

EMINENT LINGUIST AND TAMIL SCHOLAR PROFESSOR S. SUSEENDIRARAJAH PASSED AWAY

It is with great sorrow that I record the passing away of Prof. S. Suseendirarajah (86), former Head and Senior Professor of the Department of Linguistics and English, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka on 11th January 2019.



I was deeply shocked and grieved when I heard about his fatal end. He was my teacher for whom I have the greatest respect and affection as a scholar and a person. He was a good teacher and an efficient research guide. All of us in Sri Lanka know how he had toiled for the progress of the Department of Linguistics and Faculty of Arts in the University of Jaffna.

He was a great scholar with excellent acumen and a man of fine qualities. Shying publicity, he always worked with sagacity and brought out research works of very high standard displaying his sharp insights and new findings. Prof. Suseendirarajah, in his inimitable style fashioned on the traditional and modern linguistic critical practices and innovative thinking, brought in new perspectives and findings in Linguistics research which resulted in his pioneering works in the area of Linguistic studies in Sri Lanka.

Knowledge of Sri Lankan Tamil is a vital element in the understanding of the Dravidian family of languages, particularly since certain features have been preserved in Jaffna Tamil which are not preserved elsewhere. Suseendirarajah's researches gave emphasis to this aspect. He embarked on the systematic study of Sri Lankan Tamil, working over the whole spectrum from phonology through syntax to sociolinguistic aspects of language use. The result has been a series of excellent articles intended for scholars interested in the structure of Tamil and Dravidian.

He has great appreciation for other languages and cultures which led him to the fruitful collaboration with Sinhalese scholars, and his joint work with Prof. W.S. Karunatilake and Prof. James W. Gair has been particularly valuable. He received a scholarship as a Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow, University of Edinburgh, UK and worked with Prof. R.E. Asher for a year. He used his

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expertise to produce successful language teaching materials, in both Sinhala and English, as well as articles of a more popular nature for the layman. Further, his research has been acknowledged by Prof. John Ross Carter and Russian scholar Dr. Andronov, Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.

Linguistic researchers from India, Russia, Japan and Sri Lanka have co-authored, or appreciatively translated or published his articles and papers in their University journals. To mention a few, *Anthropological Linguistics* (USA), *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*, *Indian Linguistics* etc.

Prof. Suseendrarajah is indisputably the leading authority in Sri Lanka in the field of Dravidian Linguistics in general and Tamil Linguistics in particular. He is widely acknowledged in international publications, in the field of descriptive and contrastive Linguistics and in Applied Linguistics. Among his academic works, the noteworthy research work 'Jaffna Tamil: Phonology and Morphology' was done when he worked as a Senior Fellow in UK.

He has the distinction of being cited in the *Marquis Who's Who in the World*, USA and also in the *Dictionary of International Biography*, Cambridge, UK. Prof. Suseendrarajah's dedication and commitment to the enrichment of knowledge is exemplary.

Prof. Suseendrarajah was a life-member of the DLA and he regularly contributed to the *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*.

The demise of Prof. Suseendrarajah is a great loss in the field of research both in Linguistics and Tamil.

We, the members of the Dravidian Linguistics Association and the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, express our deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to his wife and the bereaved members of his family and friends.

May his soul rest in peace.

Subathini Ramesh

47th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on Language Endangerment

20-22 June 2019

Central University of Karnataka
GULBARGA

Requests Nominations for AWARDS & PRIZES

Every year we honour researchers by giving awards and prizes for their outstanding academic contributions. We request that nominations for such awards and prizes (except for award number 1 and number 2) may be sent to us before **5th May 2019** with copies of relevant publications and documents. The details are listed below:

1. **Mrs. Katre Memorial Prize** for M.A. topper in Linguistics (2016-2018 batch), of Rs. 2000/-. (The Universities and Heads of Departments are requested to forward mark lists of eligible candidates.)
2. **Award for the Best Paper in the Conference** by a young full-time student or research scholar, of Rs. 2000/-. (Only bona fide students and full-time research scholars, who have produced certificates from their respective Heads of Departments stating their student status, can take part in the competition.)
3. **Prof. K. Anbazhakan Award** for the Translation of *Tolkappiyam* in any international language, of Rs. 3000/-. The book should have been published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2019**.
4. **Award for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Tribes**, of Rs. 3000/-. It

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/-).

should have been published within a period of 3 years before *1st May 2019*.

5. **Shri. C. Achutha Menon Prize** for the Best Article or Book published on Computer and Language, of Rs. 3000/-. It should have been published in an Indian journal and by an Indian, within a period of 3 years before *1st May 2019*.

6. **Dr. George Jacob Award** for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Linguistics in any Indian language other than Dravidian, of Rs. 3000/-. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before *1st May 2019*.

7. **Prof. K.M. Venkataramaiah Award** for the Study on Language, Culture and other Linguistics-related topics, of Rs. 3000/-. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before *1st May 2019*.

8. **Dr. Hermann Gundert Endowment Award** for the Best Dictionary, Lexicon or Encyclopaedia on any major Dravidian Language or any Dravidian Tribal Language, of Rs. 3000/-. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before *1st May 2019*.

9. **The Phonetic Society of India Endowment Award**, of Rs. 3000/-, for a book on Phonetics in general or on Phonetics of any Indian language. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before *1st May 2019*.

10. **Dr. Panneerselvam & Smt. Thavamani Panneerselvam Award** for the Translation of a Book from Tamil to Kannada or vice versa, Rs. 5000/-. The book should have been published within a period of 3 years before *1st May 2019*.

11. **Dr. K.N. Kuppaswamy Award**, of Rs. 3000/-, for a Lecture/Comparative Study

of a Grammatical Text of Tamil, Sanskrit, Prakrit or Pali.

12. **Dr. P.C. Ganeshsundaram Award** of Rs. 2500/- to a Voice Researcher and to a Machine Translator, in alternate years, by evaluating their published articles or books.

13. **Prof. Susheela P. Upadhyaya Award**, of Rs. 5000/-, 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 2019*. Joint authorship will also be considered but in that case the award amount will be equally shared by the authors.

A person who has already received one of the above awards/prizes earlier will not be considered for the same award again.

Special Lectures

1. **Professor V.I. Subramoniam Memorial Lecture**
2. **Professor Nagamma Reddy Memorial Lecture**
3. **Professor Karunasindhu Das Memorial Lecture**
4. **Professor Chekuri Rama Rao Memorial Lecture**
5. **Smt. Lachchmi Jessaram Gidwani Memorial Lecture**

For other details of the conference, please visit www.ijdl.org.

46th AICDL & ISLELT - Report

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

(Continued from the last issue)

Dripta Pipali's paper on *Remnants of a Pidgin and the Socio-cultural Development of Bangla* discusses the socio-historical context

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/-). **KĒRAḻA 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/-).

of contacts between different languages in ancient Bengal. Bornini Lahri's paper titled *Contact-induced Changes in Some Minor Languages of West Bengal* discusses the language contact situation in West Bengal and language changes in speech communication belonging to different language families like Indo-Aryan, Austro-Asiatic (e.g. Kod), Tibeto-Burman (e.g. Dhimal, Toto) and Dravidian (e.g. Kurukh).

Ankita Karmakar in her paper titled *An Ethno-linguistic Overview of Monpa* discusses the different and unique traditional practices of Dirang Monpas, who live in the Dirang area in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. Ethno-linguistic features noticed in harvesting ceremony, marriage rituals, ethnic medicine, pregnancy rituals, dress and death practices and the use of watermill etc., are discussed.

Session 3-1 started at 11.20 a.m. in the audio-visual room of UG Arts Building. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan chaired the session. Five research papers were presented in this session.

Dr. E. Sainuddin presented his paper on *Linguistic Comparison of Umdatul Musallin and Badrul Munior Husanal Jamal*. The linguistic features of Arabi-Malayalam as seen in BMHJ are analysed and compared with the language of Umdatul Musallin, an Arabi-Malayalam prose on Islamic jurisprudence, written by Puratathil Kunji Moosa Musaliyar of the 17th century. The use of labio-dental voiceless fricative /f/ instead of bilabial stop /p/ is very common. The /y/ and /v/ initial occurrences are also noted.

[To be continued]

R.R. Thampuran

47TH AICDL

FOR THE ATTENTION OF INTENDED REGISTRANTS

Those who register for the **47th AICDL and International Symposium on Language Endangerment** by remitting money, either by bank transfer or through cheque/D.D./ M.O. etc., need to send the registration form to the **Secretary-DLA, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 586, Kerala.**

Sending money without proper name and address will create confusion and we may not be in a position to recognize from whom the money is received and so we will be unable to give registration for such remittances.

TAMIL UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR VISITS ISDL

Prof. G. Balasubramoniam, the Vice Chancellor of Tamil University, Thanjavur visited ISDL on 28.1.2019. He paid floral tributes at the *Smrithi Mandapam* of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam. A meeting was held in the CD room where he interacted with the academic and administrative staff. Before leaving, he visited the Library, Bengali Unit and the Publications Wing.



Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

MEMORIAL LECTURES

International School of Dravidian Linguistics conducted Prof. P. Somasekharan Nair and Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty Memorial Lectures on 30th January 2019 at its Menamkulam campus. The function commenced with the welcome address of Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Director, ISDL and the recital of a memorial poem by Prof. Desamangalam Ramakrishnan, Senior Fellow, ISDL. Dr. Scaria Zacharia, Professor (Retd.), Department of Malayalam, Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University delivered Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty Memorial Lecture which was chaired by Prof. G.K. Panikkar, former Director, ISDL. In his lecture, Prof. Scaria evaluated the contributions of Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty in the field of Malayalam linguistics, which are clear evidence for his all-round genius, insights and systematic research. Prof. N. Gopinathan Nair, Senior Fellow, ISDL proposed vote of thanks.

Prof. P. Somasekharan Nair Memorial Lecture began with a welcome address by the Director. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Subhash, Asst. Editor (Retd.), Malayalam Lexicon, University of Kerala and a close associate of Prof. Somasekharan Nair. He shared his experiences with Prof. Somasekharan Nair while he was the Director of the Lexicon Department. Dr. Subhash highlighted Prof. Somasekharan Nair's quality of keen observation. Any peculiar word he happened to hear would be noted and studied. He also explained Prof. Somasekharan Nair's interest in

studying tribal languages. The function came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. S. Abdul Samed, Treasurer, ISDL.

S. Abdul Samed

THE PROCESS OF VERBAL NOMINALIZATIONS IN EARLY TAMIL LITERATURES

(Continued from the last issue)

3. Tamil Lexicon

The terms *koḷ* and its lengthened form *kōḷ* refer to the meaning 'receiving'. Even Tolkappiyar uses the term *kōḷ* for the notion of receiving. Tamil lexicon states that the terms *cēḷ* and *vēḷ* could probably be metamorphosed from the words *cel* and *vel* respectively. On observing all the suggestions and claims of the scholars mentioned above, this study attempts to find out a hypothesis based on proper methodological manner. Through the morphological aspect, another method is taken from this research to analyze and describe the lengthened words apart from Raja. Here, the words *cēḷ*, *vēḷ*, *kōḷ*, *kōḷ* are not only taken as allomorphs of their own short vowel forms such as *cel*, *vel*, *kol*, *koḷ* but they are considered to be verb roots too, when they are present in the finite verbs of forms such as *cēḷum* (*celvōm*) 'we will go' - *kuḷun*. 80-3, *cēḷir* (*celvīr*) 'you will go' - *kuḷun*. 268-1. This type of finite verbs is frequently attested in Sangam literature. The lengthened forms are treated not only as allomorphs but even as homonyms in this study. When they are homonyms, it is ascertained by the context whether they are nouns or verbs. With these observations, this study mainly proposes that the verbal nouns and finite verbs which have the lengthened verb roots are logically segmented as below:

cēḷ + tal = cēḷal 'reaching' - *Tol*. 976-1

vēḷ + tal = vēḷal 'winning' - *Puḷam*. 111-2

kōḷ + tal = kōḷal 'killing' - *Kuraḷ* 321

kōḷ + tal = kōḷal 'receiving' - *Tol*. 102-5, *Naṇ*. 40

cēḷ + tum = cēḷum 'we will go'

Here, the first unit of each word is considered to be the verb root as opposed to noun through the application of item and arrangement whereas the second part is noun suffix.

[To be continued]
S. Saravanan

VISIT OF SRLC STUDENTS

Non-Malayali students Dr. Latha S. Rai, Ankush Shinge, Anup Pandit, Sakamma S. and Dr. Rakesh (Lecturer, SRLC, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore) came to ISDL on 21st January 2019. They visited the different departments of the Institute including the Library, Publication wing, Bengali Unit and the Tribal and Bengali museums. They have eagerly enquired about the functions of ISDL and made valuable discussions with the Director Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan and the Treasurer of ISDL Dr. S. Abdul Samed.

DRAVIDIAN NEGATION

In spoken English, there is a word, commonly doubled to express disapproval or negation, which we may transcribe *aʔ* or *āʔ* (nasalized), writing *ʔ* in accordance with Sweet's notation to mark glottal stoppage.¹ Early Dravidian seems to have had a similar negative. Kui uses it in *aʔe* (no) and as a suffix in verbs. The order of the suffixes, with the negation standing first, shows that the negative-stems are older than the tense-stems. In the imperative, the vowel of the negation is kept: *sīdū* (give), neg. *sīaʔtū*. Otherwise in the present, where the affirmative and the negative have different sets of endings, the negation is reduced to the consonant *ʔ* after a vowel and may be lost after a consonant: *sīne* (gives), neg. *sīʔe*; *sīte* (gave), neg. *sīaʔte*; *sīde* (is not), past *sīdaʔte*. The first mention of Kui *ʔ* seems to occur in Friend-Pereira's Grammar (Calcutta, 1909); it is ignored in the account of Kui given by the Linguistic Survey of India, vol. 4 (Calcutta, 1906).

In Malto, the negative is formed with */*; *bande* (draw), past *bandah*, neg. past *bandlah*; *mene* (be), neg. present *menolah* or *menomalah*. The future may have either the *-/* suffix combined with personal endings, or *mala* following the affirmative forms. The word *mala* (not) is apparently derived from **aḷa*, with *m* added from *mene*; the *-/* suffix represents stressless **aḷa*, a verb with the ancient negation, presumably connected with Brāhui *a-*, *al-*, *ar-* (be).



Price Rs. 5/-

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In Kurukh, a few verbs take the negative suffix /, but generally the negative is indicated by a word corresponding to Malto *mala* : *mal* or *malā*, with an evidently older *malā*.

The consonant ? has been lost elsewhere in Dravidian, and the negative suffix appears as a simple vowel, *alla* being represented by Brāhui *alla* (was not), Kanara *alla*, Tamil *alla* and Gōndi *halle* with analogic h.²

North Haven, Conn.

Edwin H. Tuttle

1. Sweet, *Sounds of English*, § 138 (Oxford, 1908).

2. *American Journal of Philology*, vol. 40, p. 82.

Note: Tuttle was writing at a time when IPA had not come into existence. He used notations from Sweet's description of English. Sweet has used an exclamation mark for the Glottal stop which has been replaced here with the IPA symbol in the above article.

[Courtesy to Ravi Sankar S. Nair]

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA ENGINEERING AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY 15-16 March 2019

The details of the conference such as areas of focus, fees, dates etc., are available at <http://icdect2019.com>.

LIST OF DLA LIFE-MEMBERS

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

Name and Address	Amount	Date of Joining
Dr. S.K. Verma 2/39, Kakatiya Nagar, 3 rd Road, Habsiguda, Hyderabad – 7	₹ 220	31.8.1973
Dr. K. Janardhanan Nair 'Parippalli House', Mukkolakkal, Sreevaraham, Manacaud P.O., Trivandrum-9, Kerala	₹ 200	7.7.1973
Ms. P. Sudhakumari Department of Malayalam, S.N. College, Chempazhanti, Trivandrum, Kerala	₹ 220	31.8.1973

Dr. N.R. Gopinatha Pillai 'Seema', Pattathanam, Quilon. Kerala	₹ 220	31.8.1973
Sri. Elayaperumal Department of Tamil, Kariavattom, Trivandrum, Kerala	₹ 220	31.8.1973
Dr. G.V.S.R. Krishnamurthy Department of Telugu, Madras University, Madras, Tamil Nadu	₹ 220	31.8.1973
Dr. Suseendrajah Department of Language and Cultural Studies, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka	₹ 200	9.10.1973
Mr. K.P. Bhat 18, 8 th Main Road, BSK III, Stage II, II Phase, Bangalore-85, Karnataka	₹ 200	9.10.1973

[To be continued]

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN JANUARY 2019

16.01.2019: *Language, Culture and Society*

Prof. R.R. Thampuran

23.01.2019: *Observations on the Morphology of the English
Loanwords in Bangla*

Stalin Sardar

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF ISDL

1. A HISTORY OF MALAYALAM METRE

N.V. Krishna Warrior

2018. HB. Demy 1/8. Pp. 14 + 376. Rs. 870/- (US\$ 87/-)

2. LEXICON OF TRAVANCORE INSCRIPTIONS

R.Vasudeva Poduval

2018. HB. Pp. 10 + 128. Rs. 350/- (US\$ 35/-)

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (January 2019)

1. Prof. K. Karunakaran (Membership No. 1351/2019)

193, Third Street, Nalvarnagar, Coimbatore – 641
046, Tamil Nadu