

**Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada
University, Nanded**

M.A. English - AY 2023-24

**SEM III Course No 09 Indian Poetics
Unit I**

**(A) Historical Perspective: Origin
and Growth of Sanskrit Poetics**

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True Poetry –distinguished by three things:

- A certain peculiar diction**
- Subject matter**
- The spirit in which it approaches the handling of its themes**
- Rgveda- distinction between ordinary speech and poetic speech- i) poets have to pick and choose words ii) poetry leads to bliss and glory**

-Kavya (poem) & Gatha (a vesre that is sung) in *Rgveda*

- 500 BC to 100 BC- growth of Sanskrit Poetics

-i)Speculations about the functions and objects of poetry

ii) classification of different kinds of poetry and literary works- attempts to establish a theory of poetics and literary criticism. –

a) Composition of secular poetry

b)Elaboration of rules -proceeded

- A theory of poetics –must have evolved before 2nd Century AD
- Kavya divided into Gadya & Padya ii) Gunas, Alamkrata mentioned.
- Samudragupta –Kaviraja
- Panini's mention of *Natyasutras*
- Earlier works of Poetics – Kavyalamkara- works of Bhamaha, Vamana and Rudrata- *Alamkaras* played an important part in the traetment of Poetics.

- Vamana's *Kavyalamkara-sutra*- Two uses of Alamkara-
 - i) *a thing of beauty*
 - ii) *A figure of speech*
- Dandin's *Kavyadarsa* – elucidation of *Sabda & Artha*
- *Kavya-laksana*
- *Dhvanyaloka* also mentions of *Kavya-laksana*

- Another word for Poetics is *Sahitya* - i) *Sahitya*-literature in general ii) *Kavya*- like nectar from ocean of *Sahitya*

- *Sahitya-sastra, Mimamsa*

- Before 900 AD word *Sahitya* came to be used as 'the science of Poetics'

- *Sahitya*- derived from *Sahita* meaning 'together'.

- Poetry defined as 'Sabdarthau Sahitau Kavyam' (the word and meaning together constitute poetry)

-Rajsekhara- the science of perfect union between word and meaning – *'Sabdarthayoh yathavatsaha bhavena vidya'*

-Bhamaha- *'Sabdarthau Sahitau Kavyam'*

-Kuntaka's Vakroktijivita proposes union between Sabda and Artha

- In order to constitute real Kavya, the Sahitya (union) of Sabda and Artha is required to possess peculiar charm

- **The *soul* of poetry- various powers of word and its relation to Artha**
- ***Three Vrttis- Abhidha, Laksana and Vyangya***
- ***Three kinds of Artha- Vacya, Lakshya, and Vyangya***