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COMMEMORATION VOLUMES**
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*Phonetics and its Application to
 Different Areas* - Demy 1/8, pp. 160,
 Rs. 200/- (US\$ 15/-)

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

**45th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF
 DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS &
 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**
 on
Case, Agreement and Postpositions
(23-25 June 2017, University of Delhi)
A REMINDER TO THE PARTICIPANTS

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Those who would like to participate in the **45th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists & International Symposium on ‘Case, Agreement and Postpositions’** 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. 1,000/- [US\$ 150/-] for life-members and students, and Rs. 2,000/-

[US\$ 300/-] for others) to the Treasurer, Dravidian Linguistics Association, 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 2017**. In that case, the charges with regard to food and accommodation in hotels will have to be borne by the participant.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 45TH AICDL

- Various awards and prizes instituted by DLA/ISDL will be distributed at the inaugural session.
- Books published by ISDL during 2016-17 will be released at the inaugural session.
- Memorial lectures will be delivered by eminent scholars.
- Encouragement is given to young linguists through awards and prizes.
- Well-known linguists, both nationally and internationally, meet together and debate on several issues relating to linguistics.

- A rare opportunity for youngsters to get inspired and enlightened.
- General Body meeting of the Dravidian Linguistics Association
- Governing Council meeting of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics
- Meeting of the Managing Committee of the Dravidian Linguistics Association
- Meeting of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*

DR. S. PADMANABHAN HONOURED

The Department of Tamil Development, Government of Tamil Nadu honoured Dr. S. Padmanabhan, an active member of the Dravidian Linguistics Association, with *Tamil Chemmal Award* in recognition of his contributions to Tamil language and culture. The award carries the title and an amount of Rs. 25000/-. The award was given by the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Sri. Edappadi K. Palanichamy.

The Dravidian Linguistics Association extends its hearty congratulations to Dr. Padmanabhan.

MEMORIAL LECTURES AT THE 45th AICDL

Professor V.I. Subramoniam Memorial Lecture

Prof. B. Ramakrishna Reddy, Hyderabad

Professor Nagamma Reddy Memorial Lecture

Prof. Vaishna Narang, New Delhi

Prof. Karunasindhu Das Memorial Lecture

Prof. Kapil Kapoor, New Delhi

Prof. Chekuri Rama Rao Memorial Lecture

Prof. Joga Singh, Patiala

THE QUESTION OF SHORT *e* AND *o* VOWELS IN PROTO DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGE Prof. Madhivanan's Comments on Prof. Kamatchi's Article in *DLA News* (Vol. 41 No. 4 April 2017)

Prof. A. Kamatchi has filed a First Information Report (FIR) like a police officer against Tolkappiyar, regarding the presence of short *e* and *o* vowels in proto Dravidian language. I think this is an outburst of misconception caused by misunderstanding *Tolkappiyam*. As a traditional grammarian, I would like to clear his doubts one by one.

1. *Tolkappiyam* is the early extant written record, which confirmed five short vowels and seven long vowels (Tol. 1-3, 4) in Tamil. Tolkappiyar followed his predecessors using the word *enba* (so said the ancient grammarians). Is it fair to argue that there are no written records?

2. Short *e* and *o* are innate features even in proto Dravidian. Later innovation or additions may be possible only in loan words but not in native phonemes. Semantic and morphological contents are based on vowel length in Tamil. They are inseparable and should not be studied separately (Tol. II-58 commentary of Naccinarkkiniyar). Can anybody argue that *etu* (எடு) and *otu* (ஓடு) were not in proto Dravidian?

3. Diphthongs were misinterpreted by Naccinarkkiniyar. The alphabets *ai* and *au* are written as combined short vowels *a* and *i*; *a* and *u* as cited in *Tolkappiyam* (Tol. I-54, 55) ஐவனம் – அஇவனம் / ஒளவை - அஉவை. Naccinarkkiniyar mistook them for *ilakkana poli* (later innovation). It is only during the Pallava period that the founder of Grantha script reformed them as the present *ai* and *au* (ஐ, ஒள) single symbols. Linguists should have a historical outlook too. A long vowel in Tamil is a combination of two short vowels. The word *aat̪tan* (ஆட்டன்) is written as அஅட்டன் in Tamil Brahmi inscription, which was a common feature even in Indus script (*Indus Script among Dravidian Speakers*, 1995, p. 33). It is not a good approach to come to a hasty conclusion that

Latest Publications: DRAVIDIAN SYNTACTIC TYPOLOGY. Sanford B. Steever. 2017, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xiv + 162, Rs. 240/- (US\$ 24/-). LANGUAGE DISORDERS AND DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN. G.K. Panikkar (Ed.), 2017, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 154, Rs. 200/- (US\$ 20/-). INDEX OF RĀMACARITAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2017, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1224, Rs. 1400/- (US\$ 140/-).

there were no written forms for diphthongs. Aindra tradition followed by Tolkappiyar is retained even in Prakrit-oriented Hindi in which it is written as a separate *a* and *i* combination. Kindly see the Hindi word *Chennai* – चेन्नई (*chenna + i*). Is it not the noun-ending according to *Tolkappiyam* rule for diphthong *ai*? Further, it should be noted that the long vowels *e* and *o* also behaved like diphthongs since they are combinations of *i + a – e* and *u + a – o*. It is clear that *ai* and *au* diphthongs never have short vowels whereas *e* and *o* long vowels definitely have short vowel forms. When such combinations have two different short vowels, how is it possible to select a single vowel to represent the short vowel? That is why a dot was put on the long vowels *e* and *o*. A dot is needed to decrease the time-measure from one *matra* to half *matra*.

4. Adding dot or deleting dot is a physical process of writing subsidiary symbols. All consonants have dots. Can anyone say that they are not physically written symbols? The main purpose of putting dot is to decrease the pronouncing time-measure from one *matra* to half *matra*. The time-measure attributed to Tamil alphabets is a unique one which is not found in any world language. Everything in Tamil was written in poetry form which needs the music system of time-measured syllables. Northern Brahmi omitted this system and avoided dots. Is it the mistake of Tolkappiyar?

Dinamalar Krishnamurthy, the well-known numismatic scholar, has given illustrations in his book that Pandya scribes continued to put dots on short *e* and *o* and also on the consonants even during the Sangam period and post-Sangam *vatteluthu* period. However, Kerala scribes avoided putting dots. This confirms the domination of northern Brahmi scribes over Kerala scribes.

5. It is quite funny to argue that before *Tolkappiyam* period, there might have been no short *e* and *o*. Tamil is the language of the people but inscriptions belong to a particular region and period. They never represent the standard language of the population. Short *e* and *o* beginning words exceed many thousands in Dravidian languages. Could it be possible to prove that they came into usage

suddenly during the second century B.C.? Almost all the world languages have short *e* and *o* beginning words except the semi-artificial literary dialect Sanskrit. Sanskrit affected only the nouns in Indian languages but not the basic verbs. Short *e* and *o* are innate perennial features of the Dravidian family of languages.

6. No doubt, *Early Tamil Epigraphy* of I. Mahadevan is a commendable work but it deals with Jainism-dominated cave inscriptions highly influenced by northern Brahmi of a particular region and particular period. No one can restrict and imprison the language structure within one or two centuries of Sangam age citing the non-Tamil dialects used in such inscriptions.

7. Why northern Brahmi deleted dot on consonants is a question before us. It is simple. Loan words with consonant clusters were heavily borrowed in Indian languages from Sanskrit. This fact necessitated the scribes to write the consonants one under the other. The word *sulka* has to be written as a combined syllable. If dot is put above, the readers will be confused whether it should be pronounced as *sulka* or *sukla*. Therefore, they deleted the system of putting dot. Northern Brahmi branched off from southern Brahmi (which has a much-earlier written record).

8. Citing *DED* entries is good but not perfect. It does not include all the lexical items (above one lakh) in Dravidian languages. Therefore, enumerating the occurrence of short *e* and *o* is a vain attempt. Bh. Krishnamurthy's views are also one-sided, neglecting the spoken language of the people. Inscription of multilingual period will not show originality. Entries in central and north Dravidian languages are also quite enough to show the presence of short *e* and *o* in proto Dravidian.

9. On what basis is it decided that Brahui is the first language separated from proto Dravidian? Then what about Basque?

10. How far is it appropriate to fix the date of Tolkappiyar to a much later period? The reasons quoted by many scholars are not acceptable. No

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/-). **STUDIES ON BANGLA AND DRAVIDIAN**, Syamala Sasidharan, Sourav Chakraborty & G.K. Panikkar (Eds.), 2014, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 208, Rs. 220/- (US\$ 20/-).

one has written a book about it but I have written a book *Tolkappiyar Kaalam* (2005) based on reliable sources, which prove Tolkappiyar lived during 9th century B.C.

11. There is no meaning in saying that the majority of the scholars pointed out. Once the *Manipravala* style of Tamil was welcomed and accepted by the majority of the scholars, what happened in the later period? The word 'majority' is applicable to politics but not to linguistics. Misinterpretation of *Tolkappiyam* is the only reason for all the confusion.

I request scholars to stop saying that there were no separate symbols for short *e* and *o*, and diphthongs. If inscriptions with separate symbols for *ai* and *au* are not available, it is the mistake or misfortune of the archaeologists who did not carry out excavations on a wider scale. A grammarian will not be responsible for this lapse.

I conclude with the saying: "Ignorance of native linguistic features will make people slaves to dominating languages."

R. Madhivanan

AWARDS AND PRIZES - 45th AICDL

Nominations for awards and prizes may please be sent at the earliest. The nominations (except for award no. 12) have to be received on or before **23rd May 2017** with copies of relevant publications and documents. All entries or recommendations should be sent to the Director (*45th AICDL & International Symposium*), International School of Dravidian Linguistics, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala.

List of Awards

1. **Prof. Susheela P. Upadhyaya Award** for a young researcher below 40 years who has produced a good monograph or Ph.D. research thesis or a good article on any branch of Modern Linguistics, within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2017**. Joint authorship will also be considered but in that case, the award amount will be equally shared by the authors.

2. **Mrs. S.M. Katre Memorial Prize** for M.A. topper in Linguistics (2015-2016). The mark-list should be duly forwarded by the Head of the Department.

3. **Award in the name of Prof. K. Anbazhakan** for Translation of Tolkappiyam in any international language. The book should have been published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2017**.

4. **Award for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Tribes**. It should have been published within a period 3 years before **1st May 2017**.

5. **Shri. C. Achutha Menon Prize** for the Best Article or Book published on *Computer and Language*. It should have been published in an Indian journal and by an Indian within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2017**.

6. **Dr. George Jacob Award** for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Linguistics in any Indian language other than Dravidian. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2017**.

7. **Prof. K.M. Venkataramaiah Award** for the Study of Linguistic Minorities. It should be an Indian publication written in any international language other than Indian, and published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2017**.

8. **Dr. Hermann Gundert Endowment** for the Best Dictionary, Lexicon or Encyclopaedia on any major Dravidian language and Dravidian Tribal language including Brahui. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2017**.

9. **Endowment of the Phonetic Society of India** for a Monograph or a lecture.

10. **Shri. Panneerselvam & Smt. Thavamani Panneerselvam Award** for the Translation of a Book from Tamil to Kannada and vice versa. The book should have been published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2017**.

11. **Dr. K.N. Kuppaswamy Award** for a Lecture/Comparative Study of a Grammatical Text of Tamil, Sanskrit, Prakrit or Pali.

used for the analysis of literary works of the later periods. All the components of *Tiṇai* like *mutal*, *karu* and *uru* need reinterpretations by utilizing the contemporary Poetic theories of Eastern and Western literary criticisms. For instance, take the case of *Tiṇai*. In the present world, the old *Tiṇai*-s have no relevance. They require new dimensions like metropolitan, techno, industrial and urban type of geographical divisions. Each writer had his own field of thought, knowledge or activity. Here *Tiṇai* determines its *mutal*, *poru!* and *karu*. Tolkāppiyar suggested 14 *karupporu!* in *Poruḷatikāram*. The present context compels one to suggest more *karupporu!* for the evaluation of a contemporary poem or a novel. Thus, the age-old *Tiṇai* concept has to be modified so as to cope with the literature of different periods and context.

The *Tiṇai* concept keeps mum on literary issues like readers' response and subjectivity. To overcome this, *akam* and *puṛam* concepts should be intermingled to interpret the texts which narrate complex motifs and plots.

[To be continued]

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

DLA & ISDL MEETINGS

1. Governing Council meeting of ISDL	23.6.2017	4.30 p.m.
2. Managing Committee meeting of DLA	23.6.2017	5.30 p.m.
3. Meeting of the Editorial Board of IJDL	23.6.2017	6.00 p.m.
4. General Body meeting of the DLA	24.6.2017	5.30 p.m.

MALAYALAM – KERALA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Malayalam has been made the official language of Kerala and the relevant order for the same is given below.

3	
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA	
Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Official Language) Department	
NOTIFICATION	
G. O. (P) No. 03/2015/P&ARD.	Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, <u>13th January, 2015</u> 29th Dhanu, 1190.
<p>S. R. O. No. 43/2015.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 1B of the Kerala Official Languages Act, 1969 (7 of 1969) and in partial modification of the Notification issued as No. 114885/OL/72/PD dated 30th April, 1974, the Government of Kerala hereby direct that Malayalam shall be used as Official Language in all Departments and Institutions, their Administrative Departments in the Secretariat, Government/Quasi Government/Autonomous/Public Sector/Co-operative/Local Self Government Institutions, existing and which may be established in future, except in the circumstances under which the use of English and the Minority Languages of the State namely Tamil and Kannada shall be used as provided by law.</p>	
By order of the Governor,	
K. SURESH KUMAR, Secretary to Government.	

NEW APPLICANTS FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP OF DLA [To be approved by the Executive Committee] (April 2017)

1. **Ms. Pratibha Bhattacharya** (Membership No. 1291/2017)
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, University of Delhi, Delhi – 110 007
2. **Dr. Srinivas S.** (Membership No. 1292/2017)
Plot 149-A, 4th Main Road, Sadhasiva Nagar, Madipakkam, Chennai – 600 091, Tamil Nadu
3. **Ms. Vishakha Kudva** (Membership No. 1293/2017)
Flat 108, "Balaji Meadows", 6th Cross, Fifty Feet Main Road, Akshaya Nagar East, Bengaluru – 560 068, Karnataka

Contribution to DLA News Endowment Fund

14.03.17	Dr. G.K. Panikkar	Rs.	100.00
10.04.17	Dr. E. Sainuddin	Rs.	1,500.00

TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH	Rs. 1,93,751.00
CURRENT TOTAL	Rs. 1,95,351.00