

## Chapter 6

### Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

The present study has enabled the researcher to go through the collections of the reputed academic and research libraries, oriental research libraries and also the valuable and rare collections of the good old libraries of Pune and elsewhere. The total concentration of the study was mainly on the dictionaries of all varieties and examining their reference value. Reference literature in general and dictionaries in particular have been profusely designed, developed and compiled since the beginning of the invention of printing and to be precise writing. With the changing needs of the academic and scholarly community different varieties of dictionaries have been compiled and there is an enormous growth of dictionaries in each and every language and literature. Scholars are of the opinion that the range of dictionaries designed and developed over a period of time in any language and literature, speaks the maturity and versatility of the language and literature. Sanskrit language is an ancient language which has no match in terms of the wealth of the language and the different forms of Sanskrit literature. Indeed this study gave an opportunity to peep in to the world of dictionaries compiled and their optimum use by the scholarly community to enrich to Sanskrit language and literature.

Researcher has browsed through the published dictionaries since 1800 AD and also glanced at the bibliographical references and sometimes the annotations given here and there found to be of immense help to comprehend the magnitude of the work done. Individual scholars, collective groups and the renowned institutions, organizations, associations, academies etc have endeavored to design and develop the dictionaries. During the period of intensive research, almost 600 dictionaries of all varieties have been consulted and the systematic analytical study of about selected 100 sources is made. At the outset this study revealed the strong foundation of lexicographic principles and procedures which have influenced other Indian languages to follow.

Closer examination of the growth and development of the Sanskrit dictionaries and their influence on the regional language dictionaries is brought to light for the first time by the Christian Missionaries. The significance of the dictionaries in the growth and

development of the language and literature is realized by the native scholars by going through the works of Christian Missionaries or directly interacting with them. Monier Williams is the best example to cite here and his monumental contributions to the lexicography are always acknowledged all over. Therefore there is no dispute in saying that the Christian Missionaries have awakened the native scholars to realize their own original scholarship and the ways means by which they can go further to develop newer types dictionaries as per the literary warrant.

## **6.1 Findings of the Study**

Analytical study of the Sanskrit dictionaries is quite interesting and innovative works have been identified. Though the study was confined to library science point of view, it was revealed few thought provoking findings. An attempt is made here to list the findings of the study.

### **6.1.1 Dictionaries in General**

- Dictionaries are the basic reference tools consulted for getting authentic information. These are compiled by the learned community of scholars with extensive research.
- In tune with the changing needs, irrespective of the learners and scholars, different varieties of dictionaries are compiled and revised from time to time.
- Cawdrey (1604), Bailey (1721) and Samuel Johnson (1755) have been the pioneers in setting the landmark in designing and developing the dictionaries in the early years.
- Latter dedicated lexicographers and dictionary publishers like Webster, Oxford, Random House, Murray etc have continued the rich tradition and developed dictionaries of everlasting value.
- The growth and development of language and literature, dictionaries are forming the basic edifice.
- There is a growing trend in compiling the subject dictionaries and special dictionaries in all the languages.

- Inter and intra-lingual expansion and also the ever widening extension of literature has greatly facilitated the development of bilingual, trilingual and multilingual dictionaries everywhere.
- Dictionaries are compiled suiting the needs of the user community. There are dictionaries for a common man and also to the highly specialized expert in the narrow subject area.
- Transformation has taken place in publishing the Sanskrit dictionaries using the computer and digital technologies
- Emerging trends in designing and developing the dictionaries is fascinating. Online Dictionaries, Electronic hand held dictionaries, mobile phone dictionaries; visual dictionaries are becoming very popular. Surprising trend is that there are dictionary portals and search engines are developed for searching the cluster of dictionaries for the meaning.

### **6.1.2 Sanskrit Dictionaries**

- Dictionaries in Sanskrit language and literature are the rich resources found to be in constant use.
- Sanskrit dictionaries initiated as classical Sanskrit lexicons before AD 500. The initiation was from “Dwirupakoha of Panini”. Later the progress was made in developing “Amarkosha” in before 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD. Since then classical lexicon development was in progress and this was the base for the development of dictionaries in other languages including English.
- All types of dictionaries are compiled to cater the needs of the needs of the users at all levels.
- Sanskrit dictionaries always reflect the high profile scholarship and intensive research.
- There is a kind of rigidity as far as the format, layout, and treatment in the dictionaries.
- The reference value of the Sanskrit dictionaries is very high and as many as classics and epics are quoted to justify and interpret the concept or the term to the context.

- Amarakosha of Amarasimha laid the strong foundation for the dictionaries in the Sanskrit language. It is seen that more than 37 commentaries are available for Amarakosha.
- Sanskrit dictionaries are broadly grouped as traditional or classical Sanskrit lexicons and modern Sanskrit dictionaries. Initially only mono lingual dictionaries like Sanskrit- Sanskrit was developed and later bi, tri, multi lingual dictionaries developed for language learning, teaching, poets, writers and research scholars etc
- Majority of the dictionaries are classical in nature, which benefits to the researchers and scholars, where as the contents of modern dictionaries are very much useful to all the users in education, teaching and learning. In classical Sanskrit dictionaries classification was not observed but in modern Sanskrit dictionaries they are grouped like other languages in general, subject, translating and special purpose dictionaries.
- There are significant efforts made and also in progress to design and develop the Dictionary on Historical Principles on the Model of Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles.
- Sanskrit language is the mother of all Indian languages and is more amendable for computers. Therefore there is wide opened opportunities for developing and designing the varieties of dictionaries and made them available online either free or subscribed.
- It is also found that compiling Sanskrit dictionaries and Sanskrit encyclopedic dictionaries both are not easy to prepare it needs expertise and skills for searching information from the literature for tracking source. It also needs explicit and implicit knowledge for identifying words and their meanings.
- The dictionaries covering the signs and symbols, riddles, proverbs, technical terms, and the names of the places, persons, animals, and geographical terms and concepts have to come on large scale.
- Electronic dictionaries and separate Sanskrit Dictionary Portals are steadily emerging to cater the requirements of the digital era.
- Number of committed Computer Experts having flair for Sanskrit language and literature are evincing considerable interest in developing dictionaries for the digital age.

- There is a paucity of a well defined comprehensive bibliography of dictionaries available in Sanskrit language and literature.
- Evaluation of Sanskrit dictionaries using set of established criteria revealed that there are many gaps in the Sanskrit dictionaries when compared to the English language.

## **6.2 Suggestions**

- Compilation of comprehensive bibliography of the Sanskrit dictionaries is to be taken up by Academic, Research institution supported by Government, Academics, Parishats and oriental research institutions.
- Emerging trends in lexicographic developments in English language be accepted and adopted in the Sanskrit language dictionaries.
- Dictionaries of all varieties are essential to promote the overall development of the language and literature. Hence, the attention in this regard is very much needed.
- The prominent dictionaries available on the net are to be consulted online and the URL's need to be highlighted so as to make the easy access to online dictionaries.
- Dictionaries for the visually handicapped be prepared as Braille dictionaries and should be made available in electronic form and also on desktop computer, as inbuilt form and should be made available online, free or subscribed. Special efforts be made to access it on cellphone.
- Sanskrit language is gaining universal language status and there should be large scale scope for promoting the design and development of dictionaries in all forms and formats.
- There is a need to develop bibliographies of Sanskrit dictionaries at different levels to support the bibliographic control of valuable reference sources. Further they might be compiled together to develop as an unique source of availability.
- There is a need to annotate the Sanskrit dictionaries based on the principles for enhancing the use of dictionaries among the experts as well as common users.
- Regional union catalogues of Sanskrit dictionaries are much more in demand. Similarly the different information products using traditional Sanskrit literature is to

be developed. The Encyclopedic Sanskrit dictionary developed by Deccan College is an example of such intellectual product using Sanskrit literature for its creation.

- The Sanskrit departments attached to universities, special institutes for Sanskrit research, Traditional institutes having manuscript collection need to be networked and the resources need to be shared online for different uses and applications.
- The classical manuscripts, rare documents, reference collection etc have to be digitized and help in preserving the traditional heritage. The information products can be prepared using such collection for the better utility.
- Rashtriya Sanskrit Santhan New Delhi is sponsoring different projects for developing information products using traditional and classical literature. The institutes having traditional and classical collection need to take advantages of such organizations and developing different information products like union catalogue of different sources.
- Implicit knowledge of Sanskrit scholars i.e. skills obtained for the making encyclopedic dictionaries is also to be passed to the future generations.

### **6.3 Problems Faced while Conducting Study:**

- 1) Non availability (Physical) of classical, traditional Sanskrit dictionaries collection, which finds difficult in preparing bibliography and annotating dictionaries.
- 2) There is no proper bibliographical control for Sanskrit literature and Sanskrit dictionaries and hence find difficulties in getting the information about its existence and availability.

### **6.4 Scope for the Future Studies:**

The research study conducted by the present researcher is an effort to compile a bibliography of and annotated bibliography of Sanskrit dictionaries available since 1800. Any research study conducted is not complete in all aspects it only relates to particular theme and hence there is a scope for the future researchers to either append to the present study or to conduct the missing areas in to it. The scope for the further research is to

select the topics in different languages. In literature review it is observed that bibliographies of dictionaries in Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada, Oria, Telgu and Hindi languages are already conducted. There is a scope for selecting the remaining languages and continue similar type of study to develop compilation of resources useful for reference services.

### **6.5 Utility of the Study:**

This is a detailed study of the dictionaries in general and also specific emphasis is given on Sanskrit dictionaries. The researcher made an effort in compiling bibliography as well as annotated bibliography of Sanskrit dictionaries since 1800 and it is a best compendium for the Sanskrit researcher and useful for the academicians also. Such studies are very helpful for bibliographic control and availability of reference sources for quick usage.

Another benefit of the study envisaged is that the exhaustive bibliography with annotations compiled would help Sanskrit academicians and professionals in their research pursuits on the one side and library and information science department personels in providing better reference service on the other side. Further it may state that the present study can be used as a stepping point for the future work in this area.

### **Conclusion**

Sanskrit language and literature is rich and varied. The types of dictionaries compiled are the creation of the master minded lexicographers who have set an example to many other language dictionaries. Amarasimha's 'Amarakosha' is an all time example which is in a shloka form giving all the feature of the dictionary. A shloka begins with word and all its etiology and many other special features including grammar and prosody are given. The dictionaries in Sanskrit brought out in the ancient time are not in the format of modern dictionaries, but they contain good lot of information which calls for a high level of scholarship for comprehending the meaning of the terms, word or a concept. The

reference value of their dictionaries citing the authentic classical sources has paved the way for modern lexicographers to format the dictionary layout.

Sanskrit dictionaries are the products great intellectual exercise of the Scholars. All types of dictionaries have been compiled to cater the needs of the scholars. These days, Sanskrit dictionaries are taking a new shape and following the systematic formatting of the modern dictionaries. Some of the varieties like the subject dictionaries are conspicuous by their absence. In these days of fast growth of different subject fields due to the inter-disciplinary and multi disciplinary research, there is imperative need for developing and designing subject dictionaries. The dictionaries covering the signs and symbols, riddles, proverbs, technical terms, and the names of the places, persons, animals, and geographical terms and concepts have to come on large scale. It is observed that the Sanskrit language is still attached to tradition and rigid conventions. Surprisingly, it is the experience of the scholars of the world that Sanskrit language is more suitable for developing the computer language. It is seen that the scholars who are proficient in Sanskrit and computer technology have hit the headlines in their innovative research in the field of technology particularly in the computer technology.

The very fact that the creation of dictionary portals, developing online Sanskrit dictionaries and making them available in all the digital forms is a major breakthrough in the history of Sanskrit language. Great transformation has taken place in publishing the Sanskrit dictionaries using the computer and digital technologies.

This research study is a modest effort in bringing together the published dictionaries since the invention of printing technique. It was a tedious task to accomplish simply because of the scattered literature and a kind of inattention given in encouraging the compilation of dictionaries. It is of course a serious job and at the same time tedious task. Only established organizations committed to the promotion of oriental studies and projecting the significance of the classical languages go for undertaking the task of compilation of dictionaries. In this study all possible care is taken to present briefly the salient features of dictionaries along with the historical perspective. An overview of the growth and development of the Sanskrit dictionaries is also presented.

Attempt is also made to evaluate the dictionaries in terms of set criteria and highlighted the important role of dictionaries in promoting the studies in Sanskrit language and literature. Realizing the distinctive features of dictionaries, a humble effort is made in this study to give an account of the monumental work undertaken by the Deccan College in compiling the unique Sanskrit encyclopedic dictionary on historical principles. This account is presented in the typology chapter. Above all the researcher has made an exhaustive survey of the published Sanskrit dictionaries and compiled a systematic 'Annotative Bibliography of Sanskrit Dictionaries' and also the neatly compiled bibliography of Sanskrit dictionaries by extracting the information from hundreds of sources. This chapter is really a crowning beauty of this research work. In nutshell this thesis is going to be a solid source to give the details of the published Sanskrit dictionaries in which almost 600 entries are covered. It is envisaged that this work is going to be a essential territory sources of information in the field of Sanskrit language and literature.