

Lesson 5

Compounds

Generally:

- **Avyayībhāva** - *indeclinable (unchanging)*
- **Tatpurusha** - *second element predominant*
- **Dvandva** - *pairs/strings of related elements without predominance*
- **Bahuvrīhi** - *one element is possessive*

Compounds types are normally defined by the importance, or predominance (**prādhānyam**), of one or other element of the compound.

Avyayībhāva

The first element is indeclinable and the second follows suit. For example:

अनुवादः **anuvādah** - repetition (**anu** 'follow', **vādah** 'speech')

Tatpurusha

These may be formed from nouns of all cases, but usually they are genitive, such as:

गंगातीर **Gangatīra** - bank *of* the Ganges (**Gangā** 'Ganges', **tīra** 'bank')

A sub-class of Tatpurusha is the **Karmadhāraya** in which the relationship is **nominative** eg:

नीलकंठः **Nīlakathah** - a name of Siva (**Nīla** 'blue', **kanthah** 'throat')

Dvandva

Normally a pair or string of nouns, or adjectives, without any predominance.

सुरनरमुनि **suranaramuni** - gods, men and sages (**sura** 'god', **nara** 'man', **muni** 'sage')

Bahuvrīhi

Is usually **possessive**, and refers to an element outside of the compound, such as:

पुराणमुनिना **purānamuninā** - by the ancient sage (**purāna** 'ancient', **muni** 'sage') which refers to the composition ग्रंथितां compiled by the ancient sage **Vyāsa** व्यास

the Bahuvrīhi compound must agree with its antecedent in *number*, *gender* and *case*. In the above example the full phrase is:

व्यासेन ग्रथितां पुराणमुनिना

व्यासेन - *by* Vyāsa

ग्रथितां - compiled (accusative case of **grathita**)

पुराणमुनिना - *by* the ancient muni (sage)

I have not covered the subtypes of each of the main types of compounds, but there is no need to go into too much depth at this stage. It can become rather academic.

Many more examples can be found online at various sanskrit learning websites.