



10th-14th Sept. 2012 • Düsseldorf

An Intensive Course on

PĀṆINI'S GRAMMAR

SYSTEM • PROCESSES • ORGANIZATION • FORMALIZATION

Anand Mishra (Heidelberg University)

anand.mishra@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

About two and a half millenia ago, the grammarian Pāṇini provided a description of Sanskrit language. His work is called AṢṬĀDHYĀYĪ as it consists of eight chapters that contain some 4000 short aphorisms (*sūtras*). Pāṇini employs a very sophisticated meta-language in order to assure mathematical perfection and utmost brevity in the formulation of his rules.

This intensive course will focus on the grammatical processes, meta-linguistic conventions and well developed techniques of representation of linguistic information in AṢṬĀDHYĀYĪ. Further, issues regarding formalization and automation of the grammatical processes will be discussed and some modern theories on Pāṇini's grammar will be reviewed. It aims to introduce this grammar to students and scholars of linguistics and informatics and no prior knowledge of Sanskrit is required. Depending on the students attending the course, the course language will be English or German.

I. Pāṇinian System: Introduction. Purpose and functioning of grammar. Form and content. Discussion based on the introductory passages of Patañjali's commentary.

II. Grammatical Processes: Identifying constituent units. Associating (grammatical) concepts and coining technical terms. Characterizing units by attaching grammatical attributes. Combining units to synthesize Sanskrit expressions. Operations and conditions.

III. Organization of Grammar: Representational framework based on oral tradition. Inheritance, ellipsis, abbreviations, contexts, interpretation. Generalization and brevity.

IV. Formalization: Theories on Pāṇini. Modelling in a new framework. Issues and approaches.

Anand Mishra studied Mathematics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India and Computational Linguistics and Classical Indology in Heidelberg. At present he is working in the department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia, Heidelberg University. His main research interests are knowledge representation and ritual studies. He is also associated with the Collaborative Research Center 619 "Ritual Dynamics" at Heidelberg University.

Date: [10th-14th Sept. 2012; 9:30-16:30](#)

Venue: [Düsseldorf; Heinrich-Heine-Universität; room: 23.21.02.52](#)

Local organizer: [Wiebke Petersen <petersen@ling.uni-duesseldorf.de>](mailto:petersen@ling.uni-duesseldorf.de)

Institut für Sprache und Information, Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Düsseldorf

More information about the course can be found at:

http://user.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/~petersen/SoSe12_Panini/SoSe12_Panini_Mishra.html