

DLA NEWS

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Dravidian Syntactic Typology
 Sanford B. Steever, 2017, PB, Demy 1/8,
 pp. xiv + 162, Rs. 240/- (US\$ 24/-)

Vol 42 No. 12

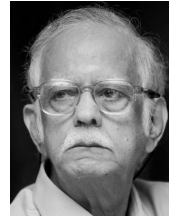
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DECEMBER 2018

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

MR. IRAVATHAM MAHADEVAN IS NO MORE

The members of the DLA and ISDL are deeply grieved by the passing away of Sri. Iravatham Mahadevan, the former Chairman of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics.



In his sad demise on 25th November 2018 at the age of 88, the family of ISDL has lost a close patron, friend, philosopher and guide as he was closely associated with the activities, aims and objectives of the Institute. In the meeting to pay homage to him, all the research scholars, senior fellows and administrative staff assembled together on 26th November. Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Hon. Director addressed them giving an informative speech throwing light on the various activities involved by him in the Indus script trying to decipher it in the most scientific way. He had no hesitation to put an end to his covetous administrative position to devote himself fully in scholarly pursuits.

Romila Thapar, the most prominent historian living today, points out that Mr. Mahadevan has made two outstanding contributions in the field of knowledge. One was the study of the adaptation of Brahmi script to Tamil, which came to be called the Tamil Brahmi. The second was the decipherment of the pictograms from the Indus Valley Civilization based on the seals found in large numbers at Indus sites. His discoveries regarding the Tamil Brahmi inscriptions have been published in a big volume namely *Early Tamil Epigraphy from the Earliest Times to the Sixth Century AD* by the Harvard University. It contains the detailed studies of all the Tamil Brahmi inscriptions found in different locations of Tamil Nadu and thus filling the gap that existed in the study of the ancient history of the state.

The works of Mr. Mahadevan on deciphering the Indus script were a far more complicated study on which he spent half a century. The results of his lifelong investigations on Indus script were published by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1977 as *The Indus Script: Texts, Concordance and Tables*. The work has thrown light on the unknown facts regarding the Indus script over which scholars from India and Europe have spent many years. Finally, he arrived at an interesting linguistic

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

relationship where he argued that the Harappans were Dravidian speakers with their own distinctive culture and religion.

Mr. Mahadevan, an internationally renowned epigraphist, was awarded the Padma Shri in 2009 for his unique contributions in the field of historical and linguistic research. He was also awarded the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship in 1970 for his research in Indus script and National Fellowship of Indian Council of Historical Research in 1992 for his work on Tamil Brahmi inscriptions.

The most outstanding aspect of his personality was that he excelled in all the areas where he engaged himself. He was a professional far ahead of his colleagues as an administrator in the civil service. At the same time, he was a great researcher and deep scholar of such a wide dimension that many best scholars would envy.

ISDL is deeply indebted to Mr. Mahadevan for his magnanimity in donating more than 1000 volumes of books in English and Tamil which included rare collections of manuscripts.

T. Jamal Mohammed

47th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LANGUAGE ENDANGERMENT

20-22 June 2019

Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga

Those who would like to participate in the **47th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists & International Symposium on Language Endangerment** 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 [(1) Rs. 3,000/- for delegates from India and other SAARC countries,

(2) Rs. 2,000/- for Ph.D. Researchers with Fellowships and (3) Rs. 1,500/- for life-members of Dravidian Linguistic Association of India (DLA) and students without fellowships]. The registration fee for delegates from other countries is US \$ 300/-. Bona fide students and research scholars have to produce a certificate from the respective Heads of Departments stating their student status to avail the concessional registration. Accompanying persons, if any, have to be registered by paying Rs. 3000/- or US \$ 300/- as the case may be. Participants are requested to fill up the registration form and send it along with the registration fee to the Secretary, DLA, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala by **18th May 2019**. The details of the modes of payment are given in the registration form.

Food and accommodation will be provided in the guesthouses and hostels of the Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga.

The Local Organizing Secretary for the **International Symposium on Language Endangerment** is **Prof. C. Ramaswamy** (*profcr48@gmail.com*), Director, Centre for Endangered Languages, Central University of Karnataka. The Local Organizing Secretary for the **47th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists** is **Dr. Vikram Visaji**, (*vikramvisaji@gmail.com*), Associate Professor, Department of Kannada Language and Literature, School of Humanities and Languages, Central University of Karnataka.

With regard to **47th AICDL**, papers are invited for oral presentations on substantial, original and unpublished research pertaining to any aspect of theoretical and applied linguistics or to any other linguistic-related topic. The following are a few such areas for paper presentation: *Language Acquisition, Language*

Latest Publications: A LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL STUDY OF MALAYALAM AND TAMIL, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2018, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. 10 + 183, Rs. 250/- (US\$ 25/-). A LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION OF ELUTTACCHAN'S ADHYĀTMA RĀMĀYAṆAM, N.R. Gopinatha Pillai, 2018, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. 20 + 548, Rs. 850/- (US\$ 85/-). MALAYALAM A DESCRIPTIVE OUTLINE, Ravi Sankar S. Nair, 2018, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. 146, Rs. 240/- (US\$ 24/-). FOLK PLAYS AND DANCES OF KERALA, M.D. Raghavan (G.K. Panikkar [Ed.]), 2018, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. xvi + 104. STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION OF KASARAGOD TULU, M. Rama, 2017, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xiv + 406, Rs. 550/- (US\$ 55/-).

Teaching and Learning, Brain and Language, Discourse Analysis, Phonetics and Phonology, Semantics, Comparative Linguistics, Historical Linguistics, Clinical Linguistics, Speech Synthesis, Mathematical Linguistics, Semiotics, Stylistics, IT and Linguistics, Morphology and Syntax, Pragmatics, Sign Language Studies, Translation Theories, Computational Linguistics, Neuro-linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Sociolinguistics, Forensic Linguistics, Typology, Folkloristics, Tribal Studies, Cultural Studies and Palaeography. For those who prefer to present a paper in the **International Symposium**, the topic needs to be related to *language endangerment*.

Abstracts and papers may be sent to the Local Secretaries of the **47th AICDL & ISLE** by **5th April 2019** and **18th May 2019** respectively.

Nominations for the various awards and prizes to be distributed at the **47th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists** may please be sent to the Secretary, DLA, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala before **5th May 2019** with copies of relevant publications and documents for assessment.

Those who are interested in becoming life-members of the DLA may please send the life-membership fee [Rs. 3,000/- (US\$ 450/-)] to the Secretary, DLA in the address mentioned above. The registration form for attending the **47th AICDL & ISLE** and the application form for life-membership of the DLA can be obtained from www.ijdl.org.

46th AICDL & ISLELT - Report

(21-23 June 2018, Jadavpur University, Kolkata)

(Continued from the last issue)

Anjali Nair presented *Past Tense in Malayalam: A Case in Morpho-phonemic Theory*. She started her paper with a critical comment that the study of tense morphology in Malayalam has a history of insufficient accounts. There is agreement in the literature on a binary distinction of past / non-past; there is a dearth of theoretical understanding required to capture the generalizations of the complex morphemic make-up of

the Malayalam past tense. It is explained that past tense in Malayalam has two main alterants /tu, i/. She has argued that /i/ has derived from /d/ and /d/ has not derived from /i/ but it appears probable that *d* and /i/ are distinct and independent signs of past tense.

Session 2A chaired by Prof. N. Gopinathan Nair started at 11.20 a.m. at UG Arts Building, Room A2/18. Four papers were presented in this session.

Dr. Sagar Mal Gupta's paper titled *Eco-linguistic Structure of Literature* explained the relationship between man and nature, saying 'ecology deeply affects man and ecology is deeply affected by man'. He has discussed in this paper two questions: (1) How are ecological principles used in the interpretation of literature and (2) How is eco-linguistic concept used in the study of literature. He has concluded that there is a deep ecological relationship between literature and structure of language.

Abahan Dutta in *Preserving the Diverse Forms of Bengali: Making the 'Ecosystem' stable* defined the term 'linguistic ecology' quoting Voeglin, Voeglin and Schutz (1967). He has explained the use of this term by Einar Haugen who pioneered this form of linguistics which used the metaphor of an ecosystem to describe the relationships among the diverse forms of language. 'Linguistic ecology' or 'language ecology' or 'eco-linguistics' looks at how languages interact with each other and the places they are spoken in and frequently argues for the preservation of endangered languages as an analogy of the preservation of biological sciences.

Chironjib Bora presented *Endangered Languages and its Vitality, with Special Reference to Tai-Ahom*. An endangered language is a language that is almost on the verge of extinction or is so rarely used that it could be hardly heard and such languages may be either falling out of use or being replaced by some other language that is perhaps more convenient. He has argued that India has lost around 20% of its languages in the past five decades. He has proposed to address the main issues of language contact and language shift with regard to the Tai-Ahom language and the causes for its current status.

[To be continued]

R.R. Thampuran

DERRIDA'S CONCEPT OF WORD AND MEANING: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SEMANTIC THEORIES OF SAUSSURE, ĀNANDAVARDHANĀCĀRYA AND A.R. RAJARAJAVARMA, D. Benjamin, 2018, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xvi + 64, Rs. 140/- (US \$ 14/-). **KĒRAĻA BHĀṢĀ VIJÑĀNĪYAM**, K. Godavarma (T. Madhava Menon [Tr.]), 2017, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xxxvi + 201, Rs. 300/- (US\$ 30/-). **MAPPILA DIALECT OF MALABAR**, G.K. Panikkar, 2017, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. xlii + 534, Rs. 750/- (US\$ 75/-). **THOUGHTS ON DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS**, G.K. Panikkar (Ed.), 2017, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 312, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-).

IRAVATHAM MAHADEVAN – IN MEMORIUM

Sri. Iravatham Mahadevan has become a legend while yet living. As an Indian Administrative Service officer allotted to Tamil Nadu cadre, he was more observant and curious than most. He also loved the company of the learned, like famous historian, Prof. K.A. Nilakanta Sasthry, who triggered his interest in Tamil inscriptions.

Mahadevan worked on a theory that the early Tamil inscriptions were in Brahmi script, but modified to suit the peculiarities of Tamil of the early centuries BCE. His work on the inscriptions at Pugalur, near Kurur, became epochal. It cast a flood of light on the Cheras, that Chera territory spread from Lakshadweep Sea to the top of the Kaveri delta, and that Karur was its capital. He also postulated the now-accepted history of three different lineages of Chera kings. Mahadevan's methodology became definitive for epigraphy in South India.

The "Indus Script" fascinated him. Probably his training as an Administrator urged him to adopt meticulous methods of gathering the details closely cataloguing them in logical sequence. His work characteristically became definitive again – no future scholar in this area can avoid starting with a review of Mahadevan's exhaustive catalogue of these signs, and their concordance.

He had high regard for the Dravidian Linguistic Association, and profound respect for Prof. V.I. Subramoniam. He gifted a good part of his library of valuable publications to the library of ISDL. He was a regular and valuable contributor to the IJDL, and had visited ISDL several times.

Personally, I had greatly benefited from his friendship and regard for the work I had been doing, in the studies on Scheduled

Tribes, especially those that had a Dravidian Language as mother tongue. He also encouraged me to undertake the daunting work of translating the *Purananuru*. He himself had done a great deal of studies on this undying classic, and had told me that of all the Sangam Classics, the *Purananuru* was his favourite!

Everyone who had anything to do with these areas of study will bemoan the loss of Dr. Iravatham Mahadevan as a personal bereavement. He towered so tall over us, but was also so accessible and generous to each of us.

May his soul rest in peace.

T. Madhava Menon

ORIENTATION COURSE IN LINGUISTICS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

A two-day orientation course in linguistics for language teachers of schools from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Idukki districts was conducted in the ISDL campus on 23rd and 24th



November 2018. The course was intended to make them aware of the various intrinsic aspects of linguistics so that they could rise to the level of good language teachers and put an end to the general trend among them that the responsibility of the language teachers is just to read and explain the passages in the textbooks.

Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, the Hon. Director, welcomed the chief guests who came to the inaugural function, the resource persons and the teachers who came from three southern districts. He said that the short-term course was organized with the limited resources of the Institute with no external funds. However, eminent resource persons were gracious enough to conduct the classes.

Prof. G.K. Panikkar, former Director and founder-member of ISDL, in his presidential address

pointed out the inherent defects in the teaching and learning of languages in the educational institutions in the country. He brought the attention of the audience to the research scholars from India selected to the foreign countries like Germany, Japan and Russia for higher studies. Within two or three years, they learn the language of the country as an integral part of their studies in such a way that they could submit their thesis in that language and face the open defence effectively. We have to find out the inherent defect in our language teaching and rectify it.

In his inaugural address, Dr. J. Prasad, Director, SCERT and former Vice-Chancellor of Sanskrit University, Kalady wanted the teachers to learn the skills of language teaching even by sacrificing some of the conveniences they require because teachers cannot raise the banner of revolts for compromising the quality of teaching. He told the participants that they were fortunate enough to get the service of eminent scholars as resource persons. Their service is costly but it is made available to them free of cost.

Dr. C.R. Prasad, Registrar, University of Kerala in his felicitation address emphasized the necessity of learning the scientific methods of teaching languages. He said that the role of the language teacher cannot be confined to that of a mere driver of a car. He should also be an efficient mechanic who can rectify the defects of the car while it is running.

Prof. M. Rama in his felicitation address emphasized the need for giving proper attention to the language skills while teaching the languages.

Dr. Abdul Samed, Treasurer of ISDL and Senior Fellow expressed vote of thanks.

Eminent scholars and teachers from universities and colleges engaged classes for the participants. Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Prof. B. Gopinathan Nair, Dr. S.A. Shanavas and Dr. Radhakrishnan Mallassery took classes for linguistics, Dr. Chandrasekharan Nair for Sanskrit, Dr. Desamangalam Ramakrishnan and Dr. Raghavan Payyanad for Malayalam and Dr. Nainar, Dr. Jeyakrishnan and Dr. Mano for Tamil.

The orientation course came to an end by the evening of 24th November 2018.

T. Jamal Mohammed

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE EARLY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF JOURNALISM IN INDIA

Christian Study Centre for Cultural and Social Change
University of Kerala
9-11 January 2019

A national seminar on the **Contribution of Christian Missionaries in the Field of Journalism in India** will be organized by Christian Study Centre for Cultural and Social Change, University of Kerala from 9th to 11th January 2019. For details, contact Dr. Darwin L. (phone: 9446904488, email: christianstudycentreku@gmail.com).

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE RELATION BETWEEN STYLISTICS AND LINGUISTICS

University of Kerala
15-17 January 2019

It is proposed to conduct a seminar on **Relation between Stylistics and Linguistics** at the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala from 15th to 17th January 2019. For details, contact Dr. S.A. Shanavas, Organizing Secretary (phone: 04712308469, email: sasnavs@gmail.com).

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE EARLY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE LINGUISTIC STRUCTURING OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

Christian Study Centre for Cultural and Social Change
University of Kerala
7-9 February 2019

An international seminar on the contribution of Christian Missionaries in the linguistic structuring of Indian languages will be organized by Christian Study Centre for Cultural and Social Change, University of Kerala from 7th to 9th February 2019. For details, contact Dr. Darwin L. (phone: 9446904488, email: christianstudycentreku@gmail.com).

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON APPLICATIONS OF CORPORA Technology and Resource Centre for Malayalam

University of Kerala
18-20 February 2019

A seminar on **Applications of Corpora** will be conducted by the Technology and Resource Centre for Malayalam, University of Kerala from 18th to 20th February 2019. For details, contact Dr. S.A. Shanavas, Organizing Secretary (phone: 9495074811, email: sasnavs@amail.com).



Price Rs. 5/-

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DLA LIFE-MEMBER LIST

(In the Chronological Order; Continued from the last issue)

Name and Address	Amount	Date of Joining
Dr. S.N. Ganesan Department of Hindi, University of Madras Madras - 5, Tamil Nadu	₹ 220	15.2.1973
Dr. A.R. Gopala Pillai 'Chakkanattu House', Kuttemperoor P.O. - 689 623, Kerala	₹ 220	28.2.1973
Dr. K.G. Sastri 'Mamta', Desai Colony, K.U. Cross Srinagar, Dharwad - 580 003, Karnataka	₹ 220	4.3.1973
Dr. M. Leelavathi Principal, Brunnen College Tellicherry, Kerala	₹ 200	4.3.1973
Dr. P.T. Abraham 'Chaitanya', 120, N Block, Kuvempu Nagar Mysore - 570 023, Karnataka	₹ 200	26.2.1973
Dr. H.S. Ananthanarayana 206, 'Brigade Classic', Armugam Circle P.T. Street, Basavanagudi Bengaluru - 560 004, Karnataka	₹ 201	27.3.1973
Francis Gross French Institute of Indology Pondicherry	₹ 200	27.3.1973
Dr. J. Suryanarayana Emeritus Fellow, Balaji Colony, Tirupati Andhra Pradesh - 2	₹ 200	31.3.1973
Dr. T.P. Meenakshisundaram	₹ 200	31.3.1973

[To be continued]

ASAN PRIZE

The Asan Prize, a prestigious award in the field of Malayalam literature, for the year 2017 is awarded to poet Prof. Desamangalam Ramakrishnan, presently Senior Fellow, International School of Dravidian Linguistics. The prize was given at a function in Chennai on 10th December 2018.



LEXICON FOR ODISHA TRIBAL LANGUAGES

In what is seen as a significant step to revive vanishing tribal languages, the Odisha government has come out with lexicons of 21 such languages. The bilingual tribal dictionaries will be used in multilingual education (MLE) initiated by the State government at the elementary level in tribal-dominated districts. "The bilingual tribal dictionaries for MLE and trilingual tribal language proficiency modules in all the 21 tribal languages have been formulated by the Special Development Council. Both will help in enhancing proficiency in tribal languages", said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, releasing the dictionaries in Bhubaneswar. The Chief Minister also announced that the tribal museum is upgraded as Odisha State Tribal Museum.

[Courtesy: **The Hindu** online, Bhubaneswar 24.11.2018.
Satyasundar Barik]

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA

(November 2018)

- Dr. Ula Balasubramanian** (*Membership No. 1349/2018*)
Professor & Head, Department of Lexicography,
Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
- Mr. Ayan Ghosh** (*Membership No. 1350/2018*)
Dubrajpur, Ranjan Bazar, Natun Pally, District
Birbhum - 731 123, West Bengal

Contribution to DLA News Endowment Fund

23.11.18	Prof. B. Gopinathan Nair	Rs.	1,000.00
24.11.18	Prof. Raghavan Payyanad	Rs.	1,000.00

TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH Rs. 2,11,041.00

CURRENT TOTAL Rs. 2,13,041.00