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Mirella Lingorska\*

# Mack the Knife and Knife-Black Dorothy

## Appositional Metaphoric Compounds:

## A Comparison and Contrast of the Varying

## Approaches in Sanskrit Treatises on Grammar

## and Poetics

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**Abstract:** The present article focuses on appositional metaphoric compounds *karmadhāraya-rūpaka* in Sanskrit. A first section addresses some problems of compound typology in Western works, where appositional compounds have often been identified as copulative *dvandva*. Following this general analysis there is a section on appositional compounds from the perspective of the classical Sanskrit grammar, in particular the Pāṇinian tradition where the metaphorical aspect has not been explored specifically. The final section deals with the contribution of Sanskrit treatises on poetics to the identification of metaphoric compounds and their differentiation from compound similes. The approach suggested in later texts on poetics seems to be based on syntactical criteria, the ambiguity of the double-head topic, i. e. *candra-mukha*, a moon-face being specified in the comment. According to this, an appositional compound should be analysed as a simile, if the comment refers to the actual part of the compound, i.e. the subject of the simile, or as a metaphor, if the comment refers to the standard of comparison, thus shifting the focus of the sentence from the actual to the imagined entity.

**Keywords:** compounds, metaphors, Sanskrit, poetics, grammar

This article focuses on one type of compounds in Sanskrit, the appositional metaphoric compounds (Skt. *karmadhāraya-rūpaka*) which are notably interesting for their multilayer structure. On the one hand, through apposition the *karmadhāraya* (henceforth kdh.) compound relates its single reference to two concepts – a *prince regent* (also written as *prince-regent*) is a person who is a

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prince as well as a regent; on the other hand, the *rūpaka* being a metaphorical device relates a real, actual entity to a fictitious one – a *ghost writer* (also written as *ghost-writer* or *ghostwriter*) is a real writer who is metaphorically predicated with the non-physical feature of a ghost. The combination of these two in the type of the *karmadhāraya-rūpaka-s* (henceforth *kdh.-rup.s*) covers only a small group of compounds, but the challenge they present to the analysis of the underlying phrase and its implications make them essential for theories of conceptual combination.

To start with, the title of this article presents an illustration of, first, a well-known metaphoric compound from Bertold Brecht's ballad *Mackie Messer = Mack the knife* and, second, a calque of a famous *kdh.-example* from Patañjali's *Mahābhāṣya* on Pāṇini 1.2.55: *śastrī-śyāmā [devadatta] = knife-black [Dorothy]*.<sup>1</sup> This is to direct our attention to a linguistic phenomenon that is common among the Indo-European languages, even if it occupies different stages of univerbation in the members of the family.

Although the focus of the article is on the above-mentioned Sanskrit formation, an additional contribution of the investigation should be a general clarification of the relation between the appositional compounds and the copulative compounds – two types that are frequently mixed up in modern treatises on linguistics.

As *kdh.-rup.s* have been treated differently in ancient Indian treatises on grammar, and poetics respectively, a reconstruction of these diverging approaches may have, besides its historical importance, a valuable impact on the general research into the nature of compounds.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Precisely speaking, the English rendering *Mack the knife* rather occupies the intermediate stage between the appositional phrase *Mack, the/a knife* and the obvious appositional compound in German *Mackie Messer*. Note that English appositional compounds betray a great variety of graphic representations – parallel to *Mack the knife* we come across expressions like *Eric Slowhand Clapton* which is closer to typical compounded appellatives like *ghostwriter/ghost-writer/ ghost writer*. On this vid. Guevara/Scalise 2009: 102: “[...] compounds are the morphological constructions which are closest to syntactic constructions, to the point that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between compounds and phrases.”

<sup>2</sup> Of course concepts covered by compounds may vary from language to language as demonstrated by the fuzzy transitions from compounds to phrases in the above-mentioned examples, but as Pius ten Hacken argues in 2013: 99 with a view to a translational theory: “It may seem attractive to define compounding on a language-specific basis, because compounds in the same language have more properties in common. They constitute a more homogeneous class, so that it is easier to find criteria that distinguish them. [...], but taking into account other languages may reduce the arbitrariness of the selection of criteria.”

# 1 The problem of compound typology in Western treatises on morphology

## 1.1 Appositional compounds

In the context of Western treatises on morphology, the term “*karmadhāraya*” has received different explanations; in some cases it is interpreted as a determinative one-head compound (henceforth cmp.) as in *blackbird* or *manchild*, and in other – especially of the structure noun + noun (henceforth [N + N]<sub>N</sub>) as in *love-hate* – it is considered a subtype of the copulative, a double-head, type which includes also the *dvandva* (henceforth dv.) -cmp.s.<sup>3</sup> As a consequence, obvious cases of [N + N]<sub>N</sub>-kdh.s have been frequently interpreted as dv.s.<sup>4</sup>

## 1.2 Copulative vs. appositional compounds

In general, the above-mentioned examples with a structure [N + N]<sub>N</sub> are perceived as syntactically coordinated appositional pairs of nouns, but as they share the feature of coordination with the type of dv.s, they are more often than not confused with them and wrongly subsumed under their category.<sup>5</sup> Thus, clear cases of kdh.s like *earl-bishop*, *washer-dryer*, etc. are dealt with, as if bearing the same referential features like proper dv.s, cf. *Austria-Hungary* or *red-white-blue*, etc.<sup>6</sup>

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3 For several strategies of presentation vid. Scalise/Bisetto 2009: 38–52. Scalise and Bisetto base their own analysis on the data of the MorboComp project, a data base of cmp.s under development at the Department of Foreign Languages in Bologna. Surprisingly, Sanskrit is not included among the languages tested in the MorboComp/CompoNet projects, vid. Scalise/Bisetto 2009: 35, FN 1.

4 Cf. Booij 2007: 81; Katamba/Stonham 2006: 333; Fabb 1998: 67; Olsen 2000: 317.

5 Fabb 1998: 67: “There is a third kind of compound, where there is some reason to think of both words as equally sharing head-like characteristics, as in *student-prince* (both a student and a prince); these are called ‘appositional’ or ‘co-ordinate’ or ‘dvandva’ (the Sanskrit name) compounds.”

6 Booij 2007: 81: “Copulative compounds also occur in European languages, as illustrated by the following words:

(9) German Österreich-Ungarn ‘Austria and Hungary’  
 Fürstbischof ‘prince and bishop’  
 English blue-green, washer-dryer  
 Dutch rood-wit-blauw ‘red-white-blue’”.

Bauer deals explicitly with the category of the *kdhs* and supplies an adequate identificational approach, but he too points out the difficulties in differentiating between the two types.<sup>7</sup>

Kastovsky who relies for the Sanskrit material on Hermann Jacobi distinguishes the *kdh.-cmp.s* from the *dv.s* on the basis of a diachronic approach, but is not clear enough on the specific features of the *kdhs* among the general determinative *tatpuruṣa* (henceforth *tatp.*) -*cmp.s*, thus giving a clear genitive *tatp.*, i. e. a *house-door*, as a *kdh.-example*.<sup>8</sup>

In their informative article on German appositional *cmp.s* from 1992 Breindl and Thurair misleadingly use the term copulative and argue that on morpho-syntactic and semantic criteria German copulative *cmp.s* should be integrated in the group of the determinatives. Apparently both authors overlook the fact that the *kdhs* have been identified as determinatives in the original typology. Moreover, while they discuss the *dv.s* they are seemingly unaware of the *kdhs* altogether. Contrary to its prolific status in Sanskrit word formation, the type *dv.* is not as widespread in the languages under consideration here where in the most cases it forms the modifying part of a dependent determinative *cmp.* In examples like *mother-child bonding* or *mind-body problem* only the first part *mother-child<sup>o</sup>* resp. *mind-body<sup>o</sup>* is a genuine *dv.*, but it does not occur independently. Even occasional real *dv.s* like *G. Schneeregen* (= E. *snow-rain*, i. e. *sleet*) lack the most crucial feature of Sanskrit *dv.s*: their non-singular suffix which marks the aggregation of several individual items in the *cmp.* Characteristically, copulative adjectives like *red-white-blue* lack the plural marker either which is probably due to their quasi exocentric bias towards the related entity. In the spirit of Patañjali's analysis one could question, whether these three adjectives refer to three different entities, i. e. particulars of redness, whiteness and blueness resp., or to just one entity that is red, white, and blue simultaneously. There are however blends – mostly of surnames – which are indicated as plurals through the predicate, e. g. “*Brangelina*” [= Brad and Angelina] spend £1 million

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<sup>7</sup> Bauer 2001: 699: “Despite an apparently clear distinction between appositional *kdh.-cmp.s* and *dv.*, the two are frequently (and understandably) confused [...].” Unfortunately, even Bauer who uses the Sanskrit vocabulary extensively, misunderstands the typology sometimes, vid. Bauer in his most recent book on compounding 2017: § 4.3, p. 65: “The example *yellowtail* [a type of fish which has a yellow tail] is a noun, but some *bahuvrihi* compounds are adjectives.” In fact all *bahuvrīhi*-s are considered adjectives as they are attributed to their external qualificands. This is obvious in Sanskrit, but it is obscured by the circumstance that in modern languages *bahuvrīhi*-s are mostly – and not seldom metaphorically – nominalised, cf. G. Blaubart; E. *bluebeard*, It. *barbablù*.

<sup>8</sup> Kastovsky 2009: 332: “(2) *Karmadhāraya* (also called determinative compounds), e. g. En. *blackbird*, *girlfriend*, *house-door*;”.

on Banksy work ... ”.<sup>9</sup> Equally “*Billary* [= Bill and Hillary] – they still run the Democrat Party”,<sup>10</sup> the latter, however, viewed as a single concept when rhetorically exaggerated: “If Billary takes the White House”.<sup>11</sup> These blends of surnames come closest to the original dv.s in Sanskrit which can encompass more than two members under the sole condition that they are coordinated, to quote just one example from the *Bhagavadgītā* 1.13: “*pañava-ānaka-gomukhāḥ (sahasaiva abhyahanyanta)* = *Cymbal-drum-trumpet-s (were sounded at once)*”.<sup>12</sup>

For conventional pairs the traditional Sanskrit grammar provides an additional dv.-type, the *saṃhāra*-dv. which occurs as a neutral singular entity. Hence it may be reasonable to interpret *mother-child*<sup>o</sup> and *mind-body*<sup>o</sup> in the above-mentioned determinative cmp.s as subordinate *saṃhāra*-dv.s.

Other strong candidates for the status of independent dv.s in modern Western languages are all compounded numerals,<sup>13</sup> e. g. *twenty-seven*, *thirty-three*, etc., especially paralleled by variants where even the conjunction “and” is retained as in G. *siebenundzwanzig*, *dreiunddreißig*, etc. Conspicuously, those have not been examined in morphological treatises on compounding.

From all of the above-mentioned examples, it should become clear that, besides morphological markers like non-singular (i. e. dual or plural) suffixes and syntactic coordination, semantic considerations should be also taken into account before the cmp.’s type can be adequately defined. It is important to highlight one essential point about the semantics of dv.s: in all cases they refer to extensionally distinct entities. Once this is grasped, examples like G. *Fürstbischof* (= E. *Earl-bishop*), G. *Hosenrock* (= E. *pant skirt*), G. *Kindfrau* (= E. *child-woman*, i. e. *nymphet* or *lolita*), etc., cannot be counted under the division of dv.s as they have just one extensional meaning.

There are, however, some cases where a cmp. may be analysed on pragmatic criteria as either dv. or kdh. involving a specific semantic

<sup>9</sup> Cf. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-487230/Brangelina-spend-1-million-Banksy-work-contemporary-art-auction-London.html> (18.09.2017).

<sup>10</sup> Cf. <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Billary.>, <http://www.independent.co.uk/world/if-billary-takes-the-white-house-a7091186.html> (18.09.2017).

<sup>11</sup> Cf. <http://www.independent.co.uk/world/if-billary-takes-the-white-house-a7091186.html> (18.09.2017). It is probably this second example which is responsible for a diverging – and in my view erroneous – classification of the cmp. in Olsen 2000: 312, FN 5: “[...] *Billary* does not refer to two people any more than e. g. *brunch* refers to two meals.”

<sup>12</sup> Vid. Sargeant 1994: 51. Note that the pl.-marker denotes only the cmp., thus suppressing the actual number of the members which can be represented with a single item each.

<sup>13</sup> Whitney mentions the numerals under the copulative cmp.s in his Sanskrit Grammar under § 1261. For a diverging opinion on Sanskrit numerals vid. Aklujkar 1992: 134, FN 11. Whether cmp.s of numerals are to be considered dv.s or kdh.s should depend on the underlying theory of natural numbers. For the semantic of numerals vid. Ionin/Matushansky 2004.

interpretation: e. g. *love-hate*<sup>o</sup> in the phrase *love-hate relationship* may be either a dv., if the phenomenon described is viewed as an alternation of controversial feelings, or a kdh., if it is felt as one indistinctive ambiguous emotion.<sup>14</sup>

The ambiguity about the appositional cmp.s in general has generated a distortion even in the attempt to understand the original Sanskrit typology. Thus, the misunderstanding of the dv.-concept and the ignorance about the kdh.-concept has led to misleading views on the nature of composition in Sanskrit. Olsen 2000: 302 gives the impression that Sanskrit has no scope for coordinated reference to one and the same individual, i. e. apparently the formation kdh. is not recognised at all.<sup>15</sup> Moreover, in the analysis of Sanskrit copulatives there is no clear demarcation between appositive coordination vs. asyndetic coordination which might be considered as precursors of kdh.s vs. dv.s.<sup>16</sup>

### 1.3 Appositional compounds in Western treatises on Sanskrit grammar

Unfortunately, the above-mentioned misconceptions might partly go back to earlier treatises on Sanskrit grammar written by Western scholars. So, it is Whitney's Sanskrit grammar, a reference work often quoted by Western scholars (e. g. Bauer, Olsen) which treats the kdh.s – especially of the type  $[N+N]_N$  – rather briefly, thus implying that it is not always easy to differentiate the appositional cmp.s from the determinative tatp.-cmp.s, of which the appositional form a part. Particularly misleading for non-Sanskritists is the indication that the first part of a  $[N+N]_N$ -kdh. functions “with a quasi-

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<sup>14</sup> Bauer 2001: 700 also points out this ambiguity: “[...] it can be difficult to determine the semantics: is a *bitter-sweet scent* a scent which is defined by being at the intersection of ‘bitter’ and ‘sweet’, or one defined by the union of ‘bitter’ and ‘sweet’?”

<sup>15</sup> Olsen 2000: 302: “[...] we find that English and German copulatives always denote one individual unless licensed by a specific head. [...] As morphological objects they are lexical units that must pick out an ontologically coherent individual within one of our systems of individuals. The plural denotation of the copulatives in Sanskrit can be explained, on the other hand, by their non-morphological mode of concatenation which has no provision for a singular stem form [...].”

<sup>16</sup> Olsen 2000: 304, 314, FN 17. In fact, Sanskrit dv.s appear to be purely asyndetic, the difference between the underlying phrase and the compound being merely the dropping of the inflectional markers for all constituents of the compound but the last one: *plakṣaḥ nyagrodhaś* [ca] vs. *plakṣa-nyagrodhau* ad P. 2.2.34 = *ficus infectoria* m. sg. [and] *ficus indica* m. sg. vs. \**ficus infectoria-ficus indica-s* m. du. This demarcation of genuine dv.s as non-singulars does not appear in the Western examples except for the blends considered above.

adjective value" (Whitney 1924: § 1280d) with reference to the right-hand head.<sup>17</sup> The kdh.s are considered a subtype of the tatp.s and in tatp.s, the left-hand element typically functions as a modifier of the right-hand head, so it is probably this circumstance which is responsible for Whitney's note.

A very exhaustive and informative exposition of the kdh.s is available in Aklujkar 1992: § 33.6. It commences, however, with a similar definition as Whitney's: "The nom[inative] tat[puruṣa] or tat[puruṣa] in which the first member is an adj[ective] or functions like an adj[ective] is known as karma-dhāraya or descriptive determinative c[ompoun]d. [...]." In my opinion this approach lumps cases like *nīlotpala* (= E. *blue lotus*, Afr. *bloublom*, *blouwaterblom*) and *mukha-padma* (= E. *face lotus*, G. *Gesichtlotus* or *Lotusgesicht*) together which on closer examination prove to have different mechanisms of reference.<sup>18</sup>

A more recent reference work by Tubb and Boose elucidates the rather obscure typology of Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī by supporting the grammar rules with examples from commentaries on Sanskrit classics. The authors, particularly Tubb in the chapters on nominal composition, explain the definition *sūtra* of the kdh.s via syntactic rendering of the term *sāmānādhikarana*: "Karmadhārayas (P 2.1.49 – 2.1.72; 'descriptive compounds', Whitney 1279–1291) are *tatpuruṣa* compounds in which the two members appear in grammatical apposition in the analysis".<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, they refer throughout the whole passage to the referential mechanism of *sāmānādhikaranya* too: "[kdhs] are more commonly analyzed with the fuller formula that uses a pronoun to make it clear that both members refer to the same thing [...]" This explanation is probably due to the influence of the analytic method of the commentators who gloss a kdh. *xy* with a standard formula Skt. *x ca tat y ca = this is both x and y*.<sup>20</sup> Tubb and Boose pay a special attention to the kdh.s with underlying simile and to those with underlying metaphor. While their explanation of the first group is based on Pāṇini's *sūtra*s 1.55.2 and 1.55.3, it is difficult for me to see by which criteria the authors

<sup>17</sup> This note of Whitney is probably responsible for the misleading translations of several kdh.s in Zimmer 1980: § 1280b: *rāja-yakṣma* = *king-desease* (Whitney 1924: 1280d), but *königliche Krankheit*, *rāja-danta* = *king-tooth*, but *königlicher Zahn* (Zimmer 1980: § 1280b). Formally, these appositional cmp.s cannot be distinguished from the equivalent determinatives, therefore the correct interpretation depends heavily on the context. For *rāja-yakṣma* interpreted unequivocally as kdh. vid. Mallinātha on Māgha's Śiśupālavadha 2.96 (Māgha 1961): *rājā sa eva yakṣmeti vā*. For *rāja-danta* interpreted as *śaṣṭhī-tatpuruṣa*, i. e. *king of teeth* vid. P. 2.2.31.

<sup>18</sup> Vid. Aklujkar 1992: § 33.6.

<sup>19</sup> Vid. Tubb/Boose 2007: § 1.54, p. 102.

<sup>20</sup> Vid. Tubb/Boose 2007: § 1.54.1, p. 103.

identify the *rūpaka*-cmp.s as they are not explicitly dealt with in the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*.<sup>21</sup>

In order to clarify this point, it now appears reasonable to turn to the original discussion on *kdh.s* in the primary sources. As the topic is complex and extensive it deserves a separate close investigation in all of its facets; here I will focus only on the subcategory of simile-*kdh.s* and metaphoric *kdh.s* which are based on the former.

## 2 Metaphoric appositional cmp.s, i. e. *kdh.-rup.s*, from the perspective of Sanskrit traditional grammar (*vyākaraṇa*)

At the very beginning of this discussion, it should be borne in mind that the theoretical foundation of the *kdh.-cmp.s* is somewhat cryptic in Pāṇini's *Aṣṭādhyāyī* (Pāṇini 1988). The definition *sūtra* of the *kdh.s* – 1.2.42 *tatpuruṣaḥ samānādhikaraṇaḥ karmadhārayaḥ* – is placed before the section properly dealing with *cmp.s* which starts with 2.1.3 *prāk kaṭārāt samāsaḥ*. In 1.2.42, the *kdh.s* are defined as determinative *cmp.s*, i. e. *tatp.s*, with the significant peculiarity that the members of the *cmp.* stay in congruent relation.<sup>22</sup> The technical term *samānādhikaraṇa* can have different implications; while *samāna* itself means *same* or *equal*, *adhikaraṇa* can mean (*syntactic*) *relation* as implied by case suffixes, or *reference*, i. e. the thing-meant or the extension. From this perspective the *sūtra* can be interpreted under syntactic or under semantic premisses, either as: “an appositional *cmp.* is a determinative *cmp.* with syntactically equal [parts]”, or as: “an appositional *cmp.* is a determinative *cmp.* with the same reference [of its parts]”, i. e. whose parts refer to the same object. The apparent ambiguity of the term *samānādhikaraṇa* might be intentional in the strict economy of the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*, because its double meaning serves two important purposes: as a marker of a coordinate syntactic relation it distinguishes the *kdh.s* from the *tatp.s*, the latest being subordinate, and as an indicator of a

<sup>21</sup> Vid. Tubb/Boose 2007: § 1.55.3, p. 108. Of course, the analysis is based on the commentaries of poems, but a question still persists, whether the commentators have not been influenced more by the poetic theories than by the classical grammar.

<sup>22</sup> Vid. Apte 1998: 62, under the lemma *adhikaraṇa*: “[...] -3 (In gram.) [...] *tatpuruṣaḥ samānādhikaraṇaḥ karmadhārayaḥ* P. I. 2, 42 having the members (of the compound) in the same relation or apposition [...]”

single reference it distinguishes the kdh.s from the dv.s, the latest being always multi-referential.<sup>23</sup>

This particular ability of the kdh.s to combine two concepts in one referent is crucial for our focus as metaphors too relate two predicates to one and the same referent, i. e. a *candra-mukha* is an object which is referred to both as a *moon* and a *face*. The *Aṣṭādhyāyī* does not delve into the theory of metaphor as the issue is genuinely a semantic one, while the grammar – more precisely the morphology – cannot teach semantics.<sup>24</sup> But Pāṇini picks up the matter exactly at that point where it can be handled in the context of word formation. Two sūtra.s – P. 2.1.55 *upamānāni sāmānyavacanaiḥ* and P. 2.1.56 *upamitām vyāghrādibhiḥ sāmānyāprayoge* – refer to the formation of kdh.-cmp.s with an underlying simile (*upamā*). Typically, a simile is described as consisting of a subject of comparison (*upamita/upameya*), a standard of comparison (*upamāna*), an expression of the common quality (*sāmānyavacana*) and a particle of comparison (*iva*). The above-mentioned sūtra.s enable us to form a kdh.-cmp. from the standard of comparison and the common quality, or from the subject and the standard of comparison, while the simile marker *iva* gets lost due to the contraction of the cmp. Patañjali supplies the first variety with the example *śastrī-śyāmā* (=knife-black) and the second one with *puruṣa-vyāghra* (=man-tiger). As a result of the *sāmānādhikaranya* condition, we get in the analysis of the first example the sentence *śastrī devadattā, śyāmā devadattā*, but we are not able to derive the meaning of the simile and to detect the common quality between the parts of the apposition *Dorothy is a knife, is black*.<sup>25</sup> One way out of this difficulty might be to isolate the cmp., so that both *śastrī* and *śyāmā* refer to the extension of *śastrī*, while the whole cmp. relates a posteriori to the external head *devadattā*. This seems to be the position of Kayaṭa who corroborates his analysis with the example *aśva-karṇa*. As a tatp.

<sup>23</sup> Ambiguity of technical terms is not uncommon in Sanskrit grammar or poetics, the different meanings of the very notion ‘meaning’, i. e. *artha*, being a paradigmatic example. It seems, however, that throughout the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*, Pāṇini himself uses the term *adhikarāṇa* for the referent which is corroborated by the *Kāśikāvṛtti* on P. 1.2.42: *Adhikarāṇa-śabdo’bhidheya-vācī*.

<sup>24</sup> On different classical approaches to the relation between a word and the entity it denotes vid. the vast discussion of Kātyāyana’s *vārttika siddhe śabdārthasambandhe lokataḥ* in Joshi and Roodbergen 1986: Dev. 20–25. Both authors summarise the conclusions in the translation of these passages: “The relation between the things-meant and the words used to refer to them lies outside the domain of grammar.” Joshi/Roodbergen 1986: 134.

<sup>25</sup> The arguments and counterarguments in the analysis of the example are copiously presented and commented to by Joshi and Roodbergen 1971: 87–136. Without abstaining from pointing out the controversies and tacit assumptions in a discussion which encompasses Kātyāyana’s, Patañjali’s, Kayaṭa’s and Nāgeśabhaṭṭa’s positions, both authors still remain faithful to Patañjali’s spirit and emphasise his opinion.

it can mean *horse ear*, but by convention based on similarity between leaves and horse ears it is the name of a particular tree. However, Kayaṭa's proposal is rejected because his analysis is based on a condition called *anyapadārtha*, i. e. a meaning connected with another word which is prescribed for *bahuvrīhi*-s and not for kdh.s.<sup>26</sup> In order to avoid this and other theoretical problems Patañjali remains faithful to P. 1.2.42 and states that even an unspecified quality may be understood through convention as in the expression *candra-mukhī devadattā* (= *moon-faced Dorothy*) where the standard of comparison *moon* may supply the subject of comparison *face* with various qualities, but actually conveys only the conventional meaning *sweet looking* = *priya-darśana*.<sup>27</sup>

On closer examination both suggestions – to interpret *śastrīśyāmā* either in the spirit of *aśvakarṇa*, or of *candramukhī* – open the door for a metaphoric approach towards the example under P. 2.1.55. First, the contraction of the cmp. results in the loss of the comparison marker, and second, the common quality is understood only implicitly. Both results are typical for a metaphor where the underlying comparison and the common quality are grasped implicitly, hence here at least, we can assume a certain potential for detecting metaphors in the scope of P. 2.1.55.

This is even more the case in P. 2.1.56 – *upamitam vyāghrādibhiḥ sāmānyāprayoge* – which formulates the rule for forming a cmp. from the subject and the standard of comparison. In P. 2.1.55 the tertium comparationis is part of the cmp. as implied by the definition, although it is difficult to establish the comparison under the restriction of the *sāmānādhikaranya* condition of P. 1.2.42., but in P. 2.1.56 the tertium comparationis is prohibited (= *sāmānya-aprayoga*). Contrary to our expectations, the cmp. *puruṣa-vyāghra* cannot be derived from *puruṣo vyāghra iva śūrah*, because in this case *śūra* relates to both *puruṣa* and *vyāghra* and thus runs against the *sāmānādhikaranya* condition. The solution to this problem is already suggested by P. 2.1.55 – both members must refer to one entity, i. e. *puruṣa*, while the common quality remains unspecified. As a matter of fact, this is the reference procedure of a metaphor and as a consequence of this provision, the wording of P. 2.1.56 could be interpreted as an inverted definition of a *rūpaka*, where instead of the usual condition of ignoring the difference, rather suppressing the commonness is

26 Cf. Joshi/Roodbergen 1971: Dev. 25 and their comment in the translation of the passage in Joshi/Roodbergen 1971: 102. A question still remains valid whether adjective kdh.s like *śastrīśyāmā* are not subjected to the principle *anyapadārtha*.

27 *anirdiśyamānasyāpi guṇasya bhavati loke sampratyayah / tad yathā / candra-mukhī devadatteti bahavaś candre guṇā yā cāsau priya-darśanatā sā gamyate /*, quoted after Joshi/Roodbergen 1971: Dev. 26.

stated. In both cases, two otherwise independent concepts are linked to each other by an encompassing phrase. Notwithstanding this possible implication of 2.1.56, Patañjali interprets the example *puruṣa-vyāghra* not as a metaphor by *puruṣa eva vyāghrah*, but as a simile, i. e. *puruṣo'yam vyāghra iva*. In a similar manner, the Kāśikā analyses well-known examples such as *mukha-padma*, *mukha-kamala*, *kara-kisalaya* as similes, irrespective of their rendering in poetics as metaphors.<sup>28</sup>

Now, what are the conclusions we can draw from the discussion of P. 2.1.55 and P. 2.1.56? The topic of the *sūtra*.s is kdh.-cmp.s based on comparison, which is evident through the defining terms *upamāna* and *upamitam*. Through the loss of the comparison marker *iva*, the cmp.s thus generated cannot be clearly identified as *upamā*.s, but rather look like *rūpaka*.s. The analysis in the commentaries supports this observation, because the *sāmānādhikaranya* condition requires a common reference, while the inherent comparison can be only implicitly traced through context or usage. It seems also that Patañjali understands the *sāmānādhikaranya* condition primarily as a reference relation, so one wonders whether this shouldn't be acknowledged as a semantic approach. The reservations of grammatical instruction towards semantics should then probably be reinterpreted with reference to denotation only and not generally to all issues of meaning. In fact, Pāṇini utilises secondary denotation in all *sūtra*.s concerning contempt (= *kṣepe*),<sup>29</sup> but nowhere does he go deeper into the nature and method of application of this linguistic function nor is the term *rūpaka* mentioned in connection with the *sūtra*.s on comparison.<sup>30</sup> At the end of the discussion by the grammarians, we are left with no safe procedure to distinguish whether a comparison or a metaphor is underlying a kdh.-cmp. of the type

28 Kāśikāvṛtti ad P. 2.1.56 (1965: 75): *puruṣo'yam vyāghra iva puruṣah vyāghrah* // *puruṣa-siñhaḥ/ [...] vyāghra / siñha / ṛkṣa / ṛṣabha / candana / ṛkṣa / ṛṣa / varāha / hastin / kuñjara / ruru / prṣata / puṇḍarīka / balāhaka / ākṛti-gaṇaś cāyam / tenedam api bhavati - mukha-padmaṁ, mukha-kamalaṁ, kara-kisalayaṁ, pārthiva-candraḥ ity evam-ādi//.*

29 Such as under P. 2.1.26; 42, i. e. *tīrtha-dhvāṅkṣa*, *tīrtha-kāka* (= [sacred-bathing-place]-crow) which metaphorically means a very greedy person.

30 Interestingly, the term is introduced by the editors Joshi and Roodbergen: "Patañjali does not give the literal meaning of the cp. (i. e. the sense of *rūpaka*: 'metaphor'), but the implied meaning (i. e. the sense of *upamānopameyabhāva*). It has already been pointed out in the case of *śastrīśyāmā devadattā*, that, from the grammatical point of view, the expression must be taken as *rūpaka*: 'the man is a tiger'". Joshi/Roodbergen 1971: 132. For a position altogether negative with reference to the acceptance of *rūpaka* in early *vyākaraṇa* cf. Bhattacharya 1982: 61: "[...] in the earlier literature there was no separate existence of *rūpaka* apart from *upamā* and so there was no provision for *rūpaka-karmadhāraya* in Pāṇini. Kātyāyana and Patañjali did not make any specific mention of *rūpaka-samāsa*".

*puruṣa-vyāghra* or *mukha-padma*, although the latter is widely discussed and analysed in treatises on poetics.<sup>31</sup>

Before we turn now to the sources of the *alaṅkāra-śāstra* on the kdh.-rup.s, let us consider – rather speculatively – one further Pāṇinian device which could give us an additional clue for interpreting the [N + N]<sub>N</sub>-cmp.s as metaphors.

The issue of predominance of meaning in the cmp. is regulated by Pāṇini through the notion of *upasarjana*. This technical term refers to the subordinate constituent or to the modifier in the cmp., and its distribution is defined by P. 1.2.43 *prathamā-nirdiṣṭam samāsa upasarjanam*, which refers to the indication of the modifier by the rules of compounding, and by P.2.2.30 *upasarjanam pūrvam*, which determines the placement of the modifier in the initial position. Both rules establish the right-hand constituent as a head in *puruṣa-vyāghra*, *mukha-padma*, *mukha-kamala*, etc. to which the left-hand constituent adds a further qualification. The *upasarjana* condition is easier understood in examples of dependent determinatives, where the subordination of the first element to the second seems trivial, i. e. *rāja*<sup>o</sup> in *rāja-puruṣa* does not refer to a king, but modifies in a certain manner the meaning of the principle (= *pradhāna*) constituent *puruṣa*. Patañjali does not accept the impact of the *upasarjana* rules on the kdh. *puruṣa-vyāghra*, etc. He argues that in this case *upasarjana* should be taken in its non-technical sense, so that *puruṣa*<sup>o</sup>, despite being referred as a nominative by the formation rule P. 2.1.56 (i. e. *upamitam*) and in spite of its initial position in the cmp., still remains the predominant element. While it is not exactly clear how to apply the rule of *upasarjana* in kdh.s where both nouns stay in apposition, it is only logical that in metaphoric cmp.s – where the topic shifts from the direct denotation to the secondary, i. e. figurative one – it is precisely the figurative and not the direct noun which should occupy the right-hand position given the prevailing right-headedness of Sanskrit cmp.s.<sup>32</sup> On

<sup>31</sup> For the analysis of a famous example vid. Mallinātha on Kālidāsa's Meghadūta (Kālidāsa 1993): *megha eva dūtah megha-dūtah* = the cloud exclusively is a messenger / it is the cloud, who is a messenger by which the complete identification of the subject with the standard of comparison is achieved.

<sup>32</sup> On the other hand, the order is obviously reversed in the above-mentioned *rāja-yakṣma*, *rāja-danta*, etc., where the right-hand element is the actual one, while the initial element is metaphoric. For a similar distribution of the figurative vs. non-figurative denotation vid. popular cmp.s like *car'-kolokol* (Russ.) = king-bell, *car'-puška* = king-cannon. It may be reasonable in this case to look for a degree of formalisation as in frozen metaphors vs. fresh poetic creations. So in German, where right-headedness is also prevailing, idiosyncratic poetic metaphors seem to place the metaphoric constituent on the right, while conventional metaphoric cmp.s have it on the left, cf. Kalif Storch = the Caliph Storck from Wilhelm Hauff's literary fairy tale "How the Caliph became a Storck" vs. Froschkönig = the frog king in a folk tale. In this context it may be also is advisable to distinguish between the formal, i. e. morphological, and the semantic head. Vid. Guevara/Scalise 2009: 112, 113.

this criterion, <sup>o</sup>vyāghra and not *puruṣa*<sup>o</sup> should be considered predominant. As a matter of fact, this view resembles to a large extent the concept of *rūpaka* in the treatises on poetics.

### 3 Kdh.-rup.s from the perspective of Sanskrit traditional poetics (*alaṅkāra-śāstra*)

The field of implicit or metaphorical meaning is very extensive and has been studied from various points of view in different branches of Sanskrit scholastic thought. Even the smaller topic of the trope *rūpaka* has been examined in detail by numerous authors. For the purpose of the present paper, only a kind of a model can be offered which will attempt – in spite of the inevitable simplification – to cover the most salient features of the trope. Moreover, in accordance with the subject matter of the article only the compounded *rūpaka* will be considered.

In his survey on the history of *rūpaka* (henceforth rup.) Biswanath Bhattacharya has shown that the trope has been an object of study and enumeration of subtypes from the very beginning of *alaṅkāra-śāstra*.<sup>33</sup> Bharata mentions it as one of his four principal *alaṅkāra*s along with *upamā* (henceforth up.), *dīpaka* and *yamaka*. Notwithstanding different shades of meaning and taxonomies throughout the history of the trope, the essential relation to up. remains unequivocal. The early authors on poetics seem to share the inclination of the grammarians in emphasising the comparison aspect of rup., thus Daṇḍin, while introducing rup. in *Kāvyādarśa*, 2.66 (Daṇḍin 1924), states that it is nothing else than up.: *upamaiva tirobhuta-bhedā rūpakam ucyate/ = it is simile with a suppressed difference which is called rūpaka*. Kdh.-examples illustrate the compounded, i. e. *samasta*-type of the trope: *bāhu-latā* (= an arm-a creeper), *pāṇi-padma* (= a hand-a lotus), *carāṇa-pallava* = (a foot-a sprout). However, the emphasis on the simile through the particle *eva* in the definition creates an uncertainty whether the examples should be interpreted as up.s or as rup.s<sup>34</sup> to such a degree that some

<sup>33</sup> Cf. B. Bhattacharya 1982 where the author presents a vast number of records on rup., not only – as stated in the title – derived from sources on poetry, but from the grammar tradition too.

<sup>34</sup> That this uncertainty persists throughout the centuries is visible in standard Skt. dictionaries such as Apte's, Monier-Williams' or Böhtlingk's. Apte in 1998: 1165 renders *bāhu-latā*, first, as a simile, and second, as a right-head cmp. in contrast to the analysis of *puruṣa-vyāghra*: *bāhu-latā* = *an arm-like creeper*, however cf. *bāhu-danḍa* = *a long, staff-like arm* which is in agreement with *puruṣa-vyāghra*. Apte does not list *pāṇi-padma*, but *pāṇi-pallava* as *a sprout-like hand or the fingers*; similarly, all kdh.s with *carāṇa* in initial position are resolved as similes: <sup>o</sup>aravindam, <sup>o</sup>kamalam, <sup>o</sup>padmam = *a lotus-like foot*. Monier-Williams in 1976: 730 is moving slightly

commentators need additional support via context to decide whether *bāhu-latā* is *an arm-like creeper*, or *a creeper-like arm*, or *an arm-creeper*, or *a creeper-arm*.<sup>35</sup> In a very recent study on Kashmiri poetics Yigal Bronner points out these diverging tendencies in the treatment of kdh.-cmp.s: while Vāmana denies the underlying rup. in formations such as *candra-mukha*, Udbhaṭa introduces rup. in the analysis of the type *mayūra-vyāmsaka*.<sup>36</sup> The problems of analysis here revolve around the estimation of identity between the subject and the standard of comparison and mirror the successive stages of development from equation of qualities *dharmasāmya* up to the full identification of the two entities *sāyujya*. Bhattacharya describes these with the corresponding terms *tādrūpya* and *tādātmya* and points out that up to Appayya Dīkṣita both terms were used without sharp discrimination and sometimes even synonymously.<sup>37</sup> However, the difficulties in theoretically grasping the phenomenon which probably arose from a certain ontological attitude towards language did not prevent poets from making full use of kdh.-rup. Once initiated, the mechanism of superimposition of further images could be processed until a completely new fictitious scenery appeared before the eyes of the responsive connoisseur: *your eye-brow, a dancer performs a dance-a charming play on the lotus-stage, [your] face = mukha-parikaja-raṅge’sminn bhrū-latā-nartakī tava līlā-nṛttam karoti* as in Daṇḍin’s *Kāvyādarśa* 2.93 (Daṇḍin 1924). Bronner calls this ‘*rūpaka*’s multilayered ornamental process’ and quotes a beautiful illustration from Udbhaṭa’s *Kāvyālamkārasārasamgraha* 1.13, example No. 11:

jyotsnā’mbune’ndu-kumbhena tārā-kusuma-śāritam /  
kramaśo rātri-kanyābhir vyomo’dyānam asicyata //  
Pouring moonlight-spray  
from their Luna-jar,

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towards rup. with *bāhu-latā* translated as *an arm (lithe as a) creeper* and Böhtlingk in 1990: 82 is very cautious to exemplify even the psycho-linguistic undercurrent behind the metaphoric turn in rendering *bāhu-latā* as *der als Ranke gedachte Arm*.

35 In his *vyākhyā* to *Kāvyādarśa* Rangācārya Śāstri (Daṇḍin 1938) supplies Daṇḍin’s definition of rup. with another example *mukha-padma* and analyses this according to the context – in case the predicate refers to the *upameya*, the cmp. is a simile, if the predicate refers to the *upamāna*, the cmp. is a rup. This procedure must be older, because it can be found in Mammaṭa’s *Kāvyaprakāśa*.

36 Vid. Bronner 2016: 93–94: “[...] Vāmana [...] denied outright that *rūpaka* could even exist inside compounds [...] All this was to change with Udbhaṭa [...] it was also he who decisively cut the Gordian grammatical knot that tied *rūpaka* to compounds expressing similitude by identifying a different Pāṇinian noun-noun compound type, the *mayūra-vyāmsaka* or ‘picaroon-peacock’ variety, as its locus.” For the whole argument with various pros and cons cf. also Bhattacharya 1982: 60–61; 350–358.

37 Vid. Bhattacharya 1982: 37–38.

the night-maidens gradually  
watered the sky-garden,  
whose blossoms are stars.<sup>38</sup>

Mammaṭa comments on a similar example of a complex rup. (*samastavastu-viṣaya-rup.*) with reference to the interpretation of the cmp.s, first, as metaphors and, second, in favour of the fictive (= *aprakṛta* or *aprakaraṇika* or *aprastuta*) member of the cmp. (Mammaṭa 1965: 595):

jyotsnā-bhasma-cchuraṇa-dhavalā bibhratī tārakāsthī<sup>39</sup>  
ny-antar-dhāna-vyasana-rasikā rātri-kāpālikiyam /  
dvīpād dvīpam bhramati dadhatī candra-mudrā-kapāle  
nyastaṁ siddhāñjana-parimalam lāñchanasya cchalena// (Kāvyaprakāśa, 10.93 [421])

Here the main kdh. *rātri-kāpālikī* (= *night-female ascetic*) is analysed as rup., because the attribute *antar-dhāna-vyasana-rasikā* can refer only to a sentient individual, i. e. to the female ascetic, but not to the night > *this night – an ascetic [...], who likes to amuse herself by disappearing, roams from continent to continent [...]*. The authorities on poetic matters argue that the analysis is accomplished according to Pāṇini 2.1.72: *mayūra-vyāmsakādayaḥ*.<sup>40</sup> This *sūtra* actually introduces a list of irregularly formed (and rare) tatp.s, without giving any theoretical explanations for the formation of the listed cmp.s, where some of them are rather untypical for Sanskrit, e. g. the verbal cmp. *prehi-kardamā* = *mud-go-away*, a designation of a rite, in which no impurity is allowed. Here again, the impression arises that the grammar tradition (*vyākaraṇa*) does not make any provisions for the metaphoric cmp.s, with their inclusion in P. 2.1.72 being rather a construction of the authors of poetics.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Vid. Bronner 2016: 106 (my hyphenation of the Skt. cmp.s). Bronner discusses in detail the shortcuts of a translation into a language where the condensed images and particular puns of Sanskrit cannot be sufficiently conveyed, but this vers exemplifies an additional problem: it is more probable that *rātri-kanyāḥ* = *night-maidens* would be automatically understood as a tatp.-cmp. *maidens of night* than as the intended kdh.-cmp. *maidens who are nights or nights that are maidens*.

<sup>39</sup> For a detailed discussion of the argument vid. Kāvyaprakāśa of Mammaṭa with the Sanskrit Commentary Bālabodhinī by V. R. Jhalakikara (Mammaṭa 1965). A summary is found also in Gajendragadkar 1970: 287: “[...] the dissolution of the compound and consequently the figure are determined by some other word in the sentence [...]. Such decisive word [...] is *antar-dhāna-vyasana-rasikā* [which] is characteristic of the upamāna viz. *kāpālikī* [...]. Therefore, the compound must be so dissolved as to give prominence to *kāpālikī*. This is done by dissolving it as *rātrir eva kāpālikī*.”

<sup>40</sup> Cf. Bhattacharya 1982: 61: “It is only the ālaṅkārikas like Udbhaṭa, Hemacandra, Mallinātha, Nāgeśa, etc. that referred to the *mayūra-vyāmsakādi* group of anomalous tatpuruṣa-samāsa and made a compromise between the Ālaṅkāra-śāstra and grammar. Rūpaka-karmadhāraya is thus

We come across a similar suggestion in Kale (1988: § 221, Note 2, FN): if a kdh. has a predicate which is referring to the subject of comparison (*upameya*), thus emphasising the topic of the underlying sentence, the cmp. should be resolved as an up., i. e. *mukha-padmañ sahāsyam* (=the face-lotus smiles) > *mukham padmam iva* (=the face is like a lotus), where *sahāsyam* can refer directly only to *mukham*. If the kdh. has a predicate in the further context which can only indirectly refer to the subject, while directly referring to the standard of comparison, the cmp. should be resolved as rup., i. e. *mukha-padmañ vikasitam* (=the face-lotus blossoms) > *mukham eva padmam*.<sup>41</sup> In this case, the full identification of both subject and standard of comparison has taken place and the narrative is now focused on the figurative topic. Speculatively, we can interpret the last point as a licence to superimpose the non-actual qualities of the *upamāna* upon the *upameya*, thus introducing the latter into the fictional discourse of metaphor.

It is difficult to convey the suggestive and performative power of the compounded figure of identification in a language which lacks this kind of transformation mechanism. The vividness of imagery conveyed thus by speech acts reminds one of the enactment of poetical plots which may also be called *rūpaka*, and helps to understand why both visual and audible performance are put under the same heading of *kāvya* in the Sanskrit theory of poetic composition.

In contrast to the grammarians, the authors of poetics are interested in the examination of the semantic process through which the denotation of one constituent of the kdh. is superimposed (= *āropita*) on the denotation of the other constituent, which further leads to the substantial equivalence (*tādātmyatā*) of the two entities. This process of engulfment of the *upameya* by the *upamāna* establishes a multilayer context of reference which can hardly be handled with the means of any epistemologically biased attitude towards language. Quite in contrast to any claim of fundamental truth, the trope rup.<sup>42</sup> seems to function as a key for fictitious narratives which are not under the

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a creation of some later ālaṅkārikas in conformity with grammar." However, see again FN 19 above for *Kāśikāvṛtti* listing some well-known rups under P. 2.1.56.

<sup>41</sup> Kale's method of analysis must rely on older procedures, cf. FN 35 supra for the same analysis by Rangācārya Śāstri ad *Kāvyādarśa* 2.66.

<sup>42</sup> One famous specimen of Sanskrit *kāvya* illustrates this very well. In *Meghadūtam* Kālidāsa himself poses the question: *dhūma-jyotiḥ salila-marutāñ sañ-nipātaḥ kva meghaḥ / sañ-deśārthaḥ kva paṭukaranaiḥ prāṇibhiḥ prāpanīyaḥ /* – and makes the imaginary passage of the cloud-messenger only possible in the double key of a lovelorn daydream and a poem (Kālidāsa 1993).

command of ritually powerful language.<sup>43</sup> Confronted with *vyākaraṇa* whose occupation with correct and unambiguous speech with strong truth demands originates in the ritual, all kinds of deviating language usage are considered undesirable or at least problematic. For this reason the poetic efforts towards a polysemic discourse which is insensitive to claims of truth, are rather unpopular with the proponents of other linguistic views and have been often exposed to critical debates.<sup>44</sup>

## 4 Conclusion

The piece of research behind this paper has been sparked by a very modest initial interest in the nature and function of appositional  $[N + N]_N$ -cmp.s with underlying rup. – an interest that should be easily comprehended by anyone working in the field of Sanskrit poetry. The attempt to find support in the commentaries showed that there were no quick solutions available to seemingly unsophisticated formations such as *mukha-padma* or *chandra-mukha*. Often, commentators have built their strategies upon grammatical rules that were not transparent. The investigation of the contributions of the Pāṇinian grammarians left the impression that  $[N + N]_N$ -kdh.s were somehow tacitly perceived as rup.s, although theoretically defined as up.s. The sources on poetics presented variegated approaches – some faithful to the grammatical tradition, others inventive and insightful.

Apart from the Indian tradition, appositional compounds with the structure  $[N + N]_N$  have been a controversial subject in the Western treatises on morphology. As my interest in the topic has not been purely historic, there was an expectation from the very beginning that a better understanding of the Sanskrit material could facilitate the present-day discussion on compounding and dispel some misconceptions. An additional specific perspective on metaphoric reference gained by considering the strategies of Sanskrit classical poetics could offer a valuable contribution to the theory of fictional discourse.

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<sup>43</sup> Of course the figure of metaphoric identification is not the only one utilising the potential of figurative speech. The Sanskrit poetics offer through the notion of *dhvani* a full-fledged theory of fictional discourse which reaches far beyond the scope of a single figure of speech.

<sup>44</sup> For a detailed discussion of the non-epistemic nature of poetic speech against the background of Mīmāṃsā and Nyāya vid. Ānandavardhana in Dhvanyāloka 3.33 (Ānandavardhana 1974).

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