

2. Publishable Summary, Tamara Ditrich Periodic Report 2 (2010–2012)

Aim and objectives of the project

This project aims to investigate gender issues and stylistic patterns of divine pairs in the oldest recorded Indian text, the *Ṛgveda*. A considerable number of Vedic deities are joined together to form pairs which are expressed in a variety of linguistic constructions. These pairs are investigated by applying an innovative methodology, combining classical Vedic philology with semiotics, and by examining the causal interconnectedness between the Vedic language and the style of the *Ṛgveda*. This research addresses the divine pairs, usually of the same gender, in the *Rgveda*—an unexpected phenomenon from the perspective of other religions—and investigates the links between gender and the variety of stylistic paradigms for dual deities. The project researches different nominal constructions for dual deities as stylistic expressions of the poetic language of the *Rgveda*. The most significant expected outcomes of this project are: new contributions to Vedic studies; publications; a strengthening of European capacity for research on ancient Indo-European texts; participation in relevant research and teaching programs in the EU and internationally. In terms of relevance for the Work Programme, this project promotes very strongly the transfer of knowledge and skills gained abroad. The project aims to enhance lasting cooperation with academic institutions outside Europe and contribute to European academic excellence and competitiveness. Reintegration of this researcher into the academic communities of Europe facilitates long-term professional stability for her career in the EU.

The work performed and the results achieved in the reporting period (2010–2012)

The most significant outcomes in the reporting period are the following:

- New contributions to Vedic studies: all stylistic paradigms for dual deities in the *Ṛgveda* were identified and analysed. It has been shown that in hymns addressing dual deities various types of coordinative constructions (*dvandva* compounds, elliptic duals, syntagms constructed with copulative conjunctions and asyndeta) are used: the deities' names are repeated several times in the same hymn, often in different coordinative constructions which would make the incantations more powerful and produce greater magical effects in the Vedic rituals. The coordinative nominal constructions for dual theonyms display different stylistic patterns from the constructions comprised of non-theonyms. The examination of the typology and historical development of *dvandvas* and their relationship with other coordinative constructions has indicated that *dvandvas* cannot be viewed as a single category but rather a distinction has to be made among those comprising theonyms, non-theonyms or numerals, each displaying different linguistic and stylistic features. Similarly, the role of coordinative particles in the *Ṛgveda* shows a significant difference between theonyms and non-theonyms. The research has included also iterative compounds comprised of theonyms which are extremely rare in the *Ṛgveda* and has indicated that these compounded theonyms have developed later into the Indo-Aryan period, by analogy with reiterated non-theonyms. Investigation of coordinative constructions has also thrown a new light on the relative chronology of the *Ṛgvedasamhitā*, the *Ṛgvedapadapāṭha*, and the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*. The research of gender roles in Vedic pantheon has shown that the female deities occur mostly as single goddesses and mothers whereas their role as wives is rather insignificant, even in the case of the most prominent male-female pair, Heaven and Earth (Dyaus and Pṛthivī).
- Publications: for the reported period, direct outcomes from this research are three book chapters, three journal articles, and preparation of the first draft of a monograph on dual deities in the *Rgveda*. The most innovative and significant publications are a journal article which studies in depth syntagms constructed with coordinative particles in the *Ṛgveda*; a journal article on the typology and historical development of iterative compounds in the *Ṛgveda*; a book chapter on the chronological relationship between the *Ṛgvedasamhitā*, the *Ṛgvedapadapāṭha*, and the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*; and a book chapter on gender roles in Vedic pantheon. (For details, see 7. Dissemination)
- Participation in relevant research and teaching programs at the University of Ljubljana and other universities, nationally and internationally: (1) researcher in the research project “Asian Cultures” in the Department of Asian and African Studies, University of Ljubljana; (2) Lecturer of Sanskrit at the Department of Indo-European Linguistics, University of Ljubljana; (3) supervisor of PhD students at the University of Ljubljana, Australian National University, University of Sydney, and Université de

Strasbourg; (4) Honorary Research Fellow, University of Sydney; (5) Lecturer at the Nan Tien Institute, Wollongong, Australia.

- Development of a new double major undergraduate program for Indology in the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana: in 2011 an improved version of the course proposal was resubmitted and is currently in the process of national accreditation.
- Participation in conferences, seminars and symposia: in the reported period the researcher presented 12 papers. The most significant presentations were: at the international conference in Sydney where her latest innovative research of the exegesis of technical terms *ajjhataṃ* and *bahiddhā* was discussed; a paper on the roles of Vedic goddesses in Vedic pantheon at the international conference in Maribor, Slovenia; a research paper on the concept of *smṛti* at the Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies, Sydney; a paper on gender relations in the *Rgveda* at the international symposium at University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. (For details, see 7. Dissemination)
- Communication of research results and knowledge to a broader audience through several community lectures and media opportunities: two radio and one television presentations on Radio-Television Slovenia on her research and broader Indological topics; three public interviews and several public lectures in Slovenia on topics related to Indian Studies and several public presentations in Australia. (For details, see 7. Dissemination)
- Establishment of lasting cooperation with the following academic institutions inside and outside Europe and facilitation of long-term professional stability for her career in the EU: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (research as well as teaching, especially when the program for Indology will be accredited in 2014); Primorska University (Slovenia); Université de Strasbourg (France), University of Sydney (Australia), Nan Tien Institute (Wollongong), Australian National University.

The final results and their potential impact and use

This project has developed innovative methodology through which gender issues in the Vedic pantheon have been investigated and stylistic paradigms expressing dual deities in the *Rgveda* identified. The research conducted in the reporting period (2010–2012) resulted in publication of three journal articles and three book chapters. The publications have had an impact on the research of ancient Indo-European texts which has been evident from the scholarly responses received following conference presentations and published articles. The research has further enhanced lasting cooperation with academic institutions outside Europe, especially in Australia (University of Sydney, the Australian National University, Nan Tien Institute). The researcher will continue to participate and contribute to relevant research and teaching programs in Slovenia, particularly at the University of Ljubljana where she has developed a new double major undergraduate program for Indology, planned to start in 2013/2014. The researcher has become well integrated into the academic environment of Slovenia and has developed strong links with other academic communities in the EU. She will continue expanding links with the wider community through public lectures, seminars, workshops and media opportunities.