

Preface

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**A Historical Syntax of Late Middle Indo-Aryan
(Apabhraṃśa)**

Vit Bubenik

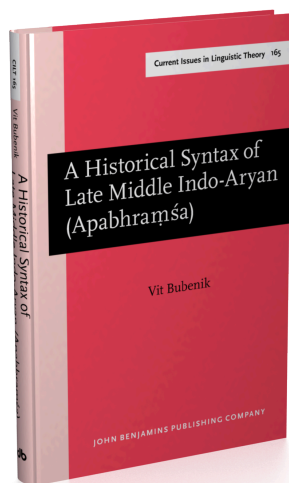
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PREFACE

This monograph is based on my research in the area of Indo-Aryan linguistics (Medieval period) during the last ten years. Data gathering for the present volume took several years. During the first stage of the project (supported generously by the grant of the SSHRC No. 410-89-0028 for 1989–92) I was successful in creating an adequate database by excerpting, analyzing grammatically and computerizing selected late Middle Indo-Aryan (Apabhraṃśa) texts. At the same time my co-investigator, Dr. Ch. Paranjape, worked on Early New Indo-Aryan texts (Old Kharī Bolī, Rajasthani, Gujarati and Marathi). We worked together on the analysis of morphosyntactic variation within individual authors/texts, and analyzed the nature and progress of morphological and syntactic change in the history of the Indo-Aryan languages during the centuries under investigation (6th – 15th c. A.D.).

During my research on Apabhraṃśa texts it became clear to me that some of the necessary publications (original texts and secondary sources) are not available in North America, and I decided to take the project at that stage to the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune (India). There, as the research fellow of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (June – October 1991), I could avail myself of the considerable local expertise in philological and linguistic matters connected with the interpretation of Apabhraṃśa texts. It is my pleasant duty to acknowledge the advice and assistance from my Indian colleagues Dr. S. D. Laddu, Dr. G. Palsule and Dr. A. M. Ghatage. Dr. Ghatage, in spite of his heavy commitment to the editorship of the Prakrit Dictionary, did not hesitate to spend many hours with me over the early Apabhraṃśa texts and Hemacandra's Prākṛit grammar. While in Pune I was able examine a number of materials which could not be obtained by interlibrary loan, and prepared an extensive bibliography of Indian writings bearing on morphosyntactic change in MIA.

During the second stage of the project (supported by another SSHRC grant, No. 410-92-0876 for 1992–95) Dr. Paranjape and I excerpted further original Apabhraṃśa and early NIA documents and added them to our database. In 1994 (June – August) I benefitted from a renewed fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, tenable at the University of Munich (Germany), where at the Institute for General and Indo-European Linguistics and the Institute for Indology and Iranistic I could do more work on our database.

Over the years I have been presenting parts of my work in several forums (International Conferences on Historical Linguistics, World Sanskrit Conferences and South Asian Languages Analysis Roundtables) and would like to use this opportunity to thank members of the audiences whose sincere comments on my presentations sharpened my perception of the historical and theoretical issues involved: Dr. A. Aklujkar (University of British Columbia), Dr. G. Cardona (University of Pennsylvania), Dr. M. Deshpande (University of Michigan), Dr. M. Hale (Harvard), Dr. H. H. Hock (University of Illinois), Dr. P.E. Hook (University of Michigan), Dr. S. Jamison (Harvard), Dr. B. Joseph (State University of Ohio), Dr. C. Masica (University of Chicago), Dr. K. Strunk (University of Munich), Dr. C. Watkins (Harvard), and Dr. L. Zgusta (University of Illinois).

During 1994 I started the present monograph and completed the work in August 1996. During the last stage of the project, Dr. Snezana Milovanovic, several students (Keith Matthews, Christopher Harris, Kathy Francis) and our secretary (Colleen Banfield) helped me with the typing of its results. I wish to express special thanks to my research assistant Lawrence Greening who has been involved in editing, final text formatting, indexing and preparing a camera-ready copy for publication. The Publications Subvention Committee of Memorial University of Newfoundland helped to offset the costs connected with preparing the camera-ready copy of this monograph.

I would also like to thank the two readers of John Benjamins B. V. who have read the final draft of this work and given me various stimulating suggestions. Ms. Anke de Looper sent me a number of helpful comments during the production of the camera-ready copy.

I am grateful to the General Editor of Amsterdam Studies in the Theory and History of Linguistic Science, Dr. E. F. Konrad Koerner, for accepting this book into the series *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*.

I dedicate this book to my Indian teachers who guided me through the corpus of Middle Indo-Aryan texts (in *Ardha-Māgadhī*, *Māhārāṣṭrī* and *Apabhraṃśa*). Without their inspiration and constant encouragement this book would simply not have been written.

Vit Bubenik
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Canada

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