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DECODING THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND SCRIBAL TRADITIONS OF *Yogasamuccaya* MANUSCRIPTS (Dn1 AND Dn2) WRITTEN BY GANAPATIVYASA

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ABSTRACT

Background: *The manuscript Yogasamuccaya, a late medieval Sangraha Grantha by Ganapativyasa, was authenticated through Critical Edition. The two paper manuscripts under study, offer invaluable physical evidences about the decorative elements, regional orthography, regional scribes, etc.*

Objective: *The article focuses intensely on the Lower Criticism, aiming to provide a complete codicological description, document scribal errors and distinct orthographic conventions, and highlight the professional and cultural context of the copyists, thereby establishing a rigorous textual foundation for the newly edited text.*

Methodology: *Side-by-side analysis of the two Devanāgarī paper manuscripts was performed for: physical dimensions, pagination, decorative elements, and scribal correction techniques. This quantitative documentation included 35 Scribal Errors and 81 Orthographic Peculiarities.*

Results: *The manuscripts demonstrate a Gujrati scribal tradition. The copyist of Dn2 manuscript is identified in the end colophon as Raval Jaṭāśaṅkara Harajīvana, explicitly fulfilling the role of a Pustaka Lekhaka. Dn1 showcases a distinct, formal aesthetic, featuring unique diamond-shaped central gaps for floral drawings on the early folios and meticulously drawn triple-line margins in red ink. Philologically, the frequent and consistent confusion among the three Sanskrit sibilants (Śa, Ṣa, Sa) across both copies is a strong indicator of a shared regional linguistic habit within the transmission chain.*

Conclusion: *The physical data and minute scribal habits of the Yogasamuccaya manuscripts are as important as the medical content. They validate the text's authenticity, anchor it to a specific regional and chronological context, and offer valuable materia critica for future comparative studies of Sanskrit medical codicology.*

KEYWORDS: *Manuscriptology, Codicology, Scribal Practice, Orthography, Sibilant Confusion, Pustaka Lekhaka, Yogasamuccaya.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The reliability of the source of study is of utmost importance for the study of ancient medical texts. The manuscript *Yogasamuccaya* under study was authenticated through the Critical Edition[1]. This article focuses on the philological study[2] of the two paper manuscripts of *Yogasamuccaya* obtained from the Gujrat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar[3,4]. The manuscript dated 1788 CE was given the Sigla 'Dn1', while the other manuscript dated 1415 CE was given the Sigla 'Dn2'. This study is critical because: the errors a scribe makes, the paper they use, or the way they choose to decorate the page tells us about the journey the text took over centuries. This study utilizes Lower Criticism to uncover the physical and micro-textual evidence that validates our entire critical edition. We believe that documenting these minute details provides the necessary foundation for all future academic research on this rare compendium.

2. METHODOLOGY

The meticulous comparison and documentation of the two primary source manuscripts formed the basis of this analysis.

Manuscript Details: The physical condition, folio count, lines per page, and letters per line, were precisely noted.

Documentation of Scribal Action: Specialized observation charts were created for Scribal Errors, Orthographic Peculiarities, *Kakapadas*, Simple Insertions, Marginalia-found, separately for both Dn1 and Dn2 manuscripts.

Analysis: A temporal comparison of scribal trends across the 14th to 18th centuries CE was done.

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3. OBSERVATIONS

A. Observations on Manuscripts Selected for Critical Edition[5]

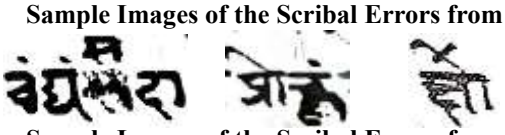
Observations	Manuscript 1	Manuscript 2
Accession Number	294GAS	295GAS
Sigla	Dn1	Dn2
Title	*Yoga-Samuccaya*	Same
Language	Sanskrit	Same
Scheme	*Sara Sangraha* of Ayurveda *Shastra*	Same
Script	Devanagari	Same
Author	Sri Ganapativyasa	Same
Parentage	Folios Missing	Father's name – Vyasa
Material	Paper Manuscript	Same
Condition	Good Condition	Good Condition
No. of Folios	39	40
Missing Folios	1a, 1b, 2a	None
No. of Lines per Page	11 lines	11 lines
No. of Letters per Line	24-36	30
Marginalia	Few additions are seen in the margins	There are no margins in the manuscript
Interlinear Editions	None	None
Handwriting	Bold and legible handwriting	Good and legible handwriting
Total No. of Chapters	7	7
Year when the Ms. was written	1788	1415
Pagination	On bottom left side of each folio	On top right side of each folio
Peculiarity	Floral patterns are drawn at the centre of the page in a diamond shaped space on few folios of the manuscript. The other folios have this diamond shaped space left empty for the drawings. (seems to be incomplete). Has broad margins - 3 vertical lines drawn on both right and left side of the page.	No such peculiarity seen. No margins are drawn.

B. Scribal Errors: 35 major instances of Scribal errors from both the manuscripts were catalogued, where the copyist visibly made and corrected a mistake[6]. The key finding here is- the different correction methods used:

a. **Dn1:** Shows a highly meticulous method where wrong letters were carefully erased using yellow ink, and the correct reading was written directly over the erased area.

b. **Dn2:** Corrections were simpler, usually just striking out the wrong letter with one or two lines or overwriting the correct reading.

Sample Images of the Scribal Errors from the Manuscript Dn1



Sample Images of the Scribal Errors from the Manuscript Dn2

C. Orthographic Peculiarities: 81 instances of non-standard letter formation (44 in Dn1 and 37 in Dn2) were catalogued[7]. These "peculiar words" or letters confirm the specific regional linguistic habit influencing the scribal hand.

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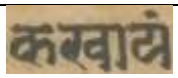
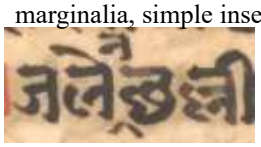
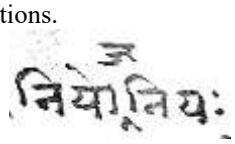
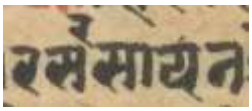
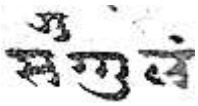
Serial No.	Peculiar word	Actual Word
1.		MüwÉÉrÉ
2.		NûÉ
3.		WÒû
4.		Á
5.		whÉ
6.		F
7.		¾ûÏÇÇ

Sample Images of the Orthographic Peculiarities from the Manuscripts Dn1 and Dn2

D. Physical Features and Annotations (Codicology): All notes and decorations were recorded, including: the kakapadas, marginalia, simple insertions.

Sample Images of the Kakapadas and Simple Insertions from the Manuscripts Dn1 and Dn2

Sample Image of the Marginalia from the Manuscript Dn1

4. RESULTS

Codicological and Philological Findings

A. The Scribe and Codicological Description

The physical evidence reveals striking differences and key historical indicators in the scribal craftsmanship:

i. **Scribe Identity and Role:**
   - The end colophon of Dn2 manuscript identifies the scribe as Raval Jaṭāśaṅkara Harajīvana and the owner of the manuscript copy as Raval Śrīpāda Rāma Keśava[8]. The Raval caste people are residents of the Gujrat region[9]. Hence, both- the names and the Gujrati script confirm a regional provenance.
   - The role of a scribe is validated by Dn1's closing post-colophon in which the scribe mentions about the enormous effort that had went into the writing of the copy of the manuscript and also requests the readers of that copy of the manuscript to preserve the manuscript copy well by stating-

     भग्नपृष्टिकटिग्रीवा । बद्धमुष्टिरधोमुखम् ।
     कष्टेनलिखितं शास्त्रम् । यत्नेनपरिपालयेत् ॥

     (*"With a broken back, bent neck, clenched fist, and lowered face—this scripture was written with great difficulty. It should be preserved with care.") "With a broken back, bent neck...*[8]*"*)

     This indicates the writer's status as a pious *Pustaka Lekhaka* (manuscript copier) fulfilling an act of merit (*vidyādāna*)[10].

ii. **Decorative and Layout Uniqueness:**
   - **Dn1 (The Decorated Copy):** This manuscript has an elaborate aesthetic: broad, defined margins marked by three vertical lines drawn in red ink on both sides. Folios feature a distinct diamond-shaped central lacuna (a blank space) deliberately left for drawing. In the initial 12 folios of the Dn1 manuscript, this central lacuna is filled with intricate floral patterns in red, green, yellow, and black inks[3].
   - **Dn2 (The Older Copy):** Conversely, Dn2 features no margins, decorations, or central lacunae, having a more functional and legible hand[4].

iii. **Pagination:** Dn1 records pagination on the bottom left side, while Dn2 records it on the top right side.

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Image of a folio from Dn1 Manuscript

Image of a folio from Dn2 Manuscript

B. Orthographic Peculiarities (Linguistic Fingerprints)
The most significant philological finding is the predictable pattern of non-standard writing. Across both manuscripts, there is consistent:

- Substitution between letters for the three Sanskrit sibilants (Śa (श), Ṣa (ष), Sa (स)).
- Confusion in the usage of certain regional letters like ष्म for ष्ण.
- Peculiar forms for common words, e.g., writing चीकीछा instead of चिकित्सा.

These systematic deviations are linguistic artifacts, confirming the text's transmission within a specific regional-dialectal environment.

5. DISCUSSION

This detailed philological study of the *Yogasamuccaya* manuscripts provides crucial contextual layers for the critically edited text.

Validating Regional Transmission: The combined evidence—the specific scribal names, the regional orthography (sibilant confusion), and the aesthetic flourishes (diamond drawings)—strongly affirms the text's provenance in the Gujarat region. This allows future medical historians to interpret the *Yogasamuccaya*'s unique formulations not as isolated knowledge, but as part of a definite regional Ayurvedic tradition.

The Professional Scribe: Dn1 offers a glimpse into the professional life of the medieval scribe, the *Pustaka Lekhaka*. His acknowledgment of the difficulty of the task, juxtaposed with the beautifully decorated margins, speaks to a dedicated, highly skilled artisan whose work was driven by devotion (*vidyādāna*). The meticulous technique of correcting errors with yellow ink in Dn1 contrasts sharply with the simpler overwriting in Dn2, providing direct evidence of the evolution or variation in scribal protocol over time.

Significance to Textual Criticism: The identification of the specific Orthographic Peculiarities, is invaluable for Lower Criticism. It confirms that a straight transcription of either manuscript would have perpetuated errors and regional-dialectal confusion. The success of our critical edition rests on the ability to interpret and filter this noise, leading to the highly reliable archetype text that underpins all subsequent scholarly work.

6. CONCLUSION

This manuscriptological and philological investigation of *Yogasamuccaya* provides the definitive material evidence for the text's authenticity and context. The meticulous documentation of the unique scribal practices, physical characteristics (especially the diamond drawings and red-line

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margins), and regional orthography successfully grounds the text in its late medieval environment. This work is the essential foundation for establishing the *Yogasamuccaya* as a reliable historical and medical source for future research.

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