



Linking Languages through Missions: The German Scholarship towards Indian Pedagogy

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Abstract: *The promotion of education & scholarship was considered as a sanctified obligation in ancient & medieval India. The nobility and top ranked aristocracy claimed patronage to these educational institutions & scholarship activities. India has been a land of pedagogic promotion & such promotional activities were continued to influence the scholars across the world. Several scholars were influenced by these pedagogic moves & they came to India in pursuance of this policy of Sanskrit scholarship. This paper examines the contributions of German missionaries towards Indian language studies. The missionaries came to India with several missions but most of them*

Key words: *Sanskrit scholarship, missionaries, Indian language studies, impact on scholarly writings*

Introduction

Indo German relationships were not only legendary but also academic pursuit the German were interested to study Indian people their habits beliefs traditional knowledge systems they were also interested in meta physics astronomy mathematics health preventive sure systems religious practices theosophical studies geographical literary collection folk traditions artistic forms etc. German scholars & missionaries have promoted Indian language with translations & transliteration which has b provided great scholarship.

Objectives of Study

1. This paper disseminates the academic relations of German scholars towards Indian language studies
2. this paper examines the role of Basel mission in promotion of Indian language with special reference to Kannada language

3. This paper spotlights on other empirical studies in Indian languages taken up by German missionaries.

The Methodology

This paper has used several primary sources such as publication of the governments & several secondary sources such as books & research articles in journals.

The Concept

The missionary is a member of a sent to an area to undertake services of education, literacy, social justice, health care & economic development. The origin of the word Missionary goes back to 1598 AD when Jesuit religious leaders sent their members to far off countries to embark on social service.

The contribution of the following scholars is great.

1. Heinrich Roth 1620 to 1668 was the first missionary who learn t Sanskrit language & he wrote a book based on Panani is grammar book this was



- in Latin language .Roth was missionary who came to Goa in 1652 & came to Agra in search of job in mogul court . Bernier mentions Roth in his travel accounts. Claus Vogel in his An old letter from Surat written by German Jesuit Heinrich Roth. In: Annals of bhandarkar oriental research institute & such other publications unveil the scholarship of Roth. several studies on Roth help us to gain knowledge about his works
2. Edward Roerer 1805- 1866 was a student of philosophy who learnt Sanskrit & entered the services of East India Company & came to Calcutta in 1839. By 1842 he became the librarian Asiatic society of Bengal & secretary of the linguistic Department of Bengal in 1847. He became the editor of Bibliotheca Indica, publication of Asiatic society. He published 10 Upanishads by 1853 with original transliterations.
 3. George Buhler (1837-1898) was another important scholar who came to India. He had received doctorate degree in eastern languages. He was a nominated professor of oriental languages at Elphinstone College became education inspector of Gujarat & Sanskrit manuscripts at Bombay presidency He spent his free time in deciphering the edicts of Asoka He wrote 2 book on jain religion in 1887 which were published in Vienna . (Heather Jane Sharkey - Cultural Conversions: Unexpected Consequences of Christian Missionary in the middle east Africa & south Asia 2013). He was interested in learning brahmi script reading & He took the support of local scholars. He could manage to travel in vast regions in search of historical documents.(German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014). He published oldest prakrit books in Germany. His greatest work was on the origin of kharoshthi script which was a deep study on the origins of this script ever undertaken by a foreign scholar. Another publication was “Digest on Hindu laws” which contained several types of law citations. His monumental work of translations of apasthambha dharma sutra appeared in the “sacred books of the east” with Max muller’s mammoth authorship.
 4. Grassman (1809- 1877) was a linguist who laid a firm foundation for Rig Vedic studies He brought out the first German translation of Rig Veda & dictionary of Vedic language with 2000 pages . After becoming the member of American orientalist’s society he became further involved in deep studies about Indian classical Literature.(German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014)
 5. Hermann Otto (1815 -1904) was another great German who carried on the works he brought out the dictionary of Sanskrit language. (German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014.)
 6. Theodor aufrecht (1821- 1907) was known for his great compilation of all Sanskrit manuscripts published in the name of catalogues by 1902 (Missionary pedagogy and Christianization of the heathens: The educational institutions introduced by the Basel Mission in Mangalore).. German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014.



7. Hermann Brockhaus (1806 - 1877) whose father had printing house in Leipzig studied oriental languages who took interest in Indian mathematics. He translated the Kathasaritsagara into German with great scholarship. It was published in 1839 in Leipzig & Paris. He wanted to know the technical details of mechanically printing Sanskrit in Leipzig. German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014.

8. Being from a family of publishing & printing background he was very much interested to print Sanskrit books. In 1841 he wrote a treatise on how to print Sanskrit works with Latin alphabet letters (German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014).

9. Theodor Benfrey (1809-1881) elaborately studied Indian folk lore panchatantra the Indian book of fables fairy tales & stories was released in 1859 & became very popular. Motifs & ideas taken from these Indian legends & fables were incorporated in a number of German & European folk stories. (German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014.)

Besides these scholars there were several others who infused interest in Indian studies. German Contributions to the Study of Indian regional languages and Sanskrit official website 2014. The missionaries learnt, studied & translated several great Indian works. But most of them were either not published or were published in Greco-Latin languages. In Germany Sanskrit chair was established in 1816 as Franz Bopp

forwarded the theory of common ancestry for Sanskrit Greek & Latin languages. This theory led to evolution of common Philology theory.

Conclusion

Thus the contributions of German missionaries to the study of Indian languages customs cultural identities religious practices was unsurpassed. The thorough methodology meticulous documentation is unparalleled in history. Even though the inadvertent religious bias was always present in their scholastic background, the academic identity they created for Indian languages was beyond any doubt highly pedagogic. They had no colonial interest in exploring classical Indian Sanskrit books but their interest in Indian classical literature was purely academic.

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