

Story Behind The Venture

In 1992, Sahitya Akademi (New Delhi) proposed to bring out a Maithili-English Dictionary. I prepared a detailed plan for the same and submitted it to the Akademi for consideration. Unfortunately, the proposal did not materialize. However, following the old Sanskrit maxim प्रारभ्य चोत्तमजना न परित्यजन्ति (The wise men never leave unfinished whatever they begin), I set myself to the task of executing my plan as a labour of love. It took almost three years to prepare the final manuscript of a Maithili-English Dictionary. Now, the problem was to find out a suitable publisher. This was too serious a problem to be tackled easily, and therefore, the manuscript of this dictionary remained shelved for some time.

Subsequently, in a chance meeting with Dr. Hetukar Jha, I came to know that The Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation of Darbhanga has launched *Kameshwar Singh Bihar Heritage Series* of Puplication. I submitted the said manuscript to the Foundation with the request to publish it in the manner befitting the dignity of the Foundation as well as its generous patron.

I am grateful to the trustees of the Foundation who considered my request and constituted a Board of Advisors consisting of noted scholars for facilitating me to improve the text. Consequently a number of new words and meanings were inserted, definitions in Maithili in addition to those in English were added and various other improvements were effected.

Out of the several titles suggested for the present dictionary, the Board of Advisors decided *Kalyani-Kosh : A Maithili-English Dictionary*. Naming a dictionary after a historical personage is not unusual. *Chandrakanta Abhidhan*, a series of Assamese dictionary is a good example. Kalyani being the name of the last surviving member of the Khandawala dynasty, has a historical significance of its own. The publication of the present dictionary also marks a historical event. Associating the name of Kalyani with the title of the dictionary should, hopefully, be appreciated by all those who believe in the value of history for the future of our culture.

I express my sincere gratitude to all who helped me in the compilation of the present dictionary. I am specially grateful to Dr. Bhim Nath Jha and Pt. Mohan Bharadwaj for affording a good number of words, to Pt. Matinath Mishra 'Matang' for making available an advance copy of his *Maithili-Shabda-Kalpadruma*, and to Dr. Doman Sahu 'Samir' for providing numerous words from the eastern part of Mithila.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. Damodar Thakur, ex-Director, Public Instructions, Government of Bihar, for his valuable guidance and co-operation.

And lastly, I thank my learned friend Dr. Hetukar Jha, Managing Trustee of the Foundation, who remained always available to me for solving my doubts and checking my slips in course of printing. It is his intelligent and masterly handling of this project that my dream at last becomes a reality.

Patna

Govinda Jha