

Tulsidas, a Ramaite poet of the Bhakti period who is well-known for his influential works such as *Rāmcāritmānas*, *Kavitāvalī*, and *Vinaya-patrikā*. His composition shows a wide metrical variation, such as the syllabic metre derived from Sanskrit, and the mora metres Caupāi-Dohā, Baravai, Harigītīkā, and Pada etc. derived from Prakrit, Apabhraṃśa and Hindi, while many other Bhakti poets prefer to compose works in a limited number of metres.

However, Tulsidas's metrical style is not necessarily his original, but has something in common with other Bhakti poets. There are legends and hagiographies which tell the influence of other Bhakti poets upon Tulsidas with respect to metre. Mutual influence between Tulsidas and contemporary poets of Braj Bhasha such as Surdas looks more plausible. However, introduction of metres from Muslim poets to Tulsidas, which these legends, tell needs to be studied more carefully. For example, the three Muslim poets, Malik Muhammad Jāysī, Abdur Rahīm Khān-e-Khānā and Raskhān, who are the masters of the metres Caupāi-Dohā, Barvai and Savaiyā, respectively, share metrical styles with Tulsidas. Beṇī Mādhav Dās describes in the *Mūl Gosāi Carita* that Rahīm sent a Baravai couplet to Tulsidas and Tulsidas sent back another to him.

This paper investigates the rhythmic function of metres in the works of Tulsidas, tries to elucidate the characteristics of metre Tulsidas used, and discusses how Tulsidas established his original style adopting metrical styles which are considered to come from other poets.