

Bālappabodhaṭṭikā (Vicitrasāra): A Note on a Rare Pali Grammatical Work (Date unknown)

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Introduction

Bālappabodhaṭṭikā (Vicitrasāra) is a sub-commentary by an unknown writer of an unknown date written in Sinhalese script on *Bālappabodha grammar*. It quotes examples from *Rūpasiddhi*. It gives Pali equivalents for syntax, compound, secondary derivatives and verbs in both prose and verse. This work appears to be later than the *Kaccāyanabedha*. There are 21 Palm leaves the text of is 15 inches each in length.

The colophon of the manuscript states thus:

“*nānā ganthesu sāratham
gahetvā mandapaññānam
aviññātasaddalakkhaṇānam
kulaputtānam
sikkhamānānam atthāya
racita bālappabodha ṭṭikā
samattā*”

“Here ends the *Bālappabodhaṭṭikā* which was composed by comprising various texts for the benefit of those students who lack the knowledge of grammatical features.”

Discussion

It is evident that many of the Pāli grammars presently extant are easily found in libraries, bookshops and so on. Some of them are highly venerated by both scholars and students. There has been a tradition

of Pāli scholars who made contributions to Pali exegetical grammatical works for a few centuries in Sri Lanka. Their works, however, had been produced in perishable material such as palm leaf manuscripts. It is also evident that still there are some texts which have not received due attention, and they may be lost eventually.

Bālappabodhaṭṭikā (Vicitrasāra) as a sub-commentary to the *Bālappabodha grammar* is in the above mentioned condition. It's, therefore, time to make a critical study on the text. Although a few scholars have observed the importance of this text, none has made a thorough and serious study of it.

Methodology

This paper is mainly based on a literary survey and personal observations. Data collected from the texts are meticulously read using analytical and descriptive methods.

Conclusions

The following list of Manuscripts also gives an indication of the places from where they have been acquired in order to make a critical edition of the text.

- A MS. from Kundasale Raja
Maha Viharaya
- B MS. from Polhena Purana
Viharaya, Matara
- C MS. Hayagiri
Vijayasundaramaya,
Kandy
- D MS. Main Library,
University of Peradeniya_1
- E MS. Main Library,
University of Peradeniya_2

Some other texts were also at my disposal, but it was decided not to collate them as they were full of careless spelling mistakes, omissions and repetitions of words and phrases, all leading to diminish its value considerably. *Vicitrasāra*, however, marks a sparkling point of the Pāli literature by displaying the coherence between the Sanskrit and Pali grammars as well. By

using this *īkā*, modern scholars may find different ways to explain the same grammar point, thus the effort of making the Pali language living, would be within the grasp of scholars.

References

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