

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF INDIAN LITERATURE

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**SUPPLEMENTARY ENTRIES
AND
INDEX**



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DICTIONARIES (KONKANI) — DIGANTA

Another *Hindi-Kashmiri Dictionary* has been published by the Central Hindi Directorate, but this dictionary is too precise to help the common reader.

Mo.S.

DICTIONARIES (Konkani). The first dictionaries, or 'vocabularies' as they were called, in Konkani, were compiled from 1570 onwards by a group of Jesuit priests of foreign extraction, mainly Portuguese, working at the Rachol (Raitur) fortress, the power-house of activities of the Jesuit religious order in Goa. They have not left behind for posterity their individual names. They went on adding to the compilations that followed in a cumulative manner until Diogo Ribeiro, one of their confreres, brought to culmination these efforts in 1626 in a lexicographic work which contains around 19,500 entries. It is believed to have benefited from the advice and contribution of stalwarts of Konkani like the prose-writers Antonio de Saldanha and Thomas Stephens and also their fellow Jesuits. This dictionary of quite impressive proportions was based on the speech prevalent in the Salcete (Sashti) region of south Goa, the most important in that period. This was the main literary language, the other variant Bardeshi of north Goa being marginally different from it, the two taken together constituting one standard literary form in Konkani.

Based on the Bardeshi variant, however, the Franciscans, who were allotted that area of the mission, cultivated the language and compiled dictionaries in Konkani, to begin with, in their College of St. Bonaventure in what is today Old Goa. Their leading stalwart was the versatile Friar Gaspar de Sam Miguel, who had distinguished himself in all spheres of literary and lexicographic and grammatical work, of which very little has been found to date. The dictionaries found to have been emanated from the College of St. Bonaventure are reportedly his compilation. The other Franciscans who have compiled lexicographic work are Friars Manoel de Banha and Joao de S. Mathias.

While the above-mentioned dictionaries were mostly bilingual, that is Portuguese-Konkani and Konkani-Portuguese, there was a third category of a trilingual dictionary compiled by the prose writer of that age in Konkani, Miguel de Almeida, based on Benedictus Periera's work of a similar nature in 52,000 words, which has not yet been traced. Another feature of this and the other dictionaries in Konkani was that they contained a collection of a thesaurus of proverbs, maxims, idiomatic expressions and turns of speech culled from contemporary works of indigenous expression and garnered from the lips of the people, which have been recorded in their various forms.

There were some more dictionary compilations like

the one of Friar Francisco de Santana and others, done anonymously, as the one found in the 'Biblioteca Nacional' (National Library) of Lisbon. All these compilations record a language that is distinctly Konkani, and in a more or less uniform configuration, that could be called the standard or the old standard Konkani language, which suffered persecution later, and its people dispersed over different states, leading to the rise of the fragmented variants, with lexicographic compilations based on them, much later in the day.

Some of the early dictionaries in these variants were Inacio Xavier de Souza Rodrigues's *Konkani-Portuguese* in 1888. Mons. S.R. Dalgado's two massive dictionaries on the modern pattern in 1893 and 1905 respectively for Konkani-Portuguese and vice versa, was a major contribution in this genre. Another work worthy of mention is that of Alex Dias, published in 1889, which was followed by Aleixo Caetano Francisco's compilation in 1892 and Casimiro Cristovao de Nazare's in 1927. Need was felt then of smaller, more manageable dictionaries and this was met by some compilations of utility like those of Joao Caetano de Souza and A.D. Lobo (1929) and B.X. Furtado's two dictionaries in 1930 and 1931 respectively. But the most popular of the lot was the *Manual de tres mil vocabularios* (Manual of three thousand vocabularies) which was written in the Sashti-Bardeshi combination reminiscent of the old standard Konkani prevalent all over Goa, by the novelist and journalist, Sebastiao de Jesus Dias (1838-1900).

In Mangalore, the compilation done of a standard dictionary in Konkani by Fr. Angelus Saverio Maffei is a major landmark based on the speech of the south Kanara Konkani, in Konkani-English and vice versa (1883). Shripad Desai's is the first Konkani-Konkani monolingual dictionary in four volumes published from 1980 to 1990 (1st vol.1980, 2nd vol.1983, 3rd vol.1984, and 4th vol.1990), a rather prolix yet useful dictionary that attempts to meet modern needs of the Konkani reader with words from other languages incorporated in Konkani which appear to be exotic in some measure.

O.G.

DIGANTA (Hindi), first published from Varanasi in 1957, is a collection of fifty-seven sonnets by Trilochan (b.1917). This is the third collection of poems by the poet, the first two being *Dharati* (1945) and *Gulaab aur bulbul* (1956). Poet's maturity both in the theme and in the diction is, therefore, evident in *Diganta*. His 'pragativadi' poetry, influenced by Marxist philosophy, shows a clear and thoughtful vision. Though the poet has focussed on realistic social issues, he has not allowed the preoccupation to interfere adversely with the imaginative aspect of his poems.