

CHAPTER-3

METHODOLOGY

Methodology or Procedures Used

The Methodology followed herein is a comparative one. A comparative study of the different metres gave me an exact idea regarding the texture of the language. In writing the thesis papers particular attention has been paid to the style and level of exposition, which is simple and lucid, clear and concise, systematic and interesting.

The method adopted by me may be enunciated as follows.

A short outline of the poet Bhanubhakta as he is a recent author, the search of manuscript as done in the case of classical authors, has not been found necessary. On the other hand, intensive study of the contents of the poet's major works on a comparative basis has been taken up.

I have enclosed a list of most noteworthy works which have so far been published on Bhanubhakta viz., (1)The Rāmāyana, (2)Prasñottarī, (3)Badhūshikshā and (4)Bhaktamālā.

The basic objective of my thesis is to introduce the reader to classical Sanskrit metres used by Bhānubhakta in his Rāmāyana canto by canto by the help of tubular illustrations. In the first place, after going through the contents of the Rāmāyana of the poet Bhānubhakta, I have made an attempt to find out all the classical Sanskrit metres used by him, Similarly, some of the philosophical teachings on Ātmavāda and Bhaktivāda as revealed in his Rāmāyana have been highlighted in this project. A good table of contents serves an important purpose in providing an outline of the contents of the report. Accordingly, the contents have been given in details. Page references for each topic have been indicated.

Three objectives are the cornerstones of my writing which have been explained fully here. My endeavour in the writing is to make the intricate subject of Prosody as simple, convincing and interesting as possible. A full analysis of the previous research and writing on Bhānubhakta literature has been explained. The name of Dr. Bhajan Gopal Sanyal of Darjeeling, who for the first time translated with tireless effort the Rāmāyana of Bhānubhakta into Bengali language, has been mentioned. It appears to us that Dr. Sanyal's work is most remarkable to be remembered and followed. A survey of the previous attempts has been made. After a thorough study of the slokas of Bhānubhakta's Rāmāyana it appeared to us that he was a lover of Sanskrit metres and hence he applied nine classical Sanskrit metres in his Rāmāyana, all of which have not been used by other poets in Nepali literature. Attempts have been made to arrange my thesis paper in a very systematic and logical fashion. It is certainly expedient to mention the name of Dr. (Mrs.) Kamalā Sāmkrtyāyana (wife of Sri Rāhul Sāmkrtyāyana) who made a comparative study between Bhānubhakta and Tulsidāsa in the year 1959. Her name has also been mentioned in Chapter 2, while discussing the writers on Bhānubhakta's

Innumerable books of different writers of different periods on Bhānu's literature have been consulted. "Bhānubhakta Kṛti Adhyānharū" along with the commentary of six writers – published by Bhānubhakta Satavarsik Prakashan, Nepali Sahitya Parisad, Darjeeling, has been discussed. A History of Nepali Literature written by Dr. Kumar Pradhan and published by Sahitya Academy, New Delhi, in the year 1984, helped me enormously.

I have consulted Sanskrit Adhyātma Rāmāyana with translation in Hindi by Munilal and published by Govinda Bhawan Karyalaya, Gorakhpur. After going through the contents of Bhānubhakta's Rāmāyana and those of the

Adhyātmā Rāmāyana, it transpires that Bhānubhakta followed the Adhyātmā Rāmāyana but he rejected long stutis and many narratives in order to enhance attraction to the readers.

In the first chapter, the specific purposes of the study are described and all assumptions and limitations are recognized.

In the second chapter, as per the format of the research report, I have also given a brief summary indicating the areas of agreement and disagreement in Findings in existing knowledge.

In the fourth chapter, while presenting the analysis of the data (which is the heart of the research report), I have explained the term "Metre" and discussed its necessity. Why classical Sanskrit metres have been used by the Nepali poet Bhanubhakta in his Rāmāyana has been explained clearly. The data have been analyzed and reported upon through textual discussions and tabular and graphic devices.

In the fourth chapter, some determining factors of metres such as Vṛtta, Jāti, Mātrā, vowels (Laghu and Guru), Ganas and Yati have been explained elaborately with examples. Antiquity and present position of of metres in Nepali literature have also been discussed.

In the appendix, the cantowise distribution of metres has been highlighted with the help of tables. In my project, I have furnished a detailed discussion of the nine classical Sanskrit metres used by Bhanubhakta in his Rāmāyana.

A brief life history of Bhānubhakta along with the appreciation and criticism of his poetic excellence has been described. Other works of Bhānubhakta have been mentioned in the thesis. Necessary important data have been collected from different sources with great difficulty.

A list of Bhānubhakta's "Kula" as recorded by Pandit Kavirāj Naranāth Āchārya (Samvat 2036) in his book "Adhikari Bhānubhakta Āchāryako Sachchā Jīvan Charitra", p. 14. Has been included in my project. A list of Bhānu's predecessor poets has also been inserted as recorded in the book "Bhānubhakta Krti Adhyanharū", p. 13. Moreover, a table of "Ganas" which is one of the corner-stones in determining metres as recorded by Mahānanda Poudyāl in "Chhanda Ra Alamkāra", p. 9, has been included in my thesis.

A selective bibliography has been appended to this work; and, the standard, Romanized transliteration form has been followed.

The presentation of data by means of tables is generally preferred by every scholar (or teacher) because a table can show the data in a compact form and a complete table, with its title, heading and sub-heading can bring all the essential features of the data into a clearer perspective. Hence, list of table has been added to my thesis.

Terms, concepts and ideas have been briefly explained in the ^{end} notes along with the page mark. List of Figures has also been included in my project. A list of abbreviations has been provided.

Appendices cover list of important documents. The appendices have been inserted after a sheet containing the word 'APPENDICES', capitalized and

centered on the page. Each separate entry heading is listed as Appendix A, Appendix B, etc.

In conclusion I may safely say that I have followed an expository and illustrative method throughout my project.