## 32

# APROPOS OF LINDTNER'S TWO NEW WORKS OF DHARMAKIRTI

ERNST STEINKELLNER, Vienna

In two recent publications¹ Christian Lindtner has drawn our attention to "quotations from Dharmakīrti occuring in later philosophical works but not to be traced in any of his extant treatises".² These quotations which are to be found in the Madhyamakaratnapradīpa of Bhavya³, in Sāntarakṣita's Tattvasiddhi.⁴, in Jñānaśrīmitra's Sākārasiddhiśāstra and Kṣaṇabhaṅ-gādhyāya and in various Jaina treatises have been attributed by Lindtner to two hitherto unknown works of Dharmakīrti, a Tattvaniṣkarṣa, on the basis of its mention in the Madhyamakaratnapradīpa and the Sākārasiddhiṣāstra, and a Laukikapramāṇaparīkṣā on the basis of its mention in the Tattvasiddhi.

In view of these extant quotations the question of the authorship of the Madhyamakaratnapradipa is irrelevant: what is important is the very existence of these and other quotations from Dharmakīrti which suggests that not all of Dharmakīrti's once extant philosophical works were transmitted or even generally preserved in the memory of his tradition. On another occasion I examined the possibility of tracing the reason for the classification of Dharmakīrti as a Mādhyamika philosopher to one of these quotations, possibly from the Tattvanişkarşa.5 The verses collected by Lindtner so far6 and tentatively ascribed to the Tattvaniskarsa will probably be augmented by future research. It will be difficult to regard all of them as mere inexact variations of actually extant verses, although we know that some of Dharmakīrti's verses were changed intentionally, e g. for polemical reasons, by later Jaina authors. A study of these fragments7 will be attempted in the future and it is to be hoped that Lindtner's findings will increase the attention given to similar quotations and references to Dharmakīrti that cannot be located in his extant treatises. Here I would like to confine myself to the question of whether the Laukikapramānaparīkṣā, one of the two new works newly ascribed by 1 be Lindtner to Dharmakīrti, can in fact be assumed to by him.

A fragment and the title of a Laukikapramāṇaparīkṣā by Dharmakīrti was found by Lindtner in the final parts of the Tattvasiddhi.8 He edited the fragment (yatra.....°āśrayeṇa) determining its frame with the words ācārya-Dharmakīrtipadair api Laukikapramāṇaparī kṣāyāmfti, and says that "it is hardly possible to take this passage as a paraphrase as might —c perhaps be suggested by the Tibetan version".9 For the Tibetan translation shows—as

Lindtner indicates—a terminative (.....brtag par) in the case of the assumed name of the text, and neither a translation corresponding to iti (e.g. zes) nor to a word of saying (e.g. bsad pa). I think, however, that the frame of this fragment has to be looked at in a nother way.

The absence of a Tibetan word translating iti at the end of the quotation does not pose a serious problem, although the many other quotations in this translation regularly end in zes gsuns pa, when Sūtras or Tantras are quoted, or zes bśad pa when Ācāryas or Śāstras are quoted. The iti, which is attested by the manuscripts, may have escaped the translators or may have been disregarded intentionally in view of the possibility that they took the text in question not as a literal quotation but rather as a paraphrase.

However the beginning of the text's frame would have to be interpreted quite differently to Lindtner's proposal. In accordance with the introductory mention of two other Ācāryas occuring earlier in the text which are parallel to the introduction of our text: slob dpon chos kyi grags pa' i zal sna nas kyis kyan, i.e. ācārya-Dharmakirtipādair api, the name followed by api can be considered as a sufficient introduction for the following statement, be it a quotation or a mere paraphrase. The word of saying completing this elliptical introduction is lacking, of course, in the Tibetan translation, but not in the Sanskrit Mss. where the preceding part of the sentence, not adduced by Lindtner, ends in uktam (cf. the text below) which is to be constructed with ācārya-Dharmakirtipādair api. Thus the word laukikapramāṇaparikṣāyām, taken by Lindtner as the name of the source from which the following text had been quoted, could in fact also belong to this text as its first word. The first sentence of the presumed quotation would then have to be read in a new way, i.e. as being introduced by a reference to the systematical frame within which the following statements have to be localized, and that frame is "an examination of the worldly valid cognitions".

A distinction between two types of valid cognition was formulated by Dharmakīrti at the very end of PVin I: an empirical one (sāmvyavahārika) and a transcendental one (pāramārthika). LINDTNER 1984: 158f. gives an interesting and plausible explanation for the fact that Dharmakīrti prefers this terminology, and not the pair laukikalokottara. Then why would he speak of a laukikapramāṇa in the present case? The problem disappears when we assume that this term was not formulated by Dharmakīrti himself but by Sāntarakṣita who, as the fauthor citing Dharmakīrti or referring to his words, uses a term synonymous to Dharmakīrti's term but thereby neglects the possibly different approach intended by Dharmakīrti's choice.

If we now look at the presumed quotation itself we have the choice of either taking the whole text up to iti as a quotation from a hitherto unknown text, to which Sāntarakṣita<sup>13</sup> added the systematical frame at the beginning, or taking the whole text as a reference to Dharmakīrti's and Dignāga's<sup>14</sup> positions as formulated by Sāntarakṣita himself. In the latter case only the final iti remains as a disturbing element. But not too much so, since it could either be taken as an iti of merely concluding value, simply emphasizing the conclusion of this reference, or as

the addition of a scribe who understood the preceding text as a quotation. In both cases the absence of the word in the Tibetan translation would be normal.<sup>15</sup> It is finally to by noted that none of the many quotations of verses from Tantras and Sastras in this text is concluded by a quotative iti. Also some of the few prose quotations show no iti (K 5, 6; 14, 13), while others have it (K 5, 10; 6, 15; 8, 3). Thus the import of the presence or absence of an iti in our case for an argument in favour or against the preceding text's being a veritable quotation seems seriously decreased.

Looking at the text as a quotation would allow us to add another fragment to the small treasure of materials not to be found in Dharmakīrti's extant works and also attribute it tentatively to the enigmatic *Tattvanişkarşa*, for the theme treated goes well with other materials collectable under this title.<sup>16</sup>

If, at the other hand, we look at it as a general paraphrase of a certain position of Dharmakīrti and Dignāga formulated by Śāntarakṣita, we have to indicate its sources in the works of these authors in as much detail as is possible with such general statements.<sup>17</sup>

In any case we have to deal with the Sanskrit and Tibetan texts of this passage as well as with its translation because I believe that Lindtner's edition and interpretation can be improved upon.<sup>18</sup>

For the Sanskrit text I referred to the same two manuscripts that were used by Lindtner and to the edition of the Kameshwar Nath Mishra which is based on four further manuscripts too. For the Tibetan text I used the Peking edition (P 4531, 40b9—41a4) and the Cone edition (C 37a7—37b3). For the variants of the Narthang edition (N) I relied on the readings mentioned by Lindtner.

### Sanskrit text:

kim ca nāmajātyādi<sup>a</sup>-kalpanāsamāropitam<sup>b</sup> arthānvayavyatirekānukāri<sup>c</sup> savikalpakam api<sup>d</sup> jāānam spaṣṭābham<sup>e</sup> uktam ācārya-Dharmakirtipādair api—laukikapramāṇaparīkṣāyāṃf yatra grāhyagrāhakapratibhāsabhedena<sup>g</sup> saṃjāyate<sup>h</sup> tatrāspaṣṭābham<sup>i</sup> eva jāānaṃ spaṣṭābhatayābhāti. tadyathā nāmajātyādi<sup>k</sup>-kalpanārahitaṃ jāānaṃ spaṣṭābhaṇ<sup>m</sup> bhavati, grāhyagrāhakasaṃvittin-bhedena bhidyate. tena nāmajātyādikalpanām āśrityācāryeṇāpy<sup>o</sup> aspaṣṭābhatā darśitā, na grāhyagrāhakasaṃvittip-bhedāśrayeṇe<sup>g</sup>-ti<sup>r</sup>.

a °*janyādi*° AB.

b °kalpanāsamāropitam B: °kalpānām asamāropitam A (gha): °kalpanāmāsamāropitam kha: °kalpanam samāropitam K.

c °āvyatirekānukāri K (cf. ldog pa dan mthun pa): °āvyatirekāntakāri AB (kha, gha)

d savikalpakam api A, K: savikalpakapari° B.

- e jñānan spaṣṭābham AB: śes pa mi gsal ba dan mnon par ldan pa yin te<sup>21</sup>: jñānam [sic!] aspaṣṭābham K.
- f °pariksāyām AB.
- g °pratibhāsa° corr. (not transl. into Tib.): °pratibhāsi AB: °pratibhāso K.
- h samjāyate corr. (Lindtner with kun tu bskyed pa NPC)<sup>22</sup>: samjāāyate AB, K
- i °āspastābham AB, K: spastābham Lindtner.
- j tatra: de Tib.; aspastābham eva jāānam not transl. into Tib.
- k nājanyādi° AB.
- 1 jāānam (K cf. ses pa): ajāānam AB.
- m spastābham K (cf. gsal bar snan ba): spastā AB-3.
- n °samvitti° is here not well translated by rtog pa which usually translates words for "conceptual constrution", e.g. kalpanā. rtogs pa would be better.
- o api not transl, into Tib.
- p °samvitti° corr. (Lindtner), K: °samvartti° A: °samvirtti° B.
- q °āsrayene° corr. (Lindtner), K: 'āsramene' A: 'āsrayena B.
- r iti not transl. into Tib.

#### Tibetan text:

'on kyan min'dan rigs la sogs par" brtags pa' i don gyih rjes su 'gro ba dan ldog padun mthun pa' i rnam par rtog pa dan bcas pa' i ses pa mi gsal ba dan mnon par ldan pa yin te | sloh dpon chos kyi grags pa' i zal sha nas kyis kyan' jig | ten pa' i tshad ma brtag par gan de² gzun ba dan' dzin pa' i dbye bas kun tu bskyed pa de³ gsal bar snan ba nid du snan ba sted | 'di llur min dan rigs la sogs par brtags pa dan bral ba nid kyi ses pa ni gsal bar snan bar gyur pa yin no gzun ba dan 'dzin pa' i rtog pa' i dbye bas phye ba yin la | de bas na min dan rigs la sogs par brtags pa la brten te | slob dpon gyis mi gsal ba nid du bstan te gzun ba dan 'dzin pa yan dug par rig pa' i dbye ba la brten pa ni ma yin no ||

### Translation:27

"Moreover, that even a conceptual cognition which superimposed conceptual constructions such as name and genus (and) agrees in presence and absence with something, has a

a par corr.: pas CP

b gyi P: gyis C

c par C: par / N (?) P

d de gsal bar snan ba nid du snan ba ste NP: gsal bar snan ste C

e rtogs would be preferable

f bstan C: bsten NP

Cone

Massachusetts.

C

HATTORI 1968

distinct appearance,<sup>28</sup> has been said by the reverend teacher Dharmakīrti too: Insofar as the worldly valid cognitions (laukikapramāṇa) are examined,<sup>29</sup> when<sup>30</sup> [cognition] occurs as divided into the reflection (pratibhāsa)<sup>31</sup> of an [objective part which is] grasped and a [subjective part which is] grasping,<sup>32</sup> then even a cognition of indistinct appearance shines as distinctly appearing.<sup>33</sup> To wit.: A cognition devoid of conceptual constructions such as name and genus has a distinct appearance;<sup>34</sup> it is [nevertheless]<sup>35</sup> differentiated as divided into the awareness<sup>36</sup> of the grasped and the grasping.<sup>37</sup> Therefore the teacher (Dignāga) has also<sup>38</sup> shown that [a cognition] when it rests upon conceptual constructions such as name and genus is of indistinct appearance,<sup>39</sup> but not in that it rests upon the division into the awareness of the grasped and the grasping.<sup>400</sup>

The whole passage can thus be accounted for even when we understand it not as a quotation from an unknown work of Dharmakīrti, but rather as a paraphrase in general formulations given by Santarakṣita with regard to a certain tenet of Dharmakīrti and Dignāga. Thus it does not seem necessary to interpret the expression laukikapramāṇaparīkṣā as the title of a hitherto unknown work by Dharmakīrti.

#### Abbreviations and recurring literature

TSi	Tattvasiddhi: P 4531
N	Narthang
P	Peking
PS I	Pramānsamuccaya, first chapter. In HATTORI 1968
PV	Pramāṇavārtika: Dharmakirti's Pramāṇavārttika with a commentary by Manorathanandin. Ed. RĀHULA SĀNKRTYĀYANA. Patna 1938-40 [but the verses are counted with Vetter according to the tables in VETTER 1964: 116f]
PVBh	Pramāṇavārtikabhāshyam or Vārtikālankārah of Prajñākaragupta (Being a commentary on Dharmakīrti's Pļmāṇavārtikam). Ed. RĀHULA, SĀNKŖTYĀYANA. Patna 1953.
PVin I	Pramāṇaviniścaya, Kapitel I: TILMANN VETTER, Dharmakīrti's Pramāṇaviniścayaḥ, 1. Kapitel: Pratyakṣam. Einleitung, Text der tibetischen Übersetzung, Sanskrit‡fragmente, deutsche Übersetzung. Wien 1966.

Dignāga, On Perception, being the Pratyaksapariccheda of Dignāk's

pramānasamuccaya from the Sanskrit fragments and the Tibetan versions. Translated and annotated by MASAAKI HATTORI. Cambridge,

JAMBŪVIJAYA 1981

MUNI JAMBŪVIJAYA, Jainācārya-Śrī-Hemacandrasūrimukhyaśiṣyābhyâm ācārya-Rāmacandra-Guṇacandrābhyām viracitāyām Dravyālankāra-svopajña-ṭīkāyām Bauddhagranthebhya uddhṛtāḥ Studien
zum Jainismus und Buddhismus. Gedenkschrift für Ludwig Alsdorf.
Hrsg. KLAUS BRUHN u. ALBRECHT WEZLER. Wiesbaden.

LINDTNER 1980 Apropos Dharmakīrti—Two New Works and a New Date, Acta Orientalia 41, 27-37.

LINDTNER 1984 Marginalia to Dharmakīrti's Pramāņaviniscaya I-II, WZKS 28, (149-175) 160-162.

VETTER 1964 TILMANN VETTER, Erkenntnisprobleme bei Dharmakirti, Wien.

VETTER 1966 PVin I – translation : cf PVin I

#### REFERENCES & NOTES

- 1. LINDTNER 1980 and 1984.
- 2. LINDTNER 1984: 162.
- 3. Peking edition No. 5254. For the question of the authorship of this text cf. DAVID SEYFORT RUEGG, The Literature of the Madhyamaka School of Philosophy in India, Wiesbaden 1981: 66 and note 339; CHRISTIAN LINDINER, "Adversaria Buddhica", WZKS 26, 1982, (167-194) 174-182 and 182-184 for the arguments of Ejima Yasunori; D. SEYFORT RUEGG, "Towards a Chronology of the Madhyamaka School", in: Indology and Buddhist Studies, Volume in Honour of Professor J.W. de Jong on his Sixtieth Birthday, ed. by L.A. HERCUS a.o., Canberra 1982, (505-530) 530. D. Seyfort Ruegg further presented a paper at the VIIth World Sanskrit Conference, Leiden 1987, "The literary-historical problem of Bhāvaviveka / Bhavya" (to be published by Brill 1988?) in which he draws attention to a number of arguments against an early date for the Madhyamakaratnapradīpa.
- 4. TSi: Peking edition No. 4531. Editions of the Sanskrit text of the Tattvasiddhi are announced as forthcoming by Lindtner (LINDTNER 1980: note 33) and by Kameshwar Nath Mishra, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath (in a paper read at the VIth World Sanskrit Conference, Philadelphia 1985). Lindtner has promised to present the evidence for the authenticity of the Tattvasiddhi as a work of Śāntarakṣita in the introduction to his edition.

Prof. Kameshwar Nath Mishra's edition has already been composed in Devanāgarī and a copy of his text (29 pages) was put at my disposal for which I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

- 5. "Is Dharmakīrti a Mādhyamika?" (Paper read at the VIIth World Sanskrit Conference, Leiden 1987. To be published by Brill 1988?)
- 6. LINDTNER 1980: 29, 31 and 1984: 160f. and note 36.
- 7. No fragment in prose, except for the one examined below, has been found to my knowledge.
- 8. LINDTNER 1980: 33-37.
- 9. LINDTNER 1980: 35.
- 10. Cf. slob dpon Nāgārdzuna' i zal sņa nas kyan ..... zes bṣad pa dan / TSi 30b 4f., or: 'Phags pa' i lhas kyan ..... zes bṣad pa yin no // TSi 31b 4f = K 5, 6: punaṣ coktam ācārya-Nāgār-junapādaiḥ ...., and K 7, 14f.: uktan ca Āryadevena......In neither case is an additional mention of their works given.
- 11. It is also interesting to note that the sad (danda) after the word 'jig rten pa' i tshad ma brtag par in the Peking (and Narthang?) edition is absent in the Cone (and Derge?) edition.
- 12. PVin I 100, 20-24. The Sanskrit fragment for the passage PVin I 100, 14-24 was identified in the Nyāyabhūṣaṇa (NBhūş 57, 14-19) in LINDTNER 1984: 156f. and by YAMAKAMI SHŌDŌ ("Nyāyabhūṣaṇa no kenkyū (1)", Kyoto Sangyo Daigaku Ronshū 14, 1984, [134-167] 136f.). A fragment of Dharmottara's commentary was found by Muni Jambūvijaya in the Dravyālaṃkārasvopajňaṭikā (JAMBŪVIJAYA 1981: 137; also quoted in LINDINER 1984: note 23).
- 13. Or even by Dharmakīrti himself, but then Lindtner's suggestion for an explanation of the different terminology would be invalid or could be upheld only when we assume a historical change in Dharmakīrti's attitude without, however, being able to prove it.
- 14. The second part of the passage refers to Dignāga. This reference must then again be taken as one made by Dharmakīrti or directly by Śāntarakṣita.
- 15. In the former case, because this kind of iti is often not translated, and in the latter, because the copy used by the translators did not have the iti.
- 16. Cf. LINDTNER 1984: 161f.; it would be the only fragment in prose, however, found so før.
- 17. This will be done in my notes on the translation below.
- 18. Mainly because Lindtner in his attempt to make sense of the passage, used not only the Tibetan text to emend the Sanskrit text, but also corrected the Tibetan text with the help of the Sanskrit text. We all do this, of course, but with some restraint and not when the received Tibetan text as such makes sense, or when it is clear that something else has been translated or that something has been translated incorrectly. In my edition below I shall refer to Lindtner's textual proposals as well.
- 19. I would like to thank Christian Lindtner very much for putting copies of the relevant folios at my disposal. Ms. A means folio 106a 1-4 (the Ms. referred to by Lindtner) and

- Ms. B means folio 19b 1-4. K means the text as edited by Kameshwar Nath Mishra (p. 26, 7-14) with variants indicated in his footnotes from his Mss. kha, gha. I added these variants in brackets not being able to identify for certain the Mss. with those of Lindtner's at the moment.
- 20. Microfiche edition of The Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions, New York, Vol. 206, Tsu 26a 7-38b6.
- 21. Tib. mnon par ldan pa I do, however, not understand.
- · 22. Cf. also skye ba in the formulation of PVin I 88, 12f.: gan dag gi blo nid gzun ba dan 'dzin pa' i rnam pa ne bar ston par skye ba.....
- 23. Lindtner corrects spastam bhavati, but the Ms. reading spastā bhavati must be taken as a haplography for spastābham bhavati.
- 24. According to PC; Lindtner gives na as the reading of N, but this must be simply an unclear carving or printing of de. Lindtner proposes a correction la: de in accordance with his reading yatra. But the Tibetan translates rather yat tat instead.
- 25. Lindtner corrects de la and adds ses pa ni in accordance with the reading tatra and with the words spastābham eva jāānam, not accounting for spastābham eva, however.
- 26. Lindtner adds kyan for api of the Mss.
- 27. In translating, especially the various terms, I follow Lindtner's words as far as possible.
- 28. This statement, that conceptual cognition which is normally of indistinct appearance can said to be distinct in a certain sense, corresponds exactly to the meaning of the reference to Dignāga below. The Tibetan translation has mi gsal ba dan minon par Idan pa yin for the predicate spaṣṭābham and seems to misunderstand Śāntarakṣita's intention in favour of the more evident theorem. But I do not understand the second part of the Tibetan predicate.
- 29. This would be stated by Sāntarakṣita in order to indicate the frame of reference for the following general paraphrase of Dharmakīrti's tenets in support of his statement that even a conceptual cognition (savikalpakam api jāānam) is of distinct appearance (spaṣṭābham). Dharmakīrti's position is only meaningful as far as the worldly valid cognition is concerned, for the dichotomy of "grasped and grasping" is left behind when the transcendental cognition (pāramārthikam pramāṇam) comes into focus (cf. LINDTNER 1984: 157f.).
- 30. That is in the case of Yogin having brought his meditation upon a real or unreal object to perfection (cf. PV II 285). Tib gan de would be "whatever" and seems to translate the generalized relative pronoun yat tat ("every"). It is quite possible that this is the better reading which was corrupted into yatra which then motivated the change to tatra below, for which Tib. has only de for a possible tat or even tat tat.
- 31. "pratibhāsibheda" of the Mss. ("a division which reflects", Lindtner) is odd, because the division itself does not reflect, i.e. lit. have reflections".

- 32. Cf. PVin I 88, 12f.: gan dag gi blo nid gzun ba dag 'dzin pa' i rnam pa ne bar ston par skye ba.....
- 33. Sāntarakṣita's formulation, that a cognition occurs as divided into its objective and subjective parts, means that only its nature is referred to. And this nature (svarūpa) cannot be connoted by words (sabdārtha). The cognition of its own nature is therefore direct (adhyakṣa), i.e. with distinct appearance (spaṣṭābha). This is also the case when we refer to a conceptual cognition (savikalpakajñāna), which as such, i.e. as conceptualizing an object (artha), is of indistinct appearance.

Sântarakṣita paraphrases here PV II 287 which is Dharmakīrti's formulation of the idea of Dignāgas PS I 7ab (cf. below note 40). In these statements both authors seem to give an answer to the question how the originally conceptual cognitions of a yogin can attain the quality of distinctness through the force of a perfect meditation (cf. Prajñākaragupta's introduction PVBh 331, 11-22). And Dharmakīrti says: sabdārthagrāhi yad yatra taj jāānam tatra kalpanā | svarūpañ ca na sabdārthas tatrādhyakṣam ato 'khilam | (PV II 287)= "A cognition which grasps the connotation of a word with regard to a certain (object) is with regard to this (object) a conceptual construction. But the nature [of this conceptual cognition] is not connoted by words. Therefore this whole (cognition) is direct with regard to this (its own nature)."

34. With regard to the character of distinct appearance (spastāvabhāsitva) in a cognition as being in opposition to its conceptuality PV III 498ab may be adduced: tasya sapstāvabhāsitvam jalpasamsarginah kutah /="How could this (conceptual cognition) which is connected with words have a distinct appearance?" and PV III 283ab from Dharmakīrti's explanation of yogic perception: na vikalpānubaddhasyāsti sphutārthāvabhāsitā /="There is no distinct appearance of something in a (cognition) that is connected with conceptual construction."

Distinctness and the absence of conceptual construction are closely connected in Dharmakīrti's concept of perception (pratyakṣa): cf. PVin I 40, 2 for the definition of perception and PVin I 28 for the distinct cognition of the Yogin as a kind of perception (cf. also VETTER 1966: 23f). For conceptual construction cf. PVin I 4bc/, the source of the examples "name, genus etc." is PS I 3d.

- 35. The Tibetan translation connects this sentence with the following, but in analogy to the full reference to Dignāga following, an antithetical connection with the preceding sentence is preferable (cf. also Lindtner's translation with "but.....").
- 36. The Tibetan translation with rtog pa is problematic. If corrected into rtogs pa we may assume a word that can be synonymous with samvitti, but I can offer nothing as supported by the relevant source.

For the two parts cf. e.g. PV III 320a: tasmād dvirūpam asty ekam and the source of these two forms of cognitions in Dignāga's PS I 11ab with the Vrtti (cf. HATTORI 1968: note 1.61).

It is also possible that all three parts of a cognition, i.e. objective and subjective parts and selfawareness are indicated here (cf. PV III 353 and 357, VETTER 1964: 82), but this would be contrary to the Tibetan translation and of no import for the meaning of the reference in Santaraksita's context.

Śāntarakṣita's paraphrase of Dharmakīrti's standpoint ends here in my opinion. The following sentence adds a reference to Dignāga as a second support for his intentions and does not have to be taken as a reference to Dignāga made by Dharmakīrti himself, as according to Lindtner.

api is not translated into Tibetan.

To my knowledge Dignāga does not consider the concept of distinctness (spaṣṭābhatā) in his presentation of the terms of relevance here. It seems that Śāntarakṣita—following Dharmakīrti—equates Dignāga's predication that some sort of cognition "is a perception" (pratyakṣa)-e.g. yatraiṣā kalpanā nāsti tat pratykṣam at the end of his Vṛtti on PS I 3d (cf. HATTORI 1968: 25 and note 1.30)—as equivalent with the predication that "it is of distinct appearance", thus identifying the concept of being a distinct cognition with that of being a perception.

In this way he can refer to several statements of Dignaga, where perception is defined as nonconceptual, e.g., PS I 3c (pratyakṣaṃ kalpanāpoḍham, cf. HATTORI 1968: note 1.25), then the sentence adduced above and the end of his Vṛtti on PS I 5 (sarve tv avikalpakā eva, cf. HATTORI 1968: note 1.44).

The whole paraphrase refers to PS I 7ab and its Vṛtti, where Dignāga states that even a conceptual construction (kalpanā) is aware of itself and that this awareness is perception (kalpanāpi svasanvittāviṣṭā, cf. HATTORI 1968: note 1.51). But this is not the case when an external object is conceptualized, i.e. connected with name, genus etc. (nārthe, vikalpanāt, cf. HATTORI 1968: notes 1.51 and 52).

Santaraksita reformulates this source in accordance with his point, namely that even a conceptual cognition can be said to be distinct, and says—on the basis of PS I 7ab—that Dignaga taught that a cognition is indistinct, i.e. not a perception, as far as it rests on conceptual constructions, but not as far as its own division into the two parts of an awareness of its objective and subjective parts or even into the three parts of object, subject and selfawareness (cf. above note 36) is concerned.