Review Article

A critical review of rhythmic recitation of *Charakasamhita* as per *Chhanda Shastra*

Asit Panja

Assistant Professor, Department of Maulika Siddhanta, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Abstract



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Charakasamhita is one of the most important life lines of Ayurvedic classical knowledge. This supreme text of "science of life" has been composed nearly about 3000 years ago and before the well-established era of documentation. It is composed in the then language, style, and method. The ancient scholars of Ayurveda have presented it in such a way that all three kinds of pupil can get the matter easily. Nearly two thirds of the compendium is shaped in verse form according to rules and regulations of *Chhandashastra* of classical Sanskrit literature to retain in memory for a long time. With the advent of time this classical practice of recitation has been gradually losing its popularity and as a result the proper Ayurvedic learning cannot be completely possible in the current era. This review consists of methods of rhythmic recitation of all verses of *Charakasamhita* with notations and classical analysis.

Key words: Charakasamhita, Chhandashastra, meter, recitation, rhythm

Chhanda

The Veda is the main source of knowledge for achieving duty (Dharma), wealth (Artha), desire (Kama), and final deliverance (Moksa). The study of the Vedas was divided into 6 different varieties widely known as Vedanga. In early days of Vedic period, study was in the form of oral teaching, and methodical rhythmic recitation was mandatory to keep the purity of text. Rhythmic recitation also helps to develop good memory of the text. Chhanda was given major importance from the very beginning of Vedic era and considered it as a Vedanga.^[1] Apart from the classical teaching Chhandas were being used in day to day life to remember the verses of worshiping, and so on. Ayurveda, the science of life, has taken the origin from Vedic wisdom and was transmitted through the same tradition. Majority of the texts of Ayurveda literature are composed in poetry form to remember the subject purely. So, study of meter (Chhanda) is an integral part to study and explore the Ayurveda literature.

Charakasamhita

Charakasamhita is the most authoritative and comprehensive compendium of Ayurvedic knowledge covering almost each and every aspect of health care. This treatise despite being the oldest

Address for correspondence: Dr. Asit Panja, Assistant Professor, Department of Maulika Siddhanta, National Institute of Ayurveda, Madhav Vilas Palace, Amer Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 302 002, India. E-mail: asitpanjain@gmail.com available literature of Ayurveda (the currently redacted version available is estimated to be documented in 200 BC), is truly a versatile classic. As per composer of the text 12, 000 verses are documented but in presently available *Charakasamhita* near about 9295 verses are available^[2] of which approximately two thirds are in poetic form. These verses are written in various meters.

Methods of Study Depicted in Charaka Samhita

The profounder of Ayurveda had adopted 3 steps of learning, that is, *Adhyayana*, *Adhyapana*, and *Tadvidyasambhasa*^[3] as needs of time to continue the streamline flow of Ayurvedic knowledge.

The most preliminary stage of study (*Adhyayana*) is "*Adhigata Karana*,"^[4] that is, grasping and mastering of the text thoroughly. The texts were written mostly in a very concise style known as "*Sutra*" and in combined form of both prose and verse. Prose is not tightened by *Aksara*, *Matra*, *Gati*, and *Yati* and on the other hand verse is bound by some rules. The verses were mostly in simple form and were meant to be easy for cramming by the pupils and comprehended in their scope of exposition of a wide range of subjects.

Ancient practice regarding recitation reveals that during study *Acharya* used to recite one or two *Pada* of the verse at first methodically pronounced with gradual completion of the rest of the part. Students one after another followed the preceptor blindly reciting the *Pada* respectively. During this process the main focus was laid on correct pronunciation.^[5]

During study the student should be very careful in maintaining the perfectness instructed in the text.^[6] He should recite neither too fast; that means the letters, words, quarter verses should not be in close succession and as such indistinct nor too slow, that is, the words, etc., should not be too loosened. He should recite without any hesitation, avoid nasal sounds always, pronounce the letters clearly without compressing them, recite well-refined, nonconfused letter and should read with medium voice not in very high or very low pitch.^[7]

Most important aspect of ancient system of education was achievement of oral fluency.^[8] The student easily gained oral promptness in the course of study with improvement in their pronunciation and other loops. *Sushruta* mentioned that the student should make efforts to attain excellence of speech, for successful management of clinical practice.

The next stage was memorization. By repeating the verse in proper methodical rhythm, the students used to store permanently in their memory. The *Sutras* were studied in different ways, namely, *Samhita Patha*, *Pada Patha*, *Krama Patha*, *Jata Patha*, *Ghana Patha*, and so on, for memorization.^[9] *Samhita Patha* is reading of text what it actually is. *Pada Patha* is reading word by word by breaking *Samasa Baddha Pada* of main *Samhita Patha*. *Krama Patha*, *Jata Patha*, and *Ghana Patha* have same *Svaravinyas* (phonation) but the only specialty is repetition. In *Krama Patha* the frequency of repetition of each word is twice. In *Jata Patha* each *Pada* is being recited thrice or more. In *Ghana Patha* the frequency of repetition is up to 6 times with a definite sequential rhythm. Hence with the help of glorious methods the Ayurveda literature remains its pure form.

Importance of Chhanda Jnana for Proper Methodical Study

In Vedic period the scholars used to study Ayurveda either after completing the Vedic school or simultaneously. They had to study *Chhanda* as a *Vedanga* in their respective Vedic schools. Ancient scholars kept the streamline flow of knowledge by rhythmic recitation for thousands of years even before the era of documentation. With the advent of science many technologies have emerged in the field of education and have given us new dimension of study.

But on account of lack of practice in classical and rhythmic methods of recitation the current Ayurvedic scholars are not being able to make them well versed in their respective Ayurvedic subjects. Hence for regaining the golden spirit of Ayurvedic text-based study, the knowledge and proper method of recitation of Ayurvedic verses on the basis of *Chhanda* is inevitable as the primary step of learning.

Varieties of Chhanda^[10]

A verse consists of 4 parts known as *Pada*. The governing rules and regulations of meters are concerned with each *Pada*.

Some meters are composed and ruled by number of letters or Aksaras known as Aksara Chhanda or Varna Chhanda. In Akshara Chhanda only Aksaras are counted, and the assessment of specific Ganas is not required whereas in Matra Chhanda only Matras are measured. Neither Ganas nor Aksaras are assessed, for example, Aupacchhandasika, Vaitaliya, etc., In Aksaragana Chhanda the assessment of both the numbers of Aksara and respective Ganas are inevitable, for example, Indravajra, Malini, etc., Matragana Chhanda is another variety in which both Matra and Ganas (Matra) are assessed (eg, Arya).

Rhythmically, all verses are of 3 types, namely, Samachhanda, Ardhasamachhanda, and Visamachhanda. In Samavrtta Chhanda all 4 Padas contain same numbers of Varna or letters, for example, Indravajra and Vamshastha, whereas in Ardhasamavrtta Chhanda the odd Pada, that is, 1st and 3rd Pada are composed of same number of letters and the even Pada 2nd and 4th consisted of same number of letters (not similar to Pada 1st and 3rd), for example, Puspitagra, Viyogini. In Visamavrtta Chhanda all 4 Pada are different in terms of letters, for example, Udgata.

Guru and LaghuVarna

Besides associated with Dirgha Svara, such as \Im , \$ etc. the following consonants are considered as $Guru:^{[11]}$

- a. Anusvara Yukta $(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$, that is, associated with Anusvara;
- b. Visarga Yukta (:);
- *c*. Just before the conjunct; and
- d. Last word of the Pada (Padantaga)

All others are *Laghu*, including *Hrasva Svara*. Practically in *Shloka Patha* one *Matra Varna* is considered as *Hrasva* whereas 2 *Matras*, 3 *Matras*, and half *Matra* are counted for *Dirgha*, *Pluta*, and *Vyanjana*, respectively,^[12] but only consonants such as $\mathbf{\overline{v}}, \mathbf{\overline{u}}$, and S (*Avagraha*), are not considered as *Varna*.

Matra: Time required for pronunciation of *Laghu Aksara* is counted as one *Matra*. *Matra* of *Guru* letter is two.^[12]

Gana: For making it easy the scholars of *Chhanda Shastra* have framed different combinations of letters popularly known as *Gana. Ganas* are framed by a combination of *Guru* and *Laghu Varnas*. The characteristics of 8 *Ganas* are as follows:^[13]

| Name | Character | Symbol | Examples |
|------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| मगण | All 3 letters are Guru | \$\$\$ | त्रायन्ती, बाधिर्य |
| नगण | All 3 letters are Laghu | 111 | मधुर, लशुन |
| भगण | First letter is Guru | \$11 | नागर, सैन्धव |
| यगण | First letter is Laghu | 155 | गुडूची, पटोलं |
| जगण | Middle letter is Guru | 151 | कषाय, किलास |
| रगण | Middle letter is Laghu | \$15 | पिप्पली, चन्दनं |
| सगण | Last letter is Guru | 115 | अभया, मरिचं |
| तगण | Last letter is Laghu | \$\$1 | आकाश, उन्माद |

S: Guru, 1: Laghu

Chhanda in Charakasamhita

Thirteen different *Chhandas* are available in whole *Charakasamhita*, namely, *Anustup*, *Arya*, *Indravajra*, *Indravamsha*, *Kusumitalatabellita*, *Puspitagra*, *Rathoddhata Rucira*, *Svagata*, *Upajati*, *Upendravajra*, *Vamshastha*, and *Viyogini*.

A brief description of meters along with their examples

Anustup

It is a Varnavrtta Chhanda and usually meant for Sama Chhanda. Its each Pada consists of 8 letters and among them

5th is always *Laghu*, whereas 6th is always *Guru* and 7th of even *Pada* is *Laghu* and of odd *Pada* is *Guru*. Others have no bar. After each *Pada* there is a slight pause.^[14]

According to Acarya Gangadhara,^[15] Anustup is of 5 types, namely, Anustup (8, 8, 8, 8), Tripadanustup (8, 8, 8, 0), Puranustup (8, 12, 12, 0), Madhyenustup (12, 8, 12, 0), and Antenustup (12, 12, 8, 0).

Examples

हिताहितं सुखं द्ःखमायुस्तस्य हिताहितम् । मानं च तच्च यत्रोक्तमायुर्वेदः स उच्यते ।

Analysis

| - | , | | | | | | |
|------|-----|------|-----|----|----|------|-----|
| Pada | a 1 | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| हि | ता | हि | तं | सु | खं | दुः | ख |
| Pad | a 2 | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| मा | यु | स्त | स्य | हि | ता | हि | तम् |
| Pad | a 3 | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| मा | नं | च | त | च | य | त्रो | क्त |
| Pad | a 4 | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| मा | यु | र्वे | दः | स | ਚ | च्य | ते |

Arya

It is a *Matra Chhanda* where only *Svaras* are counted. *Guru* letter is considered as two *Matras* and *Laghu* letter as one. There are 5 different *Ganas*. Each *Gana* is composed of 4 *Matras*. So *Ganas* may be framed by two *Guru Varnas* (SS), one *Guru* and two *Laghu* (S ||, || S ||, ||| S), and four *Laghu Varnas*.^[16]

According to *Chhanda Paricaya*, it is characterized by 12 *Matra* in 1st *Pada*, 18 *Matra* in 2nd *Pada*, 15 *Matra* each in 3rd and 4th *Pada*.^[17]

There are 5 different groups of Arya, namely, Arya (12, 18, 12, 15), Giti (12, 18, 12, 18), Udgiti (12, 15, 12, 18), Upagiti (12, 15, 12, 18), upagiti (12, 2012, 20).

In other words, each 2 *Pada* of *Arya Chhanda* are generally composed of 7 *Ganas* and a *Guru* letter. So total *Matra* is 30. According to the position of above *Ganas* in different positions of the verse *Arya* is of 80 types, such as *Vipula*, *Capala*, *Giti*, *Udgiti*, and so on.

Example

देहो रसजोऽम्बुभवो रसश्च तस्य क्षयाच तृष्येद्धि ।

दीनस्वरः प्रताम्यन् संशुष्कहृदयगलतालुः ॥^[18]

Analysis

| Pac | <i>la</i> 1 | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---|---|----|------|---|----|----|
| 4 | | | 4 | | | 4 | | 12 |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| दे | हो | र | स | जो | म्बु | भ | वो | |

| Pa | da 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|------|------|----|
| 4 | | | 4 | l I | | 4 | | | 4 | 1 | 18 |
| 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| र | स | ংয | त | स्य | क्ष | या | च | तृ | ष्ये | द्धि | |
| Pa | da 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | 4 | 4 | | | | 4 | | 12 |
| 2 | : | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| दी | ; | न | स्व | | रः | प्र | | ता | ਸ | ान् | |
| Pa | da 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | 4 | | | | 4 | | 2 | 14 |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| सं | शु | ष्क | ह | ਫ | 2 | ग | ग | ल | ता | लुः | |

Sometimes a *Laghu* or a *Guru Varna* are considered as a *Gana*. In that case *Matra* is altered. Although a couple of examples are given, for the sake of simplicity, the details of *Arya* is not given here. All varieties are considered grossly as *Arya*

Indravajra

It is also a Varnavrtta Sama Chhanda and contains 11 letters in each Pada. Each Pada consists of initial २ तगण, १ जगण and 2 Guru letters. Pause is at the end.^[19]

Examples

तैस्तक्रपिष्टैः प्रथमं शरीरं तैलाक्तमुद्धर्तयितुं यतेत ।

तेनास्यकण्डूः पिडकाः सकोठाः कुष्ठानि शोफाश्च शमं व्रजन्ति ।।[20]

| Pa | <i>da</i> 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----|----|-------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|------|
| तगण | | | | त्तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| s | s | I | s | s | I | I | S | Т | S | s |
| तै | स्त | क्र | पि | ष्टैः | प्र | থ | मं | श | री | रं |
| Pa | da 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| s | s | I. | s | s | s | s | T | s | S | S |
| तै | ला | ᠷ | मु | द्र | र्त | यि | तूं | य | ते | त |
| Pa | da 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| s | s | Ι | s | s | Ι | Ι | s | I | s | S |
| ते | ना | स्य | क | ण्डूः | पि | ड | काः | स | को | ठाः |
| Pa | da 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| s | s | I | s | s | I | I | s | I | s | S |
| कु | ষ্ঠা | नि | शो | फा | 윎 | श | मं | व्र | স | न्ति |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

Indravamsha

It is Varnavrtta Sama Chhanda containing 12 letters in each Pada. Residing Ganas are २ तगण, १ जगण, १ रगण.^[21]

Examples

रनेहाशयाः स्थावरसंज्ञितास्तथा स्युर्जङ्गमा मत्स्यमृगाः सपक्षिणः ।

तेषां दधिक्षीरघृतामिषं वसा स्नेहेषु मज्जा च तथोपदिश्यते ॥[22]

Panja: Chanda in Charakasamhita

| Pac | <i>da</i> 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|-----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|------|----|------|----|
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | | रगण | |
| s | s | I | S | s | I | I | s | I | s | Ι | S |
| स्ने | हा | श | याः | स्था | व | र | सं | গ্নি | ता | स्त | था |
| Pac | da 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | | रगण | |
| s | s | I | s | Ι | Ι | Ι | S | I | s | I | S |
| स्यु | র্জ | ঙ্গ | मा | म | टरय | मृ | गाः | स | प | क्षि | णः |
| Pac | da 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | | रगण | |
| s | s | I | s | I | Т | I | s | I | s | I | S |
| ते | षां | द | धि | क्षी | र | घृ | ता | मि | षं | व | सा |
| Pac | da 4 | | | | | | | | | | |

| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | | रगण | |
|-----|----|----|---|------|---|---|-----|---|----|-----|----|
| s | s | I | s | Ι | s | I | s | I | s | I | s |
| रने | हे | षु | म | ন্সা | च | त | थो | ч | दि | श्य | ते |

Kusumitalatavellita

It is a Varnavrtta Samachhanda and characterised by 18 letters in each Pada. Components are मगण, तगण, नगण and 3 यगण. Pauses are after 5, after 11, and after18, that is Padanta.^[23]

Examples

ग्राम्याब्जानूपं पिशितलवणं शुष्कशाकं नवान्नं गौडं पिष्टान्नं दधि तिलकृतं विज्जलं मद्यमम्लम् ।

धाना वल्लरं समशनमथो गुर्वसात्म्यं विदाहि स्वप्नं चारात्रौ श्वयथुगदवान् वर्जयेन्मैथुनं च ।।[24]

| Pá | Pada 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|---|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|---|-----|---|
| मगप | ग | | | तगण | г | ; | नगण | | | यगण | г | | यगण | | | यगण | ſ |
| s | s | s | s | s | Т | Т | Т | Т | I | s | s | Т | s | s | I | s | s |
| ग्रा | म्या | জা | नू | पं | पि | शि | त | ल | व | णं | शु | ष्क | शा | कं | न | वा | 2 |
| Pá | ada : | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| मगप | गण | | | ण | | नगप | л | | ਧਾ | ाण | | ਧਾ | ाण | | ; | यगण | |

| S | S | S | S | S | | | 1 | 1 | | S | S | 1 | S | S | | S | S |
|----|----|----|------|-----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|----|---|-----|---|-------|
| गौ | ਤਂ | पि | ष्टा | ন্গ | द | धि | ति | ल | कृ | तं | वि | ড্স | लं | म | द्य | म | म्लम् |

Pada 3

| मगण | т | | ; | तगण | ī | | नगण | | | यगण | | | यगण | т | | | | |
|-----|----|---|------|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|----|-----|-----|--------|----|----|----|--|
| s | s | s | s | S | I | Т | Т | Т | I | S | s | Т | S | s | Т | s | s | |
| धा | ना | व | स्रू | रं | स | म | श | न | म | थो | गु | र्व | सा | त्म्यं | वि | दा | हि | |

Pada 4

| मगण | r | | | तगण | | | नगण | | | यगण | | | यगण | г | | | |
|-----|------|----|----|------|-----|---|-----|---|---|------|---|-----|-----|------|----|----|---|
| s | s | s | s | s | Т | I | I | I | Т | s | s | Т | s | s | I | S | s |
| स्व | प्नं | चा | रा | त्रौ | প্ব | य | थु | ग | द | वान् | व | र्ज | ये | न्मै | थु | नं | च |

Puspitagra

It is Ardhasama Varna Chhanda containing 13 letters in each even Pada. Whereas each odd Pada is of 12 letters. Each odd Pada composed of २ नगण, १ रगण, १, यगण. On the other hand, 1 नगण, 2 जगण, 1 रगण and 1 Guru Varna make the even Pada. Pause is at the end. $^{\left[25\right]}$

Examples

बहुविधमिदमुक्तमर्थजातं बहुविधवाक्यविचित्रमर्थकान्तम् ।

बहुविधशुभशब्दसन्धियुक्तं बहुविधवादनिसूदनं परेषाम् ॥^[26]

| Pa | <i>da</i> 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----|---|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|---|------|-----|-------|
| नगण | Т | | | नग | ण | | | 7 | रगण | | | यगण | |
| I | Т | I | I | I | I | | s | | I | s | I | s | S |
| ब | ह | वि | ध | मि | र र | [| मु | | क्त | म | ৰ্থ | जा | तं |
| Pa | da 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| नगण | Т | | | जगण | | | ज | गण | | | रगण | | गु |
| I | I | I | I | s | I | Т | | s | I | s | I | s | s |
| ब | ह | वि | ध | वा | क्य | वि | 1 | चि | র | म | र्थ | का | न्तम् |
| Pa | da 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| नगण | г | | | नग | л | | | र | गण | | | यगण | |
| I | I | I | I | I | I | | s | | I | s | I | s | S |
| ब | हु | वि | ध | शु | भ | | श | | ब्द | स | न्धि | यु | क्तं |
| Pa | da 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| नगण | Т | | | जगण | | | ਹ | गण | | | रगण | | गु |
| I | I | I | I | s | I. | I | | s | I | s | I | s | s |

Rathoddhata

वि

ध वा

It is a symmetrical Varna Chhanda and composed of 11 letters in each Pada. The components are रगण, नगण, रगण, a Laghu and a Guru Varna, respectively. Pause is at the end.^[27]

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Examples

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| Pa | Pada 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|---|-------|-----|---|----|-----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|
| रगण | | | | नगण | | | रगण | | ल | गु | | | | |
| s | I | s | I | I | I | s | I | S | I | s | | | | |
| ब | स्ति | ক | र्ध्व | म | थ | नै | ति | ना | শি | तः | | | | |

Rucira

Rucira is a Varnavrtta Samachhanda and characterized by 13 letters. Each Pada is composed of जगण, भगण, सगण, जगण and a Guru Varna. A slight pause is after 4 and then after 9, that is, Padanta. It is also called Atirucira.^[28]

Examples

इमां मतिं बह्विधहेतुसंश्रयां विजज्ञिवान् परमतवादसूदनीम् ।

न सज्जते परवचनावमर्दनैर्न शक्यते परवचनैश्च मर्दितुम् ।।[29]

Pada 1

| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| जग | ग | | भगण | | | | सगण | | | जगण | | |
| Т | S | Т | s | I. | I. | Т | I. | s | I. | s | Т | s |
| इ | मां | म | र्ति | ब | ह | वि | ध | हे | तु | सं | প্স | यां |

Panja: Chanda in Charakasamhita

| Pa | da 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|-----|---|---|-----|----|---|-----|------|------|
| जगप | п | | | भगण | | | सगण | | | जगण | | गु |
| L | s | I | s | Т | I | Т | Т | s | Т | s | T | S |
| वि | স | ज्ञि | वान् | ч | र | म | त | वा | द | सू | द | नीम् |
| Pa | da 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| जगप | л | | | भगण | | | सगण | т | | जगण | г | गु |
| L | s | I | s | I | Т | Т | I | s | I | s | I | S |
| न | स | ড্স | ते | ч | र | व | च | ना | व | म | र्द | नै |
| Pa | da 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| जगप | п | | | भगण | | | सगण | | | जगण | | गु |
| L | s | I | s | I | I | I | I | s | I | s | I | S |
| र्न | श | क्य | ते | ч | र | व | च | नै | 윎 | म | र्दि | तुम् |

Svagata

It is a symmetrical Varna Chhanda and composed of 11 letters in each Pada. Compositions are रगण, नगण, भगण and 2 Guru letters. At the end of each Pada there is a slight pause.^[30]

Examples

गुल्मिनामनिलशान्तिरूपायैः सर्वशो विधिवदाचरितव्या ।

मारुते ह्यवजितेऽन्यमुदीर्णं दोषमल्पमपि कर्म निहन्यात् ॥^[31]

| Pa | <i>da</i> 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----|-----|-----|----|----|------|----|----|--------|
| रगण | | | | नगण | | | भगण | | गु | गु |
| s | I | S | I | I | T | s | I | T | s | S |
| गु | ल्मि | ना | म | नि | ल | शा | न्ति | रू | पा | यैः |
| Pa | da 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| रगण | | | | नगण | | | भगण | | गु | गु |
| s | I | s | Ι | I | I | s | Ι | I | s | s |
| स | र्व | शो | वि | धि | व | दा | च | रि | त | व्या |
| Pa | da 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| रगण | | | | नगण | | | भगण | | गु | गु |
| s | I | s | I | I | I | s | I | I | s | s |
| मा | ক | ते | ह्य | व | সি | ते | न्य | मु | दी | ហ័ |
| Pa | da 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| रगण | | | | नगण | | | भगण | | गु | गु |
| s | I | s | I | I | I | s | I | I | s | S |
| दो | ষ | म | ल्प | म | पि | क | र्म | नि | ह | न्यात् |

Upajati

It is generally a combination of both *Upendravajra* and *Indravajra*. According to their (*Upendravajra* and *Indravajra*) position in different *Pada Upajati Chhanda* is of 14 types, namely, *Kirti, Vani, Mala, Shala*, and so on.^[32] *Upajati* may be possible with any similar 2 *Chhandas*, such as *Indravamsha* with *Vamshastha*,^[33] *Svagata* with *Rathoddhata*.^[34] Besides mixed types of *Upajati* is also available like among *Vamshastha*, *Indravajra*, and *Upendravajra*.^[35] In this text *Upajati* only signifies the combination of *Indravajra* and *Upendravajra*. Other varieties are marked differently.

Examples

तमोभवा श्लेष्मसमुद्भवा च मनःशरीरश्रमसंभवा च ।

आगन्तुकी व्याध्यनुवर्तिनी च रात्रिस्वभावप्रभवा च निद्रा ॥[36]

| Pad | <i>da</i> 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|------|----|------|-----|----|-----|------|----|------|
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| s | s | I | S | S | I | I | s | I | s | S |
| त | मो | भ | वा | श्ले | ष्म | स | मु | द्र | वा | च |
| Pad | da 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| s | s | Т | s | s | Т | Т | s | Т | s | s |
| म | नः | श | री | र | श्र | म | सं | भ | वा | च |
| Pad | da 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| S | s | I. | s | s | Т | Т | s | I. | s | S |
| आ | ग | न्तु | की | व्या | ध्य | नु | व | र्नि | नी | च |
| Pad | da 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| तगण | | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| s | s | I | s | S | I | I | s | I | s | S |
| | রি | स्व | भा | व | ਸ਼ | भ | वा | च | नि | द्रा |

It is composed of जगण, तगण, जगण and 2 Guru Varna, respectively. Pause is after the eleventh Varna, that is, Padanta.^[37]

Examples

रसायनस्यास्य नरः प्रयोगाल्लभेत जीर्णोऽपि कुटीप्रवेशात् ।

जराकृतं रूपमपास्य सर्वं बिभर्ति रूपं नवयौवनस्य ॥[38]

| Pa | <i>da</i> 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|------|----|------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|------|
| जगण | ſ | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| I | s | Т | S | s | T | I. | S | Т | s | s |
| र | सा | य | न | स्या | स्य | न | रः | Я | यो | ग |
| Pad | da 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| जगण | T | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| I | s | I | s | s | I | I | s | I | s | S |
| ल | भे | त | जी | र्णो | ऽपि | कु | ਟੀ | प्र | वे | शात् |
| Pad | da 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| जगण | r | | | तगण | | | जगण | | गु | गु |
| I | s | I | s | s | I | I | s | I | s | S |
| ज | रा | कृ | तं | रू | ч | म | पा | स्य | स | र्व |
| Pad | da 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| जगण | r | | | तगण | | | অগण | | गु | गु |
| I | s | I | s | s | I | I | s | I | s | S |
| बि | भ | र्ति | ২০ | पं | न | व | यौ | व | न | स्य |

Vamshastha

Each Pada of this Varnavrtta Samachhanda contains 12 letters. Within it 4 Ganas are जगण, तगण, जगण and रगण respectively. Pause is at the end of Pada.^[39]

Examples

महारुजं दाहपरीतमश्मवद्धनोन्नतं शीघ्रविदाहि दारुणम् ।

मनःशरीराग्निबलापहारिणं त्रिदोषजं गुल्ममसाध्यमादिशेत् ।।[40]

| Pa | <i>da</i> 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|------|
| जगण | т | | | तगण | | | जगण | | | रगण | |
| I | s | I | s | S | I | Ι | s | Ι | s | I | S |
| म | हा | रू | जं | दा | ह | ч | री | त | म | श्म | व |
| Pa | <i>da</i> 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| जगण | т | | | तगण | | | जगण | | | रगण | |
| I | s | I | s | s | Ι | I | s | I | s | I | S |
| द्ध | नो | ন্স | तं | शी | घ्र | वि | दा | हि | दा | रु | णम् |
| Pa | da 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| जगण | т | | | तगण | т | | जगण | т | | रगण | |
| I | s | I | s | s | I | I | s | I | s | I | S |
| म | नः | श | री | रा | किन | ब | ला | ч | हा | रि | णं |
| Pa | da 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| जगण | т | | | तगण | | | जगण | | | रगण | |
| I | s | I | s | s | I | I | s | I | s | I | S |
| রি | दो | ষ | जं | गु | म्ल | म | सा | ध्य | मा | दि | शेत् |

Viyogini

It is a Varnavrtta Ardhasama Chhanda. Eleven letters of its even Pada is composed of सगण, भगण, रगण along with one Laghu and a Guru letter. On the other hand, each odd Pada contains 2 सगण, जगण and a Guru letter.^[41]

Examples

इह कुष्ठहिता गरागरी हितमिक्ष्वाकु तु मेहिने मतम् ।

कुटजस्य फलं हृदामये प्रवरं कोठफलं च पाण्डुषु ।।[42]

| Pada 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|----|-----|-----|----|---|-----|---|----|--|--|--|
| सगण | | | | सगण | | | जगण | | गु | | | |
| I | Ι | S | I. | I | s | I | S | Ι | S | | | |
| इ | ह | कु | ষ্ঠ | हि | ता | ग | रा | ग | री | | | |

| Pad | da 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|----|---------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| सगण | | | | भगण | | | रगण | | ल | गु |
| I | I | s | S | I | I | S | I | S | I | S |
| हि | त | मि | मि क्ष्वा कुतु मे हि ने म | | | | | | | |
| Pad | da 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| सगण | | | | सग | ाण | | | जगण | | गु |
| I | I | S | I | | I | s | I | S | Ι | S |
| कु | ਟ | স | स्य | 1 | দ | लं | ह | दा | म | ये |
| Pad | da 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| सगण | | | | भगण | | | रगण | | ल | गु |
| I | I | s | S | T | Т | S | I | s | I | S |
| ਸ਼ | व | रं | को | ਰ | फ | लं | च | पा | ਹਤੁ | षु |

Discussion

Classically the *Charakasamhita* has been composed in *Champu* style consisting of both verse and prose. Among the available approximately 9295 verses, nearly two-thirds are in verse form. Among the meter the *Anustup* is used in maximum instances on account of easy composition and memorization. It also justifies the transmigration of thoughts from *Veda* as this meter is the only meter available in both Vedic texts and classical texts. In majority of the chapters the summary of that respective chapter has been presented in *Anustup*, which also suggests the vastness of the meter in common use.

Among the other meters, *Upajati* in combination with *Upendravajra* and *Indravajra* is widely used. A mixed form of *Upajati* is also found in combination with *Indravajra* and *Shalini*, *Indravajra* and *Rathoddhata*, *Indravajra* with *Svagata*, and *Indravajra* with *Vamsastha* (12 letters), which suggests that subject matter is given the first priority above the composition of meter. Some meters, such as *Kusumitalatabellita*, *Ruchira*, *Viyogini*, *Indravamsa*, *Svagata*, and *Puspitagra*, are very rarely used. In order to keep the free flowing of concepts of underlined subject matters, the combination of prose along with verse pattern and combinations of different meters have been done. *Rathoddhata* have been used in one *Pada* only in entire *Samhita* [Table 1].

| Name of Chhanda | Available in Charaka Samhita |
|--------------------|--|
| Anustup | <i>Sutrasthana</i> : 1/3-140; 2/3-36; 4/7, 23-29; 5/9-111; 6/3, 8-51; 7/3-66; 8/30-34; 9/3-28; 10/7-24; 11/6, 9-26, 47, 50-53, 58-65; 12/15-17; 13/3-9, 12-100; 14/3-40, 50-71; 15/18-25; 16/3-16; 17/3-100, 104-121; 18/9-56; 19/8-9; 20/20-25; 21/5-57, 60-62; 22/3-44; 23/3-44; 24/3-22, 25-60; 25/3-29, 41-47; 26/3-7, 15-38, 45-79, 85-101, 105-113; 27/5-352; 28/9-48; 29/3-4, 10-14; 30/3-14, 35-90 <i>Nidanasthana</i> : 1/38-44; 2/12-29; 3/18; 4/12-22, 29-34, 41-44, 50-55; 5/12-16; 6/5, 7, 9, 11, 17; 7/9, 19-24; 8/12-44 <i>Vimansthana</i> : 1/26-28; 2/9, 15-19; 3/9-18, 25-27, 29-35, 41, 46-52; 4/9-14; 5/10-31; 6/19-22; 7/5-7, 28-32; 8/22-23, 145-147, 152-154 <i>Sharirsthana</i> : 1/3-156; 3/19-27; 4/42-45; 5/13-26; 6/19, 31-34; 7/19-20; 8/8, 39, 69 <i>Indriyasthana</i> : 1/17-26; 2/3-23; 3/3-7; 4/3-27; 5/3-47; 6/3-25; 7/3-32; 8/3-26; 9/3-24; 10/3-21; 11/3-29; 12/3-89 |

Contd...

| Table 1: Contd | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Name of <i>Chhanda</i> | Available in Charaka Samhita |
| | <i>Cikitsasthana</i> : 1/1/3-57, 59-72, 78-79, 81; 1/2/17-23; 1/3/4-28, 32-63, 66; 1/4/8-25, 27-64; 2/1/3-49, 52-53; 2/2/3-29, 32; 2/3/3-28, 31; 2/4/3-53; 3/3-257, 260-266, 268-346; 4/3-71, 110-111; 5/20-188; 6/59-61; 7/3-12, 14-31, 152-156, 173-176; 8/3-191; 9/25-98; 10/3-68; 11/3-97; 12/103; 13/3-24, 26-27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39; 14/12-13, 15-16, 18-184, 225-255; 15/3-249; 16/3-139; 17/3-151; 18/3-191; 19/11-49, 51-67; 20/48; 21/3-29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 43-146; 23/3-17, 124-253; 24/3-221 <i>Siddhisthana</i> : 11/16; 25/3-121; 26/134-294; 27/3-62; 28/3-247; 29/3-165; 30/3-340 <i>Kalpasthana</i> : 1/27-30; 2/3-15; 3/3-23; 4/3-20; 5/3-12; 6/3-20; 7/3-74, 77-80; 8/3-18; 9/3-18; 103-22/; 11/3-18; 123-85, 87-107 <i>Siddhisthana</i> : 2/3-7, 24-28; 4/3-56; 5/3-19; 6/3-95; 7/3-66; 8/3-42; 9/9-111; 10/18-48; 12/3-13, 20-50, 52-55 |
| Arya | <i>Cikitsasthana</i> : 7/32-61, 65-151, 157-172, 178-180; 14/185-224; 22/3-63; 23/18-123; 26/27-31 <i>Siddhisthana</i> : 8/43-46; 10/3-17; 11/37 |
| Indravajra | <i>Sutrasthana</i> : 3/3, 6, 9, 17, 19, 20, 25; 26/102 <i>Sharirasthana</i> : 2/4, 5, 6, 10, 15-17, 19-21, 23-26, 28-29, 40 <i>Cikitsasthana</i> : 1/1/37; 1/3/29; 4/90-92, 96, 98, 107; 5/4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15; 6/6, 10, 16, 23, 34, 37, 39, 44, 47, 52-53; 9/10, 16, 19; 12/7, 8, 10, 21, 28, 29, 36, 38, 45, 51, 52, 58, 59, 61, 64, 66, 75, 78, 88, 90, 92, 94, 101, 102; 20/9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20, 29, 33, 35, 37; 26/7, 9, 14, 16, 19, 26, 34, 42, 44, 47-49, 54, 58, 60, 61, 66, 75, 77-79, 81, 92, 93, 103, 105, 107, 110, 111, 113, 116, 117, 120, 128, 130. <i>Kalpasthana</i> : 7/76; 12/86 <i>Siddhisthana</i> : 1/7, 8, 18, 20, 25, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38-40, 44, 47-49, 54, 59, 60; 3/4, 8, 10, 18, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28-30, 38, 42, 54, 55, 61 |
| Indravamsa | Sutrasthana: 13/11 |
| Kusumitalatabellita | Cikitsasthana: 12/20 |
| Puspitagra | Vimanasthana: 8/155 Siddhisthana: 12/51 |
| Rathoddhata | Siddhisthana: 11/16 |
| Rucira | Vimanasthana: 8/156 |
| Svagata | Nidanasthana: 3/17 |
| Upajati | <i>Sutrasthana</i> : 3/4, 5, 7, 8, 10-16, 18, 21-24, 26-30; 19/6-7; 21/58-59; 24/23-24; 25/50-51; 26/103; 30/34 <i>Vimanasthana</i> : 2/14 <i>Sharirasthana</i> : 2/3, 7, 9, 11-14, 18, 22, 27, 30-39, 41-48;8/68 <i>Cikitsasthana</i> : 1/3/30-31, 64-65; 2/1/50-51; 2/2/30-31; 2/3/29-30; 4/74, 80, 82-89, 93-95, 97, 99, 106, 108, 109; 5/3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18-19; 6/3-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-20, 22, 24-33, 35, 36, 38, 40-43, 45, 46, 48-51, 54-58; 7/62-64, 82-83, 177; 9/3-9, 11-15, 17, 18; 12/4-6, 9, 11, 22-27, 30-35, 37, 39-44, 46-50, 53-57, 60, 62, 63, 65, 67-74, 76, 77, 79-84, 86, 87, 89, 93, 95-100; 19/68;20/3-8, 10, 12-14, 17, 19, 21-28, 30-32, 34, 36, 38-47; 26/3-6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17, 18, 20-25, 32, 33, 35-41, 43, 45, 46, 50-53, 55-57, 59, 62-65, 67-74, 76, 80, 82-91, 94-102, 104, 106, 108, 109, 112, 114, 115, 118, 119, 121-127, 129, 131-133; 28/248-249 <i>Kalpasthana</i> : 7/75 <i>Siddhisthana</i> : 1/16, 17, 19, 21-24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36, 37, 41-43, 45, 46, 50-58; 3/5-7, 11-17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 31-41, 43-53, 56-58, 60, 62-71; 11/16-18 |
| Upendravajra | <i>Cikitsasthana</i> : 1/1/74; 1/2/5-6; 4/73; 6/21 <i>Siddhisthana</i> : 3/3, 59; 11/19-36 |
| Vamsastha | Sutrasthana: 13/10 Indriyasthana: 8/27; 12/90 Cikitsasthana: 1/1/80; 5/17; 4/81; 5/17; 23/254 |
| Viyogini | Siddhisthana: 11/3-15 |

Conclusion

The study of *Chhanda* is an integral part of classical text-based learning. Proper acquaintance of the *Samhita* is not possible without the adequate knowledge of each and every meter.

Hence, proper and logical study of meter according to composition is mandatory in order to recite and memorize the text rhythmically. The aforesaid *Chhanda* are scientifically analyzed and documented for the onward propagation of classical knowledge.

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हिन्दी सारांश

छन्दशास्त्र के अनुसार चरक संहिता का स्वरात्मक विश्लेषण

असित पान्जा

चरकसंहिता आयुर्वेदवाङ्मय का महत्वपूर्ण प्राणस्त्रोत है । यह ३००० वर्ष पूर्व उस समय के भाषा, रीति एवं पद्धति से विधिवत् लेखन–युग से पहले रची गई तथा तीन–प्रकार का मेधा–युक्त छात्रों के लिये व्यवहारोपयोगी रूप में प्रस्तुत की गई है । अध्येताओं के सहज एवं दीर्घकाल स्मरणार्थ चरकसंहिता का प्राय दो–तृतीयांश सूत्र छन्द–शास्त्रों के नियमानुसार छन्दबद्ध–श्लोक–स्वरूप में लिखा गया है । संहिता का अध्ययन इसी छन्दबद्धरूप में निरन्तर शुद्ध–कलेवर में चलता रहा, परन्तु विंशवी सदी के मध्य–भाग के पश्चात् इस कालजयी शास्त्र की अध्ययन विधि के अनभ्यास के कारण आधुनिक काल में आयुर्वेद का प्राकृत, स्वरूपतः तथा यथावत् ज्ञानार्जन सम्भव नही हो रहा है । अतः पाठ–सुगमार्थ चरकसंहिता के समस्त छन्दबद्ध–श्लोकों का छन्दशास्त्रपरक विधिवत् विवेचन इस प्रबन्ध का ध्येय है ।

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