शिखागोविश्वविद्यालये

प्रारम्भिकसंस्कृतम्

FIRST-YEAR SANSKRIT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

अल्लटाचार्योद्द्रावितः पाठक्रमः ❧ *Designed by Andrew Ollett*

DITRANSITIVE VERBS

dvikarmakāḥ ❁ द्विकर्मकाः

Sanskrit at Chicago

TRANSITIVITY

Transitivity is a cross-linguistic feature of **verbs**. It refers to whether a verb takes a **direct object** (such verbs are called **transitive**) or not (such verbs are called **intransitive**).

❧ Transitive **verbs** [with **direct objects**]

He **drags the plow**.

हलं कर्षति

TRANSITIVITY

Transitivity is a cross-linguistic feature of **verbs**. It refers to whether a verb takes a **direct object** (such verbs are called **transitive**) or not (such verbs are called **intransitive**).

❧ Transitive **verbs** [with **direct objects**]

She **reads the book**.

पुस्तकं पठति

TRANSITIVITY

Transitivity is a cross-linguistic feature of **verbs**. It refers to whether a verb takes a **direct object** (such verbs are called **transitive**) or not (such verbs are called **intransitive**).

🍂 Intransitive **verbs**

He **stands**.

तिष्ठति

TRANSITIVITY

Transitivity is a cross-linguistic feature of **verbs**. It refers to whether a verb takes a **direct object** (such verbs are called **transitive**) or not (such verbs are called **intransitive**).

    ❧   Intransitive **verbs**

A thought **arises**.

बुद्धिरुत्पद्यते

TRANSITIVITY

In Sanskrit these verbs are characterized not in **syntactic** terms (whether they take a direct object or not) but in **semantic** terms (whether they take a *patient* or *karma*). Hence we have the equivalence:

- Transitive = **sa-karma-kaḥ** [dhātuḥ]

- Intransitive = **a-karma-kaḥ** [dhātuḥ]

TRANSITIVITY

There is a further category of **ditransitive** (*dvikarmaka-*) verbs which takes not one but **two** objects (or, in Sanskrit terms, two *karma*s). Verbs of teaching (in English and Sanskrit) often fit this description:

🍂 He teaches **the students** **the Veda**.
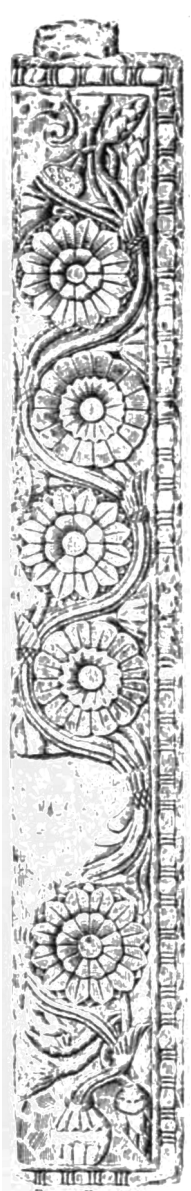
🍂 शिष्यान् वेदं शास्ति

TRANSITIVITY

In European languages (including English) one of the objects is usually **indirect**, which involves additional syntactic constraints. But in Sanskrit **both** patients are mapped onto straightforward accusatives.

✤   He teaches **the students the Veda**.

✤   शिष्यान् वेदं शास्ति

VALENCY

Another way of thinking about transitivity is in terms of **valency**, which refers to the number of distinct **arguments** a particular verb can take, including subject and object arguments (usually mapped onto the nominative and accusative case, respectively).

VALENCY

Verb type	Valency	Example
Impersonal	0	[It]$_0$ rains.
Intransitive	1	She$_1$ sits.
Transitive	2	She$_1$ eats rice$_2$.
Ditransitive	3	She$_1$ teaches the students$_2$ the Veda$_3$.

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

Sanskrit really has several classes of ditransitive verbs:

- ❧ Verbs of **leading** or **bringing**
  - One *karma* is the thing led or brought
  - Another *karma* is the **destination**

He leads **the cow** [to] **the river**.

गां नदीं नयति

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

Sanskrit really has several classes of ditransitive verbs:

- ❧ Verbs of **saying** and **teaching**
  - One *karma* is the thing said
  - Another *karma* is the **person** to whom it is said

  He teaches **the students** **the Veda**.

  शिष्यान् वेदं शास्ति

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

Sanskrit really has several classes of ditransitive verbs:

- A few verbs of getting **something** from **something else**

  He milks **milk** [from] **the cow**.
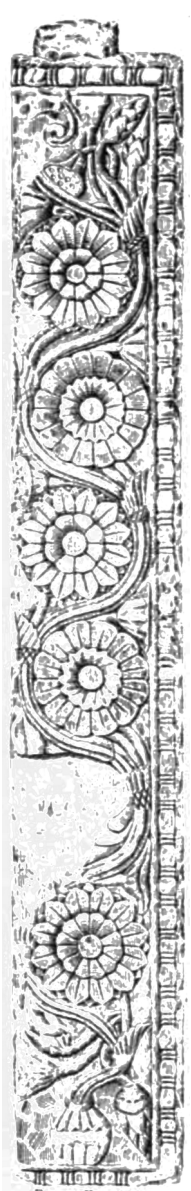
  गां पयो दोग्धि

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

Sanskrit really has several classes of ditransitive verbs:

- ❧ **Causative** verbs [introduced separately]

    He causes **the students** to study **the Veda**.

    ~ He teaches **the students the Veda**.

    शिष्यान् वेदम् अध्यापयति

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

When these verbs are used in the **active** voice, both of the *karma*s appear in the accusative, as in the examples already given.

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

When used in the **passive** voice, there is the question of which patient becomes the grammatical subject, and appears in the **nominative** case, and which patient is mapped onto an object and thus appear in the **accusative** case.

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

Sanskrit usage is not completely uniform in this respect, but the general rule is that the patient that is promoted to the **subject** role is the one that is most like a "canonical patient": of the two patients, it is likely to be:

- the most **animate** of the two;
- the most **affected** (or indeed **effected**) by the verbal action.

DITRANSITIVE VERBS IN SANSKRIT

The students are taught **the Veda**.

शिष्या वेदं शिष्यन्ते

The cow is brought **to the river.**

गौर्नदीं नीयते

The cow is milked **milk.**

गौः पयो दुह्यते