

**Title:** Kavi-śikṣā: a critical study of Poetic Pedagogy of 10th to 14th century Sanskrit Literature

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**Abstract:** Kavi-śikṣā is a unique topic in the Sanskrit kāvyā-śāstra as it is not directly concerned with rasa, guṇa, or alaṃkāra; rather, it focuses on the practical training of the poets (Kane 209). According to S.K. De, the texts of kavi-śikṣā do not come under the purview of general poetics but are noteworthy for two reasons: they were written by authors of repute, and they approach poetics as an instructive discipline to be mastered by aspiring poets.

Morphologically, the term kavi-śikṣā can mainly be understood in two ways: First, kavibhyaḥ śikṣā, 'education for and from poets,' and second, kavīnām śikṣā, meaning 'education related to poets.' The texts of Kavi-śikṣā deal with topics like the making of metaphors, imageries, poetic meters, cosmopolitan styles of Sanskrit poetry, and poetic conventions that are neither unscientific nor worldly, and thus, can be mistaken as poetic flaws if a reader is not aware of these texts. Other practical issues like the daily routine of a poet, the responsibilities of a King towards literature, concerns of plagiarism and inspiration, and characteristics of a just critic. Moreover, they also deal with larger issues like the position of literature in the Indian Knowledge System, philosophy of Imagination and Literature, the relationship of poetics and politics, the responsibilities of a King towards literature, etc.

Despite holding such literary importance, the texts of kavi-śikṣā have not received due academic attention owing to various reasons. In my study, I want to look at Kavi-śikṣā as an independent tradition that blurred the boundaries of theory and praxis, and helped Indian literature establish its particular sensibilities.