

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The Study of Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas* of the modern period provides us the fascinating way to comprehend the ethical principles expressed by poets through their *kāvyas*. Contemporary poets no longer abide by tradition for its own sake. They still recognize the literary value of long compositions as they provide ample opportunities to flex one's creativity and bring together many unique elements.

I have furnished the history and development of Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas*, from its classical roots to show how it is used in modern times. It features comprehensive information about the progress of *Mahākāvyas* and what makes it unique. The source, progression and characteristics of *Mahākāvyas* are discussed in detail. The pre- Kālidāsa works, Kālidāsa's *Mahākāvyas* and post-Kālidāsa *Mahākāvyas* are critically analysed.

Modern Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas* from 2001 to 2010 are evaluated thoroughly with examples and quotations. Various features of *Mahākāvyas* like plot, title, sources and alterations made to the original text, style, figures of speech, metres, language etc are studied critically.

The Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas* from 2011 to 2018, encompassing eight years of *Mahākāvyas* that have been written and published are discussed and studied. Different aspects of *Mahākāvyas*, including the biographical details, timelines and works of the poets are discussed. The study assessed the subject matter of the *Mahākāvyas*, as well as its title, sources used for it, modifications to the initial text and language, metres, figures of speech etc.

Through the present research, I could find a promising trend of passionate Sanskrit poets actively creating outstanding works of literature, instead of just being passive spectators. Sanskrit *Mahākāvyas* is an unparalleled form of literature as it covers an array of old styles and techniques which remain pertinent even today. Contemporary poets have taken the initiative to compose *Mahākāvyas* using modern stylistic and technical approaches. The modern poets have adapted to the changing times, and adopted a modern mindset. This change has allowed them to explore new possibilities and be creative with

their work. They have embraced this style and structure which has led to the development of something unique and original.

The present research highlighted the noteworthy production of Sanskrit poets and their passion for creating remarkable literature. Within the genre of *Mahākāvya*, their literary work can be seen as equivalent to some of the most celebrated pieces of literature.

It is found that many modern poets have adopted a more liberal approach to their craft, departing from the traditional rules of *Mahākāvya* established by critics like Viśvanātha. This has allowed them to better reflect the times by experimenting with language, style, and structure in order to create works that speak to our current era. By doing so, these poets have helped to ensure that poetry remains relevant in an ever-evolving world. Throughout history, great poets have pushed the boundaries of language and form to create works of art that are both timeless and meaningful. Their innovations have served to enrich the poetic tradition, inspiring new generations of writers to explore their creativity and find their own unique voices.

The theme of the *Mahākāvyas* on historical events, celebrating the lives of legendary figures or simply depicting the present situation. Some of them are written in a variety of styles, from biographical accounts to imaginative tales. Poets now a days are taking notice of the current state of society and incorporating it into their work. Through their writing, they are able to express the thoughts and opinions that they have on various issues affecting our world today. *Paraśurāmodayam* is an epic poem about the story of Paraśurāma. The poem *Bhāratamātā-Brūte* by Harinayana Dixit has distinct content, with *Bhāratamātā* expressing her agonies. The poet reveals prevailing social issues in the country through his epic. This includes attacks on Kashmir, the education system, dowry system, negative impact of films and television, and the plight of women etc. Shrirama Dave's *Sāketasaṅgaram* is a powerful and thought-provoking work of literature that examines the burning and controversial issue of the birth place of Rāma. *Rājalakṣmī Swayamwara* by him details the electoral process and how politicians often manipulate people through false promises and buying vote etc.

A noteworthy feature of the newer *Mahākāvyas* is that they are easy to read and enjoyable. The authors have used simple language and storytelling techniques that do not alienate readers. This allows readers to engage with the material easily, which is

something to be appreciated. The emotions have been clearly conveyed without exaggeration. Interesting topics, with broad appeal, have been selected. Some of these subjects are universal, regardless of language or culture. The language of *Mahākāvya*s has been simplified for easier comprehension by readers. Additionally, many *Mahākāvya*s come with Hindi translations, as such, they provide an invaluable source of knowledge and entertainment that can be enjoyed by people from all walks of life. The language used in *Mahākāvya*s by classical poets such as Kālidāsa, Bhāravi and Māgha are often difficult to understand, modern poets have taken a different approach. They are using simpler, more accessible language that makes their works easier to read and comprehend. The modern *Mahākāvya*s of this century is generally written in an uncomplicated and coherent style, without any complex words. *Mahākāvya*s are composed in easy and understandable language, with no difficult words or phrases. To increase comprehension, many *Mahākāvya*s also come with their Hindi translations making them more accessible to readers. Harinarayana Dikshita, the poet, composed five *Mahākāvya*s with his own Hindi translations which make them even more accessible to more readers. In addition to that, many of the great epics that were originally composed in Sanskrit have since been translated and re-released. Additionally, adding proverbs and other good sayings further enhances the appeal of these *Mahākāvya*s.

The poets of *Mahākāvya*'s in modern Sanskrit have the freedom to select whichever hero they deem suitable. More often than not, renowned public figures and national leaders who have gained high prominence are their preferred choices.

In recent years, there has been a shift among poets away from the traditional *Mahākāvya* style prescribed by literary critics such as Viśvanātha. This shift has seen poets embrace modern approaches to poetry, focusing less on adherence to classic form and more on experimentation with language and form. With this new freedom, many poets are creating works that explore complex topics in an innovative way, pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a poet.

Meter is an important element of *Mahākāvya*, and the ability to use proper meters effectively is essential for creating a successful *Mahākāvya*. The art of selecting which meter to use and when to use it can be complex and requires mastery, as it can have a significant impact on the aesthetic quality and success of the poem. The poets of the modern era have embraced a variety of popular metres to express their creative works.

Anuṣṭubha, *Upajāti*, *Indravajrā*, *Sragdharā*, *Sārdulvikrīḍita* and *Āryā* are some of the most widely used metres in today's literature. While texts on metres list more than 300 metres, only a handful have been adopted by contemporary authors due to their great flexibility and the variety of emotions they evoke.

Similarly, Poetic figures of speech are a powerful tool for poets to create vivid imagery and evoke emotions in readers. Like classical poets, modern poets also relied on specific figures of speech like simile, metaphor and poetical fancies for their works. However, *citra* or the picture-type of poetic figure is very rare in contemporary compositions. Modern poets have excelled in giving description of natural elements like classical poets. But the newness of describing the social and cultural elements shines out uniquely.

Poetry has seen a shift in the topics and themes explored over the centuries. While poets of old often wrote about nature, love and beauty, modern poets have embraced different topics that are more meaningful and relatable to readers today. From personal struggles to social issues, modern poetry has opened the door for exploration of a much wider range of topics than ever before. No longer do poets feel limited to descriptions of the seasons, the sun and moon, love-sports or feminine beauty. Instead, descriptions have become more natural and sweet - focusing on emotions and experiences that can be shared by all readers.

Additionally, modern *Mahākāvyas* have not placed a large emphasis on sentiment - something which is considered by many rhetoricians such as Bharata and Viśvanātha to be the essence of poetry. Bharata suggested in his work, the *Nāṭyaśāstra*, that emotion is an important element of any art form. Viśvanātha suggests that in a *Mahākāvya*, one of the three sentiments - *śṛṅgāra*, *vīra* or *śānta* should be given prominence while the other two should be included as secondary elements. Despite the fact that today's poets may not put emphasis on sentiment, their poetry can still evoke strong feelings in readers. These poems may not be explicitly emotional, yet they are powerful enough to catch people's attention and stir emotions.

In this way, it is notable that Sanskrit poets of twenty first century have tried to present the cultural, religious, philosophical and spiritual elements of our civilization aptly and logically. They have presented these aspects in a compelling manner. At the same

time Commendable attempts have been made to make people aware of the ancient knowledge stocked in the Vedas, Purāṇas, *Rāmāyaṇa*, *Mahābhārata* and the works of religious teachers, philosophers and founders of religions.
