

Different Traditional Perspectives on the Places of Articulation of Sanskrit Sounds According to the *Āpiśaliśikṣā* and its Newly Discovered Commentary

The *Āpiśaliśikṣā*, an ancient treatise that might predate Pāṇini, is the most comprehensive ancient Sanskrit text on articulatory phonetics. Unlike most *śikṣā* texts, which are closely tied to specific Vedic schools, the *Āpiśaliśikṣā* shows a non-sectarian approach to the pronunciation of Sanskrit speech sounds. Our presentation focuses on the first chapter, which provides a classification of Sanskrit speech sounds.

This chapter stands apart for its presentation of diverse views on the articulation of Sanskrit sounds. Moreover, a recently discovered premodern commentary from Kashmir on this text offers explanations on certain unusual terms used in this chapter such as *urasya* (lit. pectoral), *jihvya* (lit. lingual), etc., that are difficult to explain from the modern articulatory phonetics approach and provides further contexts to the different views about the places of articulation recorded in the main text.

Since this text has received scarce scholarly attention in recent years—the earlier translations in Hindi (1879) and Bengali (1939) are based on corrupt and incomplete texts and the English translation (1973) is outdated and lacks accuracy and clarity in various areas—, there is a need to revisit the text in the light of the newly discovered commentary.

In our presentation, we aim to bring a fresh understanding of the first chapter of the *Āpiśaliśikṣā* based on the commentary. We provide a holistic understanding of the text by comparing the ideas from other related early Sanskrit texts on phonetics, particularly the *Prātiśākhya*s, and contextualizing them through the modern framework of articulatory phonetics.