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**Pei-Lin Chiou:** Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Dr.-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna, Austria, e-mail: [pei-lin.chiou@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:pei-lin.chiou@oeaw.ac.at)

**Hiroko Matsuoka:** Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Dr.-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna, Austria, e-mail: [hiroko.matsuoka@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:hiroko.matsuoka@oeaw.ac.at)

**Margherita Serena Saccone:** University of Naples L'Orientale, Via Chiatamone 62, I-80121 Napoli, Italy, e-mail: [serenasaccone@gmail.com](mailto:serenasaccone@gmail.com)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Rafael Suter, Asien-Orient-Institut, Universität Zürich, Zürichbergstrasse 4, CH-8032 Zürich, Schweiz, e-mail: [sag.editor@aoi.uzh.ch](mailto:sag.editor@aoi.uzh.ch)

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**JOURNAL COORDINATOR** Anna Barkhoff, De Gruyter, Genthiner Straße 13, 10785 Berlin, Germany, Tel.: +49 (0)30 260 05-115, Fax: +49 (0)30 260 05-250, e-mail: [anna.barkhoff@degruyter.com](mailto:anna.barkhoff@degruyter.com)

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Francesco Sferra\*

# On Verbal Cognition: Śāntarakṣita's and Kamalaśīla's Treatment of *vivakṣā*

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**Abstract:** Jinendrabuddhi, Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla are those who, while putting the ‘intention of the speaker’ (*vivakṣā*) at the core of their analysis of verbal communication, opt for a formal and technical treatment of the topic. In order to prove through coherent arguments that *śābdajñāna* is inference and therefore to support Dignāga's reduction of the valid means of correct knowledge, they all identify *vivakṣā* with the property-possessor (*dharmin*) or probandum (*sādhya*), and *śabda* (‘word’) with the logical mark (*liṅga*) or probans (*sādhana*). They do so to counteract the criticisms of the opponents (Kumārila first of all). Nevertheless, while Jinendrabuddhi, following Dharmakīrti, recognizes the sheer pragmatic value of verbal cognition, Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla seem to follow Dignāga more closely and also recognize its epistemic value. The purpose of this article is precisely to describe the essential points of the arguments of Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla, and show their most original aspects.

**Keywords:** Buddhist logic; philosophy of language; epistemology

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Earlier versions of this paper were read at the University of Cagliari (17 May 2018), at the Rabindra Bharati University of Kolkata (4 February 2019), at the University of Manipal (11 February 2019), and during the symposium “Kamalaśīla's Significance in the Intellectual History of Buddhism” held in Vienna 4–6 March, 2022, at the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (IKGA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. I wish to thank all those friends and colleagues who organised these lectures, and who provided me with insights and comments, in particular (in alphabetical order), Maria Piera Candotti, Nirmalya Chakraborty, Pei-Lin Chiou, Hiroko Matsuoka, Mrinal Kaul, Tiziana Pontillo, and Madhuchanda Sen. I also owe my gratitude to Harunaga Isaacson, Horst Lasic, Margherita Serena Saccone, and Vincenzo Vergiani, who read this paper and provided me with useful corrections and suggestions, and to Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek, who kindly revised the English text.

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\*Corresponding author: Francesco Sferra, Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale, Dipartimento Asia Africa e Mediterraneo, Piazza San Domenico Maggiore 12, 80134 Napoli, Italy, E-mail: fsferra@unior.it

# 1 Introductory Remarks

It has already been noted that Dharmakīrti's introduction of the concept of *vivakṣā*, variously rendered in secondary literature as 'desire to speak', 'intention', 'intended meaning', etc., and of its synonyms, such as *abhiprāya* and *icchā*,<sup>1</sup> in the epistemological analysis of verbal cognition (*śabdajñāna*) was a decisive step in the Buddhist philosophy of language.<sup>2</sup> It is also known that the 'desire to speak' is often referred to in works by early grammarians, above all Patañjali and Bhartṛhari,<sup>3</sup> as well as by philosophers, in particular Kumāriḷa Bhaṭṭa at various points in his *Ślokavārttika*.<sup>4</sup> It is noteworthy, however, that none of these thinkers devoted a systematic treatment to this matter, even though it clearly played a crucial role in their understanding of linguistic communication. Dharmakīrti is no exception in this regard. In his works, the most important passages dealing with the 'intention to speak' are found in various parts of the *Pramāṇavārttika*, its *Svavṛtti*, and in his *Pramāṇaviniścaya*.<sup>5</sup> To a large extent, Dharmakīrti's words mark the boundary within which investigations into the construction of meaning and its transmission were to develop among Buddhist philosophers. Following in his footsteps, Jinendrabuddhi, Śāntarakṣita, and Kamalaśīla were those who opted for a formal and technical treatment of the topic, putting *vivakṣā* at the core of their analysis of verbal communication. In order to prove that *śabdajñāna* is inference through coherent arguments and thus to support Dignāga's reduction of the valid means of correct knowledge, they all identify *vivakṣā* with the property-possessor (*dharmin*) or *probandum* (*sādhya*), and *śabda* ('word') with the logical mark (*liṅga*) or *probans* (*sādhana*), doing so to counteract the criticism of various opponents (above all Kumāriḷa). Nevertheless, while Jinendrabuddhi follows Dharmakīrti, recognizing the sheer pragmatic value of verbal cognition, Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla seem to follow Dignāga more closely by also recognizing the epistemic value of verbal cognition. The purpose of this article is to provide a precise description of the essential points in the arguments of Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla, and to present the most original aspects of their arguments. We note in passing that other Buddhist philosophers did not follow the same path. For instance, for both

1 My impression is that in Dharmakīrti's works, these terms are synonyms (see also Nance 2012: 88). This does not mean that in other contexts or in the work of other authors there is not a difference among them, in particular between *abhiprāya* (lit. 'intention', 'purpose', etc.) and *vivakṣā*.

2 See Eltschinger 2007: 135–138.

3 On *vivakṣā* in Bhartṛhari, see Vergiani 2022.

4 See Yoshimizu 2008, Eltschinger 2007: 136, n. 90, and also Kataoka 2007.

5 See, for instance, *Pramāṇavārttika*, *Pramāṇasiddhi* 18 (= PVin 3.74), *Pratyakṣapariccheda* 227, *Svārthānumāna*° 213, 229, 326–327 (= PVin 2.47–48), *Parārthānumāna*° 109 ff., 191 (= PVin 2.11), 193 (= PVin 2.13).

Ratnakīrti (c. 1000–1050) and Mokṣākaragupta (c. 1050–1202), *vivakṣā* has a limited role and is never used as part of a formal inference. In line with Dharmakīrti's presentation of the topic, the value of *śābdajñāna* as a means of reliable cognition is not stressed, or is even excluded. In his compendium of the main doctrines of the Buddhist logico-epistemological tradition, Mokṣākaragupta, taking up some formulations of Ratnakīrti, limits himself to pointing out that words could give rise to non-deceptive knowledge only if they had a relationship with the objects/meanings they denote. But as he demonstrates, this relationship does not exist, neither in terms of identity (*tādātmya*) nor in terms of causality (*tadutpatti*).<sup>6</sup>

## 2 Dharmakīrti's Treatment of *vivakṣā*

We can conventionally say that the starting point in Dharmakīrti's treatment of this topic is Svārthānumāna st. 213 with its *Svavṛtti*. Here he clearly highlights the ultimate limit of words: In the absence of an invariable connection between them and their objects, words do not serve the purpose of establishing the existence of external reality. The only function they perform is to reveal the speaker's intention.

*nāntariyakatābhāvāc chabdānām vastubhiḥ saha |*  
*nārthasiddhis tatas te hi vaktrabhiprāyasūcakāḥ ||*

Because of the absence of an invariable connection of words with objects, there is no establishment of an [external] object from them, for they indicate [only] the intended meaning of the speaker.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Kajiyama (1998: 32, n. 31) pointed out that § 4.2 of the *Tarkabhāṣā* follows Ratnakīrti's discussion in *Pramāṇāntarbhāvaprakaraṇa* (ed. p. 99 ff.). On this regard, see, for instance, the following passage of Ratnakīrti's *Pramāṇāntarbhāvaprakaraṇa*: [...] *nibandhanaṃ cāsyās tādātmyatadutpattibhyām anyan nopalabhyate, atatsvabhāvasyātadutpattē ca tatrāpratibaddhasvabhāvāt | na hi śābdānām bahīrthasvabhāvātāsti bhinnapratibhāsāvabodhaviṣayatvāt | nāpi śābdā bahīrthād upajāyante, artham antareṇāpi puruṣasyecchāpratibaddhavrteḥ śābdasyotpādadarśanāt* | (p. 99) [...] And of this [connection] no other relationship is perceived apart from that of identity and causality, since what does not have the nature of *X* and what is not produced by *X*, by its own nature is not connected with *X*. Words, in fact, do not have the nature of external objects, since they are the object of a cognition that appears distinct [from them], nor do words arise on the basis of an external object, since words, whose function depends on the intention of the speaker, are seen to arise even without an [external] object.'

<sup>7</sup> PV Svārthānumāna 213. English rendering quoted from Saccone 2019: 467, n. 42, who has translated this on the basis of Manorathanandin's commentary, where *tataḥ* is glossed with *śābdebhyaḥ*. Cf. also Kataoka 2007: 50, n. 31, and Krasser 2012: 84, n. 6.



Some important implications ensue if one shifts the focus from the relationship that others admit between words and the objects/meanings they denote, to the relationship between words and the subject of *vivakṣā*, namely, the speaker, and, implicitly, the listener, who grasps the link between the words of the former and the meanings these words conventionally denote.

## 2.1 The Limit of Language

The first implication is that by saying that *vivakṣā* (and not *artha*) is the referent of words, that is, that verbal communication does not refer to anything real and ultimately existent in the external world, it is also suggested that the entire process is purely mental.<sup>8</sup> As Pārśvadevagaṇi (13th c.) notes in passing in the *Nyāyapraveśa-kabhāṣyaṭīkā*, also the causal relationship admitted between a word and its meaning, if one thinks that a word derives from the desire to utter it and that this desire, in turn, derives from a real object, is valid only for common human interaction; it does not reflect the true reality of things.<sup>9</sup> Consequently, language can neither be used to establish nor to deny *what exists*, nor to explain *what is* that which exists.

## 2.2 The ‘Weak Point’ of *vivakṣā*

The second implication concerns the epistemic validity of verbal cognition. In the *Svavṛtti* on the above-mentioned stanza, Dharmakīrti underlines the ‘weak point’ of *vivakṣā* in a very simple and direct way: Not only are the words of a speaker not bound to reality, but the speaker’s intention is not bound to reality either. Therefore, there is no guarantee that a speaker’s words are reliable.

*na hi śabdā yathābhāvaṃ vartante yatas tebhyo ’rthaprakṛtīr niścīyeta | te hi vaktur vivakṣāvṛttaya iti tannāntariyakās tām eva gamayeyuḥ | na ca puruṣecchāḥ sarvā yathārthabhāvīnyāḥ, na ca tadapratibaddhasvabhāvo bhāvo ’nyaṃ gamayati |*<sup>10</sup>

8 In this regard, see for instance *Pramāṇavārttika* Pramāṇasiddhi 4: *vaktṛvyāpāraviśayo yo ’rtho buddhau prakāśate | prāmāṇyaṃ tatra śabdasya nārthattvanibandhanam ||* ‘The validity of a word is [only] with respect to that thing which is the content of the speaker’s activity [and] which appears in the mind; [the validity of a word] is not based on the nature/reality of a [supposedly external/objective] thing.’ According to both Manoranandin (ed. Sāṅkṛtyāyana p. 4, ed. Pandeya p. 3) and Prajñākaragupta (ed. p. 7), ‘the speaker’s activity’ is *vivakṣā*.

9 [...] *yo ’pi ca “arthena vivakṣā janyate vivakṣayā ca śabdah” iti vivakṣayā kāryakāraṇabhāvaḥ śabdārthayor abhyupagataḥ so ’pi saṃvyavahārārtham, na tu tattvataḥ |* (p. 119).

10 PVSV *ad st.* 213, p. 107, lines 22–25.

It is not the case that words have something to do with the true reality of things, so that thanks to them the nature of objects can be ascertained, since [words] are employed according to the intention of the speaker. Thus, being necessarily related to this [intention], they can make known only the latter. *Neither all man's intentions are in conformity with truth, nor can one thing make another known if its nature is not related to the latter.*<sup>11</sup>

Dharmakīrti's words were echoed and in some cases elaborated on by others. For instance, this topic is touched upon by Arcaṭa (c. 730–790) in the first part of his *Hetubinduṭīkā*, where, while discussing the validity of the *prayojanavākya*, namely, the initial sentence stating the purpose of the treatise, he points out that words (and with them, sentences) only reveal the intention of the speaker, but this is not necessarily reflected by his/her actions in reality. A person can unintentionally, or even intentionally, say things that he/she does not mean.

*na ca prayojanavākyaṣya prāmānyam asti, śabdānām bahirarthe pratibandhābhāvāt | vivakṣāyaṃ prāmānye 'pi, tasyā yathāvastupravṛttinīyamābhāvān na tataḥ prakaraṇasya prayojanaviśeṣaṃ praty upāyatāniścayaḥ samasti | na hi ye yathā yam arthaṃ vivakṣanti te tathaiḥ tam anuṭiṣṭhanti, visamvādanābhīprāyānām anyathābhīdhāyānyathāpravṛttidarśanāt, loke sarva-trānāśvāsāt |*<sup>12</sup>

And there is [no] validity in the *prayojanavākya*, because words have no relationship with an external object. Although [that sentence] is valid with regard to the intention of the speaker, since this [intention] is not bound to an action in accordance with reality, it cannot be ascertained on its basis [= on the basis of this sentence] that a treatise is a valid means towards a particular purpose. This is because those who intend to talk about a thing in a certain way do not [always] accomplish that thing precisely in that way, since it is common experience that those who do not intend to keep a promise behave differently from what they said, since not everyone in the world can be trusted.<sup>13</sup>

A few centuries later, Ratnakīrti also noted that there is no invariable concomitance between words and *vivakṣā*. As he states in passing in his *Sarvajñāsiddhi*: 'It cannot be said that the use of words exists only in the presence of the desire to speak, since it is clear that a person speaks randomly while sleeping, even without wanting to, that is, since there is no pervasion between the simple act of speaking and the desire to speak.'<sup>14</sup>

The awareness that with *vivakṣā* we have entered very slippery ground is, no doubt, also shared by other authors, including non-Buddhist ones. On this point, we

<sup>11</sup> Emphasis mine. See also Yaita 1987 and Eltschinger 2007: 218.

<sup>12</sup> This passage has been re-edited, together with other unpublished passages from Arcaṭa's *Hetubinduṭīkā*, in Sferra 2022.

<sup>13</sup> On this passage, see also Funayama 1985.

<sup>14</sup> *vivakṣābhāve katham vacanapravṛttir iti na vaktavyam | tadabhāve 'pi nidrāṇasya tattatpravyaktavacanasandarśanāt | vacanamātrasya vivakṣāya vyāpter abhāvāt | (Sarvajñāsiddhi p. 25).*

note for instance a convergence with some reflections made by Kumāṛila in the *Ślokaṅkārttika*. Words, he says, reveal the meaning intended by the speaker only in the case of reliable people. In fact, a person may want to say something in a certain way while knowing that it is different in reality. Or, for various reasons, the meaning expressed by the speaker may not coincide with what he/she actually intended to express. It is only in the case of trustworthy people that the words used reveal the speaker's intention: [...] *vakṛdhīr āptavākyena gamyate 'nyatra viplutiḥ*, 'The thought of a speaker is understood when [his] statement stems from [his being] a trustworthy person; in the other case [i.e., if the speaker is not trustworthy,] there is confusion.'<sup>15</sup>

Since the validity of *śabdajñāna* depends on the reliability of the speaker, we deduce a principle that can be expressed with disarming simplicity: The words of a reliable speaker are reliable, namely, the words of a person who, due to his/her moral rectitude and pure wisdom, has no interest in deceiving others; those of an unreliable speaker are unreliable. In Ratnakīrti's *Sarvajñāsiddhi*, the context is that of justifying why the Bhagavān would wish to teach despite being free of 'attachment'. In fact, the Mīmāṃsaka objection revolves around the contradiction between desire to speak and the fact that the Buddha is admitted as free from attachment.<sup>16</sup> Later in the same text, taking up a topic already found in the Spitzer Manuscript (fragment 113)<sup>17</sup> as well as in Dharmakīrti's *Pramāṇavārttikasvavṛtti*,<sup>18</sup> Ratnakīrti explains that the nature of *vivakṣā* in one who is driven by compassion is different from that of one who is driven by *rāga*:

To the one who says that the desire to speak does not exist in those who have completely achieved the ultimate goal, the answer is that it is not so, since [in this case] the desire to speak is aimed at the good of others. And if one were to reply that in one who is devoid of attachment, activity aimed at the good of others would also be difficult to explain since there is no attachment to any purpose, one would say that it is wrong, because even without attachment there is activity by virtue of compassion.<sup>19</sup>

15 Codanāsūtra, st. 162ab. The entire passage runs as follows: *anyathā saṃvidāno 'pi vivakṣaty anyathā yataḥ | tasmād ekāntato nāsti puṇvākyāt taddhīyāṃ gatiḥ || bhrāntasyānyavivakṣāyām anyad vākyam ca dṛśyate | yathāvivakṣam apy etat tasmān naiva pravartate || vakṛdhīr āptavākyena gamyate 'nyatra viplutiḥ | (Ślokaṅkārttika Codanāsūtra stt. 160–162ab; see Kataoka 2011: ed. p. 39, tr. pp. 401–403; see also ed. Ramanatha Sastri p. 84). In the edition by Ganga Sagar Rai (p. 70) we read *āptavākyeṣu* instead of *āptavākyena*. See also Yoshimizu 2008: 52, n. 8. Stanzas 160–161 are also quoted in the anonymous *Pramāṇāntarbhāva* (p. 11). See also below, note 44.*

16 See *Ślokaṅkārttika*, Codanāsūtra 137–140 (Kataoka 2011: ed. pp. 34–35, tr. pp. 366–373).

17 See Franco 2004a; 2004b: 111–112.

18 See PVSV p. 9. The same passage occurs in *Pramāṇaviniścaya*, chapter 3, pp. 109–110.

19 *niṣpannasarvasampatter vivakṣāpi na yujyate iti cet | adoṣo 'yam, parārthatvād vivakṣāyāḥ | vitarāge 'rthāsaṅgābhāvāt katham parārthāpi pravṛttir iti cet | na, āsaṅgam antareṇa karunayāpi pravṛtteḥ | (Sarvajñāsiddhi p. 26).*

With this aspect of *vivakṣā*, the discussion opens onto another topic of significant interest for epistemology and soteriology, that of omniscience. Since this has been the object of several recent contributions,<sup>20</sup> it will not be investigated further here. We will focus instead on another aspect connected to this second implication, namely, the impossibility of using words to establish an epistemic valid inference.

Words can reveal the intention of a speaker, but they are not the logical mark of an ultimately valid inference. It is not at all accidental that Dharmakīrti and his more faithful followers never apply the technical terms of *anumāna* to the ‘ingredients’ of verbal cognition/verbal testimony and scriptural authority (speaker, words/scripture, *vivakṣā*). Nor do they insert *vivakṣā* into a precise scheme of inference. Everything leads us to think that Dharmakīrti and some of his successors either believed that *śābdajñāna* is not part of an inference or are otherwise silent about it. In the words of Helmut Krasser in his explanation of Dharmakīrti’s point of view, ‘one cannot establish a pervasion between scripture and its reliability, and only such a pervasion could guarantee the certainty of the inference’ (Krasser 2012: 104). In this, Dharmakīrti tacitly yet decisively distances himself from Dignāga, who very likely believed that words, both those of scripture and those of ordinary communication, are the logical mark of a valid inference. Those who remained faithful to Dignāga – and we count Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla among them – believed that *śābdajñāna* is still part of inference. From this perspective, we might say that for Dharmakīrti and some of his followers *śābdajñāna* is subsumed under inference only from the conventional point of view, not from the absolute one.<sup>21</sup> Words are valid – that is, they are useful – only pragmatically. While a speaker, from whose intention the validity of knowledge should derive, is not necessarily reliable, an epistemic valid *pramāṇa* must be undecieving, namely, it should have constancy in the capacity of producing effects. This is never guaranteed by *vivakṣā*. As stated at the beginning of the *Pramāṇasiddhi* (see Katsura 1984), knowledge deriving from linguistic communication has its validity, but this must be understood from a pragmatic, conventional point of view; it does not reflect the true reality of things. In fact, unlike an epistemic valid inference, it does not invariably respect the criteria for validity of knowledge.

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<sup>20</sup> Among the most recent, see, for instance, Kataoka 2023, McClintock 2010, Moriyama 2014, Saccone 2019 and 2023.

<sup>21</sup> This is the result of the research of Helmut Krasser, according to whom Dharmakīrti does not admit verbal testimony/scripture (*āptavacana*) ‘as a separate means of valid cognition nor subsumes it under inference’ (Krasser 2012: 83). Cf. Gokhale 2013: 13–16.

## 2.3 Desire to Speak and Convention

The third implication concerns the intrinsic nature of *vivakṣā*, namely, its being inextricably linked to convention. This point was already investigated by Bhartṛhari in his *Vākyapadīya*. Although *vivakṣā* is an essential factor in the formation of a sentence, it cannot ‘ignore’ the context of linguistic exchange, its rules and functioning.<sup>22</sup> Verbal communication implies a sort of double ‘action’: 1) when a speaker intends to express something, he/she uses a word, selecting only one of its many, virtually countless meanings, and he/she does so respecting linguistic conventions and the context. 2) These conventions and the context, for their part, represent a shared horizon of meaning that allows the listeners to understand what the speaker has intended to say. Dharmakīrti refers succinctly to this aspect of *vivakṣā* in Svārthānumāna st. 327ab and in its *Svavṛtti*.

*vivakṣā niyame hetuḥ saṅketas tatprakāśanaḥ |*

The intention of the speaker is the cause of the restriction [of one word/sound to one meaning/object]. The convention is that which reveals this [speaker’s intention].<sup>23</sup>

*vivakṣayā hi śabdo ’rthe niyamyate, na svabhāvataḥ, tasya kvacid apratibandhena sarvatra tulyatvāt | yatrāpi pratibandhas tadabhidhānaniyamābhāvāt, sarvaśabdaiḥ karaṇānām abhidhānaprasaṅgāt | tasmād vivakṣāprakāśanāyabhiprāyanivedanalakṣaṇaḥ saṅketaḥ kriyate |*<sup>24</sup>

In fact a word is restricted to a [particular] meaning/object (*artha*) by the intention of the speaker, not by [its] nature, because that [word] is the same with regard to any [*artha*], due to the absence of a relation [of the word] with a given [object]. Even if there is a relationship [between a word and the] phonatory organs, there is no restriction of the expression of those [phonatory organs by all words], because there would be the undesirable consequence that all words would express [only the] phonatory organs. Therefore, it is in order to reveal the speaker’s intention that a convention is established, consisting in revealing the intention.<sup>25</sup>

22 As V. Vergiani writes very clearly about Bhartṛhari, ‘[t]he individual speakers can choose a higher or lower register, a plain or flowery style, a down-to-earth or polished vocabulary, etc., but they cannot change the morphology or syntax at will or use a word in a sense that is neither its primary meaning nor one of its conventional secondary meanings. [...] Bhartṛhari is acutely aware of this “communal” or “systemic” dimension of *vivakṣā*, which reflects the autonomy of language as a semiotic system and strictly determines the boundaries of individual freedom’ (Vergiani 2022: 1260).

23 See also Eltschinger, Krasser and Taber 2012: 57–61.

24 PVSV ad 327a, ed. p. 172, lines 19–23.

25 This rendering is based on Karṇakagomin’s interpretation (see ed. p. 606).

The circularity or mutual dependence of intention and convention is reaffirmed in another line of the *Pramāṇavārttika*:

*saṅketasaṃśrayāḥ śabdāḥ sa cecchāmātrasaṃśrayaḥ* | (Parārthānumāna 116ab).

Words are based on convention and the latter is based only and solely on the intention [of the speaker].

Words (like any sequence of sounds) convey a meaning only if their relationship is established by a convention: Whoever intends to convey a meaning cannot do so without respecting linguistic conventions. These conventions, in their turn, do not exist without an intention, that is to say, they cannot, by their nature, be established unless they follow someone's intentional decision.<sup>26</sup>

## 2.4 Words and Reality

To summarize the main points presented so far, we can say that words allow us to know what a speaker intends to say in compliance with linguistic conventions. The speaker, in his/her turn, expresses an intention that is bound to the structures of the language he/she is using (lexicon, grammar, syntax, etc.). Nonetheless, the speaker is free to misrepresent his/her intention, or to hide it. In many cases, such misrepresentation is due to accidental circumstances independent of the will of the speaker. It is precisely for this reason that it is legitimate for people to have doubts about a speaker's veracity.<sup>27</sup> Words do not guarantee the authority or reliability of a speaker, nor – as we have seen – do they have authority with regard to external objects: 1) there can be absolute discrepancy between linguistic convention and reality; 2) words are never related to what appears to be external reality, either in terms of identity (*tādātmya*) or of production (*tadutpatti*), and thus they cannot establish its veracity; and for the same reason, 3) words cannot refute external reality either. In this respect it is significant that Dharmakīrti's position on this topic is adopted quite faithfully by the *bāhyārthavādin* Śubhagupta (c. 720–780), who in the first stanzas of his *\*Sarvajñasiddhikārikā* states 'that words, by

<sup>26</sup> See Manorathanandin's gloss on this line: *saṅketam antareṇa vācakādṛṣṭeḥ saṅketasaṃśrayāḥ śabdāḥ* | *sa ca saṅketāḥ puruṣecchāmātrasaṃśrayaḥ, tadatirikṭasyāpeḥṣaṇīyasyābhāvāt* | (ed. Sāṅkṛtyāyana p. 453; ed. Pandeya pp. 384–385).

<sup>27</sup> As is stated at the end of the first chapter of the anonymous *Pramāṇāntarbhāva*, only when the speaker's reliability and the established convention are perfectly known can the object/idea intended by the speaker be known (*abhrāntatve parijñāte abhyāsāder vikalpataḥ* | *samānasamayatve ca vivakṣārthaḥ pratīyate* ||, p. 11).

themselves, do not denote things, but indicate concepts in people’s mind’ (Saccone 2019: 466). Also his opinion regarding *vivakṣā* and its relation to convention matches Dharmakīrti’s point of view perfectly.<sup>28</sup>

### 3 The Logical Formalization of Verbal Knowledge

In light of these considerations, it is quite plausible that Dharmakīrti intentionally refrained from presenting verbal knowledge in terms of a formally valid inference or from describing *vivakṣā* as the logical mark of an inference, endowed with the ‘three natures’ or ‘characteristics’ (*trairūpya*, *trilakṣaṇa*) that were introduced into the philosophical discourse as early as the fourth century by the Buddhist Vasubandhu in his *Vādaividhāna*.<sup>29</sup>

To be sure, the use of a formal scheme of inference to explain *śābdajñāna/āptavacana* is also absent in Dignāga’s works. If compared to later developments, one could say that Dignāga’s treatment is somewhat ambiguous. He deals with verbal cognition in two places in his *Pramāṇasamuccaya*: 1) in st. 2.5ab, where, in a passage on the authority of scripture, he says that the statement of a reliable person (*āptavāda*) is inference since, according to the most plausible interpretation, it is non-belying in the case of both transcendent objects and objects accessible to us (*āptavādāvīsaṃvādasāmānyād anumānatā*);<sup>30</sup> and 2) in st. 5.1, where he introduces the *apoha* theory:<sup>31</sup>

*na pramāṇāntaraṃ śābdam anumānāt tathā hi saḥ |*  
*kṛtakatvādivat svārtham anyāpohena bhāṣate ||*

Verbal cognition is not another means of valid knowledge with respect to inference. In fact, this [= a word] denotes its own object through the exclusion of others, as, for instance, ‘being produced’ [demonstrates the ‘impermanence’ of a word].

28 *de yañ kun la ruñ ba’i phyir || don gcig ñes la dbaṅ phyug min || de phyir brjod ’dod sgra rnams ni || don gcig gnas pa’i rgyu yin no || 10 || don gañ brjod par ’dod pa la || mi yis sgra de brjod pa ni || de ñid sgra de’i brjod bya zes || mñon par brjod par bya ba yin || 11 || de yañ brda las šes bya ste ||* ‘10. Also these [words of the statements regarding the burning of similar fires, etc.,] are not able to be restricted to one single meaning, since they [also] are fit [for referring] to all [objects whatsoever]. Therefore, the intention of the speaker is the cause for the abiding of the words in one single meaning. 11. Being there [his] intention of a meaning X, a person using that word could very well state: “precisely this is what is expressed by this word.” 12a. And this [intended meaning] must be known through convention.’ (ed. and tr. Saccone 2019: 471, 477–478).

29 See Frauwallner 1933.

30 Cit. also in *Pramāṇavārttika* 3.214cd. See Krasser 2012: 99.

31 See Pind 2015: text p. 1, translation pp. 2–3.

Thus we can say that in the same way that *kṛtakatva* ('being produced') is the logical mark of a word's *anityatva* ('impermanence'), words are the logical mark of the inference that allows the listener to know an object through its concurrent absence, *vyatireka* (see Kataoka 2020). However, in Dignāga we find no clear formulation of the terms of inference that would lead to the following scheme:

*dharmin* = *āpta*

*dharma* = transcendent objects as well as objects that are accessible to us

*liṅga* = *vacana*

Indeed, this scheme is in some way implicit. But what Dignāga says is vague enough to be interpreted as Dharmakīrti then does, namely, as a generic parallelism with inference, valid only pragmatically (there is no clear contrast between the two masters). It can also be seen as in agreement with how Jinendrabuddhi, Śāntarakṣita, and Kamalaśīla then interpreted Dignāga's words in the 8th century. In fact, the later masters, while arguing that *āptavāda* falls under *anumāna*, try to provide its logical formalization. Given the relevance and influence of Dharmakīrti's work, they are forced, so to speak, to reinterpret Dignāga in light of Dharmakīrti. They resort to the concept of *vivakṣā*, which never played a role in Dignāga's explanation of verbal communication, and implicitly attempt a sort of synthesis between the two earlier masters. It is precisely the introduction of *vivakṣā* that allows them to provide a formalization of inference and the application of *trairūpya*.

Despite differences in context, style, and structure, there are similar arguments in Jinendrabuddhi's *Viśālāmalavatī* (*ad Pramāṇasamuccaya* 5.1) and in Śāntarakṣita's *Tattvasaṃgraha* (stt. 1521–1524). In both texts, as well as in the *Tattvasaṃgrahaṇīkā*, the sections presenting the formalization of *anumāna* are extremely clear.

The entire passage of Jinendrabuddhi's *Viśālāmalavatī*, of which here only a short excerpt is quoted, is rich in information and contains several arguments. Here we find the relevant passage describing the main structure of a formalized inference:

*tatra cāsty eva śabdasya trairūpyam | tathā hi vivakṣāvān puruṣo dharmī | vivakṣā sādhyadharmāḥ | vivakṣāvaty evopalambhabhāvāc chabdasya pakṣadharmatvam | vivakṣāvān pūr-vānubhūtaḥ sapakṣaḥ | tadvyatireko vipakṣa iti kathaṃ trairūpyaṃ na sambhavati ||* (ed. Lasic, McAllister and Krasser forthc., p. 2)

And regarding this, a word has indeed three natures. To explain, the property-possessor is the person who has an intention to speak. The property that must be demonstrated is the intention to speak. The word [of which it is being examined here whether it is a valid inferential mark] is [indeed] a quality of the locus, since it is perceived only in one who has the intention to speak.



The one who possesses the intention to speak is the previously experienced *sapakṣa*. The *vīpakṣa* is devoid of this. Thus how would [a word] not have the three conditions?

The following table summarizes the main points:

*dharmīn* = speaker/mountain  
*dharmā/sādhyā* = *vīvakṣā*/fire  
*līṅga/sādhana* = *śabda*/smoke

The treatment of the same topic in Śāntarakṣita's *Tattvasaṃgraha* (and its *Pañjikā*) presents no substantial differences. However, his treatment is remarkable in its clarity and synthesis. It is also interesting from a historical point of view, since it clearly refers to an earlier debate.

*vīvakṣāyāṃ ca gamyāyāṃ viśpaṣṭaiva trīrūpatā |*  
*puṃsi dharmiṇi sādhyā kāryeṇa vacasā yataḥ || 1520 ||*  
*pādapārthavīvakṣāvān puruṣo 'yaṃ pratīyate |*  
*vṛkṣaśābdaprayokṛtvāt pūrvāvasthāsv ahaṃ yathā || 1521 ||*  
*ato yatra parair bahye trairūpyādi nirākṛtam |*  
*śābdānāṃ iṣyate tatra naivāsmābhiḥ pramāṇatā || 1522 ||*  
*yatra tv eṣāṃ abhīṣṭeyaṃ vyaktaṃ tatra trīrūpatā |*  
*vīvakṣāyāṃ tu sādhyāyāṃ trailakṣanyaṃ prakāśitam || 1523 ||*

And when what is to be inferred is the desire to speak, the presence of the three characteristics [of inference] is quite clear, since in a person, who is the property-possessor, this [desire to speak] is that which must be proved by [its] effect, namely, the verbal statement[, which is the *probans*]. 1520

[For example:] This person is known to have had a desire to express the referent/object 'tree' because he utters the word 'tree', as I did in earlier circumstances. 1521

Therefore, we do not at all consider words a *pramāṇa* with regard to an external [object], with regard to which others denied that they possess the three characteristics of inference, etc.; 1522 however, in that [i.e., in the intention,] with regard to which they are admitted [by us] as a *pramāṇa*, the presence of the three characteristics is an evident fact. When it is the desire to speak that is to be established/proved, it has been shown that the three characteristics are present [in the words]. 1523

Regarding this passage, Kamalaśīla does not elaborate much on his teacher's words. The only significant addition is in the commentary on stanzas 1520–1521, where there is a short clarification of the possible case of the speaker not being perceived directly, or cases in which one perceives an echo or hears something inside a cave:

*puruṣo dharmī yatra vaktā dṛśyate, sā vivakṣā sādhyā, svasantāne ca sambandhaḥ pūrvaṃ  
siddhaḥ | yatra tu vaktā na dṛśyate tatra pradeśo dharmī puruṣaviśiṣṭaḥ sādhyah | tathā hi –  
pradeśasyāpi śabdakāraṇatvam asty eva | parvatakuharādāv anyādṛśasabdaśravaṇāt ||*

Where there is direct experience of a speaker, it is the ‘person’ who is the ‘property-possessor’; ‘This’, that is to say the desire to speak, ‘is what must be proved’; and the relationship was previously established within one’s [= inferrer’s] own *continuum*. Where, on the other hand, there is no direct experience of a speaker, the possessor of quality is the place, which is the *probandum* characterised by [the presence of] a person. To put it differently, even the place is in fact the cause of the word, since in a mountain cave, etc., one feels that the words are different [from those heard elsewhere].

## 4 Verbal Cognition as Inference

The person referred to by Śāntarakṣita in st. 1522 with the word *paraiḥ* is undoubtedly Kumārila. Identifying the main antagonist with this philosopher is by no means incidental. With the evident intention of supporting the authority of the Veda and its being *apauruṣeya*, Kumārila was in fact one of those who most decisively re-thought the defence of *āptavacana* as an independent *pramāṇa*. Arguing against Bauddhas and Vaiśeṣikas, he critically distanced himself from other proponents of Brahmanic culture (notably the Sāṃkhya and others not openly mentioned, *sāṃkhyādibhiḥ*) by pointing out that their defence of words as a separate *pramāṇa* is ineffective precisely because they did not take the three characteristics of inference into account.<sup>32</sup>

Śāntarakṣita was aware that to justify *śabdajñāna* in *anumāna*, he had to take Kumārila’s hypothesis seriously. This is why in the *pūrvaṃpakṣa* of the *Pramāṇāntarabhāva-parīkṣā*, he silently quotes several stanzas from the *Ślokavārttika* related to this topic.<sup>33</sup> Jinendrabuddhi, in his turn, also does not mention Kumārila explicitly, but it is probable that he had the same author in mind.

To summarise the main points of his thesis, Kumārila argues that authoritative testimony or verbal cognition is different from direct perception, although the latter is implicit in the experience of listening to the words of a speaker, and is also different from inference. This is because, first, it can refer to an object/meaning that is beyond the senses (since we can speak or hear about things that are in front of us, but also about things that are imperceptible); and second, it is not possible to

<sup>32</sup> See *Ślokavārttika*, Śabdaparicheda 15–18.

<sup>33</sup> *Ślokavārttika*, Śabdaparicheda 56, 83–88, 98 = *Tattvasamgraha* 1490–1497.

apply the three characteristics of the logical mark to it. In fact, a word (*śabda*), which should act as a logical sign to make the meaning known, does not respect any of the needed characteristics: 1) It is not a property of the place of inference, but is a property of the speaker (for example, when one proffers the word ‘tree’, this word does not belong to a tree, but rather belongs to the speaker). Moreover, between a word and its object, there is 2) neither a positive, nor 3) a negative invariable concomitance, because it is possible to name something inexistent or absent at the moment of speaking and vice versa. To this Kumārila adds that it is not even possible to invoke the theory of a word’s eternity or omnipresence, because the absurdity would follow that every word would allow us to know all meanings at every time and place.<sup>34</sup> It is therefore precisely the absence of the three characteristics that justifies the status of *śabdajñāna* as an independent *pramāṇa*.

Śāntaraṅgīta, Kamalaśīla, and Jinendrabuddhi agree with Kumārila that there is no essential connection between objects and words based on identity of nature, because they are perceived by different sense organs, or based on causality, because between them there is a difference of time, place, etc. Indeed, an object can be present when the word is absent and vice versa. Therefore a word, by itself, cannot serve as a valid means of knowing the things it expresses. At the same time, due to their allegiance to Dignāga and the tradition preceding them, Śāntaraṅgīta and Kamalaśīla want to distance themselves from any point of view directly or indirectly supporting a necessary connection between word and meaning that is not based on convention. Thus they prefer to strictly follow the ‘*pramāṇasamuccaya*’ of Dignāga and bring the mechanisms of language and verbal testimony back within the safe domain of inference. This guarantees the verifiability of the cognitive process and a more accurate evaluation of its results. As we have seen, in order to do this, the two Buddhist logicians, in agreement with Jinendrabuddhi’s interpretation of *Pramāṇasamuccaya* 5.1, present a radical change of perspective: A word is the *probans* or logical mark of the intended meaning, not of the meaning (*artha*) as found in the *mīmāṃsaka* perspective (as well as in the perspective of other *darśanas*). This intended meaning is the *probandum*; it is always present in the place of inference, that is to say, in the speaker’s mind or, as Kamalaśīla points out, in the place occupied by the speaker. This is a kind of ‘revolution’ which, in perfect line with the Buddhist ontological view, does not support the material, external reality of objects.

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34 See *Śloka-vārttika*, Śabdapariśeḍha, stt. 87–88 = *Tattvasaṃgraha* 1495–1496.

## 5 Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla vs Bhartṛhari

Still in the background of this whole discussion is the criticism of viewpoints maintaining the existence of a necessary and eternal connection between word and meaning. This topic was already examined in the Śabdārthaparīkṣā section of the *Tattvasaṃgraha* and its *Pañjikā*. It is worth noting that it is precisely in this section that we find the first passage in these two works in which Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla deal with *vivakṣā*. In the introduction to verse 906, Kamalaśīla paraphrases and in part quotes verse 197[8]cd of Bhartṛhari's *Ṛttisamuddeśa*.<sup>35</sup> This citation is significant, because at first glance Bhartṛhari's point of view largely coincides with that of the two Buddhist masters: Words allow one to infer the intention of the speaker.<sup>36</sup> More precisely, Bhartṛhari says that there is nothing other than words which allows us to infer the intention of a speaker.<sup>37</sup>

What they criticize in Bhartṛhari (in stt. 906–907ab), as in all viewpoints considered in the relevant section of the Śabdārthaparīkṣā, is the assumption that between words and objects there is a necessary relation not based on convention. Specifically, the fact that words reveal the desire to express an *artha* would prove the fact that there is an absolute link between *artha* and *śabda*. The two Buddhist masters – in particular Kamalaśīla, who is explicit on this point – consider Bhartṛhari a proponent of this point of view: *śabda* can reveal the desire to express an *artha* because it is related to it from an absolute point of view (*paramārthataḥ*). This – let us say in passing – is no doubt a simplification of Bhartṛhari's opinion.

The difference from the Buddhist position is highlighted by Kamalaśīla precisely by the use of the word *paramārthataḥ*. The reply of the two Buddhist masters revolves around the lack of relationship between *śabda* and *artha* from an absolute point of view. Rather, this relationship exists only on a conventional level.<sup>38</sup> Since there is no necessary relationship between *śabda* and *artha*, even less may there be a relationship between *śabda* and the desire to express *artha* (*kva vivakṣā kva vā*

<sup>35</sup> The table published in Giunta 2022: 541–542 can be integrated with this reference.

<sup>36</sup> See *Tattvasaṃgraha* 1514.

<sup>37</sup> *Ṛttisamuddeśa* 197 [198 ed. Rau, p. 336] (= *Vākyapadīya* 3.11.197 [198]): *śabdād arthāḥ pratīyante sa bhedaṇām vidhāyakaḥ | anumānaṃ vivakṣāyāḥ śabdād anyan na vidyate ||*.

<sup>38</sup> *yadi paramārthato vivakṣā paramārthikaśabdārthaviṣayesyate, tad asiddham, svalakṣaṇādeḥ śabdārthasya kasyacid asambhavāt | ato na kvacid arthe paramārthato vivakṣāsti, anvayino ṛthasyābhavāt | nāpi tatpratīpādakaḥ śabdo 'sti |* (p. 250) 'If from an absolute point of view it is admitted that the intention of the speaker has a real *artha* of the word as its object, [we reply that] this is not established, since no *artha* of a word is possible, starting with the particular. Therefore, from the absolute point of view, there is no intention of a speaker towards any *artha*, since there is no *artha* that is connected [with such an intention], nor is there a word that allows this [intention] to be known.'

*śrutih*, TS 906d). There is no *artha* that is absolutely connected with *śabda* and the desire to express it. From Kamalaśīla's perspective (and that of Śāntarakṣita), Bhartṛhari is wrong in believing that there is a necessary relationship between the meaning expressed by words and the intention to express this meaning. If this were the case, a word would allow us, among other things, to know automatically and with absolute clarity the intention of the speaker, but this is of course contradicted by experience.

The passage in question (namely, *Tattvasaṃgraha* and *Tattvasaṃgrahapañjikā* 906–908) deserves special attention, but this is beyond the scope of the current discussion and thus will remain the subject of a future essay. Limiting ourselves to a few observations on the main points, we note that in the specific portion of the *Vṛttisamuddeśa* from which st. 197[8]cd is quoted, the question of the relationship between word and meaning is not raised from an ontological point of view. In this passage, the reflections on the speaker's intention are an aside in the course of a discussion on the *dvandva* compound, a discussion semantic in nature rather than grammatical.<sup>39</sup> The starting point is represented by the difficulty of attributing gender and number to a *dvandva*, above all due to the fact that in *Aṣṭādhyāyī* 2.2.29, Pāṇini defines this compound as *cārthe*, 'in the meaning of *ca*' (*cārthe dvandvaḥ*). The *dvandva* should therefore be an indeclinable, without gender and number, exactly as *ca*. If the Pāṇinian *sūtra* were interpreted literally, *dvandva* compounds should not be associated with gender and number, but it is evident that *dvandvas* are indeed associated with them; moreover, they are declined and serve as *kāraḥ*. According to Bhartṛhari, *sūtra* 2.2.29 does not state that *dvandva* means *ca*; its intention is simply to indicate the similarity between a *dvandva* and a set of isolated words coordinated by the conjunction *ca* (see *Vṛttisamuddeśa* 192 [193]). As Helārāja points out in his commentary, the similarity is that in both cases the words depend on each other (p. 145). Since a *dvandva* refers to substances, it is completely normal that it conveys meaning in connection with a gender and a number (see *Vṛttisamuddeśa* 196 [197]). These are determined by the power of denotation proper to each word. They are also partly dependent on the words' suffixes. Indeed, the same thing can be expressed with different words, but there is no way to guess *a priori* which word a speaker will choose. He/she may mean 'water', but we cannot know in advance whether he/she will use a neuter word for water (*jalam*) or a feminine one (*ap*), etc. Thus, it is from this point of view that in *Vṛttisamuddeśa* 197 [8] Bhartṛhari says we can infer a speaker's intention only from his/her words and not vice versa.

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<sup>39</sup> See Chaturvedi 2001: 64–70.

## 6 Differences with Jinendrabuddhi's Treatment of Verbal Cognition

As mentioned above, the arguments of Jinendrabuddhi and Śāntarakṣita (and Kamalaśīla) are largely equivalent. It is reasonable to think that one of the two authors modelled his work on that of the other, although it is difficult to say with certainty who on whom. Leaving aside stylistic and formal differences (the *Viśālāmalavatī* is in prose, while the *Tattvasaṃgraha* is in verse), we will focus here only on differences in structure and content. As we will see, these are probably interconnected. Both texts start with the *pratiñā*, which declares the reduction of *pramāṇas* to only direct perception and inference.

In the *Tattvasaṃgraha*, there is a quite elaborate *pūrvapakṣa* (stt. 1488–1498) followed by a critical response (stt. 1499–1514).<sup>40</sup> The *mīmāṃsaka* point of view is presented with verbatim quotations from the *Ślokavārttika*.<sup>41</sup> The *Pañjikā* also contains a quotation from the *Śābarabhāṣya*.<sup>42</sup> The response does not focus on the impossibility of applying the three characteristics to *śabda* if this is considered the logical sign of an external object, since on this point, as has been shown above, there is broad convergence on the part of the two Buddhist masters. It focusses rather on the two definitions of *śabdajñāna* presented by the *mīmāṃsakas* in the *pūrvapakṣa*, namely, knowledge deriving from the scriptures (= the Veda) and knowledge deriving from a reliable person.

In contrast, in the *Viśālāmalavatī* there is no *pūrvapakṣa*. After an explanation of verse 5.1 of the *Pramāṇasamuccaya* (Kamalaśīla quotes and comments on the same verse<sup>43</sup>), Jinendrabuddhi immediately goes on to show the application of *trairūpya* to *śabdajñāna* with the passage cited above (Section 3). This is immediately followed by the presentation of an objection (without a clear identification of the objector). We find the same objection in the *Tattvasaṃgraha*, where however it is introduced before the stanzas relating to the formalization of the inference, as also cited and translated above (Section 3). From reading the *Tattvasaṃgraha*, we can see that this objector is Kumārila, since the stanza introducing the objection corresponds, with a slight but significant change, to Codanasūtra 161 (= *Tattvasaṃgraha* 1515).<sup>44</sup> As Kumārila implicitly argues in this verse, the desire to speak can be of two types: the desire to express something specific (*vivakṣāviśeṣa*), and a generic desire to speak

<sup>40</sup> For an English rendering, see Jha 1939: vol. II, pp. 746–755. See also Sferra 2018.

<sup>41</sup> See above, note 33.

<sup>42</sup> A few sentences from *Śābarabhāṣya* 1.1.5 are quoted *ad Tattvasaṃgraha* 1488–1490.

<sup>43</sup> See *Tattvasaṃgrahapañjikā ad stt.* 1513–1514.

<sup>44</sup> The two verses differ only in *pāda* b: *anyad vākyaṃ ca drśyate* (*Codanasūtra*) and *vākyaṃ ced anyad iksyate* (*Tattvasaṃgraha*); see Kataoka 2011: ed. p. 39, tr. p. 402.

(*vivakṣāsāmānya*).<sup>45</sup> In neither case does it make sense to say that *śabda* is *pramāṇa* with regard to *vivakṣā*, since the words fail to reveal the speaker's desire. On one hand, there can be exceptions, as for example a person saying one thing and meaning another (= the weak point discussed above in Section 2.2). On the other hand, it is useless: the knowledge of mere generic intention is inefficient, that is, it brings no advantage in practical life.

In response, the three Buddhist masters show that words *always* reveal a specific desire to speak.<sup>46</sup> Even gestures – Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla underline this in particular – are part of language. Wise people know how to recognize the context as well as the reliability and authority of the speaker. In addition to presenting the above objection and its critique following the formalization of the inference, Jinendrabuddhi also reverses the treatment of *vivakṣāvīśeṣa* and *vivakṣāsāmānya*. This inversion allows him to conclude his response by saying that what is revealed by words in an inferential process is the specific intention, which is pragmatically useful. It is practical utility that is close to his heart; the intention to speak in general is indeed manifested by words, but has no practical use. Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla, use the response to this objection as a premise for the formalization of the inference, serving them to debunk the 'weak side' of *vivakṣā*.<sup>47</sup> As all three Buddhist masters clearly say in the conclusion of their arguments, words are a valid logical sign, exactly like smoke. However, this statement has greater force in the *Tattvasaṃgraha* and in its *Pañjikā* than in the *Viśālāmalavatī*. This is not only because Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla make this statement immediately following the formalization of the inference. It is also because the subsequent conclusion in both texts marks a significant difference between these two authors and Jinendrabuddhi. Śāntarakṣita ends his discussion on *śabdajñāna* with the following words:

*evaṃ sthite 'numānatvaṃ śabde dhūmādivad bhavet |*  
*trairūpyasahitavena tādr̥gviśayasattvataḥ || 1524 ||*

This being the case, the nature of the inference pertains to the word, such as to smoke, etc., because it is endowed with the three characteristics and because the nature of its object is of the same type.

Jinendrabuddhi instead remains more faithful to Dharmakīrti's approach. At the end of the passage addressing this question, he hastens to clarify that his description is not valid from an absolute point of view (*ataḥ pratipattur abhiprāyaviśeṣavaśād viśeṣe śabdasyānumānatvam, na punaḥ paramārthataḥ*, p. 4). This addition is

<sup>45</sup> This distinction is made explicit only in the *Tattvasaṃgrahapañjikā ad* 1515–1519.

<sup>46</sup> See *Tattvasaṃgraha* 1516–1519.

<sup>47</sup> See also *Tattvasaṃgrahapañjikā*, p. 6, lines 1–3.

significant, for it marks a clear difference with Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla, who seem to lean towards a less ‘conventional’ line.

It is difficult to say who was the first to employ *vivakṣā* as the *sādhya* of an inference, whether Śāntarakṣita or Jinendrabuddhi. Most likely they were contemporaries, although Jinendrabuddhi was probably slightly older. However, it is certain that he was familiar with Śāntarakṣita’s *Tattvasaṃgraha*, perhaps when it was still a work in progress.<sup>48</sup> No firm conclusions can be reached at present, but the fact remains that in Śāntarakṣita’s text the confrontation with Kumārila represents the core of the entire discussion (references to opponents in the parallel section of Jinendrabuddhi’s text are quite vague or marginal). Moreover, in his conclusion there is nothing to indicate his possible distancing from Dharmakīrti; in this respect, Jinendrabuddhi immediately tried to run for cover. This suggests that the discussion of this topic first saw light in the work of Śāntarakṣita.

## Appendix

Notes and corrections to the printed editions of the *Pramāṇāntarabhāvaparīkṣāpāñjikā ad stt. 1486–1524*

The following list is drawn up by consulting the available Sanskrit manuscripts of the text (see below, Bibliography) and the Peking, sNar than and sDe dge block prints of its Tibetan translation. Only those variant readings that seem useful for a more correct interpretation of the text are recorded here. Variants that seem the result of copyist mistakes or orthography are usually ignored.

1. *Ad st. 1488 (K) [1487 (Ś1 and Ś2)]:* Embar Krishnamacharya silently emends the text with the words *pramāṇadvayād anyasya pramāṇalakṣaṇam avisaṃvāditvaṃ nāsty eva* (K vol. 1, p. 433; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 530; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 370) instead of the manuscripts’ reading *pramāṇadvayād anyasya pramāṇasya lakṣaṇam avisaṃvāditvaṃ nāsty eva* (Jp fol. 171r<sub>3</sub>; Pp fol. 128v<sub>4</sub>). See also Tp: *tshad ma gñis [P N; ñid D] las gžan la tshad ma’i mtshan ñid mi slu [P D; bsu N] ba ñid med pa yin la* (P vol. 7E, fol. 71v<sub>7-8</sub>; N 7E, fol. 66r<sub>4</sub>; D vol. 7E, fol. 40v<sub>7</sub>).
2. *Ad stt. 1489–1491 [1488–1490]:* Read with Jp (fol. 171r<sub>4</sub>), Pp (fol. 128v<sub>6</sub>), and with the parallel passage in the *Tarkarahasya* (p. 19) *śabdajñānād asannikṛṣṭe ’rthe jñānaṃ śābdam* instead of *śabdajñānād asannikṛṣṭe ’rthajñānaṃ śābdam* (K vol. 1, p. 434; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 530; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 370).

<sup>48</sup> On Jinendrabuddhi’s dates, see Steinkellner, introduction to *Viśālāmalavati*, vol. 1, pp. xxxviii–xlii, and the references therein.



3. *Ad stt.* 1489–1491 [1488–1490]: Read *śabdasvalakṣaṇagrahaṇād uttarakālaṃ parokṣe rthe yad utpadyate jñānaṃ tac chabdād āgatam* (Jp fol. 171r<sub>4</sub>; Pp fol. 128v<sub>6-7</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 434) instead of *śabdasvalakṣaṇagrahaṇād uttarakālaṃ jñānaṃ tac chabdād āgatam* (Ś1 vol. 1, pp. 530–531; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 370). The Tibetan translation (D vol. 'E, fol. 41r<sub>3</sub>) and the parallel passage in the *Tarkarahasya* (p. 19) support the reading of the manuscripts.
4. *Ad stt.* 1489–1491 [1488–1490]: Read *taddharmatvena* instead of *taddharmatvana* (Jp fol. 171r<sub>5</sub>), which is clearly a *lapsus calami*, and of *taddharmitvena* (Pp fol. 128v<sub>9</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 434; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 531; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 370).
5. *Ad st.* 1493 [1492]: Read *°nirūpaṇāprayāsenā* (Jp fol. 171v<sub>1</sub>; Pp fol. 128v<sub>13</sub>) instead of *°nirūpaṇaprayāsenā* (K vol. 1, p. 434; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 531; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 371), which conveys the same meaning.
6. *Ad st.* 1495 [1494]: Read *yato* (Jp fol. 171v<sub>2</sub>; Pp fol. 128v<sub>16</sub>; Tp [gañ gi phyir, P vol. YE, fol. 72v<sub>5</sub>; N YE, fol. 67r<sub>1</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 41v<sub>4</sub>]; K vol. 1, p. 435) instead of *tato* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 532; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 371), even though the position of this word in the sentence is not the expected one from the syntactical point of view.
7. *Ad st.* 1497 [1496]: Read *na bhinnakālatā* (Jp fol. 171v<sub>4</sub>; Pp fol. 129r<sub>2</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 435) instead of *bhinnakālatā* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 532; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 371). The Tibetan translation supports the reading of the manuscripts: *dus tha dad pa ma yin la* (P vol. YE, fol. 73r<sub>1</sub>; N YE, fol. 67r<sub>4</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 41v<sub>7</sub>).
8. *Ad st.* 1497 [1496]: Read *sarvadeśāvaṣṭambhenāvasthiteḥ* (Jp fol. 171v<sub>4</sub>; Pp fol. 129r<sub>2</sub>) instead of *sarvadeśeṣv avasthiteḥ* (K vol. 1, p. 435; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 532; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 371). The Tibetan translation supports the reading of the manuscripts: *yul thams cad non par gnas pas* (P vol. YE, fol. 73r<sub>1</sub>; N YE, fol. 67r<sub>4-5</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 41v<sub>7</sub>).
9. *Ad st.* 1497 [1496]: Read *yena kenacic chabdena* (Pp fol. 129r<sub>3</sub> [kenaci for kenacic]; K vol. 1, p. 435; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 532; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 371); it is worth noting that Jp's reading *iyata* (sic for *iyatā*) *kenacic chabdena* (fol. 171v<sub>4</sub>), less usual, is perhaps acceptable: 'On the basis of all this, by means of any word [...]'. Tp supports the reading of the published text: *sgra gañ yañ ruñ ba 'ga'* [D N; 'gal P] *zig gis* (P vol. YE, fol. 73r<sub>3</sub>; N YE, fol. 67r<sub>6</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 42r<sub>1</sub>).
10. *Ad st.* 1497bd [1496bd]: In correspondence with the word *vyatirekaḥ* (K vol. 1, p. 435; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 532; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 372) in Jp (fol. 171v) and Pp (fol. 129r) there is the following marginal note: *vyatirekābhāvam āha*.
11. *Ad st.* 1499 [1498]: Read *bhavati svargo* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>1</sub>; Pp fol. 129r<sub>8</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 436) instead of *bhavati vā svargah* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 533; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 372), equally possible and present in Śabara's text (see Frauwallner 1968: 16<sub>25</sub>).
12. *Ad st.* 1499 [1498]: Read *jñātum iti* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>2</sub>; Pp fol. 129r<sub>11</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 436) instead of *jñātum rte vacanāt* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 533; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 372), equally possible and present in Śabara's text (see Frauwallner 1968: 18<sub>5-6</sub>). The Tibetan translation supports the reading of the manuscripts (cf. D vol. 'E, fols. 42r<sub>7</sub>–42v<sub>1</sub>).

13. St. 1500b [1499b]: Read *sambhavārthāv* (Jk fol. 76r<sub>1</sub>; Pk fol. 28r<sub>11</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 436; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 533) instead of *sambhavavārthāv* (Ś2 vol. 1, p. 372), which is clearly a typo.
14. Ad st. 1500 [1499]: In correspondence with the word *akarṭṛkasya* (K vol. 1, p. 436; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 533; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 372) in Jp (fol. 172r) and Pp (fol. 129r) there is the following marginal note: *akarṭṛkasya nityasya*.
15. Ad st. 1500 [1499]: Read *parokṣe ṛthe yaj jñānam ity asyāsambhavāt* instead of *parokṣe rthe ya jñātam ity asyāsambhāvāt* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>3</sub>; Pp fol. 129r<sub>12-13</sub>), *parokṣo ṛtho yaṃ jñāta ity asyāsambhavāt* (K vol. 1, p. 436) and *parokṣo ṛtho yaṃ jñānam ity asyāsambhavāt* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 533; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 372).
16. Ad st. 1501 [1500]: Read *yathā vikalakāraṇo* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>5</sub>; Pp fol. 129r<sub>17</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 436) instead of *yathāṅvikalakāraṇo* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 534) and *tathā vikalakāraṇo* (Ś2 vol. 1, p. 373). The Tibetan translation supports the reading of the manuscripts (see D vol. 'E, fol. 42v<sub>6</sub>).
17. Ad stt. 1502–1503 [1501–1502]: Read *viparītārthatvena satyārthatvena vā* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>5</sub>; Pp fol. 129r<sub>17-129v1</sub>) instead of *viparītārthatvena vā* (Pp fol. 129r<sub>17-129v1</sub>) and *aviparītārthatvena viparītārthatvena vā* (K vol. 1, p. 437 [the first compound is printed between parentheses]; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 534; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 373).
18. Ad stt. 1502–1503 [1501–1502]: Read *tasyās ca dvīprakārāyā apy* ('py in MS) *arthavattāyā guṇadoṣau kāraṇam* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>5-6</sub>) instead of *tasyās ca buddhidvīprakārāyā apy arthavattāyā guṇadoṣau kāraṇam* (Pp fol. 129v<sub>1</sub>) and *tasyās ca buddher dvīprakārāyā apy arthavattāyā guṇadoṣau kāraṇam* (K vol. 1, p. 437; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 534; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 373). There is no rendering of the word *buddher* in Tp (cf. D vol. 'E, fol. 42v<sub>7</sub>).
19. Ad stt. 1502–1503 [1501–1502]: Read *tataś ca puruṣanivṛttau guṇadoṣanivṛttiḥ | guṇadoṣanivṛttau samyaktvamithyātvayor apy abhāvaḥ |* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>6</sub>; Pp fol. 129v<sub>2-3</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 437; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 534) instead of *tataś ca puruṣanivṛttau guṇadoṣayoḥ samyaktvamithyātvahetvor āśrayaḥ puruṣaḥ | tataś ca puruṣanivṛttau guṇadoṣanivṛttiḥ | guṇadonivṛttau* (sic) *samyaktvamithyātvayor apy abhāvaḥ |* (Ś2 vol. 1, p. 373). The Tibetan translation supports the reading of the manuscripts (cf. D vol. 'E, fol. 43r<sub>1-2</sub>).
20. Ad stt. 1502–1503 [1501–1502]: Read *apauruṣeye* (Jp fol. 172r<sub>7</sub>; Pp fol. 129v<sub>3</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 437) instead of *apauruṣeya°* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 534; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 373).
21. Ad stt. 1502–1503 [1501–1502]: In correspondence with the words *tataś ca deśa°* (K vol. 1, p. 437; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 534; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 373) in Jp (fol. 172r) and Pp (fol. 129v) there is the following marginal note: *nirhetutvaprasaṅgād eva*.
22. Ad st. 1504 [1503]: Read *dr̥ṣṭo* (Jp fol. 172v<sub>2</sub>; Pp fol. 129v<sub>10</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 438; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 535) instead of *iṣṭaḥ* (Ś2 vol. 1, p. 373). The Tibetan translation supports the reading of the manuscripts (cf. D vol. 'E, fol. 43v<sub>1</sub>).
23. Ad st. 1510 [1509]: Read *na hy asya* (Jp fol. 173r<sub>1</sub>) instead of *na hy anya°* (Pp fol. 130r<sub>9-10</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 439; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 537; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 375), which is the reading

- supported by the Tibetan translation: *gžan gyi* (cf. P vol. YE, fol. 76r<sub>2</sub>; N YE, fol. 70r<sub>4</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 44v<sub>1</sub>).
24. St. 1511d [1510d]: Read *pratayaitaḥ*, which is also supported by the commentary, instead of *pratayataḥ* (Jk fol. 76v<sub>2</sub>; Pk fol. 28r<sub>17</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 439; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 538; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 375).
25. Ad stt. 1511–1512 [1510–1511]: Read *na kṣīnadoṣaḥ* (Jp fol. 173r<sub>2</sub>; Pp fol. 130r<sub>12</sub>) instead of *ya kṣīnadoṣaḥ* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 537; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 375). See also Tp (D vol. 'E, fol. 44v<sub>2-3</sub>).
26. Ad st. 1513 [1512]: Read with Jp (fol. 173v<sub>1</sub>) and substantially in accord with the Tibetan rendering (cf. D vol. 'E, fol. 45r<sub>6-7</sub>) *svalakṣaṇabhede yādrśo* [...] *buddhibhedābhedau hetutvenopādīyete* instead of *svalakṣaṇabhede yādrśo lakṣaṇabhede yādrśo* [...] *buddhibhedābhedau hetutvenopādīyete* (Pp fol. 130v<sub>6-7</sub>) and *svalakṣaṇabhede yādrśe lakṣaṇabhede yādrśo* [...] *buddhibhedābhedāv upādīyete* (K vol. 1, pp. 440–441; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 539; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 376).
27. Ad st. 1515 [1514]: In correspondence with the words *sā ca vivakṣā tatkāryatvād* (K vol. 1, p. 441; Ś1 vol. 1, pp. 539–540; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 376) in Jp (fol. 173v) and Pp (fol. 130v) there is the following marginal note: *tad vacanaṃ kāryaṃ yasyāḥ*.
28. Ad st. 1515 [1514]: Read with Jp and in accord with the Tibetan translation ([...] *skyes bus ma byas pa ñid*, P vol. YE, fol. 77r<sub>7</sub>; N YE, fol. 71r<sub>7</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 45v<sub>3</sub>) *ity apauruṣeyatvenāpy* (fol. 173v<sub>2</sub>) instead of *iti pauruṣeyatvenāpy* (Pp fol. 130v<sub>11</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 441; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 539; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 376).
29. Ad st. 1515 [1514] (*sā ca vivakṣā tatkāryatvād vacanāt pratīyate*): In a marginal note of Jp (fol. 173v) and of Pp (fol. 130v) it is specified that speaking is an effect of the [desire to speak] (*tad vacanaṃ kāryaṃ yasyāḥ*).
30. Ad st. 1515 [1514]: Instead of *sādhanavikalo* (Jp fol. 173v<sub>4</sub>; Pp fol. 130v<sub>13</sub>), the Tibetan translation presupposes the reading *\*sādhyavikalo* (*bsgrub bya ma tshañ ba[r]*, P vol. YE, fol. 77v<sub>2</sub>; N YE, fol. 71v<sub>3</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 45v<sub>5</sub>), 'lacking [the quality] of the *probandum*', which, however, is not appropriate to the context.
31. Ad stt. 1518–1519 [1517–1518]: Read *ye tu punas* (Jp fol. 173v<sub>6</sub>) instead of *yat punas* (Pp fol. 131r<sub>2</sub>) and *ye punas* (K vol. 1, p. 442; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 541; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 377). This explanation points out that the indeclinable particle *tu* in st. 1518b [1517b] has an oppositional value (*punaḥ*) and should not be understood as *pādapūraṇa* or with a conjunctive function.
32. Ad stt. 1518–1519 [1517–1518]: In correspondence with the words *tasya hṛdī* (K vol. 1, p. 442; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 541; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 377) in Jp (fol. 174r) and Pp (fol. 131r) there is the following note: *vacasaḥ* (marginal note in Jp and interlinear note in Pp).
33. Ad st. 1520 [1519]: Read *na ca* (Jp fol. 174r; Pp fol. 131r<sub>7</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 442; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 541) instead of *na ceha* (Ś2 vol. 1, p. 377). Tp supports the reading of the manuscripts (cf. D vol. 'E, fol. 46v<sub>2</sub>).

34. *Ad st.* 1520 [1519]: Read *yathākāmaṃ* (Jp fol. 174<sub>r2</sub>; Pp fol. 131<sub>r8</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 442; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 541; cf. Tp, D vol. 'E, fol. 46<sub>v2</sub>) instead of *tathākāmaṃ* (Ś2 vol. 1, p. 378). See also *Ślokavārttika*, Codanāsūtra 138c (see Kataoka 2011: 34).
35. *Ad st.* 1520 [1519]: Read °*granthasyāsvādhyāyādikāle* instead of °*granthasvādhyāyādikāle* (Jp fol. 174<sub>r2</sub>), °*gramthās cādhyāyādikāle* (Pp fol. 131<sub>r9</sub>), °*granthās cādhyāyā(svādhyāyā ?)dikāle* (K vol. 1, p. 442), °*granthasyādhyāyādikāle* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 541) and °*granthasyādhyayanādikāle* (Ś2 vol. 1, p. 378); cf. Tp: *gzuñ goms pa 'don pa'i dus na gzan rtogs par byed pa na yañ tshig dañ goms pa 'don* [D; 'dor P N] *pa la sogs pa'i bya ba 'jug pa'i phyir te* | (P vol. YE, fol. 78<sub>v1-2</sub>; N YE, fol. 72<sub>v1</sub>; D vol. 'E, 46<sub>v3</sub>).
36. *Ad st.* 1520 [1519]: Read *kāryaliṅge* (Jp fol. 174<sub>r3</sub>; Pp fol. 131<sub>r11</sub>) instead of *kāryaliṅga°* (K vol. 1, p. 443; Ś1 vol. 1, p. 542; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 378). The Tibetan translation confirms the reading of the manuscripts: *de lta bas na 'bras bu'i rtags thams cad la yul dañ dus la sogs pa la ltos* [D; *bltos* P N] *pas 'khrul pa srid pa ma yin no* (P vol. YE, fol. 78<sub>v3</sub>; N YE, fol. 72<sub>v2-3</sub>; D vol. 'E, fol. 46<sub>v4</sub>).
37. *Ad st.* 1520 [1519]: Read *prāṇitādī°* (Jp fol. 174<sub>r3</sub>; Pp fol. 131<sub>r11</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 443) instead of *prāṇatādī°* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 542; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 378).
38. Introduction of stt. 1521–1522 [1520–1521]: Read *kathaṃ vā sambandhaḥ* (Jp fol. 174<sub>r4</sub>; Pp fol. 131<sub>r12</sub>; K vol. 1, p. 443) instead of *vā sambandhaḥ* (Ś1 vol. 1, p. 542; Ś2 vol. 1, p. 378).

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