Chapter III

Methodology

The present Dissertation is divided into five chapters. They are as under:-

1. Chapter I:-Introduction:-
   A. Significance of study
   B. Aims and objectives
   C. Scope and limitation

2. Chapter II - Survey of the research

3. Chapter III - Methodology

4. Chapter IV - Analyses, collection data and discussions

5. Chapter V - Observations, concluding remarks, further scope for research, modern relevance of the study

Reflections of devotion (Bhakti) in the VR and The TR is my topic for Dissertation. The epic Rāmāyaṇa has influenced the Indian literature on a large scale. The VR has many facets of devotion like

1) Devotion towards God,

2) Devotion towards Guru

3) Devotion towards father

4) Devotion towards mother

5) Devotion towards husband

6) Devotion towards brother
7) Devotion towards master (Swamy).

The above facets of devotion (Bhakti) have been categorised by taking some of the important dialogues (in verses) uttered by each character in both the VR and TR. Along with it, English translation have been provided followed by my observations and remarks.

Before starting Rāmāyaṇa, the term “Bhakti” has been discussed and how it is there from time immemorial. Also has been explained how it has been there from pre-Vedic period, medieval period, how various poets and prose –writers made literary contributions to it in the form of prose, poetry, dramas, stories and in other forms to propagate the devotion (Bhakti) during their life-time has been explained. Bhagavad Gita, Uddhava Gita, has been studied some of the relevant quotations and incorporated in the dissertation. English translation is also provided for them some verses from the “upanishads” have been quoted wherever the devotion (Bhakti) part is dealt with. various proponents of devotion (bhakti) who propagated it have been mentioned in the dissertation. Nārada Bhakti sutrāṇi, śandilya’s Bhaktisutras, MadhusudanaSaraswati’s “Bhakti Rasāyana” are quoted and incorporated, certain important verses relevant to the study have been mentioned in the dissertation.

I have divided my topic under seven divisions. They are

1) देवभक्ति (Devotion towards God),

2) गुरुभक्ति (Devotion towards Guru),

3) पितृभक्ति (Devotion towards father),

4) मातृभक्ति (Devotion towards mother),
5) पतिभक्ति (Devotion towards husband),

6) प्रातृभक्ति (Devotion towards brother),

7) स्वामिभक्ति (Devotion towards master). In each Kānda of V.R and T.R, the verses where devotion (bhakti) is found is taken and my observations and the remarks with English translation is written immediately after the verses.