

Topic III

Factors of action

कारकम्

Basic concepts of कारकम् [kāraḥam] (Factors of action)

- With reference to an action, there are many factors which are related to the action. Sage Pāṇini defined some factors directly related to the action as कारकs.
- कारकs are six in number.
 1. कर्ता [kartā] (agent of action)
 2. कर्म [karma] (object of action)
 3. करणम् [karaṇam] (instrument of action)
 4. सम्प्रदानम् [sampradānam] (recipient of action)
 5. अपादानम् [apādānam] (origin of action)
 6. अधिकरणम् [adhikaraṇam] (locus of action)
- Based on how a thing or person is related to a given action, the status of one of the कारकs can be given to it.
- कारक and विभक्ति [vibhakti] (case endings) are independent concepts. They are not intrinsically connected.
 - कारकs are factors involved in the accomplishment of action. कारकs are independent from any language. Thus कारक can be understood without Sanskrit language.
 - विभक्तis are nominal suffixes in Sanskrit grammar. विभक्तis can express कारकs as well as things other than कारक.

1. कर्ता [kartā] (Agent of action)

- With reference to a given action, the agent, the one who does the action gets a technical name “कर्ता”.
- कर्ता is the primary factor related to the action.

e.g., 1) He sees the elephant.

- With reference to the action of seeing,
 - He is कर्ता.

e.g., 2) They see the elephant.

- With reference to the action of seeing,
 - They are कर्ता.

e.g., 3) Devadatta falls.

- With reference to the action of falling,
 - Devadatta is कर्ता.

e.g., 4) There are scriptures.

- With reference to the action of being,
 - Scriptures are कर्ता.

e.g., 5) Devadatta sees Somadatta, who is cooking.

- With reference to the action of seeing,
 - Devadatta is कर्ता.
- With reference to the action of cooking,
 - Somadatta is कर्ता.

2. कर्म [karma] (Object of action)

- With reference to a given action, the object gets a technical name “कर्म”.

e.g., 1) He sees the elephants.

- With reference to the action of seeing,

- He is कर्ता.
- The elephants are कर्म.

e.g., 2) The elephants are seen by him.

- With reference to the action of seeing,

- He is कर्ता.
- The elephants are कर्म.

e.g., 3) Devadatta goes to the village.

- With reference to the action of going,

- Devadatta is कर्ता.
- The village is कर्म.

- A destination of a going or moving action is also considered to be a कर्म (object).

e.g., 4) Devadatta sees Somadatta who is cooking the rice.

- With reference to the action of seeing,

- Devadatta is कर्ता.
- Somadatta is कर्म.

- With reference to the action of cooking,

- Somadatta is कर्ता.
- The rice is कर्म.

3. करणम् [karaṇam] (Instrument of action)

- With reference to a given action, an instrument/means to accomplish the action gets a technical name “करणम्”.

e.g., 1) Devadatta eats rice by hand.

- With reference to the action of eating,

- Devadatta is कर्ता.
- Rice is कर्म.
- The hand is करणम्.

e.g., 2) He goes to the village by bus.

- With reference to the action of going,

- He is कर्ता.
- The village is कर्म.
- Bus is करणम्.

e.g., 3) The bird is seen by him through binoculars.

- With reference to the action of seeing,

- He is कर्ता.
- The bird is कर्म.
- The binoculars are करणम्.

4. सम्प्रदानम् [sampradānam] (Recipient of action)

- That recipient which the agent wants to connect with the object of the action of giving gets a technical name “सम्प्रदानम्”.

e.g., 1) Devadatta gives money to the priest.

- With reference to the action of giving,

- Devadatta is कर्ता.
- Money is कर्म.
- The priest is सम्प्रदानम्.

- The recipient of other actions, such as teaching, telling, showing, etc., is also सम्प्रदानम्.

e.g., 2) The teacher teaches the scripture to the student.

- With reference to the action of teaching,

- The teacher is कर्ता.
- The scripture is कर्म.
- The student is सम्प्रदानम्.

e.g., 3) He tells a story to the people.

- With reference to the action of telling,

- He is कर्ता.
- A story is कर्म.
- The people are सम्प्रदानम्.

e.g., 4) Devadatta gets ready for the journey.

- With reference to the action of getting ready,

- Devadatta is कर्ता.
- The journey is सम्प्रदानम्.

5. अपादानम् [apādānam] (Origin of action)

- With reference to a given action which involves separation, the point from which the separation takes place gets a technical name “अपादानम्”.

e.g., 1) An apple falls from the tree.

- With reference to the action of falling,

- An apple is कर्ता.
- The tree is अपादानम्.

e.g., 2) He goes to the village from a house.

- With reference to the action of going,

- He is कर्ता.
- The village is कर्म.
- A house is अपादानम्.

e.g., 3) Devadatta falls from a running horse.

- With reference to the action of falling,

- Devadatta is कर्ता.
- A running horse is अपादानम्.

- With reference to the action of running,

- A horse is कर्ता.

Topic III – Factors of action (कारकम्)

- Something one fears, and something from which one has to protect oneself are also अपादानम्.

e.g., 1) He is afraid of the snake.

- With reference to the action of being afraid,

- He is कर्ता.
- The snake is अपादानम्.

e.g., 2) Bhagavān protects people from पाप.

- With reference to the action of protecting,

- Bhagavān is कर्ता.
- People are कर्म.
- पाप is अपादानम्.

- Cause of birth is also अपादानम्.

e.g., 1) Anger is born of desire.

- With reference to the action of being born,

- Anger is कर्ता.
- Desire is अपादानम्.

- Teacher in formal learning is also अपादानम्.

e.g., 1) Students study the Vedas from the teacher.

- With reference to the action of studying,

- Students are कर्ता.
- The Vedas are कर्म.
- The teacher is अपादानम्.

6. अधिकरणम् [adhikaranam] (Locus of action)

- With reference to a given action, a locus of कर्ता or कर्म in terms of place (देश), time (काल), subject (विषय) gets a technical name “अधिकरणम्”.

e.g., 1) He cooks in the kitchen.

- With reference to the action of cooking,

- He is कर्ता.
- The kitchen is अधिकरणम्.

e.g., 2) He cooks rice in the pan.

- With reference to the action of cooking,

- He is कर्ता.
- Rice is कर्म.
- The pan is अधिकरणम्.

e.g., 3) He swims in the swimming pool in front of the library.

- With reference to the action of swimming,

- He is कर्ता.
- The swimming pool is अधिकरणम्.
- The library is a referential point for the word “in front of”. Thus it is not qualified to be called अधिकरणम्.

e.g., 4) He sleeps at night.

- With reference to the action of sleeping,

- He is कर्ता.
- Night is अधिकरणम्.

e.g., 5) In/with reference to मोक्ष, he has desire.

- With reference to the action of having,

- He is कर्ता.
- Desire is कर्म.
- मोक्ष is अधिकरणम्.