

REVIEW ON MANUSCRIPTOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Literary research is the backbone and base of all types of research. It helps in enlightening of available resources and verifying the validity of the claims of previous research with the study of history, culture, ancient sciences, various languages and philosophy. It aims at collection, preservation, conservation and reconstruction of old scientific manuscripts, documents and even printed literature. Literary research is defined as the discussion of an existing data and development in a particular phenomenon. It involves deciphering, transcription, transliteration, translation and interpretation of available literary material and is of great importance in *Ayurveda* owing to the subject matter being scattered in many different books in different languages and in different places. Literary research helps in collecting information on a particular topic from different books and compiling them into a single copy which abundantly has all information on that particular topic. Manuscriptology is a main branch which comes under literary research. It is defined as that branch of science which imparts training in reading and understanding of ancient manuscripts. It is the systemic study of manuscripts dealing with collection, classification, preservation, lower criticism and upper criticism of manuscripts. This article is about manuscript, manuscriptology and its importance in *Ayurveda*.

Keywords: Manuscripts, Manuscriptology, *Adhara*, *Adheya*, Lower criticism, Higher criticism.

INTRODUCTION

In ancient times, *Acharyas* and scholars recorded their ideas and observations in specially preserved leaves, clothes, bark of trees, papers etc. and even today these are considered as storehouse of age old knowledge and wisdom. The word Manuscript is made up of two words, manu and script. Manu means hand and script means writing. Thus according to 'Antiquities and Art Treasures Act' (1972), the word manuscript refers to a hand written document with scientific, historical, lit-

erary and aesthetic value which is at least seventy five years old¹. Manuscripts are the valuable primary source of material for research in many fields of study including history, journalism, culture, anthropology, health science and literature². Manuscripts are distinct from other literary material in several key ways especially in the way they are described, assessed, handled and evaluated. Manuscriptology is a branch of science which imparts training in reading and understanding