

CHAPTER – 7**SCIENCE IN SANGAM LITERATURE****Dr. O.T. POONGODI**Assistant Professor, Department of English,
Govt. Arts College, Kumarapalayam.**Introduction**

This paper highlights the scientific facts found in many works of our Tamil poets during Sangam Age. The Literature composed during Sangam period that was from 600BC to 250AD. The word ‘Sangam’ is derived from the Sanskrit word Sangha, which means a group of persons or an association. The Tamil Sangam was an academy of poets who flourished in different periods and in different places.

Sangam Literature

“The Sangam Literature”, according to Prof. K.A Nilakanta Sastri, “which combines idealism with realism and classic grace with indigenous industry and strength is rightly regarded as constituting the Augustan Age of Tamil Literature.” It deals with secular matter relating to the public and social activity like government, war, charity, trade, worship, agriculture, etc. the chief merit of the sangam works is their absolute devotion to standards and adherence to literary conventions.

Tholkappiyam

The earliest work of Tamil Grammar is Tholkappiyam, written by Tholkappiyar. Dr.N.Mahalingam, a great Sanskrit Scholar, industrialist and educationist, proved that Tholkappiyar lived 12,000 years ago, based on astronomy. Tholkappiyam is classified into three parts such as. *Ezhuttathikaram*, *Sollathikaram* and *Porulathikaram*. Tamil Grammar is based on facts with reasoned enquiry and reflective thinking. Not even a single language in the whole world has grammar based on scientific reasons as in Tamil language.

Other earliest Tamil works are the Agathiyam (a work on grammar of letters and life) by *Saint Agathiyar*, *Pannirupadalam* and the *Kakkipadinzyam*.

Themes of Sangam Literature

The poems in Sangam literature are broadly classified into two types as *Agam* (inner) and *Puram* (outer). *Agam* consists of personal and human aspects such as love and sex. *Puram* deals with human experiences and emotions such as Heroism, Valor, Ethics and Philanthropy. In the Sangam Literature, the classification of poetry was based on the natural themes. This is called as *Thinai*. The lands were divided as *Kurinji* (*Montane*), *Mullai* (*Pastoral*), *Marutham* (*Riverine*), *Neithal* (*Littoral*) and *Paalai* (*Desertic*). The land is classified on the basis of geographic science .

Classification of Sangam Literature :

The Sangam literature is divided into two parts as *Patinenmelkanakku* and *Patinenkilkanakku*.

Administration of Sangam Age :

The King was the key stone or the very centre and embodiment of administration. The King was called by other names such as *Ko*, *Mannan*, *Vendan*, or *Iraivan*. Though the hereditary monarch was the prevailing form of the government, disputed successions and civil wars were not unknown. The following members assisted the King:

- ❖ Ministers (*Amaichar*)
- ❖ Military Commanders (*Senathipati*)
- ❖ Envoys (*Thuthar*)
- ❖ Spies (*Ottrar*)

Pisirandhiyar

During Sangam Age, that is, 2500 years ago, *Pisirandhiyar* hailed from a small village, *Pisir*. His friend *Koperuncholan* was in fast, facing North, till his death. On hearing the news he went to meet his friend, the King, to convey his feelings. Many poets gathered around the king and asked him, why he did not have grey hair even at his advanced age. His reply was very beautiful with many scientific facts. He explained that the reason was the physiology / anatomy of the structure of his body due to his wife's cooperation with him in all the matters was great and grand; so also his sons and daughters and servants. The King was reigning the country following good and judicious rules and never did any harm or bad deeds to his citizens. And above all the people in his village were highly respectful and highly cooperative.

In his seven line poem he used the following scientific facts, namely, Science of Body Anatomy, Science of study of mind or the mental nature of a person Psychology, Politics the type of governance of the country or kingdom based on Political Science, Sociology the people in his village were highly intellectual and had a control over Mei, Vaai, Kan, Mooku and Sevi and followed the five golden principles throughout their life. Hence he had no problem: not only in his own house but also in the society in which he lived. These are the main reasons for not having the grey hair even in his advanced age.

Kannian Poongundranar

During the Sangam period, there was a small village called *Poongundram* in Pandia Nadu. At present, the village is identified as Mahipalanpatti in Ramanad District. Poongundran was a great astrologer, mathematician and scientist. As he was well versed in Astronomical Mathematics, he could predict the movements of the Sun, the Moon and other Stars. So he could predict a man's good or bad periods n'om his horoscope. As he was a great astrologer, he was called Kannian, since his original name called Kannian, since his original name is not known from any records.

Kannian is the first poet, who predicts that in the whole world, *every village is his village and every human being is his kith and kin Universal Brotherhood*. It is assured that no poet anywhere in the world or in any language predicted or put forth this idea. At present we feel that the whole world is shrinking into a small village due to the migration of the people from one country to another. The latest information technology (IT) makes the world shrink into a small village. In a single line, the poet predicted these things as

He said that ill luck or good luck could not be transmitted to an individual by others; so also the happiness and the unhappiness. Death in a man's life is not a new thing, i.e. death is inevitable or unavoidable; so also we do say that life is very pleasant and it is also not true. When one feels disillusionment due to anger, he never feels that the existence of life is a regrettable one.

In an individual's life anything may happen at any time and it is due to Nature's Rule. The existence of our life is something like moving a boat in a river containing full of stones or hurdles. The boat at any time may drown (topsy turvy) due to the shock of hitting on a rock and this is compared to our existence of life and death. After observing all these nature's hurdles, we come to a conclusmn that we need not give too much

importance and respect to a great rich and high ranking people and so also we do not give too less respect to the poor and downtrodden.

Conclusion

There were many scientific facts found in the poems of Sangam Age and proved that the people lead peaceful life because of their knowledge in Science.

References

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