

PANINI'S INFLUENCE ON TELUGU GRAMMAR

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Telugu is one of the South Indian Languages spoken by more eighty million people residing in Andhra Pradesh and other places across the globe. Probably, no other vernacular of Indian subcontinent is supported by such a vast grammatical/linguistic analysis as Telugu.

While it is the trio of Panini, Katyayana and Patanjali in Sanskrit, it is Nannaya, Atharvana and Ahobala in Telugu, who composed Sutras, Vartikas and Bhasyam. All the above had written their works in Sanskrit. Balavyakaranam, Praudhavyakaranam etc. are grammatical works composed in Telugu.

The Paninian system, which bears the hallmarks of brevity and perfection, is best suited to Telugu grammatical constructions to a great extent. Various Telugu grammarians had adopted many ideas and concepts that are there in Panini (including commentaries) without change - for example in Samasa and Karaka (compounds, syntax and semantics). Whereas in the case of other paradigms, i.e. nominal and verbal declensions, morpho-phonemics (Sandhi), Krit, Taddhita etc., they adapted the pattern (by adding it-varna etc.) in order to make it suitable to the Telugu idiom.

In the absence of any grammatical system for Telugu, Panini was discovered, tried and successfully proved to be suitable by Telugu grammarians (from 11th to 19th Century). It is also clear that nobody had hitherto undertaken a thorough study regarding the influence of Paninian system on Telugu grammar.

This paper intends to discuss certain Paninian aspects and technics borrowed by Telugu grammarians, the variations thereof besides looking into the diachronic perspectives of Telugu.