



संस्करणं द्वात्रिंशत्तमम् (३२), वर्षम् २०२२

ISSN : 0975-8348

UGC Care Listed

संस्कृतविद्या

मूल्याङ्किता वार्षिकी शोधपत्रिका

SANSKR̥TAVIDYĀ

A Peer Reviewed & Referred Annual Journal

संस्कृतविद्याधर्मविज्ञानसङ्घायः

काशीहिन्दूविश्वविद्यालयः, वाराणसी-२२१००५



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Aucitya : A Principle in Sanskrit Literary Criticism

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Criticism is the judgement on the form of a literary work, saying that it causes certain experience, has a certain effect on the mind and that this experience is due to special peculiar features of the literary piece. From the point of view of the critic, principles mean the essential elements which determine a result. From the point of view of the creator of a literary piece, principles are the laws which have to be followed in producing a work of art. Thus principles of literary criticism mean the essential element present in a literary piece, which form the basis of judgement that a critic pronounces, whether it is good or bad, according to the produced a certain effect on his mind i.e. causing a certain experience in him.

Literary criticism is an objective and analytical approach to literature. It is based on certain principles, which have been discovered through close analytical study of literary work. The major principles of Sanskrit literary criticism are *Alankara*, *Guna*, *Riti*, *Rasa*, *Dhvani*, *Vakroti* and *Aucitya*. In this paper an attempt has been made to shed some light on the concept of *Aucitya* in Sanskrit *Kavyasahitya*.

Aucitya is the condition of being appropriate or fit, the state of being proper. When one thing befits another or when things suit each other well and match perfectly, they may be said to be appropriate. Such matching or befitting quality is termed *aucitya*.

Ucitam prahuracaryah

Sadrosiam kila yasyayat /

Ucitasya ca yo bhavastadaucityam

Pracaksate //'

To clarify this further we can say that when the different components of a composition

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