

Sigmatic and periphrastic future in Epic Sanskrit – Abstract:

Sigmatic and periphrastic future are constructions of Sanskrit grammar whose full range of functions still remains understudied. The main problem arises with the question about the difference in their uses. Even though their definitions and the differences between them are already described in traditional grammars, actual usage in texts doesn't always align with them. Similarly, discrepancies can be found among Western grammars of Sanskrit, and different authors give different rules. In this thesis, I will first present the development of these constructions from their roots to later Indo-Aryan languages, then I will look at their actual usage in Epic Sanskrit, represented by the epics Mahabharata and Ramayana. Because of the large number of occurrences in the corpus, a sample of the sigmatic and periphrastic future will be taken, numbering 500 occurrences in the Mahabharata and 200 in the Ramayana. They will be compared with the definitions in the grammars of Sanskrit.

Keywords: Sanskrit, future, sigmatic future, periphrastic future, Mahabharata, Epic Sanskrit, Ramayana