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4. Title of research Project- PRAKRIYA SARVASVA OF NARAYANABHATTA- SAMJNA AND PARIBHASHA PRAKARANA

(Malayalam Translation with notes)

Summary of the project

Narayanabhatta is the most popular and outstanding scholar poet of kerala, is well known as the author of the Narayaneeya a brief and brilliant summary of the Bhagavatapurana the presiding deity Vishnu or Krishna of the Guruvayur temple in kerala. It has attracted the attention and admiration the devotee and sahrdayas alike by ardent devotional fervor aesthetic excellence and literarment.It is a fine illustration of the unique blending of his other important works ,literary and sastraic have not received adequate attention and recognition even in kerala . Even in the case of the Prakriyasarvasva an edition of the full text is being published for the first time only.

Much reliable information about the life,works,date,teachers, patrons, students and friends of Narayanabhatta has been given by the poet himself which can be corroborated with contemporary records though inspite of that many traditions have grown up about his early life and teacher which go against his own statements .There is even a story that he was an incarnation of Aadisesha.He belong to the namputiri family of melputtur near the devitemple at chandanakkavu,two miles to the northen bank of Nila .His father was matrudatta a wellknown scholar. His mother is said to have been a lady from the payyur bhatta family. He says that he learned meemamsa etc from his father ,the entire veda from madhavacharya,tarka from Damodara and vyakarana and sahitya from Trikkandiyur Achuthapisharody. This shows that the popular tradition that narayana had only his one teacher namely Achuthapisharody who taught him even the Vedas is wrong .We do not know anything about his teachers Madhava and Damodara .Achuthapisharody was an authority an grammar and astronomy with several works to his credit and it is quite certain that narayana had a special attachment towards him. In prakriyasarvasva he refers to him with great regard and in a contemporary work, the Bhramarasandesa of Vasudeva a special mention is made about Achutha as an authority on astronomy .Pravesaka a first book of grammar by Achuthapisharody is said to have been prepared as a guide to teach Narayanabhatta .He was patronized by king Ravivarma of Vettathunadu .The towering personality of Achuthapisharody eclipsed all the other great teachers of the time,and the tradition

about Achutha being one and the only teacher of Narayana grew up inspite of the clear statement of narayana himself against it. The traditional story may contain an element of truth,it is true that narayana had an attack of rheumatism early in his life.He went to Guruvayur temple ,at the suggestion of thunjath ezhuthachan according to the story.The Narayaneeyam was composed during the period.We find in that work clear reference to his illness,rheumatism in particular.Some how he was cured of this disease, and naurally this attributed to the divine grace. Both Narayanabhata and his deity of the temple at guruvayur became famous throughout the country as a result of this miraculous cure. Narayanabhata completed the narayaneeyam on 27th November 1586.

The prakriyasarvasva of melputtur Narayanabhata is an original recast of paninis Ashtadhyayi offering his own lucid commentary explaining the sutras and the relevant varthikas of katyayana .He started his Prakriyasarvasvam in 1617.The grammatical texts prevailed here of two types. One explaining the sutras in the same order of Astadhyayi and the other the rearranged Prakriya texts.Both had their merits and demerits. Devanarayana,being a great patron of Sanskrit language thought of producing a new model,easily apprehensible ,small in size,well explaining the Prakriyas and containing all the sutras of Panini.He requested Narayanabhata to prepare such a work.The king also instructed him the pattern to be followed in the text.As instructed by the king the book is divide in to 20

khandas.Samjna,Paribhasha,Sandhi,Krith,Thaddhita,Samasa,Stripratyaya,Subartha,Suvidhi,Atmanepa davibhaga,Ting,Lakarartha,Sannantha,Yananta,Yanluganta,Subdhatu,Nyaya,Dhatu,Unadi and Chandasa.The name prakriyasarva is suggestive because the text explains everything connected with the prakriya.Bhattatiri had well studied all the Sanskrit grammatical texts current at that time.Vasudeva ,Narayana ,Sankara and Bhoja are quated by him.

One important feature of the text is the introduction of slokas while explaining the sutras. These slokas help to keep in memory the definitions and illustration. Prakriyasarvasva stands a class apart among theVyakarana works of Kerala.