

Abstract
On the *Nyāyasūtratātparyadīpikā*
by Yasutaka Muroya

Bhaṭṭa Vāgīśvara's *Nyāyasūtratātparyadīpikā*, a direct commentary on the *Nyāyasūtra* (NS), was edited by Kishor Nath Jha and published in Allahabad in 1979. In his philological notes, the learned pandit and scholar from Mithila adduced numerous parallel passages and further relevant passages found in other NS-related commentaries including Vācaspati Miśra's *Nyāyavārttikatātparyāṭīkā*. According to Anantalal Thakur, who wrote an introduction to the edition, Vāgīśvara is to be dated after the period of Vācaspati on the basis of the multiple attestation of Vāgīśvara's acquaintance with Vācaspati's commentary. However, a closer look at the references and interpretations of both commentators relating to the NS and *Nyāyabhāṣya*, the earliest extant commentary on the NS, shows that Thakur's assumption about their chronological relationship has to be questioned and that the textual evidence on which it is based requires further historical and text-critical analysis from a wider perspective. The present paper examines one of the parallel passages and offers a new hypothesis about the relative chronology of Vācaspati and Vāgīśvara. This passage actually reveals that Vācaspati is literally quoting Vāgīśvara's elucidation of *ananubhāṣaṇa* (incapability of repeating the proponent's proof as *nigrahasthāna*) and criticizes his interpretation, next to Dharmakīrti's. Accordingly, the present author argues for Vāgīśvara's chronological antecedence to Vācaspati.