

Oral Tradition of the Vedic Literature (Ṛgveda)

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Paper presented in
International Workshop

Śruti

Transmission of Oral Tradition

19-23 November, 2000

At

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

New Delhi

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The Vedic literature has been traditionally preserved by the oral recitations. It was transmitted from the teacher to disciple. This type of transmission is observed even in the Rgvedic times. In the Maṇḍuka Sūkta of the Ṛgveda (VII.103.4), the poet Vasiṣṭha referred to this tradition - cp यदेषामन्यो अन्यस्य वाचं शाक्तस्येव वदति शिक्षमाणः— i.e. in the rainy season, one frog imitates the speech of another, just as a learning disciple imitates the recitation of his teacher.

For the presevation of the vedas, the oral tradition of recitation has proved very useful. Many devices in the form of Padapāṭha, kramapāṭha and next vikṛtipāṭhas were skillfully worked out. The vikṛtis were named as जटा माला शिखा रेखा ध्वजो दण्डः रथो घनः । Thus there are eight vikṛti-pāṭhas, out of which जटा and घन are still in practice.

Pada and krama formed the basis of these vikṛtis it is obvious that the Vedic texts were first handed down to us in the form of saṁhitā-pāṭha, where in the padas, i.e. the words were generally joined with Sandhi (with some exceptions) and the accents also followed the saṁhita recitation (i.e. continuous recitation). To illustrate in-

सुपर्ण विप्राः कवयो वचोभिरेकं सन्त बहुधा कल्पयन्ति ।
छन्दांसि च दधतो अध्वरेषु ग्रहान् सोमस्य मिमते द्वादश ॥

Here, the sandhi between कवयः, वचोभिः and एकं has taken place and they are recited as कवयो वचोभिरेकं । Here the sandhis have combined the visarga and consonant; and visarga and vowel. The exception is— there is no elision of अ of अध्वरेषु in the preceding ओ of दधतो । (exception to एङः पदान्तादति p VI.I.109) The first verse of the Ṛgveda runs as

अग्निमीळे पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य देवमृत्विजम् ।
होतारं रत्नधातमम् ॥

(recite entire sūkta)

Here the sandhi of consonant with a vowel अग्रिमीळे और देवमृत्विजम् may be clearly observed.

Naturally in continuous recitation, the succeeding words presuppose the existence of preceeding words, therefore the sandhis take place between two consecutive words. Similarly the original accents of the words are also changed due to their position in the continuous recitation.

Thus in the first instance, the word कल्पयन्ति, being a principal verb, is originally सर्वानुदात्त. But since it appears after a non-verb बहुधा having धा as उदात्त, क in कल्पयन्ति changes into स्वरित, in संहिता [cp तिङ्ङतिप्रः pā 8.1.28)— तिङ्ङन्तं पदम् अपादादौ वर्तमानं अतिङ्ङन्तान् परम् अनुदात्त भवति । उदात्तादनुदात्तस्य स्वरितः (pa 8.4.66) उदात्तादुत्तरस्य अनुदात्तस्य स्वरितादेशो भवति ॥

Thus in अग्रिमृळे- ईळे is principal verb, not appearing in the beginning of a pāda, but appearing after अग्रिम् which is not a verb, is originally सर्वानुदात्त. But since it appears after उदात्त इ (in अग्रि), ई in ईळे is changed to स्वरित in continuous recitation of saṁhitā.

Further शाकल्य analyzed the continuous text of Ṛgveda Saṁhitā into Padapāṭha- i.e. word by word text. Each word is completely isolated. But even in the Padapāṭha, the order of the padas remain the same as is found in the saṁhitā recitation. Secondly, sometimes the words so separated are further broken in their constituent words.

To illustrate-

सुऽपर्ण । विप्राः । कवयः वचःऽमिः ।
एकम् । सन्तम् । बहुधा । कल्पयन्ति ।
छन्दासि । च । दधतः । अध्वरेषु ।
ग्रहान् । सोमस्य । मिमते । द्वादश ॥

Each word in saṁhitā has been separately noted in the Padapāṭha. The word सुऽपर्ण has been broken into two of its constituents सु and पर्ण. The sandhis in continuous recitation have been dissolved. The succeeding words

do not anticipate the existence of the earlier preceding word, though the order of the words commensurates that of saṁhitā text. As a result, the separate words show their original accents.

Thus in पदपाठ, in the word कवय, the syllable यः (अः) is changed to Svarita, since it appeared after उदात्त but does not precede उदात्त; (as in saṁhitā-paṭha) (cp नोदात्त स्वरितोदयम् - उदात्तपरः स्वरितपरश्च अनुदात्तः स्वरितो न भवति - Pā 8.4.66)

Similarly कल्पयन्ति has retained its original accents it is सर्वानुदात्त in पदपाठ- because it does not presuppose the existnece of the earlier word सन्तम् । Thus मिमते the verb, has also retained its accents- it is सर्वानुदात्त in पदपाठ (in saṁhitā these अनुदात्तऽ are known as प्रचयऽ).

An avagraha is given before the detachable case-affix भ्याम्, भिस् और सु । (cp ह्रस्व व्यञ्जनाभ्यां भकारादौ विभक्तिप्रत्यये । स्विनि चानतौ-वा प्रा V.13.14)- this explains वचःऽभिः ।

(cp विभक्ति प्रत्ययेषु प्रकृतिप्रत्यययोः अविकृतत्वे सत्येवावग्रहः - वेदपादपाठचर्चा सूत्र ३१ पाण १७)

Padapāṭha of the verse अग्निमीळे- would be

अग्निम् । ईळे । पुरःऽहितम् । यज्ञस्य । देवम् । ऋत्विजम् । होतारम् । रत्नऽधार्तमम् ॥

(recite the entire sūkta

Here also each word has been separated. The sandhis have been dissolved- The words पुरःऽहितम् and रत्नऽधार्तमम् have been again broken into their constituents.

ईळे has retained its accents- (सर्वानुदात्तत्व) i.e. no change appears in accent. Due to the position of that word in the saṁhitā text; ई in ईळे becomes स्वरित.

The pada-text was certainly known to Yāska, the author of Nirukta- who states- अथापि इदमन्तरेण पदविभागो न विधते' (I.17). Yāska attaches much importance to the Padapāṭha, on the ground of grasping the exact meaning of the padas- the words. Thus in अवसाय पद्वते रुद्र मृळ (Rg X.169.1) and in अवसायाश्चान् (RgI.10.1) the word अवसाय has the same order of syllables. But in अवसाय पद्वते रुद्र मृळ- The

word अवसाय is derived from the root अव to proceed (गत्यर्थस्य) with अस as noun prefix. Hence it is not split into two segments. However in अवसायाश्चान्, the root in अवसाय is अस् (untie- विमोचने with अव as a prefix उपसर्ग). Hence Padapāṭha separates the word in two segments (i.e.अवऽसाय)

Śākalya adds the word इति in his padapāṭha after Pragṛhya words and after certain vocatives e.g.

इन्द्रवायू इमे सुता -(I.2.4)

इन्द्रवायू इति ।

कवी नो मित्रावरुणा (I.2.9)

कवी इति ।

शुभस्पती (I.3.1)

शुभः । पती इति । (Here पती is प्रगृह्य as well as vocative)

(It is सर्वानुदात्त- cp आमन्त्रितस्य च p 8.1.19)

दक्ष दधाते अपसम् (I.2.9)

दक्षम् । दधाते इति ।

वायवा याहि दर्शतमे (I.2.1)

वायो इति । आ । याहि । दर्शत । इमे ।

वार्य उक्थेभिर्जरन्ते (I.2.2)

वार्यो इति उक्थेभिः । जरन्ते

इन्द्रवायू इमे सुता (I.2.4)

इन्द्रवायू इति । इमे सुताः ।

इन्द्राग्री शर्म यच्छतम् । (I.22.6)

इन्द्राग्री इति । शर्म । यच्छतम् । (Here इन्द्राग्री is vocative appearing in the beginning of a पाद and hence the उदात्त accent. (P 6.1.198).

It may be noted that this इति has been added by शाकल्य to differentiate the similar words which are not प्रगृह्य or not vocatives. This इति is therefore regarded as अनार्ष by Pāṇini I.1.16 (cp संबुद्धौ शाकल्यस्य इतावनार्षे).

This additional इति should be distinguished from इति appearing in original saṃhitā text. In certain cases, Śākalya changes the order of the words in the Padapāṭha. Ṛk- Prātiśākhya II.43 gives three instances-

cp- Saṁhitā text- शुनाश्चिच्छेपं निदितं सहस्रात् (V.2.7)

Pada text शुन्ऽशेषं । चित् । नि दितं सहस्रात्

or नरा वा शंसं पूषणमगोह्यम् । (X.64.3)

Padapāṭha नरा शंसं । वा । पूषणम् । अगोह्यम् ।

or नरा च शंसं दैव्यं च धर्तरि (X.86.42)

Padapāṭha नराशंसम् । च । दैव्यं । च । धर्तरि ।

Such saṁhitā instances are technically called अनानुपूर्वसंहिता.

Thus the irregularities of saṁhitā are removed here by Padapāṭha and they are brought into the line of current language prevalent at the time of Śākalya. This restoration of the original form is known as समापत्ति in tradition.

To illustrate few other irregularities in the saṁhitā pāṭhā made regular in Padapāṭha are as follows:-

Saṁhitā- आदस्य ते कृष्णासो दक्षि सूरयः । (I.141.8)

Pada- आत् । अस्य । ते । कृष्णासः । दक्षि । सूरयः ।

Saṁhitā- संदृष्टिरस्य हियानस्य दक्षोः । (II.4.4)

Pada- सम्दृष्टिः । अस्य । हियानस्य । दक्षोः ।

Saṁhitā- स यो व्यस्थादभि दक्षदुर्वी ।

Pada- सः । यः । वि । अस्थात् । अभि । दक्षत् ।

in all these above instances दक्षि, दक्षोः और दक्षत् are changed to धक्षि, धक्षोः, धक्षत्- (i.e. द changed to ध). cp वेदपदपाठचर्चा- (Abhyankar) p 27 sūtra 62 सायण- शुनःशेषमिति पदस्य मध्ये पदान्तरस्य संहितायां व्यत्ययेनावस्थितिः ।

Kramāpāṭha- is defined as-

क्रमो द्वाभ्यामभिक्रम्य प्रत्यादायोत्तरं तयोः ।

उत्तरेणोपसंध्यात् तथार्धर्चं समापयेत् (ऋ प्रा x.1)

i.e;In क्रमपाठ two consecutive padas are recited in their proper order, then the second pada is taken and is joined with the third. The third is again recited and is joined with fourth, and so on

The pairs are recited in separate units.

A compound word is shown as dissolved immediately after that pair, in which it stands first and is not longer repeated.

The last word of the each half Rk is recited as enclosed with इति and recited again at the end.

Pāṇini has noted the क्रमपाठ cp क्रमादिभ्यो वुञ् IV.2.61. The word क्रमक is formed to mean, one who recites क्रमपाठ tit Ār. 3.1.3 refers to the Saṁhitā pāṭha, Padapāṭha and Krama-pāṭha- with the names of निर्भुज, प्रतृष्ण and उभयमन्तरेण- respectively, it is explained by Rk Prātiśākhya it must be at least as old as 6th century B.C.

Thus if one refers to the consecutive padas- by a b c d e f - the pairs of क्रम will be-
ab/bc/cd/de/ef/and so on.

Sandhi takes place between members in the pair only. Thus ab are joined with sandhi, bc are joined with sandhi. But b-b in two different pairs are not joined with sandhi. The accents are also recited accordingly.

Thus the क्रम of सुपर्ण विप्राः- would be

सुपर्ण विप्राः । सुपर्णमिति सुऽपर्ण ।

विप्राः कवयः ।

कवयो वचोभिः ।

वचोभिरेक । वचोभिरिति वचःऽभिः ।

एकं सन्तम् ।

सन्तं बहुधा ।

बहुधा कल्पयन्ति । कल्पयन्तीति कल्पयन्ति । end of अर्धर्च छन्दासि च ।

च दधतः ।

दधतो अध्वरेषु ।

अध्वरेषु ग्रहान् ।

ग्रहान्तसोमस्य ।

सोमस्य मिमते ।

मिमते द्वादश । द्वादशेति द्वादश ।

अग्रिमीळे ।
 ईळे पुरोहितम् ।
 पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य । पुरोहितमिति पुरःऽहितम् ।
 यज्ञस्य देवम् ।
 देवमृत्विजम् । ऋत्विजमित्यृत्विजम् । (end of अर्धर्च)
 होतारं रत्नधातमम् । रत्नधातममिति रत्नऽधातमम्

From the above instances, it will be clear that the sandhi- combinations of saṁhitā-pāṭha, which are absent in Padapāṭha, are reintroduced here. Each word (excepting the first of the verse) is recited twice. It is linked through sandhi, with the preceding word and then with the following word.

As Fritz Stall remarks in his 'Ritual and Mantras' (1996) (p 372)- that, 'it becomes more difficult to forget a single word, for if a pair were forgotten, the continuity between the succession of pairs would show a break. This does not apply to the recitation of the saṁhitā or Padapāṭha themselves. If a word is forgotten in their recitation, it does not leave a trace. The study of Krama-pāṭha, says the prātiśākhya of the Atharvaveda (4.108), has for its object the fixation (dārḍhya) of saṁhitā and Pada.'

It may be noted that though there are eight vikṛtis- जटा and घन are in practice, and some of them have more than one methods for recitations. I here refer to only one form of जटा I have dealt with शिखा and घन of शिक्षा being essential to understand the method of ghana.

अनुलोमविलोमाभ्यां त्रिवारं हि पठेत् क्रमम् ।
 विलोमे पदवत् सन्धिः अनुलोमे यथा क्रमम् ॥

The scanning of the padas in Jaṭā-pāṭha will be as follows

ab ba ab
bc cb bc
cd dc cd
de ed de and so on

जटा
 I अग्रिमीळ ईळेऽग्रिमग्रिमीळे ।
 ईळे पुरोहितं पुरोहितमीळ ईळे पुरोहितम् ।

पु॒रोहि॑तं य॒ज्ञस्य॑ य॒ज्ञस्य॑ पु॒रोहि॑तं पु॒रोहि॑तं य॒ज्ञस्य॑ ।
 पु॒रोहि॑ततमि॒ति पु॒रःऽहि॑तम् ।
 य॒ज्ञस्य॑ दे॒वं दे॒वं य॒ज्ञस्य॑ य॒ज्ञस्य॑ दे॒वम् ।
 दे॒वमृ॑त्विज॒मृत्वि॑जं दे॒वं दे॒वमृ॑त्विजम् ।
 ऋ॒त्विज॑मित्यृ॒त्विज॑म् । (अर्ध॑र्च ends)
 हो॒तारं॑ रत्न॒धात॑मं रत्न॒धात॑मं हो॒तारं॑ हो॒तारं॑ रत्न॒धात॑मम् ।
 रत्न॒धात॑ममि॒ति रत्न॑ऽधात॑मम् ।

II सु॒पर्ण॑ वि॒प्रा वि॒प्राः सु॒पर्ण॑ सु॒पर्ण॑ वि॒प्राः ॥ सु॒पर्ण॑मि॒ति सु॑ऽपर्ण॑ ॥

a b b a a b
 वि॒प्राः! क॒वयः॑ क॒वयो॑ वि॒प्रा वि॒प्राः क॒वयः॑ ॥
 b c c b b c
 क॒वयो॑ वचो॒भिर् वचो॑भिः क॒वयः॑ क॒वयो॑ वचोभिः ॥
 e d d e c d
 वचो॒भिरे॒कमे॒कं वचो॑भिर् वचो॒भिरे॒कम् ॥ वचो॑भिरि॒ति वचः॑ऽभिः ॥
 d e e d d e
 ए॒कं स॒न्तं स॒न्तमे॒कमे॒कं स॒न्तम् ॥
 e f f e e f
 स॒न्तं बहु॑धा बहु॑धा स॒न्तं स॒न्तं बहु॑धा ॥
 f g g f f g
 बहु॑धा क॒ल्पय॑न्ति कल्पयन्ति बहु॑धा बहु॑धा क॒ल्पय॑न्ति ॥ क॒ल्पय॑न्तीति कल्पयन्ति ॥ (अर्ध॑र्च ends)
 g h h g g h

Second half

छ॒न्दा॑सि च च॒ छ॒न्दा॑सि छ॒न्दा॑सि च ॥
 a b b a a b
 च॒ द॒ध॒तो॑ द॒ध॒तः॑ च च॒ द॒ध॒तः॑ ॥
 b c c b b c
 द॒ध॒तो॑ अध्व॒रेष्व॑ध्व॒रेषु॑ द॒ध॒तो॑ द॒ध॒तो॑ अध्व॒रेषु॑ ॥
 e d d e c d
 अध्व॒रेषु॑ ग्र॒हान् ग्र॒हान् अध्व॒रेष्व॑ध्व॒रेषु॑ ग्र॒हान् ॥
 d e e d d e

ग्रहान्तसोमस्य सोमस्य ग्रहान् ग्रहान् त्सोमस्य ॥

e f f e e f

सोमस्य मिमते मिमते सोमस्य सोमस्य मिमते ॥

f g g f f g

मिमते द्वादश द्वादश मिमते मिमते द्वादश ॥ द्वादशेति द्वादश ॥

g h h g g h

From the above instances, one can observe that there are only two words in each groups and they are recited thrice; first in successive order, second time in reverse order, and third time again in successive order. In each group the words are combined with sandhi.

शिखा- पदोत्तरां जटामेव शिखामार्याः प्रचक्षते ।

Jaṭāpāṭha with addition of one additional next word in a group is regarded as शिखापाठ-

The scanning would be

ab ba ab c

bc cb bc d

cd dc cd e

de ed de f and so on

सुपर्ण विप्रा विप्राः सुपर्ण सुपर्ण विप्राः कवयः ॥ सुपर्णमिति सुऽपर्ण ॥

a b b a a b c

विप्राः कवयः कवयो विप्रा विप्राः क्वयो वचोभिः ॥

b c c b b c d

क्वयो वचोभिर्वचोभिः कवयः क्वयो वचोभिरेकम् ॥

e d d e c d e

वचोभिरेकमेकं वचोभिर्वचोभिरेकं सन्तं ॥ वचोभिरिति वचःभिः ॥

d e e d d e f

एकं सन्तं सन्तमेकमेकं सन्तं बहुधा ॥

e f f e e f g

सन्तं बहुधा बहुधा सन्तं सन्तं बहुधा कल्पयन्ति ॥ कल्पयन्तीति कल्पयन्ति ॥

f g g f f g h

छन्दांसि च च छन्दांसि छन्दांसि च दधतः ॥

a b b a a b c

च॒ द॒ध॒तो॒ द॒ध॒तश्च॒द॒ध॒तो॒ अध्व॒रेषु॑ ॥
 b c c b b c d
 द॒ध॒तो॒ अध्व॒रेष्वध्व॒रेषु॑ द॒ध॒तो॒ द॒ध॒तो॒ अध्व॒रेषु॑ ग्र॒हान् ॥
 e d d e c d e
 अध्व॒रेषु॑ ग्र॒हान् ग्र॒हान् अध्व॒रेष्वध्व॒रेषु॑ ग्र॒हान्त्सो॒मस्य॑ ॥
 d e e d d e f
 ग्र॒हान्त्सो॒मस्य॑ सो॒मस्य॑ ग्र॒हान् ग्र॒हान्त्सो॒मस्य॑ मि॒मते॑ ॥
 e f f e e f g
 सो॒मस्य॑ मि॒मते॑ मि॒मते॑ सो॒मस्य॑ सो॒मस्य॑ मि॒मते॑ द्वा॒दश॑ ॥
 f g g f f g h
 मि॒मते॑ द्वा॒दश॑ द्वा॒दश॑ मि॒मते॑ मि॒मते॑ द्वा॒दश॑ ॥ द्वा॒दशे॒ति॒ द्वा॒दश॑ ॥
 g h h g g h

अ॒ग्नि॒मी॒ळ ई॒ळेऽग्नि॒मग्नि॒मी॒ळे पु॒रोहि॑तम् ।
 ई॒ळे पु॒रोहि॑तं पु॒रोहि॑तमी॒ळ ई॒ळे पु॒रोहि॑तं य॒ज्ञस्य॑ ॥
 पु॒रोहि॑तं य॒ज्ञस्य॑ य॒ज्ञस्य॑ पु॒रोहि॑तं पु॒रोहि॑तं य॒ज्ञस्य॑ दे॒वम् ॥ पु॒रोहि॑त॒मिति॑ पु॒रऽहि॑तं ।
 य॒ज्ञस्य॑ दे॒वं दे॒वं य॒ज्ञस्य॑ य॒ज्ञस्य॑ दे॒वमृ॒त्विज॑मृ॒त्विज॑म् ।
 दे॒वमृ॒त्विजं॑ दे॒वं दे॒वमृ॒त्विज॑म् ऋ॒त्विज॑मिति॒ ऋ॒त्विज॑म् ।
 हो॒तारं॑ र॒त्नधा॑त॒मं र॒त्नधा॑त॒मं हो॒तारं॑ हो॒तारं॑ र॒त्नधा॑त॒मम् ।
 र॒त्नधा॑त॒ममि॒ति॒ र॒त्नऽधा॑त॒मम् ।

घनपाठ शिखामुक्त्वा विपर्यस्य तत्पदानि पुनः पठेत् ।
 अयं घन इति प्रोक्तः ।

After recitation of Śikhā-pāṭha, one should continue to recite the last three padas the reverse order and then in regular order

Ghana-pāṭha:

The scanning of the words in ghanapāṭha would be as follows

ab ba abc cba abc/
 bc cb bcd dcb bcd/
 cd dc cde edc cde/
 de ed def fed def etc.

Thus- अग्रिमीळ ईळेऽग्रिमग्रिमीळे पुरोहितं पुरोहितमीळेग्रिमग्रिमीळे पुरोहितम् ।

a b b a a b c c b a a b c
ईळे पुरोहितं पुरोहितमीळ ईळे पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य यज्ञस्य
b c c b b c d d
पुरोहितमीळ ईळे पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य॥
c b b c d
पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य यज्ञस्य पुरोहितं पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य देवं
c d d c c d e
देवं यज्ञस्य पुरोहितं पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य देवम् ॥ पुरोहितमिति पुरःऽहितं ॥
e d c c d e
यज्ञस्य देवं देवं यज्ञस्य यज्ञस्य देवमृत्विजमृत्विजं देवं यज्ञस्य यज्ञस्य देवमृत्विजम् ॥
d e e d d e f f e d d e f
देवमृत्विजमृत्विजं देवं देवमृत्विजम् ॥ ऋत्विजमित्यृत्विजम् । (अर्धर्च ends)
e f f e c f

उत्तरार्ध-

होतारं रत्नधातमं रत्नधातमं होतारं होतारं रत्नधातमम् ।

a b b a a b

रत्नधातममिति रत्नऽधातमम् ।

Ghana

सुपर्ण विप्रा विप्राः सुपर्ण सुपर्ण विप्राः क्वयः क्वयो विप्राः

a b b a a b c c b

सुपर्ण सुपर्ण विप्राः क्वयः ॥ सुपर्णमिति सुऽपर्णम् ॥

a a b c

विप्राः! क्वयः क्वयो विप्रा विप्राः क्वयो वचोभिर्

b c c b b c d

वचोभिः क्वयो विप्रा विप्राः क्वयो वचोभिः ॥

d c b b c d

क्वयो वचोभिर् वचोभिः क्वयः क्वयो वचोभिः वचोभिरेकमेकं वचोभिः

e d d e c d d

क्वयः क्वयो वचोभिरेकम् ॥

c c d e

वचोभिरेकमेकं वचोभिर् वचोभिरेकं सन्तं सन्तमेकमेकं वचोभिर्
 d e e d d e f f e d
 वचोभिरेकं सन्तं ॥ वचोभिरिति वचःऽभिः ॥
 d e f

एकं सन्तं सन्तमेकमेकं सन्तं बहुधा बहुधा सन्तमेकमेकं सन्तं बहुधा ॥
 e f f e e f g g f e e f g
 सन्तं बहुधा बहुधा सन्तं सन्तं बहुधा कल्पयन्ति कल्पयन्ति बहुधा सन्तं सन्तं बहुधा कल्पयन्ति ॥
 f g g f f g h h g f f g h
 बहुधा कल्पयन्ति कल्पयन्ति बहुधा बहुधा कल्पयन्ति ॥
 g h h g g h
 कल्पयन्तीति कल्पयन्ति ॥ (अर्धर्च ends)

उत्तरार्ध-

छन्दांसि च च छन्दांसि छन्दांसि च दधतो
 a b b a a b c
 दधतश्च छन्दांसि छन्दांसि च दधतः ॥
 c b a a b c
 च दधतो दधतश्च च दधतो अध्वरेष्वध्वरेषु दधतश्च च दधतो अध्वरेषु ॥
 b c c b b c d d c b b c d
 दधतो अध्वरेष्वध्वरेषु दधतो दधतो अध्वरेषु ग्रहान्
 e d d c c d e
 ग्रहानध्वरेषु दधतो दधतो अध्वरेषु ग्रहान् ॥
 e d c c d e
 अध्वरेषु ग्रहान् ग्रहानध्वरेष्वध्वरेषु ग्रहान्तसोमस्य ॥
 d e e d d e f
 सोमस्य ग्रहानध्वरेष्वध्वरेषु ग्रहान् त्सोमस्य ॥
 f e d d e f
 ग्रहान्तसोमस्य सोमस्य ग्रहान् ग्रहान् त्सोमस्य मिमते मिमते सोमस्य ग्रहान् ग्रहान्तसोमस्य मिमते ॥
 e f f e e f g g f e e f g
 सोमस्य मिमते मिमते सोमस्य सोमस्य मिमते द्वादश
 f g g f f g h

द्वादश मिमते सोमस्य सोमस्य मिमते द्वादश ॥

h g f f g h

मिमते द्वादश द्वादश मिमते मिमते द्वादश ॥ द्वादशेति द्वादश ॥

g h h g g h

From the above instances, it may be observed that in ghanapāṭha, certain words appear for thirteen times. The sandhi combination which did not take place in Saṁhitā-pāṭha are newly introduced. These techniques of oral tradition minimise the probability of a single word being lost. Consequently there are less chances of variations creeping in stealthily, in the vedic text transmitted by the technique of the oral traditions than in the manuscripts.

Fritz Stall remarks (p373), 'the fixation of the oral tradition by the mnemonic techniques pertain only to the form of the mantras. There is no corresponding tradition that fixes and preserves their meaning.'

True, that these techniques do not fix or preserve the meanings of the word. But since these traditions have preserved the accents, it helps, fixing the meaning to certain extent. To illustrate the word रत्नधा in रत्नधातमम् (Rg I.1.1) is a compound word with उदात्त on the second member of compound the meaning is fixed with the help of तत्पुरुष compound रत्नं धाता -cp 'समासस्य' - Pā 6.1.223

But in कविक्रतुः and चित्रश्रवस्तमः - the उदात्त accent is shown on the first member of the compound in कविं and चित्रं, (Rg I.1.5), the meaning of the compound words are fixed on the basis of their being बहुव्रीहि compound (cp Pā 6.2.1- बहुव्रीहौ प्रकृत्या पूर्वपदम् ।) (कवेः क्रतुः यस्य, चित्रः श्रवः यस्य)

Thus system has helped preserving the text of Vedic literature, saving it from being a prey of corrupt readings and to certain extent fixing the meaning of esp. the compound words also.