Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902 A.D.) is a great Indian religious leader, a great representative of Indian culture, a true interpreter of ancient lore of knowledge, a practical Vedantist and an outstanding Karmayogi. He has influenced, inspired and guided many intellectuals as well as laymen for leading a better life. The life and message of Swamiji have been a constant source of inspiration to many Sanskrit poets. Being influenced by his life and philosophy some Sanskrit poets have composed poems on his life and philosophy. Sri Swami-Vivekanandacaritam composed by Pandit Tryambaka A Bhandarkar is one of them.

This epic poem is also one of the excellent biographical poems composed so far in modern Sanskrit literature. It occupies a special place for its intrinsic merit, originality, superb presentation, lucid style, fine language and an appropriate blending of poetic elements. As is very clear from the title, life and activities of Swami Vivekananda is dealt with in this poem in a proper order. It does not contain simply a catalogue of events of Swamiji’s life; it does not also exaggerate the achievements of swamiji as it is found in many Sanskrit poems. Here is a fine blending of fact and fiction which brings a true rāmāniyātī to the heart of connoisseurs.

An attempt is made for the first time to make a critical study of the Swāmi Vivekānandacarita mahākāvyā in English.
All the Sanskrit works composed on the life of Vivekananda have been collected and prepared a critical literary study of said mahākāvya and the researcher has brought to light the valuable contribution of the poet Tryambaka A Bhandarakar.

The present study is supposed to bring a systematic account or Vivekananda’s life-history from the present Sanskrit mahākāvya.

As far as my knowledge is concerned nobody has attempted to prepare a comprehensive literary study of the above stated Sanskrit mahākāvya. The study will be first of its kind in English.

In the preparation of the present thesis I have fully drawn upon all the available literature that is published and non-published. An acknowledgement has made in proper place of the thesis.

I have studied the text and the relevant literature and have tried to express my own views after critically evaluating the text.

This study is presented in the following chapters based on original text.
INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER -I ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAHĀKĀVYAS
CHAPTER-II LITERARY WORKS ON SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
CHAPTER-III LIFE, DATE AND WORKS OF THE POET
CHAPTER-IV SUMMARY OF THE CANTOS OF THE MAHĀKĀVYA
CHAPTER-V LIFE OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AS GIVEN IN THE MAHĀKĀVYA
CHAPTER-VI LITERARY EVALUATION OF THE POEM
CHAPTER-VII DESCRIPTIONS AND NARRATIONS IN THE MAHĀKĀVYA
CHAPTER-VIII RELIGIOUS AND PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS DEPICTED IN THE MAHĀKĀVYAS

CHAPTER-IX CONCLUSION

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