

DLA NEWS

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

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MARCH 2019

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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

(20-22 June 2019, Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 47TH AICDL

- Various awards and prizes instituted by DLA/ISDL will be distributed at the inaugural session.
- Books published by ISDL during 2018-19 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 Linguistic Association of India
- Governing Council meeting of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics
- Meeting of the Managing Committee of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India
- Meeting of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*

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MEMORIAL LECTURES AT THE 47TH AICDL

The following Memorial Lectures will be delivered as part of the 47th AICDL in Gulbarga.

- **PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM MEMORIAL LECTURE**
- **PROF. NAGAMMA REDDY MEMORIAL LECTURE**
- **PROF. KARUNASINDHU DAS MEMORIAL LECTURE**
- **PROF. CHEKURI RAMA RAO MEMORIAL LECTURE**
- **SMT. LACHCHMI JESSARAM GIDWANI MEMORIAL LECTURE**

PROFESSOR J.C. SHARMA PASSED AWAY

It is with great sorrow we report the demise of **Dr. J.C. Sharma** (75), former Deputy Director cum Professor, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore. After taking his M.A. degree in Linguistics from Kurukshetra University, Jagdish Chander Sharma began his academic career in the CIIL, Mysore. While continuing there, he had also taken Ph.D. Dr. Sharma superannuated from CIIL as Professor cum Deputy Director. For a short period, he also held the charge of the Director of CIIL. He has published many articles and a few outstanding books on Indian languages. His *Gojri Grammar* (published under *CIIL Grammar Series*) which depicts the grammatical structure of the language of the Gujjar community of Jammu and Kashmir deserves special mentioning. So also are his two grammatical works *Korku Vyākaraṇ* and *Bhili Vyākaraṇ* which are written in Hindi. The above two works published from Tribal Research Institute, Bhopal are authentic documents on the linguistic structures of Korku and Bhili tribal languages of Madhya Pradesh.



Prof. J.C. Sharma had the opportunity to be a Fellow in the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla where he was involved in the folklore studies of Himachal Pradesh. Prof. Sharma was also associated with the Tribal Research Institute, Bhopal.

Since 2010, Prof. Sharma was associated with the Language Division of the Office of the Registrar-General, India (ORGI), Kolkata as one of the Consultants along with Professor D.P. Pattanayak and Professor Probal Das Gupta. As Consultant, he wrote the Foreword of *Linguistic Survey of India-Rajasthan (LSI – Part-I Volume)* of ORGI, published in 2013. Also he had consolidated various Language reports under *Mother Tongue Survey of India Project (MTSI)* of ORGI along with imparting linguistic training to

the persons working in MTSI project of ORGI. He was one of the active members of the Technical Advisory Committee (Language) of ORGI for extending suggestions to the Registrar-General, India in the LSI and MTSI projects.

The most outstanding faculty of his personality was that he excelled in all his assigned areas along with maintaining required relationship with fellow colleagues, scholars and associates. Above all, he was a great scholar and dedicated researcher in the field of Descriptive Linguistics.

Prof. J.C. Sharma was a life-member of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and used to co-operate with the activities of DLA, ISDL and *IJDL*.

We, the members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and the International School of Dravidian Linguistics express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

Kakali Mukherjee

ORIENTATION COURSE FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS - SECOND PHASE

The second phase of the Orientation Course for language teachers was held on 7th and 8th February 2019 at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Menamkulam. The course began with an inaugural session in which Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan welcomed the gathering. Prof. V.R. Prabodhachandran Nair, former Head and Professor of Linguistics, University of Kerala and the recipient of the first award for classical Malayalam, inaugurated the course. Prof. N. Gopinathan Nair, Senior Fellow, ISDL felicitated and Dr. Abdul Samed S. proposed vote of thanks.

Distinguished professors like V.R. Prabodhachandran, E.V.N. Namboothiri, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Chandrasekharan Nair, Rose Mary, Radhakrishnan Mallasser, Sahadevan and Vijayakumar were the resource persons for the Orientation Course.

The Course came to a successful end with a valedictory function. Dr. Ajayapuram Jothishkumar, Professor, Department of Malayalam, M.G. College delivered the valedictory address. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan welcomed the audience and S. Abdul Samed proposed the vote of thanks.

V.N. Bhattathiri

V.I.S. MEMORIAL BEST PAPER AWARD

Folklore Society of South Indian Languages (FOSSILS) decided to institute 'Best Paper Award' in Folkloristics in memory of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam and it was initiated on the eve of the Silver Jubilee Conference of FOSSILS held at Central University of Karnataka. Dr. Seetha Kakkoth was the first recipient of the award (2018).

THE PROCESS OF VERBAL NOMINALIZATIONS IN EARLY TAMIL LITERATURES

(Continued from the last issue)

As the functions of sandhi rule, the component forms *cēl* + *tal* and *vēl* + *tal* should have combined for resulting as **cērral* and **vērral* respectively with the analogy of *kērral* (*kēl* + *tal*) 'asking', *tōrral* (*tōl* + *tal*) 'defeating'. However, these forms are not accepted in Tamil language while accepting the terms *cērral* and *vērral* in early Tamil literatures. A rule should be assigned for existing words; on the other hand, creating the words according to a rule is not customary. For this problematic context, some exemptions may be applied for the sake of clarity.

takaram varuvaḷi āy tam nilaiyalum

pukariṅ reṅmaṅār pulamai yōrē T.E. 369

Learned men say that there is no harm even if *l* is changed into *ḥ* if the succeeding word begins with *t*.

neṅiyatan iṅuti iyalpumā ruḷavē T.E. 370

If the preceding *l* is long, there are cases when there is no change in *sandhi*.

Naccinarkkiniyar, one of the commentators of *Tolkāppiyam*, mentions through the above two *sutra*-s that "by using the word *pukariṅru* 'no harm', the terms *vērritu*, *vērritu* 'the spear is evil' may be accepted". This study is fully concentrating on internal sandhi. Though Naccinarkkiniyar suggests it as a case of external *sandhi*, his conception holds good even for this study which is discussing the internal *sandhi*.

As far as verbal conjugation is concerned, this type of lengthened forms is accommodated as irregular verbs into the 13th number which has irregular verbal bases as it is found in *Tamil Lexicon*, since they are lengthened only when inflected for future.

4. Findings

The rules are assigned according to inflection of weak and strong verbs.

Though the synonyms in a language show richness of the vocabulary, the merits mostly belong to the contribution of dialects.

The two short vowels *e* and *o*, out of five presented in monosyllabic verb roots which end with laterals, are lengthened into *ē* and *ō* when the roots meet with the initial letter *t* of the succeeding word. However, in the same environment, the rest of the short vowels *a*, *i* and *u* do not change. Also this change does not occur even in the disyllabic verb roots.

The lengthened forms *cēl*, *vēl*, *kōl*, *kōḷ* are taken as verb roots when they are in finite verbs and verbal nouns as first members and allomorphs of their proto-forms such as *cel*, *vel*, *kol*, *koḷ*. Also the terms *cēl*, *vēl*, *kōl*, *kōḷ* are considered to be as homonyms in this study. Apart from these considerations, it can be assumed that this type of lengthened components may be verb roots in dialectal usages of the earlier stage.

So far as the verbal conjugations are concerned, the lengthened forms are accommodated in the conjugation number of 13 which has irregular verbal themes as it is in *Tamil Lexicon*. They are inflected for lengthening in future tense only.

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S. Saravanan

NATIONAL SEMINAR HELD IN ISDL

A two-day national seminar on **New Trends in Indian Linguistics** was held in the ISDL campus on 14th and 15th February 2019. Eminent professors from various parts of India took part in the deliberations.

46th AICDL & ISLELT - Report

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

(Continued from the last issue)

Dr. P.N. Kamala presented her paper on *Style Variation of Kannaki in Cilappatikaaram – An Epic in Tamil*. *Cilappatikaaram* is an epic in Tamil and Elango Adikal, a Jain monk, is its author, which belongs to 2nd century A.D. She has explained that language style varies not only from person to person but even with a single individual and as a person progresses in life, style variations occur in communication. In the case of Kannaki, heroine in *Cilappatikaaram*, also one can find her style variations in her different stages of life. Kannaki's style variations from a polite style to a rebellious style can be found in *Cilappatikaaram*. Dr. C.R. Prasad presented the paper on *The Contribution of A.R. Raja Raja Varma that upheld the Identity of Malayalam*. He argued that the identity of

a language is the ability of a language in communication and its capacity to address the aesthetical approach of the community that uses the language. Malayalam has a history that began before the 12th century. He has explained A.R.'s contributions in structural analysis, contributions in aesthetical analysis and at philosophical level.

Prof. P. Visalakshy presented her paper titled *Exposition of Sanskrit Grammar through Poetic Works*. She has discussed the Sanskrit literary works used for the exposition of Sanskrit grammar. There are several poems in Sanskrit literature illustrating the grammatical rules which come under the genre *vyākaraṇa kāvyā-s*. This paper attempted to make a probe on Sanskrit poetic works which try to explain and illustrate Paniniyan rules.

[To be continued]

R.R. Thampuran

EVENING COURSE IN TAMIL

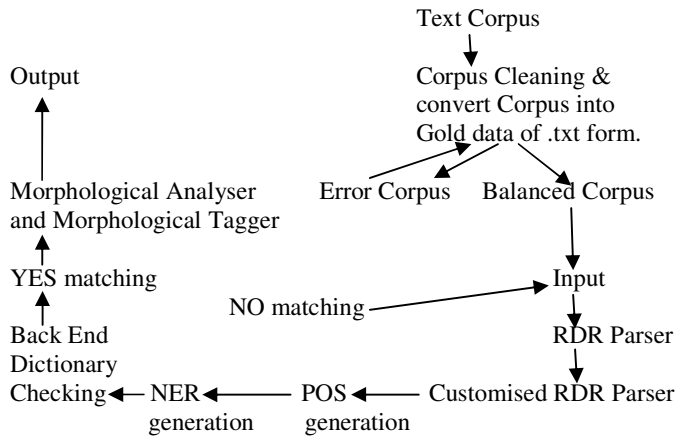
ISDL has started an evening course in Tamil for non-Tamilians commencing from 5th to 30th March 2019 at Manonmaniam Sundaranar Building at Kunnampuram, Thiruvananthapuram.

TEXT ANALYTICS AND ITS LINGUISTIC APPLICATIONS

Text analytics refers to the process of deriving content from unstructured free text such as e-mail, documents, blogs, social medias such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, electronic news medias, other visual medias, audio, video etc. Text analytics or mining can be used to discover hidden content covered in massive amounts of unstructured information sources. This technique involves the task of named entity and information extraction, sentiment analysis, and summarization of text. Jesus Mena in the book *Machine learning Forensics for Law Enforcement, Security and Intelligence* (2011) stated that the most useful text analytics systems for forensic investigators are the NLP (Natural Language Processing) and IE (Information extraction) technologies and tools.

To process the Natural Languages such as English, Malayalam, and Hindi etc. through

computational programming languages such as Python, Java, C and C++ is interesting to linguists as well as to programmers. Still, the above said research is not up to reach the 100% accuracy due to the complexity in Natural languages and the complexities of the implementation of Natural Language in Computational Logic.



Functional Diagram of Computational Design of Python

The above given functional diagram explains the process of text analytics. The functional diagram explains the reverse and forward models of research in text analytics to identify the observed result from the data and vice versa.

RDRPOS-TAGGER (PARTS OF SPEECH TAGGER) AND CORPUS

RDR parser (an open source Python and Java tool kit developed by Dat Quoc Nguyen, Dai Quoc Nguyen, Dang Duc Pham and Son Bao Pham was used for the initial development of POS Tagger) and corpus analysis were used in this framework. Baneesh N., in his research paper “Language Modelling for Automatic Speech Recognition: Malayalam”, *IJDL* Vol. 41 No. 2 June 2012 explained the concept of Language modelling as well as manually generated corpus. The explanation in this paper would be good enough to handle this cyclic process. Through another paper, Baneesh N. illustrated the theoretical and implementation logic of speech data and Text data by Language modeling; and another reference for Speech and Text concerning Malayalam is also of the same author (Baneesh N., “Intonation Modelling in Malayalam”, *IJDL* Vol. 46 No. 1 January 2017). In short, the functional diagram of computational design of Python and its common framework for different domains of NLP are the core of this cyclic process.

[To be continued]

Baneesh N.

ORIENTATION COURSE FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS – THIRD PHASE

The third phase of the Orientation Course for language teachers was conducted in ISDL on 1st and 2nd March 2019. Language teachers in Malayalam and Sanskrit from Kasaragod and Kozhikode attended the course. In the inaugural session, Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Hon. Director, ISDL welcomed the gathering. Prof. G.K. Panikkar, former Director, ISDL presided over the function. Prof. V. Karthikeyan Nair, Director, Kerala Bhasha Institute inaugurated the programme. Dr. Desamangalam Ramakrishnan felicitated the function and Dr. S. Abdul Samed proposed the vote of thanks.

NATIONAL SEMINAR IN ISDL

ISDL is organizing a National Seminar on *Commonness in Linguistic and Cultural Traditions in Bangla and Dravidian* on 23, 24 March 2019 at its Menamkulam campus. Scholars who are interested to participate may send their biodata to ijdlisdl@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW

SUFI MUSIC – STRUCTURE AND MANIFESTATIONS.

Shabnam Riyaz. Southern Book Star. Thiruvananthapuram.

We have great musicians but very rarely do they devote time to share with others their divine experiences in their musical career. Here we come across an established and reputed singer in the prime of her life sharing her rare experiences in her musical profession through a book which makes fascinating reading. Shabnam Riyaz in her book *Sufi Music – Structure and Manifestations* has revealed the world of Sufi music in which she has involved herself. She had taken the initiative to explore the unknown possibilities of music that takes human sensibilities to heavenly heights. Though she began her musical career as a Carnatic musician, she was not prepared to confine herself within its limits. Music has no boundaries. Music is one. You may call it Carnatic, Hindustani or Sufi but ultimately it is known as music.

There is a generally accepted belief that Islam does not encourage music but it is basically a wrong concept if one examines the very foundations in which it has developed into a faith spreading over the whole world. Quran is recited in various forms and rhythmic tones as its verses are poetic in nature. Reciting the verses of Quran with a melodious voice is something that is legislated and encouraged in Islam. Quranic recitals are a form of music which is promoted in Muslim countries.



Price Rs. 5/-

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Sufism is a movement within Islam which stands for complete obedience to the will of God. Sufis form a cult of musicians who worship God with devotional songs. They believe that music can be utilized as a medium of worship in addition to the usual practice of prayers. They use music to enhance spiritual ecstasy and higher stage of consciousness. The Sufi music includes *qawalis*, *ghazals* and *natts* which are different ways of musical worship. A number of Sufi poets emerged in different parts of the world. They include Jalaluddin Rumi, Amir Khusru and Bullen Shah. Though *qawali* is the most prominent form of Sufi music, *ghazals* filled with passionate love and emotions are more popular among the people.

In addition to their poetical merits, the Sufi musical compositions of India exhibit some important linguistic and cultural traits. Hence linguists and scholars who are engaged in cultural studies need to give sufficient attention to the study of Sufi musical compositions.

The book gives a clear picture of the origin and nature of Sufi music. It contains chapters titled 'Music', 'Music and Religion', 'Music and Islam', 'Sufi Music from the Soul, To the Soul, By the Soul', 'Instruments used in Sufi Music', 'Famous Sufi Saints, Poets and Singers', 'Sufi Music Festivals of India', 'Themes of Sufi Songs' and 'Famous Sufi Poetry'. The fourth chapter of the book 'Sufi Music from the Soul, To the Soul, By the Soul' gives a vivid explanation regarding the circumstances that paved the way for the emergence of Sufi cult in Arabia. Sufi music is considered to be the devotional music of the Sufis who live in a world of ecstasy which transcends the limits of ordinary men. The Sufi ideology is spread all over the countries like Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Anatolia, Persia, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and India where Islam has its roots. Sufis are people who have lost their normal state of mind due to their extreme devotion to God. Their Sufi thoughts have found expression through myriad poetic forms and diverse musical genres which are expressed through Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu.

Shabnam Riyaz needs to be awarded a special recognition as she can be considered to be a rare combination of a successful singer and narrator who can convey her devotion to music to the readers who love music. Though theoretic in outlook, one does not feel like going through an enigmatic description but feels elevated to the level of the author. The reader can close the book with satisfaction after going through the history, nature and methods of Sufi music that prevailed in India from the medieval period.

T. Jamal Mohamed

LIST OF DLA LIFE-MEMBERS

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

Name and Address	Amount	Date of Joining
82. Dr. B. Lakshmi Bai Department of Linguistics, Osmania University, Hyderabad	₹ 220	9.10.1973
83. Dr. James W. Gair Professor of Linguistics, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Cornell University, New York 14853, USA	\$ 48	22.10.1973
84. Ms. S. Yamuna C/o Indian Express Office 17, Shanti Nagar, Trivandrum, Kerala	₹ 200	26.10.1973
85. Dr. M. Chidananda Murthy Centre for Kannada Studies, Bangalore University, Bangalore - 56, Karnataka	₹ 203	26.10.1973

[To be continued]

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN FEBRUARY 2019

27.02.2019: *An Introduction to Corpus Linguistics*

Renjit Sekhar R.

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA

(February 2019)

- Dr. M. Jayaprakash** (*Membership No. 1352/2019*)
T.C. 20/1516, Cherucode Lane, Karamana P.O., Thiruvananthapuram
- 695 002, Kerala
- Ms. J. Karisma** (*Membership No. 1353/2019*)
III/II Gundu Pillaiyar Kovil Street, Vinayagar Nagar, Ammapet,
Salem - 636 003, Tamil Nadu