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Amba Kulkarni Gérard Huet (Eds.)

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Series Editors

Randy Goebel, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Jörg Siekmann, University of Saarland, Saarbrücken, Germany

Wolfgang Wahlster, DFKI and University of Saarland, Saarbrücken, Germany

Volume Editors

Amba Kulkarni

University of Hyderabad, Department of Sanskrit Studies

Hyderabad 500046, India

E-mail: apksh@uohyd.ernet.in

Gérard Huet

INRIA, Centre de Paris-Rocquencourt

78153 Le Chesnay Cedex, France

E-mail: gerard.huet@inria.fr

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Preface

This volume presents the proceedings of the Third International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium hosted by the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India during January 15–17, 2009. The series of symposia on Sanskrit Computational Linguistics began in 2007. The first symposium was hosted by INRIA at Rocquencourt, France in October 2007 as a part of the joint collaboration between INRIA and the University of Hyderabad. This joint collaboration expanded both geographically as well as academically covering more facets of Sanskrit Computational Linguistics, when the second symposium was hosted by Brown University, USA in May 2008.

We received 16 submissions, which were reviewed by the members of the Program Committee. After discussion, nine of them were selected for presentation. These nine papers fall under four broad categories: four papers deal with the structure of Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī. Two of them deal with parsing issues, two with various aspects of machine translation, and the last one with the Web concordance of an important Sanskrit text.

If we look retrospectively over the last two years, the three symposia in succession have seen not only continuity of some of the themes, but also steady growth of the community. As is evident, researchers from diverse disciplines such as linguistics, computer science, philology, and vyākaraṇa are collaborating with the scholars from other disciplines, witnessing the growth of Sanskrit computational linguistics as an emergent discipline.

We are grateful to S.D. Joshi, Jan Houben, and K.V.R. Krishnamacharyulu for accepting our invitation to deliver the invited speeches.

The symposium hosted a traditional debate, called Vidvat Sabha, where participants presented views of different schools of language analysis – vyākaraṇa, nyāya, and mīmāṃsā – on the meaning of a sentence and debated on it. We thank all the participants of the Vidvat Sabha, in particular Prahlad Char, who accepted our invitation to chair the session. Since the Vidvat Sabha is a 'live program' to be watched and listened to, we do not have its report in these proceedings, however, the video recordings of this program will be available on the symposium website shortly.

We thank the University of Hyderabad, INRIA, Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, and Sanskrit Academy for their valuable support.

This symposium would not have been possible without the involvement of several persons. In addition to the Program Committee members, we would like to thank J.S.R.A. Prasad and K. Subramaniam for their help in the local organization.

We thank all the researchers who responded to our call for papers and participants in this event without whose response the symposium and workshop would not have been a success.

Finally we thank the editorial team of Springer, who have provided us with a platform to record the proceedings of the symposia so as to make them available to other researchers and help in building the community right from its birth.

January 2009

Amba Kulkarni
Gérard Huet

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SCLS 2009 was organized by the Department of Sanskrit Studies, University of Hyderabad, in joint collaboration with INRIA, France and the Sanskrit Academy, Hyderabad

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Table of Contents

Background of the Aṣṭādhyāyī	1
<i>S.D. Joshi</i>	
Pāṇini's Grammar and Its Computerization: A Construction Grammar Approach	6
<i>Jan E.M. Houben</i>	
Annotating Sanskrit Texts Based on Śābdabodha Systems	26
<i>K.V. Ramkrishnamacharyulu</i>	
Modelling the Grammatical Circle of the Pāṇinian System of Sanskrit Grammar	40
<i>Anand Mishra</i>	
Computational Structure of the Aṣṭādhyāyī and Conflict Resolution Techniques	56
<i>Sridhar Subbanna and Shrinivasa Varakhedi</i>	
Levels in Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī	66
<i>Peter M. Scharf</i>	
On the Construction of Śivasūtra-Alphabets	78
<i>Wiebke Petersen</i>	
Tagging Classical Sanskrit Compounds	98
<i>Brendan S. Gillon</i>	
Extracting Dependency Trees from Sanskrit Texts	106
<i>Oliver Hellwig</i>	
Sanskrit Analysis System (SAS)	116
<i>Manji Bhadra, Surjit Kumar Singh, Sachin Kumar, Subash, Muktanand Agrawal, R. Chandrasekhar, Sudhir K. Mishra, and Girish Nath Jha</i>	
Translation Divergence in English-Sanskrit-Hindi Language Pairs	134
<i>Pawan Goyal and R. Mahesh K. Sinha</i>	
Web Concordance of the Prakīrṇa-Prakāśa of Helārāja on the Jāṭisamuddeśa (3.1) of Vākyapadiya	144
<i>Malhar Kulkarni and Chaitali Dangarikar</i>	
Author Index	155