

20

# ORIYA



PC  
891.4  
MAH

DEPARTMENT OF ORIYA

VISVA-BHARATI

1984

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

**ORIYA**  
LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

**K. MAHAPATRA**



DEPARTMENT OF ORIYA  
VISVA-BHARATI

1984

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This publication is made out of the annual grant of the Govt. of Orissa for development of extra-curricular cultural activities of the Department of Oriya, Visva-Bharati.

PC  
891.4  
MAH

NEW LIBRARY  
Acc. No. 145815  
Date  
Acc. by  
Class by  
Sub. Heading by  
Cats. by  
Transcribed by

Copy right : K. MAHAPATRA (1984)

Published by the Department of Oriya, Visva-Bharati,  
Santiniketan (W. Bengal)

Printed by : B. N. Pal at Shree Rajlakshmi Press  
Bolpur, Dt. Birbhum (W. Bengal)

To

Our revered Acharya

**Smt. Indira Gandhi**

## PREFACE

Dr. Khageswar Mahapatra is an authority of Oriya language and literature. His monograph will no doubt help the non-Oriya scholars to know something about Oriya language and literature. It will help further research into the subject particularly development of the standard Oriya language from the spoken language.

All standard languages including Sanskrit have developed from spoken languages. From the beginning of the century descriptive study of dialect began in the western countries. This study took two different lines of approach—one pure dialect descriptive and the other linguistic geography of dialect or dialect geography which is known as dialectology. It has been proved by eminent scholars that Oriya standard language has the capacity of absorbing spoken languages and accommodating them in it. This is not the case with regard to Tamil. Tamil like Sanskrit is a most ancient language. Therefore, these have not the capacity to absorb spoken languages. In the case of Tamil it has so happened now according to the scholars that spoken Tamil language cannot be written down in Tamil. The tendency towards absorbing spoken languages in the Oriya standard language is noticeable particularly in the post-independent literature. I mention this just to rouse the interest of the scholars who will be benefited by the monograph of Dr. K. Mahapatra

It is really a marvellous feat that in a short monograph Dr. Mahapatra has given all about the Oriya language and literature from ancient period to modern times. In the second edition perhaps he will deal with the development which has taken place in the language and literature in the post-independent period. I congratulate Dr. Mahapatra on the monograph which he has produced not only for non-Oriya students but also for Oriya students.

**Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab**

## FOREWORD

The Department of Oriya at Visva-Bharati is the oldest among the existing centres of Oriya studies. Under the stewardship of my friend and colleague, Professor Khageswar Mahapatra academic activities in the department, have been remarkably revitalised. The Department has held in recent years several Seminars of All India nature on important Literary and Linguistic subjects in which scholars from several departments of Visva-Bharati and from outside participated. The Department has a rich collection of manuscripts. Under the supervision of Professor Mahapatra 'A Descriptive Catalogue of Oriya Manuscripts' has been prepared on scientific lines and it has been published by the department in 1983. The catalogue lists many unpublished works of literary and cultural importance. Some of these manuscripts have been critically edited by the scholars of the department and are awaiting publication.

The present monograph 'Oriya : Language and Literature' is another praiseworthy contribution of Professor Mahapatra. In about sixty pages Mahapatra has presented a succinct account of a thousand year old history of the origin and development of Oriya Language and Literature. The origin and growth of almost all the Modern Indo-Aryan Languages has been on parallel lines irrespective of their locale. All of them have historical affinity. They all have been exposed to similar influences and they all trace their origin from some sort of Apabhramsa. There must

have been one common Apabhramsa prevailing all over Northern India and it was the Saurseni, it had local variations. Languages of the Eastern region of India, viz, Eastern Hindi, Assamese, Bengali and Oriya trace their origin from Eastern Apabhramsa. Some of the linguistic traits of this language are seen in the songs and verses of the Mahayani Buddhist Siddhas—the Charyapadas. It is interesting to note that the language of the Charyapadas and the Dohas somewhat differ from one another though they have been composed by the same Siddhas. One betrays the influence of the eastern region, while the latter are composed in the standard Saurseni, the western region Apabhramsa. Professor Mahapatra has cited all the sources of origin of Oriya language, he has given descriptive sketch of the grammar of the language, its peculiarities, a mention is also made about the dialects of Oriya. Nothing that is necessary is omitted.

Like other sister literatures of Modern Indo-Aryan Languages Oriya also began its literary career with the composition of religious and social reformers—followers of Buddhist, Shaiva and Vaishnava sects. With its humble linguistic capital Oriya was transformed into a finished and forceful literary language in the works of Sarala Das. His Mahabharata and other works give an impression that Oriya had been for a long time before him a vehicle of literary activity. The mediaeval period of Oriya literature during the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries may be called the golden period. The poets of the period innovated poetry and developed several typical forms and genres of poetry. Devotional poetry which took a turn to romantic

trend and which in its turn encouraged poets to compose works in ornate style—poetic language had already become perfect and in the hands of master artist like, Upendra Bhanja it became highly polished. His ‘Vaidehisavilas’ and other works are high landmarks of Oriya or Indian literature.

Modern literature of Oriya like other language literatures emerged in the Nineteenth century. Prose received an impetus and Oriya fiction, essay, drama, modern poetry are as rich and varied as any other literature.

This work of Professor Mahapatra reminds one of the Visva-vidya series of publication of Visva-Bharati. Each book written by a specialist of the subject was made available to the general reader at a moderate price. Prof. Priya Ranjan Sen had also written a booklet on Oriya literature in that series. Now this publication of the Department of Oriya is a good attempt for the revival of such a publication programme at Visva-Bharati. Professor Mahapatra has set a good model of this sort of work. He has given all the necessary information about Oriya language and literature without making the account cumbersome with footnotes, he has saved it from becoming a mere list of names of books and authors. It will help students of comparative literature and all those who believe that India with its diversity of languages is one country.

Santiniketan  
June 20th, 1984

R. S. Tomar  
Professor of Hindi  
Visva-Bharati

# ORIYA : LANGUAGE

## ORIIYA LANGUAGE

### A. A Historical sketch

The present form of Oriya language is the result of the continued evolution of a definite speech style of old Indo Aryan language. Before thousands of years a group of Indo-Aryans settled in India and their language (Old Indo-Aryan language) in course of time with the extension of Aryan settlements and at different periods had different forms. All those regional languages (Middle-Indo-Aryan language) are known as 'Prakrit' and 'Apavramsa' in early and later stages respectively. Modern-Indo-Aryan languages are a later development from those 'Apavramsa'. Such evolution of Indo-European languages can be briefly stated thus :

## SELECTED READING LIST

### Language :

- K. B. Tripathi Evolution of Oriya language and script, Utkal University, 1962
- G. B. Dhal Aspiration in Oriya.  
Utkal university, 1966
- D. P. Pattanayak A controlled historical reconstruction of Oriya, Assamese, Bengali and Hindi, the Hague, 1966
- P. C. Majumdar Historical Phonology of Oriya, Calcutta Sanskrit College, 1970
- H. P. Misra Historical Morphology of Oriya, Varanasi, 1975
- G. N. Dash Descriptive Morphology of Oriya, Visva-Bharati, 1983

### Literature :

- M. Mansinha History of Oriya Literature, Sahitya Akademi, 1962
- P. R. Sen Modern Oriya Literature, Calcutta University, 1947
- C. R. Das Studies in Medieval Religion and Literature of Orissa  
Visva-Bharati, 1951  
A Glimpse into Oriya Literature, Orissa Sahitya Akademi, 1982
- S. K. Mahapatra The Curve of Meaning, Bhubaneswar, 1978
-

## Errata

<u>Page</u>	<u>in print</u>	<u>correct form</u>
1	Apavramsa	Apabhramsa
5	aparent	apparent
6	adverbialste	adverbials-te
21	odjectival	adjectival
23	Person an	and
25	loxAṭi	lokAṭi
3	Phiisophy	Philosophy
9	co-occurrence	co-occurrence
11	edcation	education
	adoptations	adaptations
22	sucedded	succeeded
23	Gadavarish	Godavarish
25	literature	literary

**ORIYA : LANGUAGE & LITERATURE** is an introductory monograph meant for the non-Oriya scholars. It contains a rapid critical survey of the history of the language and its literature spreading over a thousand year and a descriptive sketch of the grammar and script. The publication is planned to prepare a base for developing comparative study of Oriya literature at the national level.

Professor K ( Khageswar ). **MAHAPATRA** ( 1933 - ) educated in the Utkal University, a first class first Gold Medalist student of M.A. in Oriya and Ph.D. in linguistics, taught in the Orissa Education Service and the University of Delhi, at present heads the Department of Oriya, Visva-Bharati University. Well-known as a balanced and sharp literary critic and an explorative linguist of the tribal dialects, he represents the present generation of Oriya scholarship.