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Dr. S Usha

Associate Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College (Autonomous), Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India

Sāmānādhikaranyam: Some perspectives

Dr. S Usha

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Abstract

Sāmānādhikaraṇyam (co-ordinate predication), which is fundamentally a grammatical concept, has come to attain significant attention from the Vedāntin-s. It is because there is a need for them to determine the meanings of the Śruti passages involving Sāmānādhikaraṇyam to establish their philosophy. While applying Sāmānādhikaraṇyam, it is evident that it got evolved in several ways in different schools of philosophy based on their needs. The present paper seeks to brief the concept as evolved in the various schools and to assess them.

Keyword: Sāmānādhikaranyam, grammar, schools of philosophy, śruti

Introduction

Sāmānādhikaraṇyam (co-ordinate predication) which is basically a grammatical concept has come to attain significant attention from the Vedāntin-s. It is because there is a necessity for them to determine the meanings of the Śruti passages. Involving Sāmānādhikaraṇyam to establish their philosophy. While applying this grammatical concept, it got evolved in several ways in different schools of philosophy, based on their needs.

The scriptures employ Sāmānādhikaranyam in statements which declare the identity between the world and Brahman, and the individual soul and Brahman.

Sāmānādhikaraṇyam in Vyākaraṇa School

The word सामानाधिकरण्यम् (Sāmānādhikaraṇyam) is used by Pāṇini in nine sutra-s of his Aṣṭādhyāy $\bar{\imath}^{[1]}$ of these, the sūtra-s in which the concept as such is explained, are given below with their commentaries.

- तत्पुरुषः समानाधिकरणः कर्मधारयः । ^[2]
- अधिकरणशब्दोऽभिधेयवाची । समानाधिकरणः = समानाभिधेयः । [3]
- युष्मद्यपपदेसमानाधिकरणेस्थानिन्यपि मध्यमः । ^[4]
- समानाधिकरणे इत्यनेन समानाभिधेय इति व्याचक्षाणोऽयमधिकरणशब्दोऽभिधेयवचनः सूत्र उपात्त इति दर्शयति । ^[5]
- पूर्वकालैकसर्वजरत्पुराणनवकेवलाः समानाधिकरणेन ॥ [6]
- भिन्नप्रवृत्तिनिमित्तस्य शब्दस्य एकस्मिन्नर्थे वृत्तिः- सामानाधिकरण्यम् । [7]

Thus, Sāmānādhikaraṇyam is defined by the grammarians as –

भिन्नप्रवृत्तिनिमित्तानां शब्दानां एकस्मिन्नर्थे वृत्तिः। ^[8] भिन्नविशेषणाभिधेयानां शब्दानां एकस्मिन् विशेष्ये वृत्तिः।

Bhinnapravṛttinimittānām śabdānām ekasminnarthe vṛttiḥ.

When different appositional words with different imports convey a single meaning, then they are said to be in co-ordinate predication or Sāmānādhikaraṇyam. That is, when a single viśeṣya is conveyed by several viśeṣaṇa-s, then there is Sāmānādhikaraṇyam.

This definition is further explained as follows: [9].

Corresponding Author: Dr. S Usha

Dr. S Usha Associate Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College (Autonomous), Trichy, Tamil Nadu. India There are 3 types of words –

- 1. विशेषणतो विशेष्यतश्च एकार्थाः घटः कुम्भः, नीलं कृष्णम्
- 2. उभयतश्च भिन्नार्थाः गौः अश्वः महिषः, नीलं शुक्लं रक्तम्
- विशेषणतो भिन्नार्थाः विशेष्यतश्च एकार्थाः नीलं सुगन्धि महदृत्पलम्, देवदत्तः श्यामो युवा लोहिताक्षः

By भिन्नप्रवृत्तिनिमित्तत्वं given in the definition, the examples of विशेषणतो विशेष्यतश्च एकार्थाः cannot be considered as in सामानाधिकरण्यम ।

Similarly, by एकस्मिन्नर्थे वृत्तित्वं, the examples of उभयतश्च भिन्नार्थाः cannot be considered as in सामानाधिकरण्यम् ।

But both the aspects - भिन्नप्रवृत्तिनिमित्तत्वे सित एकस्मिन्नर्थे वृत्तित्वं are in the examples of विशेषणतो भिन्नार्थाः विशेष्यतश्च एकार्थाः and this makes them the perfect instances of सामानाधिकरण्यम् । So it is very essential to understand that भिन्नप्रवृत्तिनिमित्तत्वे सित एकस्मिन्नर्थे वृत्तित्वं is the प्रयोजक of सामानाधिकरण्यम् ।

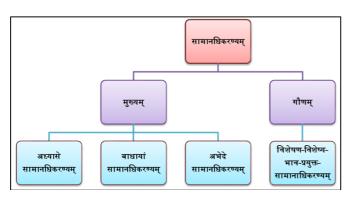
Further, by the word वृत्तिः in the definition, समानविभक्त्या ऐक्यावबोधनम् (conveying identity by being in the same case) is intended. For example, in राजा तस्य पुत्रश्च दर्शनीयौ, there is सामानाधिकरण्यम् only between राजा and पुत्रः and not between राजा and तस्य or तस्य and पुत्रः।

So, from all these it is evident that 3 factors are necessary for सामानाधिकरण्यम् । They are:

- 1. समानविभक्त्या ऐक्यावबोधनम
- 2. भिन्नप्रवृत्तिनिमित्तत्वम् = विशेषणतो भिन्नार्थकत्वम्
- 3. एकस्मिन्नर्थवत्वम् = विशेष्यतश्च एकार्थवत्वम्

Even if any one of the three is not present, then there can be no Sāmānādhikaranyam.

Thus, vaiyākaraṇa-s hold that Sāmānādhikaraṇyam is the viśeṣyaikya through viśeṣaṇabheda in samāna or eka-vibhakti. Sāmānādhikaraṇyam in Advaita Vedānta and its Un-tenability The Advaitin-s accept a two-fold classification of Sāmānādhikaraṇyam [10]. They are:



These three types of mukhya- sāmānādhikaraṇyam-s alone are employed in the scriptures, according to the Advaitin-s and the gauna- sāmānādhikaranyam in loka- vyavahāra.

Sāmānādhikaraṇyam, in its widely known sense of conveying a viśeṣya as associated with several viśeṣaṇa-s, which is defined by the grammarians is called the viśeṣaṇa-viśeṣya-bhāva - Sāmānādhikaraṇyam, is treated as secondary (gauna) by the Advaitin-s. They state that this type is employed only in loka- vyavahāra -s and not in śāstra- vyavahāra -s. Thus, according to the Advaita School, only mukhya-Sāmānādhikaraṇyam is employed in scriptures.

They further maintain that the Sāmānādhikaraṇyam involved in the Upanisadic passages which declare the identity of the world and Brahman like सर्वं खल्विदम् ब्रह्म । [11] etc., are to be treated as Adhyāse Sāmānādhikaraṇyam or badhayam Sāmānādhikaraṇyam. Hence, they ultimately convey that the world is a mere illusion as it is superimposed on Brahman and that Brahman alone, being the substratum is real.

Then the Sāmānādhikaraṇyam usages found in the Upanisadic passages declaring the identity between the individual soul and Brahman like तत्त्वमिस । $^{[12]}$, अयमात्मा ब्रह्म । $^{[13]}$, सोऽहमिस्म ।

^[14], एतद् वै तत् । ^[15], अहम् ब्रह्मास्मि । ^[16] are to be treated as aikye Sāmānādhikaraṇyam conveying the essential identity of the two.

It would be clear from the above that the Advaitin-s do not account for the usages of Sāmānādhikaraṇyam in a uniform manner. But actually, all Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga-s can be accounted for uniformly as conveying the oneness of a qualified entity (viśiṣṭa-vastvaikya). So, when it possible to account for all the Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga-s in a uniform manner, there is no need to classify them into several types and to account for them in different ways.

Further, the admission of bādhārtha- Sāmānādhikaraṇyam by the Advaitin-s, involves the defects of either restoring to secondary signification (lakṣaṇā) or insertion of words (adhyāhāra). For instance, in the Sāmānādhikaraṇya statement, ज्योतींचि विष्णु:- [17] jyotīmṣi viṣṇuḥ, the word – jyotis – in the view of Advaitin-s must be interpreted as secondarily conveying the substratum of the illusion of jyotis (jyotir- bhramādhiṣṭhāna). Or else, between the words jyotis, and viṣṇuḥ, the words 'iti bhramādhiṣṭhānam' is to be inserted (adhyāhāra).

Then Venkaṭanātha in न्याय-सिद्धाञ्चनम् states that it is not proper to admit that the world is super-imposed upon and hence sublated in Brahman. That is, passages like सदेव सोम्य [18], etc., declare the unitary Brahman as sat. Then the statements like — बहु स्यां प्रजायेय [19], etc., declare that it becomes many by its mere will. Thus the scriptures declare that Brahman creates the world and remains as its soul. This idea is totally unknown hitherto. It is worthwhile to refer to the following statement and the verse —

शास्त्रं हि साधकान्तरसिद्धं बाधकान्तरबाधितञ्च न प्रतिपादयति । $^{[20]}$ यथाहः-

असन्निकृष्ट-वाचा च द्वयमत्र जिहासितम् । ताद्रप्येण परिचित्तिः तद्विपर्ययतोऽपि वा ॥ [21]

Scriptures do not state that which is known from other means of knowledge and that which is sublated by other sublating means. It is said -

Scripture forsakes two things -

- Describe a thing as known by other means of knowledge.
- Describe a thing as contrary to other means of knowledge.

This again is to establish the validity of scriptures. It should not talk about an object as known from other means and as contrary to them.

Hence Venkaṭanātha in न्याय-सिद्धाञ्जनम् states it is not proper to admit that the scriptures deny the existence of the world in Brahman in the very substratum, in which it is declared to exist [22]. In other words, it would be better not to speak about the world as a creation of Brahman at all, rather than instruct about it in this way and then declare that all these are only

illusions, according to the maxim - प्रक्षालनाद्धि पङ्कस्य दूरादस्पर्शनं वरम् । ^[23] (It is better to keep away from the mud, than to wash the leg after getting stained by it).

Then, the Advaitin-s hold that Sāmānādhikaranyam denies the difference between God and the inert matter (jaḍeśa-bheda), the difference between the individual soul and inert matter (jīva-jaḍa-bheda), the difference between the individual soul and God (jīveśa-bheda), the mutual difference between the inert substances (jaḍānyonyabhāva-bheda) and the mutual difference between the individual souls (jīvānyonyabhāva-bheda). The Vivaraṇa School maintains that God is the image (bimba) and the individual soul is the reflection (pratibimba). The Bhāmati School, on the other hand maintains that God is the consciousness conditioned by avidyā (avidyā-avacchinna-caitanya) and the individual soul is the consciousness conditioned by antakhrana (antaḥkaraṇa-avacchinna-caitanya). The concept of Sāmānādhikaraṇyam does not hold well in any of the said views.

Now, Venkaṭanātha in न्याय-सिद्धाञ्चनम् states there can be no Sāmānādhikaraṇyam in cases of super-imposition. For instance, in the case of the super-imposition of silver on a shell, there is no Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga as 'the shell is silver' (śuktiḥ rajatam). 'Similarly there can be no Sāmānādhikaraṇyam in the case of the super-imposition of the world on Brahman. Further, there can be no Sāmānādhikaraṇyam in cases of image and reflection, as there can be no non-difference between an images and a reflection, and mutual non-difference between two reflections. Hence there can be no identity between God and soul and no mutual non-difference between the souls. Thus Sāmānādhikaraṇyam is impossible in the Vivaraṇa School [24].

Again, this concept cannot be satisfactorily explained in the Bhāmati School too, as there can be no Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga in the cases of entities that are subject to limitations (avaccheda-s). For instance, there can be no identity, but only difference between a pot and the space limited by it, or the spaces limited by two pots or the space limited by a pot and the one limited by a room. Similarly, there can be no Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga-s conveying the non-difference between the soul and God and the mutual non-difference between the souls.

Sāmānādhikaraṇyam in Bhedābheda Schools and its Untenability

Venkaṭanātha in न्याय-सिद्धाञ्जनम् ^[25] points out that Sāmānādhikaraṇyam is impossible in the

Bhedābheda schools too. The Yādavaprakāśa school of Bhedābheda maintains that Brahman is like a lump of clay and cit, acit and īśvara are like the effects of clay like pot, etc. But in such cases, there is no Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga as piṇḍo ghaṭaḥ. On the same analogy, there can be no Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga-s declaring the identity between Brahman and soul, or the soul and God. Further as there is difference between cit, acit, and īśvara, which form the aṁśa-s of Brahman, there can be no identity between them. Then again there can be no identity between ākāśa, vāyu, etc., which are the transformations of Brahman. Hence Sāmānādhikaraṇyam cannot be satisfactorily explained.

Now it may be contended that though there is difference between the vyakti-s like pot, etc., yet, their identity must be accepted on the strength of the identical cognitions like mṛt ghaṭaḥ, mṛt śarāvaḥ, etc. But, this does not hold good. It is because, the said cognitions can prove the identity of the generality (jātiḥ) namely, mṛttikātva residing in pot, etc., and

not the identity of the vyakti. This again is because the difference in vyakti is known through perception ^[26].

The same criticism applies in the case of Bhāskara's Bhedābheda too. Bhāskara admits that Brahman as conditioned by upādhi, becomes cit, acit, and īśvara. Now, Venkatanatha points out that as there can be no mutual identity between parts of the lump of clay, so there can be no identity between parts of Brahman – cit, acit, and īśvara.

From all the afore-said arguments, it is evident that Sāmānādhikaraṇyam cannot be explained satisfactorily. In all the other views, the very spirit of the concept is lost.

Sāmānādhikaraņyam in Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta

Sāmānādhikaraṇyam according to Rāmānuja is only one -viśeṣaṇa-viśeṣya- bhāva - Sāmānādhikaraṇyam, as conceived by the grammarians. The soul of this grammatical concept is well retained and is applied as such in Vedānta, as it does not contradict with the language and spirit of the Upaniṣads. If there be any contradiction of the concept and Upaniṣadic language, then Pāṇini would have definitely framed a sutra for it as he had done in other instances.

In Viśiṣṭādvaita, the spirit of the concept is well maintained by accounting for the Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga-s by शरीरात्मभावः। By this, it is possible to account for all the Sāmānādhikaraṇya-prayoga-s in a uniform manner.

Śarīrātmabhāva is known from the scriptural passages -

यः पृथिव्यां तिष्ठन्। पृथिव्या अन्तरो यं पृथिवी न वेद यस्य पृथिवी शरीरं यः पृथिवीमन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः।

योऽप्सु तिष्ठन् । अद्भोऽन्तरो यमापो न विदुर्यस्यापः शरीरं योऽपोऽन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

योऽग्नौ तिष्ठन् । अग्नेरन्तरो यमग्निर्न वेद यस्याग्निः शरीरं योऽग्निमन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

य आकाशे तिष्ठन् । आकाशादन्तरो यमाकाशो न वेद यस्याकाशः शरीरं य आकाशमन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

यो वायौ तिष्ठन् । वायोरन्तरो यं वायुर्ने वेद यस्य वायुः शरीरं यो वायुमन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

य आदित्ये तिष्ठन् । आदित्यादन्तरो यमादित्यो न वेद यस्यादित्यः शरीरं य आदित्यमन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

यश्चन्द्रतारके तिष्ठन् । चन्द्रतारकादन्तरो यं चन्द्रतारकं न वेद यस्य चन्द्रतारकं शरीरं यश्चन्द्रतारकमन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

यो दिक्षु तिष्ठन् । दिग्भ्योऽन्तरो यं दिशो न विदुर्यस्य दिशः शरीरं यो दिशोऽन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

यो विद्युति तिष्ठन् । विद्युतोऽन्तरो यं विद्युन्न वेद यस्य विद्युच्छरीरं यो विद्युतमन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

य स्तनियत्नौ तिष्ठन् । स्तनियत्नोरन्तरो यं स्तनियत्नुर्न वेद यस्य स्तनियत्नुः शरीरं य स्तनियत्नुमन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृत इत्यधिदेवतमथाधिलोकम ।

यः सर्वेषु लोकेषु तिष्ठन् । सर्वेभ्यो लोकेभ्योऽन्तरो यं सर्वे लोका न विदुर्यस्य सर्वे लोकाः शरीरं यः सर्वांल्लोकानन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृत इत्यु एवाधिलोकमथाधिवेदम् ।

यः सर्वेषु वेदेषु तिष्ठन् । सर्वेभ्यो वेदेभ्योऽन्तरो यं सर्वे वेदा न विदुर्यस्य सर्वे वेदाः शरीरं यः सर्वान्वेदानन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृत इत्यु एवाधिवेदमथाधियज्ञम ।

सर्वेषु यज्ञेषु तिष्ठन् । सर्वेभ्यो यज्ञेभ्योऽन्तरो यं सर्वे यज्ञा न विदुर्यस्य सर्वे यज्ञाः शरीरं यः सर्वान्यज्ञानन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृत इत्यु एवाधियज्ञमथाधिभृतम् ।

यः सर्वेषु भूतेषु तिष्ठन् । सर्वेभ्यो भूतेभ्योऽन्तरो यं सर्वाणि भूतानि न विदुर्यस्य सर्वाणि भूतानि शरीरं यः सर्वाणि भूतान्यन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृत इत्यु एवाधिभूतमथाध्यात्मम् । यः प्राणे तिष्ठन्। प्राणादन्तरो यं प्राणो न वेद यस्य प्राणः शरीरं यः प्राणमन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः। यो वाचि तिष्ठन् वाचोऽन्तरो यम्वाङ्न वेद यस्य वाक्शरीरं यो वाचमन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमतः।

यश्चक्षुषि तिष्ठन्। चक्षुषोऽन्तरो यश्चक्षुर्न वेद यस्य चक्षुः शरीरं यश्चक्षुरन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।।

यः श्रोत्रे तिष्ठन्। श्रोत्रादन्तरो यं श्रोत्रन्न वेद यस्य श्रोत्रं शरीरं यः श्रोत्रमन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः ।

यो मनिस तिष्ठन् । मनसोऽन्तरो यम्मनो न वेद यस्य मनः शरीरं यो मनोन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमुतः ।

यस्त्वचि तिष्ठन्। त्वचोऽन्तरो यन्त्वङ्न वेद यस्य त्वक्छरीरं यस्त्वचमन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः।

यस्तेजिस तिष्ठन्। तेजसोऽन्तरो यन्तेजो न वेद यस्य तेजः शरीरं यस्तेजोन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः।

यस्तमिस तिष्ठन्। तमसोऽन्तरो यन्तमो न वेद यस्य तमः शरीरं यस्तमोन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः।

यो रेतिस तिष्ठन्। रेतसोऽन्तरो यं रेतो न वेद यस्य रेतः शरीरं यो रेतोन्तरो यमयित स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः।

य आत्मनि तिष्ठन् आत्मनोऽन्तरो यमात्मा न वेद यस्यात्मा शरीरं य आत्मानमन्तरो यमयति स त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतः।

अदृष्टो द्रष्टा। अश्रुतः श्रोता अमतो मन्ताऽविज्ञातो विज्ञाता नान्योऽस्ति द्रष्टानान्योऽस्ति श्रोता नान्योऽस्ति मन्ता नान्योऽस्ति विज्ञातैष त आत्मान्तर्याम्यमृतोऽतोऽन्यदार्तं ततो होद्दालक आरुणिरुपरराम । [27]

In all these passages, all the sentient and insentient entities are declared to be subservient to the supreme. So as per the scriptures, all constitute the Śarīra of the Supreme and the Supreme is their antaryāmin or the inner self.

Concluding Remarks

From all these, it is clear that the concept of Sāmānādhikaraṇya is fundamentally designed to convey identity in the wake of difference. This spirit of the concept requires the presence of differences and not the sublation or rejection of them. For this very reason, it is evident that -

- Sāmānādhikaraņya based on viśeṣaṇa-viśeṣya- bhāva alone, as expounded by Rāmānuja, retains the true spirit of this Vyakaraṇa concept as applied in the Vedānta school
- The conception and classification of the concept in the other schools, as explained above, are not in tune with the true spirit of it.

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