

**V.I. SUBRAMONIAM  
COMMEMORATION VOLUMES**  
*Vol. I: Studies on Dravidian* - Crown ¼,  
 pp. xx + 515, Rs. 1,280/- (US\$ 110/-)  
*Vol. II: Studies on Indian Languages  
 and Cultures* - pp. xx + 458, Crown ¼,  
 Rs. 1,150/- (US\$ 105/-)  
*Phonetics and its Application to  
 Different Areas* - Demy 1/8, pp. 160,  
 Rs. 200/- (US\$ 15/-)

Vol 40 No. 2

Website [www.ijdl.org](http://www.ijdl.org) Email: [dlatvm@gmail.com](mailto:dlatvm@gmail.com); [ijdlisdl@gmail.com](mailto:ijdlisdl@gmail.com)

FEBRUARY 2016

**A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS - 2016 (ICDL-2016) &  
44<sup>th</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF  
DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS (AICDL)**

16-18 June 2016

**UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD  
Hyderabad, Telangana**

*Organized by*

**Centre for Applied Linguistics & Translation Studies,  
University of Hyderabad**

**Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore  
Dravidian Linguistics Association &  
International School of Dravidian Linguistics  
Thiruvananthapuram**

**CONTENTS**

ICDL 2016 & 44 <sup>th</sup> AICDL	1
4 <sup>th</sup> AICOLAF	1
The Earliest dated Manuscript in Grantha	2
43 <sup>rd</sup> AICDL – Report	2
Students' Conference of Linguistics	3
For the Attention of all Life-members of DLA	3
Comments on V.I. Subramoniam Commemoration Volumes	3
From Proto West Coast Dialect to Malayalam	4
AICRL (Jalandhar) – Report	5
New Life-Members	6

**CONVENERS**

Local Convener: **Prof. G. UMAMAHESWARA RAO**, Centre for Applied Linguistics & Translation Studies, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad - 500 046, Telangana

[guraohyd@gmail.com](mailto:guraohyd@gmail.com)

Convener at Thiruvananthapuram: **Prof. NADUVATTOM GOPALAKRISHNAN**, Secretary, Dravidian Linguistics Association, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala

Phone: 0471-2704953, 2704951, 2704282

[dlatvm@gmail.com](mailto:dlatvm@gmail.com); [ijdlisdl@gmail.com](mailto:ijdlisdl@gmail.com)

For details, see [www.ijdl.org](http://www.ijdl.org).

**4<sup>th</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF LINGUISTICS AND FOLKLORE**

Punjabi Linguistics Association, Patiala and Guru Kanshi University, Talwandi Sabo (Bhatinda), Punjab will jointly organise the 4<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Linguistics and Folklore on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 at Guru Kanshi University, Talwandi Sabo campus. The thrust area of discussion is *Contemporary Concerns of Linguistics and Folklore*. For further details, contact the Organising Secretary Dr. Harpreet Aulkh (+919646410490, 08725035402). [drharpreeta@gmail.com](mailto:drharpreeta@gmail.com), [plapatiala@yahoo.in](mailto:plapatiala@yahoo.in).

Please buy and recommend the publications of DLA and ISDL to others.  
DLA and ISDL publications are now available at special discount.

## THE EARLIEST DATED MANUSCRIPT IN GRANTHA

The earliest dated palm-leaf manuscript in Grantha script is *Tārkikaratṣā* [Śaka 1437 (A.D. 1515), Ms. No. 10675-B, ORI & Mss. Library, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram]. It proves that the opinion of Burnell that the oldest manuscript (palm leaf) survived in Grantha script is of A.D. 1600 (Ms. No. 9594, Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur, Burnell, p. 40) is incorrect. This information is gathered from the book *Grantha Script* by P. Visalakshy (pp. 66-67, 80).

*Reported by Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan*

## 43<sup>RD</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS - Report

(Continued from the last issue)

In his lecture on *A Computational Grammar of Tamil*, Prof. Ganesan dealt with Computational Morphology, Computational Syntax and Computational Lexicon. Tamil words are formed by three morphological processes – inflection, derivation and compounding. He elaborated a computer-tractable model which he has designed and adopted for his software for representing Tamil morphology. Formation of words was then discussed under three components – morphological lexicon, rewrite rules and morphotactic rules. The second part of his lecture was on the basis of principles for building a parsing algorithm for Tamil. He concluded the lecture by indicating the necessity for developing tools for fully automatic natural language processing for which collaboration of technologists and linguists are needed.

Four papers were scheduled in the session chaired by Prof. S.V. Shanmugam. In the paper, *Study of Particles in Modern Tamil from the Points of View of LS and LU*, K. Karunakaran described different structures in which particles occur and their functional significance and grammatical relationships. He also explored the role of particles in achieving cohesiveness in sentences for effective communication. S.V. Shanmugam focused on sentence semantics and discourse semantics in the paper *Semantic Theories in Tolkappiyam*. Citing several examples from *Tolkappiyam*, he explained both these concepts. G. Palanirajan made an attempt to examine the postpositions in Modern Tamil. He commented that in

Tamil there is no clear-cut distinction between case markers and postpositions except the fact that the former occurs in bound forms and the latter in unbound forms. Vijaya Rajeswari's paper is a *Comparative Study of the Postpositions in Tamil and Malayalam*. She elaborated the functions of postpositions which may occur without case markers. She also suggested that the findings of this paper may be utilized for designing linguistic tools for the Tamil-Malayalam Machine Translation System. After the presentations, a lively discussion followed and Prof. Shanmugam concluded the session with his remarks.

In the parallel session chaired by Prof. L. Ramamoorthy, four papers were presented. The paper on *Culture and Life of Algeria* by Senthil Kumar explored the impact of culture on language. Sasipriya M. and Lalitha Raja R. in their paper *Vowel Process among Children with Mental Subnormality* exposed the phonological processes adopted by these children and suggested remedial measures to reduce their speech problems. S. Abdul Samed's paper, *Influence of Arabic on Malayalam – A Phonological Study*, discussed the phonological changes that occur while borrowing Arabic words into Malayalam. In the paper, *A Phonological Description of Toto Language*, Anirban Sarkar and Avijit Mallick made an attempt to study the phonological features of an endangered language called Toto. The Chairman pointed out the key issues in these papers and ended the session.

The session on Regional Languages was chaired by A.G. Natarajan. The following scholars presented papers on different topics in Linguistics and related subjects: Kamatchi, A., Thyagarajan, V., Veeramuthu, M., Sugumari Rajam, Jeyakrishnan, P., Sankar, C.G., Uma Maheswar S., Jayakumari, Rani, R. and Janaki, K. All the queries relating to these topics were answered and the Chairman complimented the paper-presenters.

Prof. Ramesh Chand Sharma, Chairman of the second session, presented the paper titled *Rethinking Linguistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. He spoke on the recent trends in Linguistics and its potential to generate new ideas in relation to other sciences. In the paper, *Language Use Patterns, Language Identities and Linguistic Convergence in a Multilingual Area*, R.R. Thampuran examined

the language contact situation in the Kasargod district of Kerala. He highlighted the communication patterns and sociopolitical changes in that region. Hepsy Rose Mary's paper was on the *Bilingual Situation in the Southern Border Area of Tamil Nadu and Kerala*. At the end of the session, the Chairman highlighted the major points in these papers.

Five papers were presented under the Chairmanship of Prof. G.M. Muralidharan. Indira Kothalanka attempted a *Comparative Study of Acoustic Characteristics of Sibilants in Telugu Cleft Palate and Normal Speech*. S. Sakthi Vel's paper, *Time Duration of Vowels in Tamil with Reference to Distribution*, was based on the statistical analysis of speech parameters like fundamental frequency, duration and pitch. In the paper titled *Comparative Studies of Affixation Process in Kannada and Yoruba Language*, Lasekan Siji elaborated the morphological characteristics of the two languages and established the similarities and differences between them. In the paper, *Semantic Variations of English Loan Words in Malayalam*, K.N. Geethakumari explained how English loan words in Malayalam deviate from their original meanings while they are integrated into the Malayalam language. R. Dhanasekaran dealt with ancient Indian grammatical systems in the paper *Aspects of Indian Grammatical Tradition: Ancient Tamil and Sanskrit*. After a thorough discussion on these papers, the Chairman expressed his gratitude to all the participants.

In the parallel session chaired by Prof. G. Srinivasa Varma, five papers were presented. A. Chandrasekhara Rao illustrated the process of compounding in Savara language which belongs to the Munda family, in his paper *Compounds in Savara Language*. He maintained that the compounds tend to have specialized meanings and have idiomatic status. The paper, *The Samasam (Compound) in Telugu Proverbs: A Case Study of Andhra Lokokthi Chandrika*, by Chilukuri Bhuvaneshwar also focused on compounds that occur as proverbs and an attempt was made to analyse their patterns. Atul Aman's paper was on the *Patterns of Syllable Structure in Khortha as observed in spoken Khortha Text*. Morphological and syntactical nature of clitics in Malayalam was studied and analysed by Shereena P.H. in the paper titled *Morphosyntax of Clitics in Malayalam*. K. Parameshwari's paper, A

*Divergence Index for Telugu-Tamil Machine Translation System*, discussed the methods to build a divergence index for a given language pair. It also pointed out strategies to overcome divergences in transfer-based machine translation. After discussing the major issues, the Chairman complimented the paper-presenters and concluded the session.

[To be continued]

S. Raja & K.N. Geethakumari

## STUDENTS' CONFERENCE OF LINGUISTICS

The Tenth Students' Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI-10) will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at the Department of Linguistics, Foreign and Indian Languages, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra. It is an annual event of the students, by the students and for the students of Linguistics. For details, please see <http://sconli.org>. For any query, please email at [sconli10@gmail.com](mailto:sconli10@gmail.com).

### FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA

All life-members of the Dravidian Linguistics Association are requested to send their e-mail address to [dlatvm@gmail.com](mailto:dlatvm@gmail.com) or [ijdlisdl@gmail.com](mailto:ijdlisdl@gmail.com) immediately. This will enable us to send the *DLA News* by e-mail and also to have contacts with the members as and when required. If there is any change in the residential address, kindly give the information to the DLA office at the earliest. Please be kind enough to inform your phone number also.

### COMMENTS ON V.I. SUBRAMONIAM COMMEMORATION VOLUMES

"It looks like a wonderful volume. ... In terms of the selection of papers and design, it looks great."

Gregory D.S. Anderson

"It looks fine, with good editing."

Christiane Pilot-Raichoor

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 & Dhrubajyoti Das, 2014, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. xvi + 128, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).

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

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
(Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> 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/-)

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 & 44<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ijdl.org).**

**FROM PROTO WEST COAST DIALECT  
TO MALAYALAM**

Linguistic innovations earmarked in Tamil and Malayalam made the scholars in Dravidian Historical linguistics to throw fresh light on the evolution of Tamil and Malayalam as independent languages. Scholars like Kamil Zvelebil<sup>1</sup>, A. Govindankutty<sup>2</sup> and S.V. Shanmugam<sup>3</sup>, through their studies, suggested a proto common stage for Tamil and Malayalam before their evolution as separate languages. Zvelebil was the harbinger of this investigation. According to Zvelebil, the Proto South Dravidian group had two sub-groups namely, Tamil-Malayalam and Kannada. He noted the archaic features of Tamil-Malayalam which were not attested in other members of the South Dravidian languages such as (1) phoneme *l*, (2) alveolar stop *rr* and innovations like (1) changes *e > i*, *o > u*, (2) palatalization of *k* to *c*, (3) parallel development of present tense marker, (4) adverbial past participle marker *-ān*, (5) causative markers *v/pp* etc. Based on these evidences, he assumes a proto common stage for Tamil and Malayalam. The linguistic innovations happened in the West Coast dialect of proto Tamil Malayalam paved the way for the evolution of Malayalam. On a closer scrutiny, it may be argued that Zvelebil's observations regarding the evolution of Malayalam agree with the views on the same maintained by L.V. Ramaswamy Ayyar.

Through the paper *From Proto-Tamil to West Coast Dialects*, A. Govindankutty made some remarks on the evolution of Malayalam in 1972. He also assumes a common proto period for Tamil and Malayalam but he disagrees with the views on the period of their separation. In the West Coast dialect, there exist certain archaic linguistic features like the retention of palatal nasal *ñ*. In Tamil, it has been changed to dental *n* even before the Sangam period. Second-person pronoun oblique bases are seen with initial *u* instead of *i* preserved in forms like *pōkuvin*, *varuvin* etc., in Tamil. The proto second person pronoun oblique base is *\*in* but, in Tamil, this *in* became *un*. E.g. *un* (you) *um*, (you) *num* (you) and *nuntai* ('you' accusative case). Malayalam retained the proto form *\*in*. Another linguistic feature cited

Recent Publications: **The Morphosyntax of the Dravidian Languages**, P.S. Subrahmanyam, 2013, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. xxx + 687, Rs. 1,000/- (US\$ 100/-). **A Survey of Smriti Literature**, N.P. Unni, 2013, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 8 + 164, Rs. 200/- (US\$ 20/-).

by Govindankutty is the sandhi change  $l+k > rk$ . *Tolkāppiyam* e<sub>luttu</sub> rule 367 approves this change. From this we can infer that, at the time of *Tolkāppiyam* itself, this sandhi change was regular in Tamil but it is not attested in Malayalam. Based on these evidences, Govindankutty envisages the separation of the West Coast dialect from the East Coast in a remote past, might be centuries before Sangam era.

S.V. Shanmugam, an eminent scholar both in Tamil and Linguistics, also supports the views on the West and East Coast dialect theory. From Proto South Dravidian, Tulu separated first, then Kannada and finally Kodagu, Toda and Kota. After that, Tamil and Malayalam stood as one language for a considerable period. Before the separation of Tamil and Malayalam, the proto Tamil-Malayalam maintained the following distinctive linguistic features: (1)  $*k > c$ , (2)  $*e > i$ , (3)  $*i > u$ , (4)  $*c > y$ , (5) masculine gender suffix *-an* in words like *\*āyan*, *\*valaiyan*, *\*pārppān*, *\*vaṇṇān* and feminine gender suffix *-atti* in *\*āyatti*, *\*vālatti*, *\*vaṇṇātti*, *\*pāṭṭi*, *\*cīrdumi*. According to Shanmugam, certain retentions noted by linguists in Malayalam are dated before the Sangam era. Some innovations happened in the Sangam period crept into the West Coast dialect also. For instance: (1) dropping of the initial *y* in words like *yāru* ('who'), *yāmai* ('tortoise') and *yānai* ('elephant'); (2) palatalization: E.g. *āyatti* > *āycci* > *ācci* and (3) plural marker *-mār*. After analysing the evidences, Shanmugam concluded that, in Kerala, *centamilu* was the literary language up to the 8<sup>th</sup> century C.E.; the common tongue was proto Malayalam or the West Coast dialect, which was different from Tamil.

### Bibliographical Notes

1. Zvelebil, Kamil. 1971. "From Proto South Dravidian to Old Tamil and Malayalam" in R.E. Asher (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Second International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies, Madras*.
2. Govindankutty, A. 1972. "From Proto-Tamil Malayalam to West Coast Dialects". *Indo Iranian Journal* 14.
3. Shanmugham, S.V. 1975. "മലയാളഭാഷയുടെ രൂപീകരണവും വളർച്ചയും" (Formation of Malayalam and its Development) in K.M. Prabhakara Warier (Ed.), *ഭാവിത ഭാഷാശാസ്ത്രപഠനങ്ങൾ*, Department of Linguistics, Annamalai University.

[To be continued]

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

## ALL INDIA CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL LANGUAGES - REPORT 10-12 October 2015, Jalandhar, Punjab (Continued from the last issue)

At the end of the session, a few participants asked questions about the definition of a nation, employment opportunities and Indian languages, the attitude of Kashmiri terrorists towards the Kashmiri language etc.

In his Presidential remarks, P. Mohanty stated that no language planning means no education planning. Our solution is multilingualism. The importance of mother tongue for success in various domains can be underestimated at a great cost.

The first academic session was devoted to the theme *Status of Indian Languages in India / Language Planning*. The session was chaired and co-chaired by Dr. O.N. Koul and Dr. P.S. Dhingra respectively. P. Pavithran, in his paper, *The Past, Present and Future of Public Action for Malayalam Language*, stated that education in the mother tongue is emotional and aesthetic. Hence, the education in a foreign-language medium causes emotional and aesthetic deprivation. The elite in Kerala are sending their children to English-medium schools but the migrants in Kerala send their children to Malayalam-medium schools, so the latter are more fluent in Malayalam than the Kerala elite. Languages do not die; they are killed, hence language death is genocide. Language is an issue of human rights. Language is a social construct, not a biological one.

R. Natarajan in his paper, *The Language Problem of India*, discussed Article 341 of the Indian Constitution and said that language diversity is not a mistake that needs to be corrected. Constitutional debates about language issues are not discussed much. India is not a composite culture but a diverse one.

Dr. Lulabi B. Pattanayak's paper, *The Use of Indian Languages in Literacy with Special Reference to Santhali*, points out how important it is to use mother tongue for spreading literacy but the use of indigenous languages in education continues to decrease. It was 81 in 1970, 67 in 1976, 58 in 1978

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/-).

and only 54 in 1990. India has the highest number of endangered languages (196). The lack of education in mother tongue causes an unimaginable number of dropouts (80% till secondary level). 90% Santhali children complain about language, and male and female literacy rates are a mere 20% and 10% respectively.

Harvinder Negi presented the *Linguistic Situations in Himachal Pradesh*. The communities were isolated earlier but now the movement in and out is causing endangerment to their languages. Several Pahari varieties are endangered as per UNESCO report.

Juhi Yasmeen presented a paper on the *Status of Urdu in School Education*. She lamented the decline of this rich literary language which, in a way, represents India in the form of Hindustani.

Dr. O.N. Koul, in his Presidential remarks, described how language practices have been changing in language circles. He appealed to the speakers of all languages to make a concerted effort. Dr. Sohan Singh acted as a rapporteur.

The second academic session on 11<sup>th</sup> October focused on the theme *Elementary/Higher Education and Regional Languages*. The session was chaired and co-chaired by Dr. Sadhna Prashar and Dr. Baldev Singh Cheema respectively.

M. Mallikarjun presented a paper titled *Kannada vs. Sanskrit: Hegemony, Power and Subjugation*. He said that a belief is created that Sanskrit is a language of knowledge and Kannada is not. The knowledge discourse establishes hegemonic structures. Khadi boli (standard Hindi) is now the new avatar of Sanskrit. In the prevalent beliefs, standardization goes with Sanskrit and modernization with English.

The title of Chaman Lal's paper was *Polarization of Mind with Colonial Language and*

*ways to liberate it*. He said the solution for Indian languages lies in decolonialization of the minds of the Indian elites. He referred to Ngugi's concept of decolonialization of mind and suggested strategies to liberate it. He described how Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch and English have existed as colonial languages in our history. According to Ngugi, peasants and labourers have saved our languages.

Farheen Anjum presented the paper, *Influence of Mother Tongue on English Language Teaching at Secondary Level: A Critical Analysis*. There are different approaches to the use of mother tongue while teaching English in classrooms. It is found that the use of mother tongue facilitates English-learning.

Iqbal Singh Hamzapur's paper was on the topic *Elementary Education and Regional/Mother Language*. He stated that mother tongues are not being used for education in states where Hindi is the first official language. This results in the alienation of the child. He cited examples from Mewat region of Haryana where Hindi-medium schools have Urdu teachers.

[To be continued]

Joga Singh & Sukhvinder Singh Sangha

---

**NEW ENROLMENT FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP**  
(January 2016)

---

1. **Mr. Jyotirmoy Patowari** (Membership No. 1250/2015)  
S/o Khokamani Patowari, Ward 10, P.O. + P.S. Mathabhanga, Cooch Behar – 736 146, West Bengal
  2. **Ms. Samhita Bharadwaj** (Membership No. 1251/2016)  
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong – 793 022
  3. **Ms. U. Saleth Praba Jothi** (Membership No. 1252/2016)  
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai – 21, Tamil Nadu
-