COLON CLASSIFICATION IN MARATHI

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Examines the factors involved in the translation of Colon Classification into Marathi in the idea plane, the verbal plane, and the notational plane. Brings out the advantages of an analytico-synthetic scheme, where only isolates are enumerated, over an enumerative scheme for arriving at a common terminology, particularly in Indian languages. Shows the potentialities of using Devanagari notation for CC.

1 INTRODUCTION

The need for evolving a suitable scheme of classification for Indian libraries was felt even in the beginning of this century. The existing schemes were not suitable for classifying books in subjects such as Indian classics, Indian languages and literature, Indian fine arts, religion, etc. Some attempts were made to evolve a suitable scheme. In 1916, Kudalkar published his scheme of classification in Marathi entitled "Marathi pustakansathin vargikarana-paddhati", using Nagari alphabet as the base. In 1928, the All India Library Conference discussed the need for a suitable classification and appointed a committee to go into this question. In 1928, Satish Chandra Guha published his "Prachya-vargikarana-paddhati: being a system of book-classification developed on oriental lines". He uses Nagari numerals as the base and Sanskrit terms with English equivalents for the schedules. The most important landmark is the publication of Ranganathan's "Colon classification" in 1933. It uses a mixed notation—Roman alphabet (capital as well as lower case letters), Hindu-arabic numerals, and the connecting symbol " : " (colon). The terms in the schedules are in English. It is an analytico-synthetic-classification. It is a new approach in the development of classificatory thought.

2 PRESENT NEEDS

With the advent of independence there has been a great increase in the number of literate persons in India. This number is bound to increase very rapidly in the near future. Till very recently almost all the literate persons knew the English language. In future, however, the majority of literate persons in India will know Indian languages only. Further, there will be a rapid development of regional and local libraries with book stock in the regional languages. Some of the attempts of the use of Colon Classification for the Marathi region are: "Classification of Marathi literature" by Ranganathan (1946), "Granthalayina vargikarane" by Kolhatker (1948), "Itihasache vargikaran" by
Hingure (1949), "Visarga va dasamsa vargikarana" by the Maharashtra Granthalaya Sangha (1951). Parkhi has recently brought out his Marathi edition of the Colon Classification. During the past twenty-five years, the Colon Classification has progressed considerably from book level to documentation level. The Marathi edition incorporates all its latest developments.

3 IDEA PLANE

In the rendering of a scheme of classification from one language to another, one cannot expect any deviation from the original in respect of the basic classes, the common isolates or the special isolates or the sequence of the classes themselves or the facets within a class. Some of the distinctive features of the Colon Classification and its contribution to classificatory thought are the techniques of zone analysis, facet analysis, and phase analysis, the concept of analytico-synthetic-classification and the five fundamental categories. All these factors have been implemented by Parkhi in his Marathi version of the Colon Classification.

4 VERBAL PLANE

In the rendering of a scheme of classification from one language to another, the conversion in the verbal plane pertains to the translation of names of classes from one language to another. This conversion is the work of a specialist in terminology and nomenclature. In the case of an enumerative scheme of classification, enumeration of complete subjects has to be done. This is a formidable task. However the Colon Classification, which is an analytico-synthetic-classification, gives only the basic classes and isolates. Isolates are ideas at greater depth. It is comparatively easy to fix the terminology for them. Parkhi has rendered into Marathi, English isolate terms given in the Colon Classification. The radicals of the isolate terms have been taken from Sanskrit, the parent of many Indian languages. These terms can be easily adopted in all these Indian languages. Common adoption of such isolate terms by all the Indian languages will facilitate communication and bibliography building in India.

Parkhi's pioneering work will form the basis for similar attempts in the other Indian languages. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marathi</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>धातुकला</td>
<td>Metallurgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>व्यवस्था</td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>व्यापार</td>
<td>Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>प्रकाश</td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>दृश्य किरण</td>
<td>Visible rays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These terms are common in Hindi, Gujarathi and similar languages.

5 NOTATIONAL PLANE

In the rendering of a scheme of classification from one language to another, the notational plane also may present some problems. In the case of numerals, the conversion is simple. In the case of alphabets, the conversion will present some difficulties. In the case of mixed notation, the conversion becomes more complicated. The Colon Classification uses a mixed notation. It uses Roman alphabet (lower case and capitals), Greek alphabet, Hindu-arabic numerals, and punctuation marks. Since the capital letters are not sufficient to represent all the basic classes, Greek letters are introduced. In the Marathi edition, Parkhi has replaced the Roman and Greek alphabets by Nagari alphabet which has a considerably bigger base. This has considerably increased the capacity of the notation. The conversion of lower case Roman alphabet would have presented some difficulties. But this had been solved earlier by Date who had suggested the use of Sansuswaras (nasalised consonants) for representing the lower case letters. This is discussed in Ranganathan's article on "Anterior divisions and Mr Date's invention" published in the Indian Librarian 1947, 2, 1-8. The extraordinary scientific organisation of Nagari alphabet made centuries ago by Panini added great potency to the Colon notation in Nagari script. For example, क varga (all but one gutterals taken together) indicates "Physical sciences and their applications".

6 SPECIAL FEATURES

Some of the special features of the Marathi edition of the Colon Classification are the pro-
vision of ready-made worked-out class numbers, author numbers for Marathi literature, class numbers in Nagari notation with corresponding Roman notation, English equivalents for Marathi terms used in the schedule, an alphabetical index of Marathi terms with their appropriate class numbers, and a lucid exposition in Marathi of the principles of Colon Classification. This volume is primarily intended for book level. Parkhi is working on a Marathi version for documentation level also. He has done this work single-handed and with outstanding success. He is one of the pioneers which renascent India has thrown forth. His book is not merely a scheme of classification. It is a concrete achievement which could be emulated by other regional languages.