

PREFACE

In addition to evolving sound methods of teaching the language and works composed in it, ancient Sanskrit writers prepared also several ready-made tools to assist them in their pedagogic mission. The compilation of indexes and concordances is no new line of work fashioned by modern scholarship. These ready-made instruments of scholarship are as old as the post-Vedic literature, when different kinds of *Anukramaṇīs*, lists of words of different kinds of morphological kingship, etc., arose. In grammar itself, separate hand-books for alerting students on gender and other slippery matters were prepared. The difference is that all these old tools, including the dictionaries, were made in metrical form. Special sets of verses were composed to collect together words or roots which underwent identical modifications or took the same grammatical formative characteristics to enable easy memorisation by students, e.g. the verses listing roots which took two objects (*dvi-karmaka*) and the verses enumerating roots which do not take the augment 'i' 'इ' (*Aniṣkārīkās*). Difficult forms like the frequentative *Yanluganta* were also dealt with in special monographs by writers like S'eṣa Kṛṣṇa.

In modern times, the study of Sanskrit has called for the preparation of not only grammars arranged in a new way but also all kinds of 'made-easy' compilations for ready reference and getting at a glance all possible forms. The roots, *Dhātus*, the variety of conjugations, *Guṇa* and *Vṛddhi*, formative augments and the rules and exceptions in their incidence, these constitute a major scare, if we may say so, to students of Sanskrit. One of the tasks on which many modern teachers and authors of popular grammars and handbooks of Sanskrit had always engaged themselves is the compilation of dictionaries of conjugational forms. These varied in completeness and size but the publication of the stupendous *Dhāturatnākara* by the Jain Sadhu Lavanyavijaya in seven volumes, which superseded all lesser compilations, forms not only a monumental achievement in the field, but also one of the greatest boons to teachers and students alike of Sanskrit.

The difficulty of the *Dhātus* does not end with their conjugation. The primary derivatives from radical bases, the *Kṛt*-forms, including participles, infinitives, gerunds and reduplicatives, are not easily comprehended and mastered. Even those