

V.I. SUBRAMONIAM
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A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



THE GREAT DRAVIDIAN LINGUIST
Prof. P.S. SUBRAHMANYAM
IS NO MORE

With deep sorrow, we report the demise of **Prof. P.S. Subrahmanyam** (77), an authority in Dravidian Linguistics, a Sanskrit scholar and the former President of the Dravidian Linguistics Association who was actively involved in the developmental activities of DLA and ISDL, on 17th March 2016 in Hyderabad. He had his postgraduation in Telugu language and literature from the Andhra University in 1960 and joined the Department of Linguistics, Annamalai University as a lecturer in 1962. He also had formal degrees in Sanskrit language and General Linguistics which enabled him to make substantial contribution to Comparative

Dravidian Linguistics and Sanskrit grammatical tradition. Besides his mother tongue Telugu, he mastered five Dravidian languages: Tamil, Kannada, Goṇḍi, Kodagu and Kolami. He was awarded Ph.D. and D.Litt. in 1964 and 1986 respectively from the Andhra University. During 1971-'72 and 1998-'99, he served as Visiting Professor of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, U.K. and the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan, respectively.

Prof. Subrahmanyam had to his credit a good number of books on Comparative Dravidian Linguistics, Indian linguistic tradition with special reference to Sanskrit grammar and Telugu linguistics. The books which won him laurels are: *The Descriptive Grammar of Goṇḍi*, *Dravidian Verb Morphology – A Comparative Study*, *An Introduction to Modern Telugu*, *Dravidian Comparative Phonology*, *Dravidian Comparative Grammar* and *Morphosyntax of the Dravidian Languages*. His well-known works on the grammatical tradition of Sanskrit are *Pāṇinian Linguistics* and *Secondary Paribhāshas of Pāṇinian Grammar*. He authored four books in Telugu: *dravida bhāshalu*, *ādhunika bhāshā śāstra siddhāntalu*, *vēdātaḷo dēvatalu gāthalu* and *pāṇinīyam – śāstralakṣhaṇālu*. In addition to these, he published more than seventy articles in national and international journals.

From the very inception of the Dravidian Linguistics Association, Prof. Subrahmanyam was closely associated with it. He was a member of the first Working Committee (formed in 1971) of the DLA along with doyens like Suniti Kumar Chatterji, T.P. Meenakshisundaram Pillai, G.J. Somayaji,

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Elankulam P.N. Kunjan Pillai, M. Mariappa Bhat, R.C. Hiremath, K. Mahadeva Sastri, V.I. Subramoniam, S. Bhattacharya and H. Schiffman.

Prof. Subrahmanyam will be remembered for his invaluable contribution to Dravidian linguistics. His death is a great loss to young linguists and researchers and it also creates a great vacuum in the field of Dravidian studies. All the members of the Dravidian Linguistics Association express their heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

Reported by Peri Bhaskararao & P. Sreekumar

A REMINDER TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF ICDL 2016 & 44th AICDL

Those who would like to participate in the ICDL 2016 & 44th AICDL are requested to fill up the registration form (which can be downloaded from our website www.ijdl.org) and send it along with the registration fee (Rs. 1500/-, for life-members of DLA and students Rs. 750/-) to the Secretary-DLA, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 586, Kerala as early as possible for ensuring accommodation. Accommodation can be assured only for those who register early. For late registrants, accommodation will be provided as per availability. Those who need separate hotel accommodation should intimate the Local Convener before **5th June 2016**. In that case, the charges with regard to food and accommodation in hotels will have to be borne by the participant.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE TRADITIONAL GRAMMARS OF DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics conducted a symposium on the traditional grammars of Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu on 7.4.2016 at Rabindra Bhavan, ISDL campus. Prof. M. Rama, former Director, International School of Dravidian Linguistics and Professor of Kannada (Retd.) inaugurated the symposium. Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Director, ISDL delivered the keynote address. The paper presenters and panelists who actively involved in the symposium are Dr. Syamala, Dr. Kamatchi, Dr. Ganesan Ambedkar, Dr. M.C. Kesavamurthy and Dr. Shanavas.

SPECIAL ENDOWMENT LECTURES - ICDL 2016 & 44th AICDL

**Professor V.I. Subramoniam Endowment Lecture
Prof. V. Prakasam, Hyderabad**

**Professor Nagamma Reddy Endowment Lecture
Prof. Sonal Kulkarni-Joshi, Poona**

43RD ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS - Report (Concluding Part)

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan chaired parallel session I where four scholars presented papers. In the paper, *A Study of Body Terms of Korava Language*, Syed Mujeeb Ahmed attempted a descriptive analysis of the body terms in Korava, a Dravidian speech variety used in Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Baiju D. elaborated the phonology and grammar of the Koro tribal language in the paper *Koro Tribal Language and its Phonology, Semantics, Pragmatics and Syntax*. Basavaraja Kodagunti illustrated with examples different case markers in Nilgiri languages. The paper *Language Endangerment of Irulas in Coastal Regions* by Kumaresan P. Elayarajan revealed the present socio-cultural, economic and language aspects of Irulas. After a thorough discussion of the features of these tribal languages and the challenges faced by the tribes, the Chairman concluded the session.

Under the Chairmanship of Prof. Chandrasekara Rao, three papers were presented: *The Numeral Systems in Kui* by Maheswaran C., *KaNikkergoTTi – Numerals* by Mubarak Ali and *Status of Tribal Mother Tongue Eravella* by Gnanasundaram V.

Umamaheswar Rao chaired the parallel session where three papers were presented: *Lexical Analysis of Dravidian Languages in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu – A Sociolinguistic View* by Ramalingam S., *Code Switching between Telugu and English in the Speech of Newsreaders and Reporters in Telugu News Channels* by Upender Maloth and *Cultural Documentation of Koraga Tribes* by Thennarasu S.

Latest Publications: V.I. SUBRAMONIAM COMMEMORATION VOLUMES I & II, G.K. Panikkar, B. Ramakrishna Reddy, K. Rangan & B.B. Rajapurohit (Eds.), 2015, HB, Crown ¼: Vol. I: *Studies on Dravidian*, pp. xx + 515. Rs. 1,280/- (US\$ 110/-); Vol. II: *Studies on Indian Languages and Cultures*, pp. xx + 458. Rs. 1,150/- (US\$ 105/-).

Three papers were presented in the session chaired by Prof. S. Kunjamma: *Importance of Mother Tongue in hearing Second Language in a Child with Pervasive Developmental Disorder – A Single Case Study* by Chitra Thadathil, *Language Component in CBCS: Particular Reference to Telugu* by Ramachandra Murty and *Double Light Verb Constructions in Telugu* by Satish Kumar Nadimpalli. The academic sessions ended after clarifying the doubts and discussing the key issues in the papers.

The 43rd AICDL concluded with the valedictory function held in the seminar hall at 3 p.m. on 20th June 2015. The meeting was presided over by Prof. K. Kathiresan, Dean, Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai University. Prof. S. Raja, the former Director, CAS in Linguistics welcomed all the dignitaries. Dr. A. Mubarak Ali presented the report of the 43rd All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists which was academically a grand success. Special Addresses were offered by Prof. R.C. Sharma and Prof. K. Rangan. Dr. M. Balakumar and Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan delivered the felicitation addresses. In his valedictory address, Prof. G Umamaheswar Rao spoke of the tribal situation in India and the challenges faced by the tribals. In his concluding remarks, Prof. G.K. Panikkar critically assessed the 43rd All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists and congratulated the organizers - CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University for their wholehearted cooperation. Dr. C. Kuppusamy offered the formal vote of thanks and the function ended with the national anthem.

S. Raja & K.N. Geethakumari

AWARDS & PRIZES
ICDL 2016 & 44TH AICDL

Nominations for the various awards and prizes along with supporting material may be sent before 5th May 2016 to the Convener, ICDL-2016 & 44th AICDL, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala.

Recent Publications: **Studies on Bangla and Dravidian**, Syamala Sasidharan, Sourav Chakraborty & G.K. Panikkar (Eds.), 2014, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 208, Rs. 220/- (US\$ 20/-). **Tulu: An Intensive Course**, M. Rama, 2013, PB, Crown ¼, pp. 12 + 132, Rs. 200/- (US\$ 20/-). **Bangla Basic Vocabulary**, Tapas Kayal & Dhruvjayoti Das, 2014, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. xvi + 128, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).

ICDL 2016 & 44th A.I.C.D.L.
CALTS, University of Hyderabad
Hyderabad
(16-18 June 2016)

REGISTRATION FORM
(Deadline: 30th May 2016)

Name (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.)

Male/Female

Address

Phone

E-mail

Accommodation Needed YES [] NO []

If 'Yes' Mode of journey

Date & Time of Arrival

Date & Time of Departure

Life Member of DLA YES [] NO []

Student YES [] NO []

Registration Fee Rs. 1,500/- (US \$ 250/-)
[for DLA Life-member/Student] Rs. 750/- (US \$ 125/-)

*M.O./D.D./Cheque/Cash/Bank Transfer

[SWIFT Code = **UBININBBKHU**; IFSC Code = **UBIN0533661**; Account No.= **336602010006321**; Account Name = **All India Conference and Seminar**; Bank = **Union Bank of India**; Branch = **Menamkulam**]

Details of Registration Fee remittance

Title of the Paper

Date

Signature

* Payment of **registration fee** is to: Organizing Secretary, **ICDL 2016 & 44th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists**, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586.

The application forms for life-membership and institutional membership of the Dravidian Linguistics Association can be downloaded from www.ijdl.org.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON CYBER BHASHA

The Department of Linguistics and the Department of Media Studies, Thunchathu Ezhuthaccan Malayalam University jointly organized a national seminar on *Cyber Bhasha* from 16th to 19th March 2016. Eminent scholars from Mass Media and Linguistics participated and shared their views.

ALL INDIA CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL LANGUAGES - REPORT

10-12 October 2015, Jalandhar, Punjab

(Continued from the last issue)

The topic of K. Narayanaswamy's paper was *The Withering of Social Justice from Democracy*. Social justice, he said, was not possible without people's languages. He explored the gap between the ideals of social justice and welfare experiments over the past 60 years.

Anand Kumar Khare's paper was on *Social Justice in Villages and Role of Regional Languages*. He said 68% of people in India live in villages. Hence, villages are to be developed to develop India.

C.S. Krishnamoorthy's paper was on *The Dilemmas facing Saurashtri Language*. It could not be called Northern or South Indian because it shared ample features with both. It is endangered now, he said. It has its own script but the Government of India is against using this script.

C. Maheswaran presented the paper on *Ethnic Identity vs. Linguistic Identity of the Kurumbas of Tribal Nilgiris*. There were conflicting views about their linguistic identity, he said. He proposed that Kurumbas are not a monolithic community and the names Palu Kurumbas / Alu Kurumbas, Betta Kurumbas / Urali Kurumbas, Jenu Kurumbas / Kattunayakan and Mullu Kurumbas / Kurumans should be used because they are distinct linguistic entities.

Sauren Bandyopadhyay's paper was titled *Regional Languages and Socio-cultural Identity*. Regional languages are essential markers of identity, he argued.

Ram Partap Singh in his paper titled *The Role of Language in Human Resource Development* showed

how effective management and growth of development indicators are closely tied with the use of mother tongue. Education, he argued, is the key to any kind of human resource development and it can be imparted successfully only through one's mother tongue. He presented facts and figures from the international arena in support of his views.

Joga Singh's paper titled *The Politics of Language Division in India* brought out how unfair and unscientific is the criteria for distinguishing language and dialect. He showed by quoting dialogues from Dogri and Punjabi that both are mutually intelligible, hence they are co-dialects. But the Government of India has given Dogri the status of a separate language. However, languages like Garhwali, Bhojpuri, Kumaoin, Magahi etc., are mutually unintelligible but still considered to be dialects of Hindi.

Somak Sen presented the paper, *Social Justice and the Role of Regional Languages: A Study of Two Talk Shows in Two Popular Bangla News Channels*. Communication, he said, is more people-specific and can be better realized when performed in the regional language. The results of a month-long study of two Bangla news channels - ABP Ananda and 24 Ghanta - were presented in the paper.

Dr. Chaman Lal, in his Presidential remarks, cited incidences to show how the colonialised Indian elites' minds are and this has put in shackles the country's creative energies. The use of alien language is the biggest hindrance in dispensing social services and to form an intimate relation with our own people.

The fourth academic session of the conference was devoted to the *Role of Mother Tongue in Second Language Learning/Teaching*. The session was chaired by Dr. S.K. Brahmachari and co-chaired by Dr. Joga Singh.

Ashutosh Anand presented the paper *Regional Language (as Mother Tongue) Interference on Foreign Language*. The paper brought out the problems of teaching a foreign language when learners' class comprises students from different linguistic backgrounds. The paper discusses phonetic, orthographic and grammatical and other interferences

while teaching Russian language in the Indian classroom.

B. Ray's paper *English to World Englishes: The Influence of Regional Languages on English Worldwide* brought out how English has been influenced by other world languages at phonological, lexical, morphological and syntactic levels.

[To be continued]

Joga Singh & Sukhvinder Singh Sangha

INTERDISCIPLINARY NATIONAL SEMINARS

The Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala organized two interdisciplinary national seminars in collaboration with: (i) the Department of Sociology, University of Kerala on *Sociology of Linguistics* on 28th and 29th January 2016 and (ii) the Department of Psychology on *Psychological Aspects of Linguistics* on 14th and 15th March 2016. The two seminars explored current trends in sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics which make use of other disciplines to understand more about language production and its use. Distinguished scholars and researchers from these fields of study participated and presented papers.

FROM PROTO WEST COAST DIALECT TO MALAYALAM

(Continued from the last issue)

21. Word final *ai* changed to *a*.

paḷamai > *paḷama* (Edackal inscription)

aṇai > *aṇa* (Nilambur Inscription)⁷

pāvai > *pāva* (Pattanam Inscription)⁸

22. Emergence of genitive case marker *-uṭe*.

E.g. *avanuṭe* (he G.C) (*Aiṅkurunūru*)

23. *cāriya* (link morph) - *attu* in locative sense.

E.g. *maḷayattu* (rain - in)

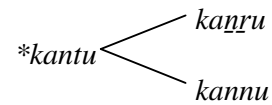
Stray thoughts on Proto-Tamil Malayalam stage

A few native scholars who wrote about the evolution of Malayalam like K. Godavarma,⁹ Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai¹⁰ (here after Elamkulam) and C.L. Antony¹¹ maintained the view that Tamil and Malayalam languages had a common stage before their

development as independent languages, even though the above-mentioned scholars did not formulate theories on it. K. Godavarma observed: "Similarities found in Tamil and Malayalam stand testimony to their common stage after the separation of Kannada, Telugu and Tulu from Proto Dravidian language".¹² While discussing the role of Brahmins and their mixed language (mixture of Sanskrit and native tongue) in the formation of Malayalam language, Elamkulam remarked: "Before the separation of the language spoken in Cēra, Cōḷa and Pāṇḍya territories, a portion of Proto Drāvida evolved as Kannada and Telugu. The language that remained was called as Tamil. The present Tamil and Malayalam originated from this Tamil of Cēra, Cōḷa and Pāṇḍya".¹³ Here Elamkulam called the Proto Tamil Malayalam as Tamil. Tamil was the common term used to denote all South Indian languages in olden days. After an elaborate discussion on the etymology of words *kiḷakku* (east), *onnu* (one), *kunnu* (small hill), *kannu* (calf) *mūnnu* (three) and the formation of present tense marker *-unnu* in Malayalam, C.L. Antony observed:¹⁴

1. Ancestors of Malayalis are not Tamilians migrated from Tamil Nadu (he refutes Caldwell's theory of migration).

2. The proto form of *kanru* in Tamil and *kannu* (calf) in Malayalam is:



This derivation denotes the existence of a proto common stage of Tamil Malayalam language. From that common language, grammatical markers and other forms evolved independently in Tamil and Malayalam.

3. After the separation of Telugu and Kannada from Proto South Dravidian, there was a common proto language for Tamil and Malayalam. C.L. Antony calls this common language as *paḷantamiḷ* (old Tamil) and according to him from this *paḷantamiḷ*, Malayalam and Tamil evolved. In short, evolution of Malayalam is from the Proto Tamil Malayalam (*paḷantamiḷ*) and this Malayalam is neither daughter nor mother of Tamil.

Recent Publications: **The Contribution of Melputtūr Nārāyaṇa Bhaṭṭatiri to Sanskrit Literature with Special Reference to Vyākaraṇa**, P. Visalakshy, 2013, Crown ¼, pp. 428, Rs. 900/- (US\$ 81/-). **A Contrastive Analysis of the Phonological Systems of Bengali and Malayalam**, Dhruvajyoti Das, 2014, pp. xii + 140, Rs. 220/- (US\$ 20/-). **Studies on Bangla from a Broader Perspective**, G.K. Panikkar, Syamala Sasidharan & Sourav Chakraborty (Eds.), 2015, pp. 216, Rs. 230/- (US\$ 23/-).

4. The period of *palantamil* is before the emergence of literature in Tamil i.e., approximately before 3rd century C.E. In this period, *malanāṭṭu Tamil* of *palantamil* shows tendencies to develop as an independent language by keeping *malanāṭṭu-valakkam-s* in discourse level. Thus, C.L. Antony came to the conclusion that *palantamil* of *malanāṭṭu* (Kerala) developed as Malayalam and the process of evolution starts nearly from first century C.E. onwards.

The linguistic innovations occurred later in Tamil and Malayalam show their separation from the Proto Tamil Malayalam commenced before Sangam era. Orthographical features like *kurriyalikaram* (half *i*) *kurriyal ukaram* (half *u*) and *āyṭam* (∴) established their dominance in Tamil while a central vowel *u* (not the rounded labial vowel *-u*) attained phonemic status in Malayalam at this period of separation. Ancient Greek travellers who wrote about their trade relations with the West and the East Coast of India recorded certain place names of the West Coast which end in *-ūr* (means village) as *ūrā*. But the place names ending in *-ūr* of the East Coast have no change in their writings.¹⁵ This indicates the tendency of adding vowels in *-r* ending words in the West Coast dialect. This innovation took place towards the dawn of the first century C.E.

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[To be continued]

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

NEW ENROLMENT FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP (March 2016)

1. **Dr. S. Shifa** (Membership No. 1254/2016)
31/812-1, "Sreekovil", Pulli Lane, Pettah,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 024, Kerala
2. **Mr. Hussain C.** (Membership No. 1255/2016)
Department of Malayalam, University of Madras,
Marina Campus, Chennai – 5, Tamil Nadu
3. **Dr. Soni M.K.** (Membership No. 1256/2016)
3/1947 – 129 A, "Asha Bhavan", G Lane, Jyothi
Nagar, Kesavadasapuram, Thiruvananthapuram – 695
004, Kerala

Contribution to Prof. V.I. Subramoniam Endowment Fund

07.04.16	Dr. A. Kamatchi	Rs.	1,000.00
TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH		Rs.	4,43,146.00
CURRENT TOTAL		Rs.	4,44,146.00
(Including FD)			