

TITLE: Points of convergence: Vyākaraṇa and contemporary linguistic theory

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ABSTRACT:

Where are the points of convergence between contemporary linguistic theory and the vyākaraṇa tradition? One may ask this question from two points of view: (1) one non-historical and (2) one historical. The non-historical question itself may be looked at from two perspectives: (1.1) what insights of vyaakara.na might be brought to bear on current problems in linguistic theory? (1.2) what insights of current linguistic theory might be brought to bear on the study of Sanskrit? (2) The historical question looks for similar problems and inquires into how those problems were addressed in their respective traditions. The aim of the paper will give partial answers to these questions.