Original Research Paper

Linguistic

The Influence of Sanskrit in Indo-European Languages: A Study

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ABSTRACT Sanskrit is a member of the Indo-Iranian Subfamily of the Indo-European family of languages its closet ancient relatives are the Iranian languages. Avestan and Old Persian. The oldest known Indo Aryan texts, the Vedas, were composed in an archak form of Sanskrit called Vedic. The oldest of the Vedas, the Ruguveda, dates to the middle of the 2nd millennium BCE and was composed largely in the north western region of the Indian subcontinent. Throughout its history, Sanskrit was influenced by the languages with which it came in contact and in turn, it influenced them. Even the oldest Vedic texts show some signs of convergence with non Indo-Aryan languages in Phonology, Syntax, and lexicon. Sanskrit as a second language Sanskrit as a second was also substantially influenced by the first languages of its speakers – whether Indo-Aryan Vernaculars such as the Prakrits (or) Middle languages. Indo-Aryan languages or non-Indo-Aryan tongues such as the Dravidian languages of south India.

KEYWORDS : Indo – European language, Sanskrit, Vedic, Indo – Aryan

Introduction:-

The meaning of the Sanskrit:-

1. The ancient sacred and literacy languages of India
2. The classical literacy form of this languages as distinguished from the earlier Vedic

Indo-European:-

Of or connected with the family of languages spoken in most European and parts of western Asia (including English, French, Latin, Greek, Swedish, Russian and Hindi)

Historical Background – Writing System:-

In the course of its history, Sanskrit was written in many different scripts; et the tradition of indigenous phonetics and grammar predates the appearance of writing and analyzes the oral language. The script currently most used for Sanskrit is Devanagari which is also used for some modern Indo-Aryan languages e.g. Hindi. It is an alpha – syllabic form of writing in which a consonant sign forms the core of the written syllable. The organization of Sanskrit writing shows a highly sophisticated level o phonetic analysis dating back to the middle of the 1st century BCE.

According Sir William Jones:-

In the second half of the 18th century several European Scholars including Sir William Jones an English man had studied Sanskrit in detail while serving as chief Justice Bengal discovered a significantly large number of similarities between Sanskrit on the one hand which is a classical Indian language) and on the other several European Languages both modern like English and ancient like (Greek and Latin). Thus for the English word "brother" they found the following equivalents.

English	-	brother
Latin	-	fraler
Greek	-	phraler
Sanskrit	-	bhrata
Old church	-	
Slavonic	-	bratra
Old Irish	-	brathir

Such examples led to conclusions like the following English and German have an immediate or recent relationship and belong to relatively "small" family of languages known as the Germanic family. Hindi and Bengali and most North Indian languages similarity belong to same immediate small family of which the family called Indo-Iranian. Germanic and Indo-Iranian as well as a few other small families, belong to a larger and older family called Indo-European.

Sanskrit has influenced Indo-European languages:-

The Indo-European family of languages from which English is descended has eight branches Including the Eastern ones like Indo-Iranian, Albanian, Armenians and Balbo-Slavonic and the western ones like Greek, Latin, Celtic Sanskrit and Teutonic. These distinguishing qualities of the Teutonic branch are its Verbal system. The accent of its words, and the series of sound changes to which the name the first sound shifting has been given. The German scholar name Jacob Grimm (1785-1863). The law formulated by Grim has been named after him and is hence familiarity known to students of the history of English as Grimm's Law.

Though Grimm was the first man t formulates the law the sound changes involved in it has been discovered earlier by the Danish Scholar Rask 1787-1832. He had discovered certain correspondences between some consonantal sounds occurring certain words of the classical languages like Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek. And those of Teutonic languages like Sanskrit, Latin and Greek, Grimm who studied these correspondences more closely, stated that there is regular shifting of certain services of Indo-consonant sounds in Teutonic.

In order to illustrate these sounds shifting we can take words from the classical languages like Sanskrit.

Indo-European BH becomes Teutonic DIC:

Sanskrit (BH)Modern English
1. Bhrata — brother
2. Bhu — be
3. Bharami — bear
4. Madhya (dh) — Middle
5. Rudhira — red
6. Dha — do
7. H'amsa — goose
8. Hidagha — o. Germ – dag
   M. Ger - tag
9. Kubja — hump
10. Dasam — ten
11. Svadu — sweet
12. Jani — knee
13. Jna — know
14. Pita — father
15. Pancha — five

16.	Antara	other
17.	Mathar – mater	Mother
18.	Duhitar	Daughter
19.	Nava	new
20.	Badnam	bad
21.	Sooraj	sun
22.	Prarthan	prayer
23.	Din	day

It was the identification of precisely these sound changes from Indo-European to Germanic which set in motion much of the 19th century research on historical linguistics. Neither Rask nor Grimm of course was dealing with reconstructed Indo-European. The actual attempt to reconstruct the parent language did not come until August Schleicher (who also gave us the family.

Similarities between German and Sanskrit:-

Studying German grammar and while studying Sanskrit grammar very interesting similarities between the two. While main reason why the Aryan theory came into existence after European discovered the linguistic similarities of the ancient Indian with Europeans. The similarity is the underlying base for the Indo-Germanic languages. However to my mind the root cause of this similarity is not because. European sprache spread across East along with Arayan but rather Sanskrit spread towards Europe which was at that point of time a mainly barbarian regime devoid of any capability of constructing a civilized form of language. Sanskrit was probably then as popular as English is today and thus early Europeans eagerly and zealously adopted the syntax as their base.

Conclusion:

In German objectives are declined based on gender number and cases. In Sanskrit the objective are declined based on number, gender, and cases. Declension of pronouns in number, gender, and cases. ihm, ihn, er, sie, ich, du, mich, mir, dich, dir etc. Similarly Sanskrit has declaration of pronouns in number gender and cases (ayam, aham, tvam, mama, tava, te, me, vayam). The prefixes which add to the form new verbs in German like emp, be, ent, etc are similar to up a sargas in sanskrit which add to the verbs in the beginning to form new verbs. There are 20 such upasargas or prefixes – like - pra, para, apa, sam, ni etc.

Short form of language constructs German languages has short forms like da, im, am Sanskrit has short forms like te, me, nau, nah, vah.

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