

E-reader

Sanskrit, a classical language from India, has a vast literature covering a wide range of knowledge domains, Ayurveda being one of them. Some of the important texts are already translated into several languages of the World. But the translated texts raise several questions in the mind of a reader as to the authenticity of the translation. The readers, typically, are curious to know and understand the original texts rather than mere translation. With the availability of several computational tools for processing Sanskrit, it is now possible for us to access the original Sanskrit texts and understand them in origin.

Since most of our Sanskrit literature is in verse form, and it is difficult to understand the verses, the commentary tradition flourished. These commentaries provided a wealth of information for a novice or a learner of Sanskrit so that s/he can understand the texts in depth and enjoy the literature. With the advent of technology, now it is possible to make these commentaries available in electronic form in a more friendly manner.

A commentary has five characteristics.

padacchedaḥ padārthoktir vighraho vākyayojanā ||17 ||
ākṣepeṣu samādhānam vyākhyānam pañcalakṣaṇam
(parāśarapurāṇa 18.17-18)

- It gives the segmentation - padaccheda.
- It provides the meaning of every word - padārthokti.
- It gives the paraphrase - vighraha of a compound.
- Then the commentator provides the anvaya which is nothing but a vākyayojanā.
- And finally, if there were any objections raised by other commentators, then they are answered.

With the help of technology, now it is possible to provide all this information with a suitable user interface. The department of Sanskrit Studies, with a funding from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, has developed Ereaders for several important texts. Aṣṭāṅga-Hṛdayam being one of them.

The E-reader presents

- Each śloka
- Its padaccheda
- Anvaya
- Ellipsed (adhyāhṛt) words
- Word analysis (śabda viśleṣaṇa)
- Kāraka viśleṣaṇa)
- Link to the bilingual dictionaries such as Sanskrit-Hindi Apte's dictionary and Sanskrit-English Monnier William's dictionary

In case a verse is composed of several sentences, the śloka is split into sentences, and the analysis of each śloka is presented separately.