

On *pramāṇabhūta* — The Change of Its Meaning from Dignāga to Prajñākaragupta

by
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Introduction

In the *maṅgalaśloka* of the *Pramāṇasamuccaya* (=PS), Dignāga (ca. 480–540) describes the Buddha-Bhagavat by five epithets. Among these epithets, the term *pramāṇabhūta* is remarkable because this compound word includes the word *pramāṇa* (i.e., means of cognition; valid cognition) in its former part. The term is a key concept to explain the relationship between *pramāṇa* as knowledge and the Bhagavat as *pramāṇa* in the Buddhist Pramāṇa-school.¹

Tilmann Vetter showed that the term in Dignāga should be translated as “who is a *pramāṇa*,” by indicating that the translation “who has become a *pramāṇa*” based on the interpretation by Dharmakīrti (ca. 600–660) cannot be justified in Dignāga.² However, even if *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga means “who is a *pramāṇa*,” the following question remains open: How can the Buddha as a person be called a *pramāṇa*, which is supposed to mean valid cognition?³

In response to this question, D. Seyfort Rugg, by investigating exhaustively the use of the term *pramāṇabhūta* and the compound words *x-bhūta* in Sanskrit literature, proposed to translate *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga as “who is like (i.e., similar to) a *pramāṇa*.”⁴ His

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¹ Cf. *pramāṇabhūtāya jagaddhitaiṣine praṇamya śāstre sugatāya tāyine / pramāṇasiddhyai svamatāt samuccayaḥ kariṣyate viprasṛtād ihaikataḥ //* (PS *maṅgalaśloka*) Masaaki Hattori’s translation in Hattori 1968: 23 is as follows: “Saluting Him, who is the personification of the means of cognition, who seeks the benefit of [all] living beings, who is the teacher, *sugata*, the protector, I shall, for the purpose of establishing the means of valid cognition, compose the [*Pramāṇa*-]*samuccaya*, uniting here under one head my theories scattered [in many treatises].”

² Cf. Vetter 1984: 14; note 6. Vetter has previously translated the word in the same way (cf. Vetter 1964: 32,17). Ernst Steinkellner agreed with Vetter’s view as follows: “Tilmann Vetter gives the reason for his translation of the term *pramāṇabhūta* from the *maṅgala* of Dignāga’s *Pramāṇasamuccaya* as ‘who is a means of valid cognition’ (‘der Erkenntnismittel ist.’): the interpretation that the Buddha has become a means of valid cognition (as if the text read *pramāṇibhūta*) which does not figure at all in Dignāga’s own explanation of the verse and can, therefore, hardly be based on the term *pramāṇabhūta*, was added by Dharmakīrti, ... Since the compound *pramāṇabhūta* does really not have a *cvi*-formation, ... Vetter is certainly right in asking for an interpretation of *bhūta* as the equivalent of the copula serving the simple adjectivization of the first member” (cf. Steinkellner 1989: 180).

³ Cf. Vetter 1984:14,16ff.

⁴ Cf. Rugg 1994a; 1994b; 1995.

view was thereafter criticized by Eli Franco and Helmut Krasser.⁵ In my opinion, however, Ruegg’s interpretation is worth reconsidering. This paper aims to provide new materials for supporting Ruegg’s view and, furthermore, to show that his view is meaningful from the historical viewpoint of the Buddhist Pramāṇa-school by elucidating the change of the meaning of the word *pramāṇabhūta* from Dignāga, through Dharmakīrti, to Prajñākaragupta (ca. 750–810).

1. The meaning of *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga

1.1. Ruegg’s view

Ruegg pointed out that Patañjali (ca. 150 BCE) called “the teacher (*ācārya*)” *pramāṇabhūta* in his *Mahābhāṣya* (=MBh), and considered this the apparently earliest use of the word *pramāṇabhūta* in Sanskrit literature.⁶ Kaiyaṭa (11th c.), a later commentator on the MBh, analyzed this compound word as *prāmāṇyaṃ prāptaḥ*.⁷ According to Nārāyaṇa, a subcommentator on the MBh, this explanation serves to avert both interpretations of *pramāṇabhūta* as “*pramāṇa*-like” and as “has become a *pramāṇa*.”⁸ Thus, the established theory by commentators on the MBh seems to be that the word *pramāṇabhūta* means “being authority.”⁹

On the other hand, grammarians explain in some cases that *bhūta* in the compound *x-bhūta* has a meaning of “like (i.e., similar).” According to Ruegg, Yāska (4th c. BCE)

⁵ Cf. Franco 1997: 16, note 3; Krasser 2001: 173–180. Around the time of Krasser’s paper, Noriaki Hakamaya published two papers dealing with the same issue (cf. Hakamaya 2000; 2001). Jonathan A. Silk also discussed this issue in terms of Chinese materials (cf. Silk 2002). Based on these articles, Steinkellner mentioned the issue again (cf. Steinkellner 2003: 337, note 15).

⁶ Cf. MBh I 39,10f. ad *Vārttika* 1,1,1,7: *pramāṇabhūta ācāryo darbhapavitrapāṇiḥ śucāv avakāṣe prāṇmukha upaviśya mahatā prayatnena sūtrāṇi praṇayati sma* (cf. Ruegg 1994a: 309; 1995: 820f.).

⁷ Cf. MBhPr 160r,9ff.: *prāmāṇyaṃ prāpta ity arthaḥ. bhū prāptāv ity asyādhr̥ṣād veti ṇijabhāvapakṣe rūpam. vṛttiviśaye ca pramāṇaśabdaḥ prāmāṇye vartate* (cf. Ruegg 1994a: note 30; 1995: 820).

⁸ Nāgeśa (17th c.), a subcommentator to the MBh, tries to justify Kaiyaṭa’s interpretation of the word *pramāṇabhūta* as meaning *prāmāṇyaṃ prāpta* as follows: “If (the teacher) were supposed to have become what he was not previously (*abhūtatadbhāva*) since the verb *bhū* means ‘become,’ there should be the form *pramāṇībhūta* with *cvī*-suffix. On the other hand, ...” (cf. MBhPrU 126,7ff.: *nanu bhavater janmārthatvenābhūtatadbhāvapratiṭyā cvau sati pramāṇībhūta iti syāt, tadavivakṣyāṃ tu pramāṇam ācāryaḥ prakārāntareṇa bhūta ity arthaḥ syād ata āha – prāmāṇyam iti*; Ruegg 1994a: 310,7ff.; note 31). Nārāyaṇa also tries to justify Kaiyaṭa’s interpretation as follows: “If the word *bhūta* means similarity (*upamānārthatve*) just as in the case of the word *pitṛbhūta* etc., it would follow that the trustworthiness of the teacher is not stated as primary. (On the other hand) if (the word *pramāṇabhūta*) means that the teacher has become what he was not previously (*abhūtaprādurbhāva*), it would follow that there should be the *cvī*-suffix just like (in the expression) *aṅkurībhūta* etc. ...” (cf. MBhPrN 232,26ff.: *pitṛbhūta ityādivad bhūtaśabdasyopamānārthatve mukhyaṃ prāmāṇyam ācāryasya noktaṃ syāt, aṅkurībhūta ityādivad abhūtaprādurbhāvavācīve tadvad eva cvīprasāṅgaḥ, ..., ato vyācaṣṭe – prāmāṇyam iti*; Ruegg 1994a: 310,23ff.).

⁹ Cf. Ruegg 1995: 820,27f. Ruegg also pointed out the uses of the word *pramāṇabhūta* in the *Mahāyāna-sūtrālamkārahāṣya* (cf. Ruegg 1994a: 306f.; 1995: 821f.). Also in this case, the word *pramāṇabhūta* can be understood as “being authority” by interpreting *bhūta* as the equivalent of the copula. Further, Ruegg pointed out the use of the word in the *Lalitavistara*. Regarding this use, however, Hakamaya and Silk indicated that the word *pramāṇabhūta* extant in the Sanskrit text may have been added in a later period, based on a comparison to the Chinese translation (cf. Hakamaya 2000: (14); Silk 2002: 113f.).

gives such an explanation in his Nirukta, and Bhartṛhari (5th c.) explains in his commentary on the MBh that *bhūta* in the expression *sāmānyabhūta* has the meaning of “like.”¹⁰ Thus, Ruegg paid attention to the fact that the use of the expression *x-bhūta* in the meaning “like” was already established before Dignāga.¹¹ He further asserted that “the use of °*bhūta* in the meaning ‘like’ ... is found even in some of the post-Dharmakīrti commentaries.”¹²

By interpreting *bhūta* in *pramāṇabhūta* as meaning “like,” Ruegg suggested that the whole compound *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga may be translated as “who is like a *pramāṇa*.” He summed up the issue as follows: “If understood in this way, there will be no conflict with Dignāga’s own doctrine that only *pratyakṣa* and *anumāna* are *pramāṇas*.”¹³

1.2. Krasser’s criticism

Krasser criticized this view of Ruegg. At first, he classified scholars’ interpretation of the word *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga into three types: “1) *pramāṇa* should be understood either 1A) in an extended sense, as authority, or 1B) metaphorically, or 2) *bhūta* should be understood in the sense of a comparison.”¹⁴ Among these, the interpretation 2) is attributed to Ruegg, and Krasser’s own position seems to be identical with 1B).

By examining new Sanskrit material of Jinendrabuddhi’s (8th c.) *Pramāṇasamuccayaṭīkā* (=PST), Krasser indicated that the PST, in contrast to Ruegg’s assertion, does not explain that *bhūta* in *pramāṇabhūta* means “like,” but rather that the former part, i.e., *pramāṇa*, implies the meaning of “like.”¹⁵ Namely, Jinendrabuddhi’s explanation *bhagavān pramāṇam iva pramāṇam* (the Bhagavat is valid cognition [inasmuch as he is] like a valid cognition) shows the interpretation that the mere expression *bhagavān pramāṇam* implies the meaning *bhagavān pramāṇam iva*.¹⁶ Krasser concluded: According to Jinendrabuddhi’s explanation, “the word *pramāṇa* is applied to the Buddha not in an extended sense but metaphorically and it does not require any qualification in order to be understood as metaphor ..., and it is also clear that his explanation does not support the interpretation of °*bhūta* as ‘like’.”¹⁷

¹⁰ Cf. Ruegg 1994a: 311; note 28; 1995: 820f.

¹¹ Cf. Ruegg 1995: 821,5f.

¹² Cf. Ruegg 1994a: 311f.; 1995: 820f. This argument was thereafter criticized by Krasser. See below.

¹³ Cf. Ruegg 1994a: 315; 1995: 822,9ff.

¹⁴ Cf. Krasser 2001: 173,17ff. Here, the subdivisions of the type 1) in Krasser’s paper are called 1A) and 1B) respectively, for convenience of explanation.

¹⁵ Cf. Krasser 2001: 175f.; PST 1,12ff.: *yathā – tvam merus tvam samudro ’si nātha tvam kalpapādapaḥ / tvam suvaidyah pradīpas tvam tvam eva paramaḥ plavaḥ // ity atrevaśabdaprayogam antareṇāpi tadartho gamyate, tathehāpīti bhagavān pramāṇam iva pramāṇam. [...] bhūto jātaḥ, utpanna ity arthaḥ. bhūtavacanam abhūtasya nityasyeśvarādeḥ pramāṇasya paraparikalpitasya pratiṣedhārtham. pramāṇam cāsau bhūtas ceti pramāṇabhūtaḥ, tasmai pramāṇabhūtāya* (cf. Kataoka 2007: 14f.).

¹⁶ Cf. Krasser 2001: 179; PVT(P) 86b6; (D)71b7: *tshad ma’i sgra dpe nang du ’dus pa can yin no zhes bya ba’i don to //*

¹⁷ Cf. Krasser 2001: 176,25–177,5. Further, Krasser pointed out that the Tibetan expression *tshad ma dang ’dra bas* in the PVP by Devendrabuddhi (ca. 630–690) is the Tibetan equivalent to the Sanskrit *pramāṇam iva*, and that Jinendrabuddhi’s explanation *bhagavān pramāṇam iva pramāṇam* is derived from Devendrabuddhi (cf. Krasser 2001: 177,6ff.; PVP(P)2a1f.; (D)1b2f. ad PV II 1a: *tshad mar gyur pa zhes bya ba ni tshad mar ’khrungs pa’o // tshad ma dang ’dra bas na tshad ma ste bcom ldan ’das so //*).

Thus, Krasser elucidated that Ruegg’s assertion can be substantiated neither in the PST nor the *Pramānavārttikapañjikā* (=PVP). Nevertheless, on the basis of this fact, one cannot necessarily conclude that the expression *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga does not mean “*pramāṇa*-like.” Krasser does not seem to intend to deny entirely Ruegg’s interpretation of the word *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga as meaning “*pramāṇa*-like.”¹⁸

1.3. New materials supporting the interpretation of *pramāṇabhūta* as “*pramāṇa*-like”

In my opinion, it is not so relevant which part of the compound word *pramāṇabhūta* has the meaning of “like.” What is important for interpreting Dignāga’s thought is, rather, the difference between the view 1A) of Krasser’s classification that the word should be translated as “being authority” by understanding the word *pramāṇa* as having an extended sense and *bhūta* as the equivalent of the copula, and the view 1B) or 2) that the compound *pramāṇabhūta* as a whole means “*pramāṇa*-like,” independently of which part has the meaning of “like.” Both materials which Ruegg and Krasser showed seem to support the latter view.

1.3.1. The interpretation mentioned by Jayanta and Yamāri

The interpretation of the compound *pramāṇabhūta* as “*pramāṇa*-like” is indeed attested in the literature of the later Buddhist Pramāṇa-school.¹⁹ Namely, there are at least two such passages in the commentaries by Jayanta (10th c.) and Yamāri (ca. 1000–1060) on Prajñākaragupta’s *Pramānavārttikālamkāra* (=PVA).

First, Yamāri, in his remark on PVA’s first *maṅgalaśloka*, presents two different interpretations of *pramāṇabhūta*. The following interpretation is the second one of them:

Yamāri [Phe] (D)190b2f.; (P)228a5f.: *yang na tshad ma dang ’dra bas* (D: *tshad ma dang ’dra bas* lacking in P) *tshad mar gyur pa ste / ci ltar mngon sum la sogs pa ma rtogs pa’i don bsal bar byed pa nyid kyis tshad ma yin pa de bzhin du bcom ldan ’das kyang ’phyags pa’i bden pa bzhi la sogs pa ma rtogs pa’i don *gsal bar byed pa’i* (D: **gsal ba’i P) phyir tshad ma yin no //*; Ms 11b2 (cf. Li, Chu and Franco 2017: 82)²⁰

¹⁸ Krasser mentioned that a remark of Vibhūticandra’s suggests that there are those who interpret *bhūta* as “like.” For, Vibhūticandra, after having explained the interpretation of the word *bhūta* according to Dharmakīrti by paraphrasing Jinendrabuddhi’s statement, states the following: “(Dharmakīrti) will indicate that the (word *bhūta*) does not have the meaning (‘like’) because the meaning ‘like’ is understood by implication” (cf. Vibhūti 519,3: *ivārthas tu sāmāthyagata iti na tadartham etad iti vakṣyate*; Krasser 2001: note 16).

¹⁹ Whether such interpretation is grammatical or not is another question (cf. Franco 1997: 16f., note 3: “On the other hand, even if *-bhūta* did not mean ‘similar,’ once authoritative treatises state that it does, it acquires this meaning for the readers who are acquainted with these treatises”).

²⁰ The Sanskrit manuscript of the first chapter of Yamāri’s commentary has been discovered recently, and a series of diplomatic editions of its beginning portion (folios 3a1-20a5) has been published by Xuezhū Li, Junjie Chu and Eli Franco (cf. Li and Chu 2016; Li, Chu and Franco 2017; Li, Chu and Franco 2018) after this paper was written. Since all three portions of Yamāri’s commentary that this paper discusses are included in the mentioned diplomatic editions, I indicate the location in the respective edition after quoting the text of the Tibetan translation. Although my assumptions about the Sanskrit corresponding

[= Or, (the Bhagavat is) *pramāṇabhūta*, inasmuch as he is like *pramāṇa* (**atha vā pramāṇam iva pramāṇabhūtaḥ*).²¹ Just as direct perception is a *pramāṇa* because it reveals an unknown object, also the Bhagavat is a *pramāṇa* because he reveals an unknown object like the four noble truths.]

This is really the interpretation that the compound *pramāṇabhūta* as a whole means “*pramāṇa*-like” without specifying the part of the compound which means “like.”

The next case, that of Jayanta, is more interesting. Jayanta comments on Prajñākaragupta’s view that the Bhagavat as *pramāṇabhūta* is necessary, although every purpose of human beings can be established on the basis of conventional means of cognition (*sāṃvyaḥārikapramāṇa*),²² as follows:

Jayanta[De] (D)39b7f.; (P)46a5ff.: *der yang mngon sum la sogs pa nyid tshad ma’i gtso bo yin te / rtogs pa’i *bdag nyid can* (D: **gtso bo dag P) yin pa’i phyir ro // bcom ldan ’das ni tshad ma dang ’dra bas tshad mar gyur pa yin no zhes bya ba’i bsam pas dogs pa la / *khyab par byed pa* (D: **khyab par byed par byed pa P) rtogs pa’i bdag nyid yin pa’i phyir / bcom ldan ’das kho na tshad ma’i gtso bo yin la / gzhan ni de dang mthun pa nyid kyi gtso bo ma yin no zhes bstan to //*

[= Supposing the view: “In that case too, the actual direct perception etc. are primary *pramāṇas*, because they are of the nature of cognition. The Bhagavat is, on the contrary, *pramāṇabhūta*, inasmuch as he is like a *pramāṇa* (**bhagavān pramāṇam iva pramāṇabhūtaḥ*),” (Prajñākaragupta) indicated that the very Bhagavat is a primary (**mukhya*) *pramāṇa*, because (he) is of the nature of pervading cognition; other (*pramāṇas* such as cognition) are (however) similar to the (Bhagavat) and not primary.]

According to Jayanta, Prajñākaragupta indicates here, by stating that “the pervading concomitance cannot be grasped by those who are not omniscient (*na ca saṃbandho vyāpy asaravidā grahītuṃ śakyah*),” that the Bhagavat is the primary (**mukhya*) *pramāṇa*, and this statement is aimed against the fallacious view that *pramāṇa* as knowledge is primary and the word *pramāṇabhūta* means “*pramāṇa*-like.”

Thus, Jayanta also presupposes the possibility of the interpretation that the compound word *pramāṇabhūta* means “*pramāṇa*-like.” It should be noted that this interpretation is

to the Tibetan translation, or even my interpretations based on the latter, sometimes seem to deviate from the diplomatic edition of Sanskrit manuscript, I have not changed my expositions according to the diplomatic edition; this is because, in my opinion, it is an open question whether the present diplomatic edition does not need to be emended. A more detailed investigation remains as a task for the future.

²¹ In this case too, *tshad ma dang ’dra bas* is probably the rendering of *pramāṇa iva* (cf. note 17 in this paper).

²² For direct perception does not function in terms of transcendent objects, and inference ultimately does not function without the cognition of the pervading concomitance (*sambando vyāpī*) by the omniscient being (cf. PVA_O 12,12ff.: *nanu pramāṇabhūtena bhagavatā ko ’rthaḥ, sāṃvyaḥārikapramāṇād eva sarvapuruṣārthasiddheḥ. naitad asti. [...] na tāvat pratyakṣaṃ paralokāḍau pravartate, tasya svarūpamātragrahaṇād iti pratipādayiṣyate. anumānaṃ tu saṃbandhagrahaṇam antareṇa nāsti, na ca saṃbandho vyāpy asaravidā grahītuṃ śakyah*).

equated by him with the view that the Bhagavat is not a primary *pramāṇa*. This reminds us of Nārāyaṇa's above-mentioned interpretation.²³

1.3.2. The expression *x-bhūta* in the introduction of the *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya*

Ruegg considered that Bhartṛhari's use of *x-bhūta* to express likeness could have been familiar to Dignāga, and regarded it as supporting evidence for his interpretation of *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga.²⁴ Also concerning Vasubandhu's use of *x-bhūta* in his *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya* (=AKBh), we may point out the same possibility.

The beginning of the AKBh could have been familiar to Dignāga, because the PS's *maṅgalaśloka* and its explanation in the *Pramāṇasamuccayavṛtti* (=PSV) seem to be influenced by the AKBh. Previous studies have already indicated that three of the Bhagavat's four epithets besides *pramāṇabhūta* in the PS's *maṅgalaśloka* correspond to the three characteristics describing the trustworthiness of an authoritative person (*āpta*) in the *Nyāyabhāṣya* (=NBh).²⁵ However, we must recognize that the PS's description of the Bhagavat is probably influenced not directly by the NBh, but via the AKBh or, rather, directly by the AKBh. For, the *maṅgalaśloka* of the AKBh is as follows:

yaḥ sarvathāsarvahaatāndhakāraḥ saṃsārapaṅkāj jagad ujjahāra /
tasmai namaskṛtya yathārthaśāstre śāstraṃ pravakṣyāmy abhidharmakośam //
 [= Saluting Him who has averted the darkness regarding everything by every manner and means, who emancipates living beings from a morass of reincarnation, who teaches reality as it is, I will teach the treatise named *Abhidharmakośa*.]²⁶

Further, it is to be noted that the compound word *saṃsārapaṅka* in this *maṅgalaśloka* is explained by Vasubandhu himself as follows:

AKBh 1,17: *saṃsāro hi jagadāsaṅgasthānatvāt duruttaratvāc ca paṅkabhūtaḥ.*
 [= Namely, reincarnation is like a morass, because it is the place to which living beings cling, and from which (living beings) hardly escape.]²⁷

²³ Cf. note 8 in this paper.

²⁴ Cf. Ruegg 1994a: 309,20ff.; 1995: 821. Ruegg seems to consider that the attestation of the word *x-bhūta* meaning “x-like” in Bhartṛhari is relevant because his writing had great influence on Dignāga.

²⁵ Cf. Vetter 1984: note 6; Franco 1997: 28ff. Namely, Pakṣilasvāmin (5th c.) enumerated three characteristics establishing the trustworthiness of the *āpta*, i.e., 1) having direct knowledge of reality (*sākṣātkṛtadharmatā*), 2) having compassion towards living beings (*bhūta-dayā*), and 3) having the desire to teach reality as it is (*yathābhūtārthacikhyāpayiṣā*) (cf. NBh 565,6ff.). These correspond respectively to the *sugata*, the *tāyin* or the *jagaddhitaiṣin*, and the *śāstr* in the PS.

²⁶ *sarvathāsarvahaatāndhakāraḥ* corresponds to *sugata*, *saṃsārapaṅkāj jagad ujjahāra* to *tāyin* or *jagaddhitaiṣin*, and *yathārthaśāstre* to *śāstr*. The Bhāṣya explains the phrases *sarvathāsarvahaatāndhakāraḥ*, *saṃsārapaṅkāj jagad ujjahāra*. and *yathārthaśāstrā* by the words *ātmahitapratipattisampad*, *parahitapratipattisampad* and *parahitapratipattiyupāya* respectively (cf. AKBh 1.8ff.).

²⁷ Cf. AKBhVy 5,30f.: *saṃsāraḥ paṅka iva saṃsārapaṅkaḥ paṅkasādharṃyāt. ata āha – saṃsāro hi jagadāsaṅgasthānatvāt duruttaratvāc ca paṅkabhūta iti.* [= (Vasubandhu said:) “a morass of reincarnation,” because the reincarnation is like a morass, since it is similar to a morass. Therefore, he said: “Reincarnation is like a morass, because it is the place, to which living beings cling to, and from which (living beings) hardly escape.”]

Dignāga who depended on the AKBh in writing the *maṅgalaśloka* and the introduction of the PSV could have understood the expression *pañkabhūta* as meaning “*pañka*-like.”

1.4. The meaning of *pramāṇabhūta* and Dignāga’s purpose of writing the PS

From the above, it is likely that the word *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga means “who is like *pramāṇa* (as knowledge),” as Ruegg suggested. This interpretation not only serves to avoid the difficulty in considering *bhūta* as the equivalent of the copula. The crucial point is, rather, that it corresponds well to Dignāga’s thought about the relationship between *pramāṇa* as knowledge and the Bhagavat.

As is well known, Dignāga, in contrast to Dharmakīrti, did not talk much about the Bhagavat and Buddhist ontology at least in his logical works.²⁸ The explanations in the PS, except for the *maṅgalaśloka*, are almost entirely restricted to establishing *pramāṇa* as knowledge. In this sense, *pramāṇa* as knowledge is primary (*mukhya*), and the Bhagavat as *pramāṇa* is secondary in the PS. In the closing section of the PSV, Dignāga says the following:

Thus,²⁹ this (treatise) has been undertaken only for turning around (*vyāvartana*) those people who cling to the (opponent’s views), not for introducing (them) to the Tathāgata’s teaching, because his teaching is not the object of reasoning. Those who have turned away (from clinging to the fallacious views), however, can easily comprehend the essence of the teaching which is perfectly manifested, after having listened to it, because (our logic and the logic of the opponents) are at different degrees of distance (from the truth).³⁰ (Namely,)

²⁸ Cf. Vetter 1984: 14.

²⁹ Cf. Krasser 2004: 134f. I give here my tentative translation according to the following reconstruction of this part which is a result of the joint research workshop on the PST chapter VI held by Dr. Toshikazu Watanabe (Kokugakuin University), Dr. Yasutaka Muroya (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and myself under the support of Prof. Franco, Prof. Chizuko Yoshimizu and Dr. Krasser: *iti tadāsaktānām vyāvartanārtho ’yam ārambhaḥ, na tv iyatā tathāgataśāsanānupraveśārthaḥ, taddharmasyātarkagocaratvāt. vyāvṛttās tu paridīpitām dharmatām upaśrutyāyatnenaiva pratipatsyante, viprakṛṣṭāntaratvāt. tarkamātrabalās tīrthyāḥ so ’py anirdiṣṭalakṣaṇaḥ / svaprayogaviruddhaś ca na ceṣṭārthaprasādhakaḥ // 23 // sudūraṇaṣṭās tu munīndraśāsanān nayanī ye tarkapathena dharmatām / tathāpi tāthāgatadharmalakṣaṇam parīkṣyātām yady upayāti vikriyām // 24 //* (Italics are used for words retranslated from the Tibetan translations, whereas normal script is used for the words taken from the PST manuscript.)

³⁰ Krasser interpreted the word *viprakṛṣṭāntara* as Dvandva, i.e., “remote” and “near” (cf. Krasser 2004: 133f.). However, his interpretation is not supported by PSV’s Tibetan translations, and the PST also does not necessarily seem to support it. Regarding the word *viprakṛṣṭāntara*, Kumārila’s use is worth considering (cf. the *Ślokavārttika, śabdanityatādihikaraṇa*, v.168–169ab: *tadantarādihikātmā ca bhāti tenāgrataḥ sthitaḥ / viprakṛṣṭāntarāṇām ca stokadeśe ’pi dr̥śyate // siddhabhinnāgradeśānām dūradeśasamānatā /* [Ganganath Jha’s translation in Jha 1983: 437: “Even in the case of an object which is comparatively much nearer to us (than the Sun really is), we find that persons, – residing at places that are at different degrees of distance from that object, and consequently having their fronts decidedly different from one another, – mistake that distant object to be at equal distances from themselves”]; I would like to thank Dr. Ryō Sasaki for his informing me of this passage). In my opinion, the word *viprakṛṣṭāntara* can be meaningfully understood only by relating it to the following two verses. Jineन्द्रabuddhi’s interpretation of this word seems to have somewhat deviated from Dignāga’s original intention.

The opponents depend only on (their) logic. But this very (logic) is one in which (correct) characteristics are not indicated, is one that contradicts its own syllogism, and cannot establish the intended object. (k.23) On the other hand, those who lead (the people) to the essence of the teaching by way of logic, have (also) deviated very far from the teaching by the king of saints. Nevertheless, the essence of the Tathāgata’s teaching is to be considered (by logic) if (it) undergoes a change. (k.24)

Needless to say, it does not mean that Dignāga did not give importance to the Bhagavat. I agree with Krasser in that Dignāga as a *pramāṇavādin* is definitely Buddhist.³¹

2. Dharmakīrti’s interpretation of *pramāṇabhūta*

Dharmakīrti paraphrases the word *pramāṇabhūta* in his PV II as follows:

PV II 7 abc’: *tadvat pramāṇam bhagavān abhūtavinivṛttaye / bhūtoktiḥ*

[= The Bhagavat is a *pramāṇa* like that (*pramāṇa* as knowledge) (*tadvat*). The expression *bhūta* serves to avert those who have not become (*abhūta*) (a *pramāṇa*, like Īśvara and the Veda).]

On the basis of this statement, Śākyabuddhi etc. interpret the word *pramāṇabhūta* as a compound meaning “he is a *pramāṇa*, and he has become.”³² However, it is not necessarily clear whether such an interpretation matches Dharmakīrti’s own intention. At least it is obvious that Dharmakīrti did not reinterpret the word *pramāṇabhūta* in order to use it in his own philosophy. For, unlike in the case of Prajñākaragupta, the word was never really used in Dharmakīrti’s treatises.³³ Dharmakīrti uses the word *pramāṇa* instead of *pramāṇabhūta* to designate “the Bhagavat as *pramāṇa*.” He seems to intend to only deconstruct this compound.

Now, how did he understand the original meaning of *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga, so that he did not use this word? In order to answer this question, we need to reconsider Devendrabuddhi’s expression *pramāṇam iva pramāṇam (tshad ma dang ’dra bas na tshad ma ste)* which is referred to by Krasser as the evidence for refuting Ruegg’s interpretation of °*bhūta* as “like.” This expression first appears in Devendrabuddhi’s introductory remark on PV II 1, where he explains Dignāga’s usage of the word *pramāṇabhūta*:

³¹ Cf. Krasser 2004.

³² Cf. PVP(D)1b2; (P)2a1: *tshad mar gyur pa zhes bya ba ni tshad mar ’khrungs pa’o*; PVṬ(D)71b5f.; (P)86b4f.: *tshad mar ’khrungs pa zhes bya bar (D: ba P) gyur pa’i sgra ni ’khrungs pa’i don to // tshad ma yang de yin la gyur pa yang de yin pas na tshad mar gyur pa’o* (cf. Vibhūti 521,27: *pramāṇajāta* [em. in Krasser 2001: 178: *pramāṇam jāta*] *iti bhūtaśabdaḥ prādurbhāvārthaḥ*; PST 2,7: *pramāṇam cāsau bhūtaś ceti pramāṇabhūtaḥ*; note 15 in this paper). The Tibetan translation *tshad mar gyur pa* is also derived from such interpretation (cf. Hakamaya 2000: (10)f.).

³³ As a matter of fact, the translation “who has become a *pramāṇa*” can be applied only to the word *pramāṇabhūta* found in the treatises of Dharmakīrti’s followers. Furthermore, whether such a translation is appropriate depends on the context. For example, in Dharmottara’s case, where the word appears in his *Prāmāṇyaparīkṣā’s maṅgalaśloka*, it may be, contrary to Krasser’s view (cf. Krasser 2001: note 44), appropriately translated as “*pramāṇa*-like” in Dignāga’s sense, because *pramāṇa* as knowledge is primary in this treatise, just as in the case of the PS. Regarding Prajñākaragupta, see below.

PVP (D)1b2f.; (P)2a1f.: *tshad mar gyur pa zhes bya ba ni tshad mar 'khrungs pa'o // tshad ma dang 'dra bas na tshad ma ste bcom ldan 'das so //*

[= The compound *pramāṇabhūta* (means) “who has become a *pramāṇa*.” The Bhagavat is a *pramāṇa* (inasmuch as he is) similar to a valid cognition (**bhagavān pramāṇam iva pramāṇam*).]³⁴

The statement *pramāṇam iva pramāṇam*, which means that the expression *bhagavān pramāṇam* implies the meaning *iva*, is, according to Śākyabuddhi, the reply to the question “The *pramāṇas* are direct perception and inference. Thus, how can the Bhagavat who is not of their nature be said to be *pramāṇa*?”³⁵ Note that this statement appears immediately after the explanation of the compound *pramāṇabhūta* according to PV II 7bc'. This fact seems to show that such a statement became necessary owing to the Dharmakīrtian interpretation of *bhūta*. Namely, it is possible that Devendrabuddhi interpreted *bhūta* as meaning “has become” and, as a consequence, had to transfer the meaning which the compound *pramāṇabhūta* as a whole originally had in Dignāga to the part *pramāṇa*. If this is the case, it means that *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga was understood as meaning “*pramāṇa*-like” by Devendrabuddhi.

I think that his understanding derives from Dharmakīrti. Devendrabuddhi's remark on PV II 7a shows it:

PVP (D)6b5; (P)7b2f.: *de bzhin bcom ldan tshad ma nyid* (PV II 7a: *tadvat pramāṇam bhagavān*) // 'di tshad ma dang yang ci zhig mtshungs na / gang gis na tshad ma dang 'dra bas tshad ma nyid yin tshad ma'i mtshan nyid rnam pa gnyis nyid dang mtshungs pa yin no //

[= **The Bhagavat is a *pramāṇa* like that (*pramāṇa* as knowledge)**. In what way is he like a *pramāṇa*? He is like (a *pramāṇa*) in having the twofold defining characteristic of *pramāṇa* so that, he is (said to be) *pramāṇa*, inasmuch as he is like a *pramāṇa*.].³⁶

According to Devendrabuddhi, Dharmakīrti shows by the expression *tadvat* that the Bhagavat's likeness to *pramāṇa* as knowledge means that the Bhagavat has the same twofold defining characteristic that *pramāṇa* as knowledge has (but not that the Bhagavat is secondary to *pramāṇa* as knowledge). Further, Dharmakīrti calls the Bhagavat, not *pramāṇabhūta*, but a *pramāṇa* meaning *pramāṇam iva*, because both the Bhagavat and *pramāṇa* as knowledge are said to be *pramāṇa* in having the twofold defining characteristic.

³⁴ Cf. Krasser 2001: 177f. I follow Krasser's translation except for some small modifications.

³⁵ Cf. PVT(P)86b5f.; (D)71b6f.: *mngon sum dang rjes su dpag pa ni tshad ma yin pa de bas na / ji ltar na bcom ldan 'das de'i rang bzhin can ma yin pa la de skad du ce na tshad ma dang 'dra bas na tshad ma ste zhes bya ba smos te*; Inami 1994: note 2; Krasser 2001: 178f. I follow Krasser's translation.

³⁶ Cf. Krasser 2001: 182f. I follow Krasser's translation in terms of Devendrabuddhi's remark with some modifications. However, I cannot agree with his view that Devendrabuddhi understood *-vat* in *tadvat* in a possessive sense and the Tibetan translation *de bzhin* to *tadvat* was a misunderstanding (cf. Krasser 2001: 183). In my opinion, *tadvat* must carry the meaning “like that (*pramāṇa* as knowledge)” in this context, because *tadvat* is nothing but the paraphrase of the word *pramāṇabhūta*. Nevertheless, it is possible that *tadvat* was understood as an intentionally ambiguous expression (a kind of *śleṣa* in Sanskrit rhetoric) by Devendrabuddhi.

I think Devendrabuddhi is right. What Dharmakīrti is doing here is interpreting the word *pramāṇabhūta*; and the Bhagavat’s likeness to *pramāṇa* as knowledge is nothing but what is meant by the word *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga.³⁷ Thus, the word *pramāṇabhūta* in Dignāga is probably understood as meaning “*pramāṇa*-like” by Dharmakīrti himself.

3. Prajñākaragupta’s interpretation of *pramāṇabhūta*

3.1. *pramāṇabhūta* as a purpose of the PVA

Prajñākaragupta calls the Bhagavat *pramāṇabhūta* in the first *maṅgalaśloka* of his PVA, following Dignāga, and adopts this term as a key concept of his philosophy.³⁸ However, the meaning of this term in Prajñākaragupta is different from that in Dignāga. The opening paragraph of the PVA, immediately after the *maṅgalaślokas*, clearly shows this difference. In this paragraph, Prajñākaragupta follows the opening section of the PSV with some modifications.³⁹ Among these modifications, the following two are relevant for our issue:⁴⁰

(1) PSV I 1,3f.: *atra bhagavato hetuphalasampattyā pramāṇabhūtatvena stotrābhīdhānaṃ prakaraṇādau gauravotpādanārtham.*⁴¹

³⁷ I would like to thank Prof. Inami for the following suggestion expressed by E-mail on the 27. Sept. 2013: “It is possible that Dharmakīrti also understands in the meantime *bhūta* in *pramāṇabhūta* as meaning ‘like’ by stating *tadvat* in PV II 7a. From PV II 7a onwards, Dharmakīrti apparently begins to explain the word *pramāṇabhūta*, even if commentators would not support it.” (English translation is mine.)

³⁸ The first *maṅgalaśloka*, whose first half is identical to that of the PS, states the purpose of writing the PVA (cf. *pramāṇabhūtāya jagaddhitaiṣiṇe praṇamya śāstre sugatāya tāyine / kutarkasambhṛāntajanānukampayā pramāṇasiddhir vidhivad vidhīyate //*).

³⁹ Cf. PSV I 1,3–13: *atra bhagavato hetuphalasampattyā pramāṇabhūtatvena stotrābhīdhānaṃ prakaraṇādau gauravotpādanārtham. tatra hetur āśayaprayogasampat. āśayo jagaddhitaiṣitā. prayogo jagacchāsanāc chāstrtvam. phalaṃ svaparārthasampat. svārthasampat sugatatvena trividham artham upādāya, praśastatvārtham surūpavat, apunarāvṛttyartham sunaṣṭajvaravat, niḥśeṣārtham supūrṇaghaṭavat. arthatrayaṃ caitad bāhyavūtarāgaśaiḥśaiḥśeḥbhyah svārthasampadvīṣeṣanārtham. parārthasampat tāraṇārthena tāyitvam. evaṃguṇaṃ śāstāraṃ praṇamya pramāṇasiddhyai svaprakaraṇebhyo nyāyamukhādibhya iha samāhṛtya pramāṇasamuccayaḥ kariṣyate parapramāṇapratīṣedhāya svapramāṇaguṇodbhāvanāya ca, yasmāt pramāṇāyattā prameyapratipattir bahavaś cātra vipratipannāḥ; PVA_O 1,10–2,7: *atra bhagavato hetuphalasampattyā pramāṇabhūtatvena stotrābhīdhānaṃ śāstrādau, śāstrārthatvāt. bhagavān eva hi pramāṇabhūto ’smin prasādhyate. tatra hetur āśayaprayogasampat sāmvyavahārikapramāṇāpekṣayā. āśayo jagaddhitaiṣitā. prayogo jagacchāsanāc chāstrtvam. phalaṃ svaparārthasampat. svārthasampat sugatatvena trividham artham upādāya, praśastatvaṃ surūpavat, apunarāvṛttyartham sunaṣṭajvaravat, niḥśeṣārtham supūrṇaghaṭavat. parārthasampat ja-gattāraṇāt tāyitvam, samtānārtham cāparinirvāṇadharmatvāt. evaṃbhūtaṃ bhagavantaṃ praṇamya pramāṇasiddhir vidhīyate. pramāṇādhīno hi prameyādhigamaḥ, bhagavān eva ca pramāṇam, pramāṇalakṣaṇasadbhāvāt. pramiyate ’neneti pramāṇam.* (Emphasized parts show modifications by Prajñākaragupta.)*

⁴⁰ Regarding the importance of the addition *sāmvyavahārikapramāṇāpekṣayā* after the sentence *tatra hetur āśayaprayogasampat* for Prajñākaragupta’s thought, see Iwata 2001: (48)ff.

⁴¹ Hattori’s translation: “At the beginning of the treatise, here [in this verse], I express praise in honor of the Worshipful [Buddha] in order to produce in [the hearts of] men faith in Him who, because of His perfection in cause (*hetu*) and effect (*phala*), is to be regarded as the personification of the means of cognition (*pramāṇa*-*bhūta*).”

PVA_O 1,10–12: *atra bhagavato hetuphalasampattyā pramāṇabhūtatvena stotrābhīdhānam śāstrādaṁ, śāstrārthatvāt. bhagavān eva hi pramāṇabhūto 'smin prasādhyate.*

(2) PSV I 1,10–13: *evaṁguṇam śāstāram praṇamya pramāṇasiddhyai svaparakaraṇebhyo nyāyamukhādibhya iha samāhṛtya pramāṇasamuccayaḥ kariṣyate parapramāṇapraṭiśedhāya svapramāṇaguṇodbhāvanāya ca, yasmāt pramāṇayattā prameyapratipattir bahavaś cātra vipratipannāḥ.*⁴²

PVA_O 2,4–7: *evaṁbhūtaṁ bhagavantam praṇamya pramāṇasiddhir vidhīyate. pramāṇādhiṇo hi prameyādhiḡamaḥ, bhagavān eva ca pramāṇam, pramāṇalakṣaṇasadbhāvāt. pramīyate 'neneti pramāṇam.*

In passage (1), Prajñākaragupta replaces the PSV's sentence "in order to produce in men faith (*gauravotpādanārtham*)" with the sentence "because (the Bhagavat is) the purpose of the treatise. Namely, the very Bhagavat as *pramāṇabhūta* is to be established here" (*śāstrārthatvāt. bhagavān eva hi pramāṇabhūto 'smin prasādhyate*). Prajñākaragupta shows by this replacement that the Bhagavat is praised right at the beginning of the treatise in order to make it clear that the purpose of the treatise is to establish the Bhagavat as *pramāṇabhūta*.

In passage (2), Dignāga shows that the purpose of the PS is to reject opponents' theories of *pramāṇa* as knowledge and to establish correctly the Buddhist theories of it. Prajñākaragupta, on the other hand, while showing that the purpose of the PVA is to establish the *pramāṇa*, emphasizes that the *pramāṇa* which he will establish in the PVA is nothing but the Bhagavat.⁴³ Thus, in the PVA, not *pramāṇa* as knowledge, but the Bhagavat as *pramāṇa*, i.e., *pramāṇabhūta*, is regarded as *pramāṇa* in the primary sense, and is the main topic of the treatise.

3.2. The identification of the Bhagavat as *pramāṇabhūta* with *pāramārthikapramāṇa*

Dharmakīrti uses the word *sāṁvyaavahārikapramāṇa*, meaning direct perception and inference, in the closing paragraph of the *Pramāṇaviniścaya*'s first chapter. However, the word *pāramārthikapramāṇa* in the same paragraph does not necessarily mean the Bhagavat.⁴⁴

⁴² Hattori's translation: "Saluting the teacher who is endowed with such merits, the author will compose the *Pramāṇasamuccaya* or the Collected Writings on the Means of Cognition by gathering [passages] from the *Nyāyamukha* and other of his treatises in order to establish the means of valid cognition. The purpose [of the work] is to reject the theories concerning the means of cognition maintained by others and to elucidate the virtues in his own theories concerning the means of cognition, since there are divergent opinions with regard to [the nature, number, object, and result of] the means of cognition, on which depends the clear understanding of the object to be cognized."

⁴³ The phrase *pramāṇalakṣaṇasadbhāvāt* is related to Prajñākaragupta's theory of the definition of *pramāṇa* that in the ultimate sense only the Bhagavat has the twofold defining characteristic of *pramāṇa* (cf. Ono 2014).

⁴⁴ Cf. PVin I 44,2ff.: *sāṁvyaavahārikasya caitat pramāṇasya rūpam uktam, atrāpi pare mūḡhā viśaṁvādayanti lokam iti. cintāmayīm eva tu prajñām anuśīlayanto vibhramavivekanirmalam anapāyi pāramārthikapramāṇam abhimukhīkurvanti. tad api leśataḥ sūcitam eveti.*

Prajñākaragupta, however, clearly identifies the Bhagavat with *pāramārthikaṃ pramāṇam*.⁴⁵ He calls the Bhagavat *paraṃ pramāṇam* too.⁴⁶

The word *pramāṇabhūta* qualifying the Bhagavat in the PVA can be regarded as a synonym of these terms. The term *pāramārthikapramāṇa* is used by Prajñākaragupta in the sense that the Bhagavat is the ‘ultimate’ *pramāṇa* insofar as the trustworthiness of his direct perception is ascertained by itself, whereas ordinary direct perception and inference are conventional *pramāṇas*.⁴⁷ According to Prajñākaragupta, the Bhagavat as *pramāṇabhūta* is by nature a direct perception (*pratyakṣarūpa*).⁴⁸ It is clear from this point that Prajñākaragupta interprets *pramāṇa* in *pramāṇabhūta* literally.⁴⁹

3.3. Blo ldan shes rab’s rendering of *pramāṇabhūta* as *tshad ma yang dag (pa)*

As is well known, sKal ldan rgyal po and Blo ldan shes rab (1059–1109) translate the word *pramāṇabhūta* qualifying the Bhagavat in the PVA as *tshad ma yang dag (pa)*, i.e., “true *pramāṇa*,”⁵⁰ while rendering the same word qualifying cognitions etc. in the same text as *tshad mar (’)gyur pa*.⁵¹ Although the translation of *bhūta* as *yang dag (pa)* is not impossible in itself,⁵² it can be regarded as reflecting Prajñākaragupta’s usage of the word.

However, Prajñākaragupta himself does not give any analysis of the compound by which such a translation can be justified.⁵³ His new interpretation that the sentence *a-bhūtaviniṣṭayā bhūtoktiḥ* (PV II 7bc’) means “the Bhagavat tells the truth in order to

⁴⁵ Cf. PVA 67,12f.; Ms26a8: *bhagavān eva ca paramārthataḥ kāryakāraṇabhāve pāramārthikaṃ pramāṇam vyāpyanvayavyatirekagrahaṇād iti pratipāditam*. (cf. PVA_O 12,12ff.; note 22 in this paper).

⁴⁶ Cf. PVA_O 83,15ff.: *bhagavatas tarhi katham prāmāṇyam. pratyakṣānumānāyor hi vyavahāramātreṇa prāmāṇyam, na bhagavataḥ. tad dhi paraṃ pramāṇam. atrocyate – tadvat pramāṇam bhagavān* (PV II 7a).

⁴⁷ Insofar as the trustworthiness of ordinary direct perception can be ascertained only in a conventional sense and inference postulates the omniscience of the Bhagavat in order to be universally right (cf. note 22 in this paper; Ono 1994; 2012; 2014).

⁴⁸ Cf. PVA_O 84,1f.: *tathāgato hi bhagavān tadvān iti kṛtvā pratyakṣarūpa eva bhagavān pramāṇam*.

⁴⁹ It corresponds to the fact that Prajñākaragupta interprets the word *tadvat* in PV II 7 in the possessive meaning (cf. Krasser 2001: 181, and note 36 above).

⁵⁰ Cf. Hakamaya 2000: (11). The rendering *tshad ma yang dag (pa)* is attested many times also in the Tibetan translation of Yamāri’s commentary on the PVA by Sumati and Blo ldan shes rab. Many examples of this appear in Yamāri’s remark on the *maṅgalaśloka* and the introductory paragraph of the PVA. In the Tibetan translation of Jayanta’s commentary on the PVA by Śrī Dīpaṅkararakṣita and Byang chub shes rab, the rendering *tshad ma yang dag (pa)* is attested only once, whereas the rendering *tshad mar gyur pa* is attested many times.

⁵¹ The word *pramāṇabhūta* qualifying cognitions or treatises etc. is also attested in the PVA (cf. PVA 385,1f.: *pramāṇabhūtapratyakṣam*; PVA 494,9f.: *sāstrād eva pramāṇabhūtāt*; PVA 568,6ff.: *pramāṇabhūtāḥ pratyayāḥ*; PVA 619,26ff.: *pramāṇabhūtapratyayapratipādyāḥ*). In those cases, *bhūta* can be understood as the equivalent of the copula without problems and the Tibetan equivalent of it is almost *tshad mar (’)gyur pa*. In Yamāri’s commentary as well, the rendering *tshad mar gyur pa* is attested many times. Most of them qualify Veda, Niyoga, words, cognitions etc. But some of them qualify the Bhagavat. Among them we can find some interesting examples, as we shall see later.

⁵² Cf. Ruegg 1994a: note 44; Hakamaya 2000: 324ff.; Steinkellner 2003: note 15. Interestingly, Jonathan A. Silk found the Chinese equivalent 真實稱量 for *pramāṇabhūta* in the Chinese translation of the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* 大乘集菩薩學論 (cf. Silk 2002: note 26); there *bhūta* is rendered as 真實, i.e., true or real, just like in the case of *tshad ma yang dag (pa)*.

⁵³ As far as I am aware, Yamāri refers to the word *bhūta* in *pramāṇabhūta* as follows: “Further, supposing the question ‘why is only the Bhagavat *pramāṇa* (in the true sense) and others not?’, (Prajñākaragupta)

avert error”⁵⁴ appears to justify the translation *tshad ma yang dag (pa)* because the word *bhūta* means the contrary concept of “error” (*bhrānti*), i.e., “truth” or “true” in this context. What Prajñākaragupta really intends here is, however, not to interpret the word *bhūta* in *pramāṇabhūta*, but to justify his own usage of the word *pramāṇabhūta* by interpreting Dharmakīrti’s word *bhūtokti* as not referring to *bhūta* in *pramāṇabhūta*.

3.4. Yamāri’s interpretation of the compound *pramāṇabhūta*

Then, how should we interpret the compound *pramāṇabhūta* in Prajñākaragupta? Yamāri’s commentary provides us with an important clue to Prajñākaragupta’s understanding. Among Yamāri’s two different interpretations, the second interpretation explaining *pramāṇabhūta* as “*pramāṇa*-like” has been mentioned above. The first one, which can be regarded as Yamāri’s own interpretation, is as follows:

Yamāri [Phe] (D)188b5f.; (P)226a3f.: *’di rtsom pa yang ci zhig byas nas yin zhe na / bshad pa phyag ’chal nas te rab tu btud cing lus phul nas so* (D: song P) // *su la zhe na / tshad ma yang dag gam tshad mar gyur pa la’o*⁵⁵ // *tshad mar gyur pa* ni tshad mar red pa ’am tshad mar thob pa’o //; Ms 10b1–2 (cf. Li, Chu and Franco 2017: 80)

[= (Question:) Further, what has been done before beginning to write this (treatise)? (Prajñākaragupta) replies: “**saluting**,” i.e., bowing his head and throwing his body on the ground. (Question:) To whom? (Prajñākaragupta replies:) To *pramāṇabhūta*. (The compound) *pramāṇabhūta* means “who has reached the means of cognition (**pramāṇam gataḥ*),” in other words, “who has attained trustworthiness (**prāmāṇyam prāptaḥ*).”]

By comparing this with Śākyabuddhi’s explanation of the compound *parabhāvabhūta* found in the *Pramāṇavārttikasvavṛtti*, one can assume that the Sanskrit equivalent of the sentence *tshad mar gyur pa ni tshad mar red pa*⁵⁶ is probably **pramāṇam gataḥ pramāṇabhūtaḥ*, and it is also clear that this sentence shows the interpretation of *bhūta* as the equivalent of the copula.⁵⁷ Further, *tshad mar thob pa* is most likely the rendering of *prāmāṇyam*

explains the reason implied by the word *bhūta* (in *pramāṇabhūta* by the statement:) ‘**by the perfection of cause and effect** (*hetuphalasampattyā*)’” (cf. Y(D)197b3; (P)235b8f.: *yang ci ltar bcom ldan ’das *nyid* (D: *nyid kyi* P) *tshad ma yin gyi / gzhan ma yin snyam du dogs na yang dag pa’i sgras bsdu pa’i gtan tshigs smras pa rgyu dang ’bras bu phun sum tshogs pas zhes bya ba’o* //). This explanation, that the word *bhūta* in *pramāṇabhūta* implies the Bhagavat’s perfection of cause and effect, seems to justify the rendering of *bhūta* as *yang dag pa*.

⁵⁴ Cf. PVA_O 84,4–7: *abhūtanivṛttaye bhrāntinivṛtyartham yatas tasya bhagavato bhūtoktis tataḥ sa eva sarvajñāḥ, nāparaḥ* (cf. Ruegg 1994a: 306,2f.; Franco 1997: 56, note 25). Regarding the significance of this interpretation in Prajñākaragupta’s thought, cf. Iwata 2000; 2001: (50)ff.

⁵⁵ I assume that *gam tshad mar gyur pa* is a kind of gloss. The rendering should be merely *tshad ma yang dag*, insofar as the word *pramāṇabhūta* qualifies the Bhagavat in this case, but the general translation *tshad mar gyur pa* is added here to the semantic translation, probably because the interpretation of the compound itself is talked about (cf. Ms 10b2; Li, Chu and Franco 2017: 80).

⁵⁶ The Tibetan *tshad mar red pa* literally means “being *pramāṇa*.”

⁵⁷ Commenting on the compound *parabhāvabhūta* in the PVS_V, which cannot but be understood as a pleonastic expression, Śākyabuddhi explains it as *gzhan gyi ngo bor red pa*, the Sanskrit equivalent

prāptaḥ,⁵⁸ which is the same as Kaiyaṭa's explanation of Patañjali's *pramāṇabhūta* and therefore means "being *pramāṇa*" as well. Thus, Yamāri shows here the interpretation of *pramāṇabhūta* as "being *pramāṇa*."⁵⁹

Further, in commenting on Prajñākaragupta's above-mentioned statement "because (the Bhagavat is) the purpose of the treatise" (*śāstrārthatvāt*), Yamāri says as follows:

Yamāri [Phe](D)198b5f.; (P)237a6ff.: *gal te 'o na bcom ldan 'das mngon sum gyi khyad par gyi rang bzhin yin mod / gang gi bstan bcos kyi don yin pas bstan bcos blang byar 'gyur ba de tsam gyis (D: gyi P) bdag cag la nye bar mkho ba ni ma yin no // tshad ma yang dag pas zhes bya ba la sogs pa smos so // tshad mar gyur pa ni tshad mar red pa zhes bya ba'i don to // ma byung ba las byung ba ni yin yang brjod par mi 'dod pa'i phyir rtsi ba'i rkyen med do // dper na "au pa las yang man (D: u tpa las yan P) ni rang gi rgyu las so" zhes bya ba 'dir / Pa tan dzi lis bshad pa "de la phan pa 'jug pa ni / sna tshogs pa'i phyir ro // des na (D: na lacking in P) de la phan pa ma byas so" zhes bya ba de bzhin du 'dir yang lta'o (D: blta P) //; Ms 16a4–5 (cf. Li, Chu and Franco 2018: 44)*

[= (Objection:) Then, even if the Bhagavat is by nature a special direct perception, it is so far not helpful for us in accepting the treatise **because (the Bhagavat) is the purpose of the treatise**. (Prajñākaragupta) replies: "(the very Bhagavat) as *pramāṇabhūta*" etc. (The compound) *pramāṇabhūta* means "who has reached the means of cognition (**pramāṇaṃ gataḥ*)."⁶⁰ Namely, the suffix meaning "become" (**cvi-pratyaya*) does not exist (in the expression *pramāṇabhūta*) because, even though (the Bhagavat) has become what he was not previously, it is not intended to mention (it). Also in this case, one should consider (it) according to Patañjali who explains: "The operations of *taddhita* are manifold and hence the *taddhita*-suffix is not found (*vicitrās taddhita-vṛttayo nātas taddhita utpadyate*)" regarding (Pāṇini 1.3.56:) "After the verb *yam-* preceded by *upa-*, when used in the sense of 'espousing,' (*ātmanepada* is employed) (*upād yamaḥ svakarāṇe*)."]

Although this paragraph is not easy to understand, it is at least clear that Yamāri presents here again the interpretation of *pramāṇabhūta* as "being *pramāṇa*" and mentions that the expression *pramāṇabhūta* does not mean "has become what he was not previously" (**abhūtatadbhāva*)⁶⁰ since the *cvi*-suffix does not exist in it. At the end of this paragraph,

of which is *parabhāvaṃ gataḥ*, as found in Karṇakagomin's commentary (cf. PVT(D)37b3; (P)44b5: *gzhan gyi (D: gyis P) ngo bor gyur pa ni gzhan gyi ngo bor red pa ste*; PVSVT 72,16f.: *parabhāvaṃ gataḥ parabhāvabhūtaḥ*).

⁵⁸ This assumption can be ascertained by the Sanskrit manuscript (cf. Ms 10b2; Li, Chu and Franco 2017: 80). The explanation *prāmāṇyaṃ prāptaḥ* is referred to also by Vibhūticandra (cf. note 62 in this paper).

⁵⁹ In Yamāri's case, however, "being *pramāṇa*" does not mean "being authority," as in the case of grammarians, but "being valid cognition." See above, section 1.1 in this paper.

⁶⁰ The Sanskrit equivalent of *ma byung ba las byung ba* is normally *abhūtā bhāva* (*Mahāvvyutpatti* 2182). But, *abhūtatadbhāva* or *abhūtaprādurbhāva* is also possible (cf. note 8 in this paper). The meaning is not different in any case. Cf. Ms 16a5; Li, Chu and Franco 2018: 44.

Yamāri tries to reinforce his argument by referring to Patañjali's explanation to Pāṇini-sūtra 1.3.56.⁶¹

Thus, we can find some parallels between Yamāri's statements including his reference to the interpretation *prāmāṇyam prāptaḥ* and the explanations of *pramāṇabhūta* by MBh-commentators.⁶² It is noteworthy that the time of Yamāri's activity (ca. 1000–1060)⁶³ seems to be close to that of Kaiyaṭa.⁶⁴ The parallel between the grammarians and the Buddhist Pramāṇa-school which Ruegg suggested may be a result of actual influence of one on the other.⁶⁵

In any case, it is clear from the above that Yamāri interprets the compound *pramāṇabhūta* as meaning “being *pramāṇa*,” while presupposing the existence of other interpretations like “*pramāṇa*-like” and “who has become a *pramāṇa*.” In my view, Yamāri's interpretation is not contradictory to either Prajñākaragupta's identification of the word with *pāramārthikapramāṇa*, or to Blo Idan shes rab's translation *tshad ma yang dag (pa)*. Rather, among various interpretations of the word, only the interpretation “being *pramāṇa*” can be in harmony with Prajñākaragupta's usage of the word. For, the expression “who is A” can carry the meaning “who is the true A” or “who is A in the true sense.”⁶⁶

Taking the above into consideration, I would like to propose the translation “who is a *pramāṇa* in the true sense” for the term *pramāṇabhūta* when qualifying the Bhagavat in Prajñākaragupta.

4. Conclusion

The results of the above consideration are summarized in Table 1.

⁶¹ Commenting on Pāṇini 1.3.56 which prescribes that *ātmanepada* should be employed after the verb *upa-yam-* in the sense of “espousing,” Patañjali states the following: “(Question:) How does (the active voice) not appear here, like in the sentence ‘he holds (*upayacchati*) the end of his cloth’? (Answer:) (the active voice) should appear where one makes one's own what was not previously one's own (like in the case that one has illicit intercourse with another's wife). (However) if so, it follows that the word in the Sūtra should be *svikaraṇe* (instead of *svakaraṇe* according to Pāṇini 5.4.50: [*abhūtatadbhāve*] *kṛbhvastiyoge sampadyakartari cviḥ*). The operations of *taddhita* are manifold (i.e., the *cvi*-suffix does not appear if one does not wish to say that one makes one's own what was not previously one's own) and hence the *taddhita*-suffix is not found (cf. MBh I,284,10–12: *iha kasmān na bhavati – svaṃ śāṭakāntam upayacchatī. asvaṃ yadā svaṃ karoti, tadā bhavitavyam. yady evaṃ svikaraṇa iti prāpnoti. vicitrās taddhitavṛttayaḥ, nātas taddhita utpadyate*).” Concerning the identification of Yamāri's citation, I would like to thank Prof. Vincent Eltschinger, Prof. Hiroshi Nemoto, Dr. Junjie Chu and Dr. Yasutaka Muroya for their valuable suggestions.

⁶² Cf. notes 7 and 8 in this paper. In addition, we can find the following notable sentences in Vibhūticandra's remark (cf. Vibhūti 521,29ff.: *pramāṇaśabdo jñāne mukhya itaratra tu kena sādharmyenopamānopa-meyatvam ity āha – avisamvādīti. prāptivācī tu bhavatiḥ spaṣṭārtha ity asau na vivṛtaḥ prāmāṇyam prāptaḥ pramāṇabhūta iti*). Their meaning is unfortunately not entirely clear for me.

⁶³ Cf. Ono 2000: xxiii–xxiv.

⁶⁴ Cf. Cardona 1976: 347, note 344.

⁶⁵ Cf. Ruegg 1995: 822,17ff.

⁶⁶ Cf. Steinkellner 2003: note 15.

Table 1: The interpretations of *pramāṇabhūta*

	Dignāga	Dharmakīrti	Prajñākaragupta
What is the Bhagavat called?	<i>pramāṇabhūta</i>	<i>pramāṇa</i> (= <i>pramāṇam</i> iva)	<i>pramāṇabhūta</i>
Meaning of <i>pramāṇabhūta</i>	“ <i>pramāṇa</i> -like”	[“who has become a <i>pramāṇa</i> ”]	“ <i>pramāṇa</i> in the true sense”
Function of <i>bhūta</i>	“ <i>x-bhūta</i> ” means “ <i>x</i> -like”	<i>abhūtaviniyrttaye bhūtoktiḥ</i>	copula implying “in true sense”
Commentator’s explanation of the compound <i>pramāṇabhūta</i>	* <i>pramāṇam</i> iva <i>pramāṇabhūtaḥ</i> . (Jayanta, Yamāri)	[<i>pramāṇam</i> cāsau bhūtaś ceti <i>pramāṇabhūtaḥ</i> .] (Śākyabuddhi, Jinendrabuddhi)	* <i>pramāṇam</i> <i>gataḥ</i> <i>pramāṇabhūtaḥ</i> ; * <i>pramāṇyam</i> <i>prāptaḥ</i> <i>pramāṇabhūtaḥ</i> . (Yamāri)
Relationship between <i>pramāṇa</i> and the Bhagavat	<i>pramāṇa</i> > Bhagavat (<i>pramāṇa</i> is <i>mukhya</i>)	<i>pramāṇa</i> = Bhagavat (in having the twofold defining characteristic of <i>pramāṇa</i>)	<i>pramāṇa</i> < Bhagavat (<i>Bhagavat</i> is <i>mukhya</i>)

† *pramāṇa* means “valid cognition” in all cases

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- AKBhVy** Abhidharmakośavyākhyā (Yaśomitra): *Sphuṭārthā Abhidharmakośavyākhyā by Yaśomitra. Part I*, ed. U. Wogihara. Tokyo 1932.
- Jayanta** Pramāṇavārttikālaṃkāraṭīkā (Jayanta): P 5720, vol. 133, Tshad ma, De 1b1–434a8; Ne 1b1–375a8; D 4222, vol. 7–8, Tshad ma, De 1b1–365a7; Ne 1b1–312a7.
- Mahāvvyutpatti** Bonzōkannwa Shiyakutaikō Honyaku Meigi Taishū. Tokyō 1917.
- MBh I** Mahābhāṣya (Patañjali), ed. F. Kielhorn. Revised by K. V. Abhyankar. Vol. I. Poona 1985.
- MBhPr** Mahābhāṣyapradīpa (Kaiyaṭa): *The Vyākaraṇamahābhāṣya of Patañjali with the commentary Bhāṣyapradīpa of Kaiyaṭa Upādhyāya and the supercommentary Bhāṣyapradīpoddyota of Nāgeśa Bhaṭṭa. Vol. I navāhnika*, ed. Bh. S. Joshi. Delhi 1987.
- MBhPrN** Nārāyaṇīya (Nārāyaṇa): *Mahābhāṣyapradīpavyākhyānāni. Adhyāya 1 Pāda 1 Āhnika 1–4*, ed. Narasimhacharya. Présentation par P.-S. Filliozat. Pondichéry 1973.
- MBhPrU** Mahābhāṣyapradīpoddyota (Nāgeśa): *Mahābhāṣyapradīpoddyota by Nāgeśa Bhaṭṭa. Vol. I*, ed. B Śāstri. Calcutta 1899.
- NBh** Nyāyabhāṣya (Pakṣilasvāmin): *Nyāyadarśanam Bhāṣya-Vārttika-Tātparyaṭīkā-sahitam*. Vol. 1, ed. Taranatha Nyayatarkatirtha and Amarendramohan Tarkatirtha. Calcutta 1936. Vol. 2, ed. Amarendramohan Tarkatirtha and Hemanta Kumar Tarkatirtha. Calcutta 1944.
- PS** Pramāṇasamuccaya (Dignāga).
- PST** Pramāṇasamuccayaṭīkā (Jinendrabuddhi): *Jinendrabuddhi's Pramāṇasamuccayaṭīkā, Chapter 1 Part 1: Critical Edition. Part 2: Diplomatic Edition*, ed. Ernst Steinkellner, Helmut Krasser, and Horst Lasic. Beijing/Vienna 2005.
- PSV** Pramāṇasamuccayavṛtti (Dignāga).
- PSV I** Pramāṇasamuccayavṛtti I (Dignāga): *Dignāga's Pramāṇasamuccaya, Chapter 1: A Hypothetical Reconstruction of the Sanskrit Text with the Help of the Two Tibetan Translations on the Basis of the Hitherto Known Sanskrit Fragments and the Linguistic Materials Gained from Jinendrabuddhi's Ṭīkā*, ed. E. Steinkellner. Wien 2005. https://www.oeaw.ac.at/fileadmin/Institute/IKGA/PDF/forschung/buddhismuskunde/dignaga_PS_1.pdf, last visited 10-12-2019.
- PV** Pramāṇavārttika, II, III, IV (Dharmakīrti): *Pramāṇavārttikakārikā (Sanskrit and Tibetan)*, ed. Y. Miyasaka. *Acta Indologica* 2 (1971/72) 1–206.
- PVA** Pramāṇavārttikālaṃkāra (Prajñākaragupta): *Pramāṇavārttikabhāṣyam or Vārttikālaṅkāraḥ of Prajñākaragupta (Being a commentary on Dharmakīrti's Pramāṇavārtīkam)*, ed. Rahula Sankrtyayana. Patna 1953.
- PVA_o** See Ono 2000.
- PVin I** *Dharmakīrti's Pramāṇaviniścaya. Chapters 1 and 2*, ed. E. Steinkellner. Beijing/Vienna 2007.

- PVP** *Pramāṇavārttikapañjikā* (Devendrabuddhi): D 4217, Vol. 2, Tshad ma, Che 1b1–326b4; P 5717, Vol. 130–131, Tshad ma, Che 1b1–390a8.
- PVSV** *Pramāṇavārttikasvavṛtti* (Dharmakīrti): *The Pramāṇavārttikam of Dharmakīrti, the first chapter with the autocommentary*, ed. R. Gnoli. Roma 1960.
- PVSVṬ** *Pramāṇavārttikasvavṛttiṭīkā* (Karṇakagomin): *Ācārya-Dharmakīrteḥ Pramāṇavārttikam (svārthānumānaparicchedaḥ) svopajñavṛtṭyā Karṇakagomi-viracitayā tatṭīkayā ca sahitam*, ed. R. Sankṛtyayana. Allahabad 1943.
- PVṬ** *Pramāṇavārttikāṭīkā* (Śākyabuddhi): D 4220, vol. 3, Tshad ma, Je 1b1–328a7; P 5718, vol. 131, Tshad ma, Je 1b1–402a8.
- Vibhūti** Vibhūticandra’s notes in *Pramāṇavārttikavṛtti* (Manorathanandin): *Ācārya-Dharmakīrteḥ Pramāṇavārttikam ācārya-Manorathanandi-kṛtayā vṛṭyā saṃvalitam*, ed. R. Sankṛtyayana. Patna 1938–1940.
- Yamāri** *Pramāṇavārttikālaṃkāraṭīkā Supariśuddhā* (Yamāri): P 5723, vol. 134–136, Tshad ma, Phe 208a7–345a8; Be 1b1–290a7; Me 1b1–436a8; Tse 1b1–321a5; D 4226, vol. 10–13, Tshad ma, Phe 174b1–287a7; Be 1b1–261a7; Me 1b1–328a7; Tse 1b1–251a7.

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