## Abstract 89

## The Common Linguistics Inheritance of Sanskrit between India and Japan

Ven. Kumburuwela Seelananda Thera<sup>1</sup>, Ven.Okkampitiye Yassassi Thera<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Classical Languages, University of Peradeniya seelanandakumburuwela@yahoo.com

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya

There is a connection between Sanskrit and Japanese from long ago regarding Buddhist Sanskrit manuscripts and other literary works. Usage of Indian script as sacred has an uninterrupted history in Japan. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to explore the common linguistic inheritance of India and Japan with Sanskrit. This study mainly focuses on the connection of Sanskrit alphabet with Japanese alphabet. Some words and language patterns are identical between Sanskrit and Japanese. Therefore, it is proved that Sanskrit language have influenced the development of Japanese language, though these two belong to separate different language families. Relevant secondary sources, involving Sanskrit and Japanese languages are referred for this study. To emphasize the final idea, it is supposed to conduct a comparative analysis in this study. Siddham script is the most useful evidence for this discussion. It became the style of writing favored by the Chinese and the Japanese Buddhists for writing mantras and *Dhāraīs*, which has remained in use till the present day. The great monk scholar  $K\bar{o}b\bar{o}$  Daishi was the first who began the study of Sanskrit letters known as Siddham in Japan. Thus, the Siddham scripts assisted to develop the Japanese alphabet. For instance, the Japanese alphabets Katagana and Hiragana are based in the Sanskrit sound sequence: a, i, u, e, o, ka, ki, ku etc. *Iroha* poem contains 47 letters and it is a free translation of a Buddhist poem composed in ancient India. That poem was taken from Mahayana parinirvāna sūtra. Japan Bandai was used in place of "yours truly" at the end of a letter. It is Sanskrit vande. Japanese word tsunami for drum is Sanskrit dundubhi. It can be mentioned that there was a common linguistic inheritance of Sanskrit between India and Japan according to the above facts.

**Key words**: Katagana, Hiragana, Iroha, Language, Script, Siddham, Dhāraīs,