

Preface

This thesis entitled as “*Autonomy of Language: A Comparative and Critical study with reference to Pāṇini, Bhartṛhari, Wittgenstein and Chomsky*” will address and examine the autonomy of language. The term ‘autonomy’, though popular concept in socio-political field, is technically used in Linguistic philosophy. We propose to examine a comparative and critical study on the concept ‘autonomy of language’ between East and West (East: Pāṇini and Bhartṛhari, West: Wittgenstein and Chomsky).

In the *Introduction* of my thesis, I propose to outline the general concept of autonomy of language from various perspectives and it is included in the *Chapter 1*.

We then pass on to discuss in detail the concept of Language where the term autonomy is being pronounced. Here, we propose to discuss the autonomy of language after Pāṇini, Bhartṛhari, Wittgenstein and Chomsky separately and then make a comparison among them. This is included in *Chapter 2* and it is entitled as: *Autonomy of language*.

It is important to note that the term autonomy of language can be understood in terms of language. Therefore, it is necessary to analyse the various components of language. In fact the philosophers as cited above have understood the components of language differently and there underlie similarities and differences among them. All these issues will be addressed in *Chapter 3* and it is entitled as: *Components of language*. We think that the autonomy of language has its metaphysical relevance and it would clearly be reflected in Bhartṛhari’s philosophy of language. However, besides metaphysical relevance, we also propose to examine and explicate the epistemological sense of autonomy. In fact there is nothing wrong to claim that the epistemological sense of the autonomy of language is common in the discussion of all these philosophers cited above. Whether language is autonomous is metaphysical or epistemological sense is an

interesting issue and we propose to examine it elaborately in *Chapter 4*, which is entitled as: *Metaphysical and epistemological senses of language*. In the final Chapter entitled as *Concluding Remarks*, we propose to give a critical outlook regarding the concept of autonomy of language as conceived by the above-cited philosophers. Accordingly, the proposed comparison between East and West regarding the autonomy of language would be novel and innovative as it will open up a new vision or dimension in the domain of linguistic philosophy.

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