. VI. 22.1),

üp gāt prāśum etāt (AV. IX. 14.4), etc.

But the AV. has great majority of cases, where the preposition admits of being widely separated from its verb are liable to occur in any part of the sentence, e.g.,

yātu dhanān vi lāpaya (AV. I. 7.2),

ut enam bhedaḥ na adadād (AV. XII. 4.50).

It can be stated that more than sixty per cent prepositions are found with the verbs, and the rest are detached from their verbs.

The following prepositions are utilized to form the sentences in the AV.

Those having Single letter

Pra, ā, nis, dus, vi, sam, ni, su, ut.

whose first Syllable is accented

Whose Final Syllable is accented
Abhi.

Following prepositions are employed with cases in
the AV.

Abhi
Abhi is used in the AV, eight times with an ablative
case, and twenty times with locative case.

Anu
Anu is employed in the AV, twenty-two times with an
accusative case, and Antar is used once with a locative
case.

Adhi
Adhi is employed in the AV, fourteen times with an
accusative, once with an ablative, and once with a locative
case. Ā : once with a locative case Īma : twice with an
accusative case. Parī : thrice with an ablative case.

Particles
The particles are employed in the language of the
AV, in sense of expletives or intensives, e.g.,

mām it kilā tvam vānāḥ (AV, I. 34.14),
dure cit santam aruṣāsah (AV, III. 3.2).
The following particles are found in the language of the AV. when we are dealing with the construction of the sentences.

**Those having no accent**

*it, na, nu, mā, vai, hi, āt, iva.*

**Proclitic particles**

*iva, īm, u, gha, ca, cit, vā, sīm, sma, svit, ha.*

**Whose first Syllable is accented**

*atha, aram, aha, ehi, kila, khalu, ṣāṅga, ṭa.*

**Whose final Syllable is accented**

*eva, evam, cana, nunam.*

It is significant to note that no proclitic particle is used at the beginning of a sentences in the AV.

Another feature to be noted here is that the particle na is employed in the language of the AV. in both the senses, negative as well as simile. Whenever it is used in the negative sense, it is placed before the word; whenever it expresses the simile, it stands after a word whom it belongs.

**Verbs**

Regarding the syntactical arrangement of the AV.
verb is the most important element of the language composition. The different voices in which the active verb may be conjugated have been already described, as well as the changes to which either may be subjected when a verb is compounded with an inseparable preposition. Besides those distinctions, and their derivative forms or modes, the verb occurs also in construction in the middle voice, and as transitive, intransitive or neuter, impersonal or reflective.

The powers of the different tenses and moods have also been already discussed under the sixth chapter.

Nominal Verbs

The nominative forms of the verb have rare occurrence, with the exception of the causal, which has a common use in the language of the AV. The change of names into verbs is not unfrequent. Further and more developed mechanisation of nominal verbs see under the seventh chapter.

Participles

The language of the AV contains a large number of participles to construct the sentences. Participles which are declinable, like adjectives, inflected in the gender,
number and case of the noun with which they are related in formation of sentences in the AV. Both the declinable and indeclinable may exercise the same government as the verbs from which they are derived. A study of the participles has already been done under the title of the primary and the secondary suffixes in the AV.

Lastly I would like to add that the combination of all heads (discussed above) is the only way of forming the sentences in the AV.
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<td>5.</td>
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22. Cf. P. Gr. II. 3.41.
27. Cf. AV. Pr. IV. 1.