

## ***Niyamasūtra with special reference to Krādi-niyama***

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### **Abstract**

The rules in Aṣṭādhyāyī (hereafter A) describe the Sanskrit language in as brief a manner as possible. To achieve the description and adhere to the principle of brevity, Pāṇini (hereafter P) uses several devices and techniques. This includes arrangement of rules, *anuvṛtti* (ellipses), *pratyāhāra*, etc. The arrangement of rules is the basis for employing other mechanisms, such as *anuvṛtti*. Thus, studying the interplay of rules to understand A's content is crucial. The article focuses on one area where the interrelation of the rules plays a major role: the *niyamasūtras*.

Traditionally, rules in A are categorized into six types based on their content – 1. *saṃjñā* (technical term), 2. *paribhāṣā* (interpretive), 3. *vidhi* (operation), 4. *niyama* (restriction), 5. *atideśa* (extension), 6. *adhikāra* (heading). Sharma (2002: 89) mentions three additional types – *pratiśedha* (negation), *vibhāṣā* (optional), and *nipātana* (ad hoc). Some believe that the distinction between *niyama* and *pratiśedha* rules is futile. Whereas others hold it to be valid. They propose that *niyama* is an affirmative statement that delimits the scope of the application and thus results in a negation, as opposed to a *pratiśedha*, which is purely negative. A suspicion emerges regarding the *apavāda* (exception) rules as well. Hence, it is interesting to study the nature of *niyamasūtras* and analyze its relation with other rules.

The article delves into discussions as found in commentaries of *Vyākaraṇamahābhāṣya* and *Kāśikāvṛtti* (hereafter KV). It presents a list of *niyamasūtras* from A and corresponding terms. The restriction devices—denoted by ‘*eva*’ and ‘*śeṣa*’ are also studied. Further we take into account various kinds of *niyama* – *artha-niyama*, *pratyaya-niyama*, *prakṛti-niyama*, *prayoga-niyama*, *abhidheya-niyama*, *saṃjñā-niyama* (See - KV on P 3.2.87).

The paper elaborates on the structure of these statements and the complexities involved in making meaning of such rules with special reference to *Krādi-niyama*.

**Key terms** – *niyama sūtra*, pāṇinian grammar, types of rules, *Krādi-niyama*, restrictive rules

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