

My Journey: From Pāṇini to Linguistics, and Back

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I plan to give a developmental account of my own Sanskrit education in Pune and Philadelphia and my academic career at the University of Michigan. Born in a Sanskrit-loving family, I started studying Sanskrit formally with Pt. Bhagwat Shastri, a traditional Pandit. Later I studied with professors S.D. Joshi, Palsule, Mehendale and Dandekar at the University of Pune. Here I was gradually exposed to modern critical ways of looking at Sanskrit. This was then continued at the University of Pennsylvania with Professors Henry Hoenigswald, Paul Thieme and George Cardona. I then joined the Dept of Linguistics at the University of Michigan, and the environment in Michigan further shaped my approaches to Sanskrit studies. Through an account of these transitions in my life, I hope to provide some insights into my journey from Pāṇini to Linguistics, and back to Pāṇini.