

DLA NEWS

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Dravidian Syntactic Typology
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pp. xiv + 162, Rs. 240/- (US\$ 24/-)

Vol 43 No. 10

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OCTOBER 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, Kalaburagi

**A BRIEF REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY
PROF. A. MURIGEPPA**

***President, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India &
Former Vice-Chancellor, Kannada University, Hampi***

(Continued from the last issue)

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Professor Murigeppa in his Presidential address has pointed out the problem of endangerment of languages. Documentation of such languages is of an immediate need. All possible steps need to be taken for their conservation and revival. Belare, an endangered language spoken in Karnataka, is cited as an example for languages facing the threat of disappearance. This language studied by Prof. Murigeppa is now spoken by only one person aged 85 years, even though the population of Belare community is 3000 as per the 1961 Census. They have shifted to local language i.e., Kundapura Kannada dialect.

The application of technology helped the linguists in a great way. Language analysis was for the documentation purpose in earlier days. Then the study was laborious and the scholars had to work manually where word cards need to be prepared and alphabetically arranged by human effort and the dissertations were to be typed with the help of a typewriter in which phonetic symbols were usually absent. The purpose and the style of language study are changed. The study is for the application purposes in many fields and is multi disciplinary.

The study of language inclusive of technology is now popular with the caption Natural Language Processing. In his Presidential address, Prof. Murigeppa gives a comprehensive description of natural language processing. He points out how it is used for syntactic and semantic analysis. A brief status report is also given in the Presidential address with regard to Indian Linguistics and the NLP scenario.

[Concluded]

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

Report of the 47th AICDL & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on Language Endangerment

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(Continued from the last issue)

Dr. P.N. Kamala presented her paper *Anatomy of Meaning - 'nōkku' (gaze)* in Tamil. In this paper, the verb 'nōkku' in Tamil has been taken for finding out the anatomy of its meaning. The static representation of the meaning of a word without gestures and without context is not useful for communicative purpose. The meaning of the word 'nōkku' can be understood only along with gestures and its context where it is used during interaction.

P. Prakash presented a paper *Linguistic Analysis of Telangana Telugu Dialects with Special Reference with Morphological Variations*. This paper attempts to focus on the morphological variation within Telangana Telugu and its dialects and it also focuses its attention on certain morphological variations that are common across the Telangana dialects.

Session IV *Lexicography and Translation* started in the morning of 21.6.2019. Prof. Basavaraj P. Donur chaired the session. Four papers were presented in this session. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan presented a paper *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary and Malayalam*. He commented that *Dravidian Etymological Dictionary* (DED) compiled by T. Burrow and M.B. Emeneau surpassed all other works in the case of data it stored regarding undeveloped aboriginal languages of the Dravidian family and the main source of data collections are the field notes and monographs prepared by the compilers themselves and other researchers, which reflect the Medieval phase of Malayalam

language. DED supplemented the entire available corpus but several words were slipped out of it and in this paper he has attempted to report certain missing etyma. Prof. M. Rama presented his paper *A Note on Tulu Lexicon*. He has explained the various stages of the production of Tulu lexicon. Prajisha A.K. presented a paper *Problems of MT: Malayalam Dative Case in Google Translate*. This paper proposed to map the issues of dative case encountered by Google Translate. She has analysed the charted translation problems and suggested possible computational linguistic measures to resolve them. Prof. S. Rajendran presented 'Lexical Gaps and their Implications in Translation'. The vocabulary of all the languages shows lexical gaps. He stressed that translators encounter lexical gaps when they translate one language into another or develop a bilingual or multilingual dictionary and in lexical databases like Word Net. His paper points out how lexical gaps constitute a thorny area for translation and suggests some remedial measures.

Session V *Endangered, Tribal and Ethno Linguistics* was chaired by Prof. C. Ramaswamy. Three papers were presented in this session. Dr. Abdul Samed presented *Language Endangerment and Revitalization - Problems and Perspectives*. He pointed out that in this era of globalization, communities across the world who speak a minority language are abandoning their languages and shifting to socially, politically and economically dominant languages and it has resulted in the extinction of their mother tongue. The paper has discussed the problems leading to language endangerment and suggested some solutions to revitalize them. Dr. R.R. Thampuran presented *Language Endangerment among Tribal Groups in India: Special Reference to Tribal Groups in Kerala*. He has discussed some aspects of language endangerment among tribal groups in India.

Latest Publications: *STUDIES ON BANGLA LINGUISTICS*, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. viii + 385, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-). *EVOLUTION OF A COMPOSITE CULTURE IN KERALA*, B. Padmakumari Amma, 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xiv + 341, Rs. 350/- (US\$ 35/-). *EFFECTIVITY AND CAUSATIVITY IN TAMIL*, K. Paramasivam, 2019 Reprint, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 6 + 83, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-). *INDEX OF BHĀṢĀKAUṬALĪAM*, S. Sarojani Amma, 2019, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1854, Rs. 1650/- (US\$ 165/-). *EUROPEAN IMPACT ON MODERN TAMIL WRITING AND LITERATURE*, Somalay, 2019 (Reprint), PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 88, Rs. 185/- (US\$ 18/-).

Coming to the Kerala situation, he stressed that these tribal groups have a language of their own but acculturation, bilingualism, literacy in regional language, educational programmes and a high level of religious conversions have made severe impact on their socio-cultural life and resulted in language loss and language endangerment. Dr. Bobita Sarangthem in her paper *An Ethno-linguistic Study of Aimol: A Perspective on the Level of Endangerment* discussed the issues of language endangerment among Aimol language groups. She stressed that the level of endangerment of Aimol may be placed under D EGIDS 6a (vigorous) but she confirms that speakers have not shifted to any other language and it is only a domain shift.

Session VI on *Historical Linguistics* started at 11.45 a.m. on 21.6.19. Dr. Viswanathan chaired the session. Dr. N. Gopinathan Nair presented his paper on *Influence of Sanskrit on Malayalam: A Study based on Kerala Inscriptions*. He has stressed that the influence of Sanskrit is mainly on phonology and almost all inscriptions begin with Sanskrit words *Svasti Śrī* and there is no bar in using Sanskrit phonemes. The major portions of the vocabulary in inscriptions are Tatbhava forms of Sanskrit words and Tatsama words also were used. Dr. P. Visalakshy presented a paper on *Editing Sanskrit Manuscripts written in Malayalam Characters*. Editing is the preparation of a text for publication and it is not done in a haphazard way but by following the principles evolved for the same. A few observations on the problems encountered while editing Sanskrit manuscripts such as absence of word marks, scribal errors like psychological and visual additions, omissions, substitutions, modifications of words, replacement of forms deletion, transposition of words, errors due to grammatical and lexical changes etc. M. Ramesh Kumar presented his paper on *Kolli Hills*

Malayali Tribe's Language and Community. These hill tribes are called Malayalis. They depend on nature and organic items. They are also called Malai Gounders and have a unique culture and they maintain their language but at present the language and traditions of these people are facing endangerment.

Session VII on *Sociolinguistics and Language Technology* was chaired by Dr. R.R. Thampuran. Five papers were presented in this session. Dr. Jamal Mohammed presented *The Rawthers – the Migrant Tamil Community in Kerala*. Rawthers, a Muslim trading community from Tamil Nadu, deserves special mention due to their social and cultural interactions with the local Malayali population. The earliest settlement of these people started during the 19th century in Kerala on the regions like Poonjar Valley, Kottayam and Changanacherry and they were divided into different classes and subgroups. They picked up Malayalam for transactions in trade and continued to use Tamil at home. They retained the basic characteristics of Tamil but later it assumed the form of a mixed language which is neither Tamil nor Malayalam. Dr. Padmakumari Amma's paper was on *Onam – The Kerala Festival as referred to in Cera Inscriptions*. Onam originated in Kerala as a harvest festival but later it was elevated to a temple festival and various temple inscriptions of Cera age reveal this aspect. *Tiruvārruvāy* inscriptions of 861 A.D. of King Stanuravi is the earliest inscription available related to Onam and the Tiruvalla Copper Plates contain a detailed account of Onam. Dr. Jai Gopal Goyal's paper on *Devi Cult in Malwa Region* in Punjab refers to the significant difference of Malwa culture from the adjacent Haryana and the rest of Punjab. In Malwa region, a prevalent pre-Aryan culture exists.

FOREIGN MODELS IN TAMIL GRAMMAR, T.P. Meenakshisundaran, 2019 (Reprint), PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 8+330+iv, Rs. 320/- (US\$ 32/-). **SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC ROLES IN BANGLA AND MALAYALAM**, Dhruvajyoti Das, 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xviii + 250, Rs. 300/- (US\$ 30/-). **SEMINAR ON DIALECTOLOGY**, V.I. Subramoniam (Ed.), P. Somasekharan Nair & B. Gopinathan Nair (Asst. Eds.), 2019 (Reprint). PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. 16 + 120, Rs. 160/- (US\$ 16/-). **DRAVIDIAN**, Suniti Kumar Chatterji, 2019 (Reprint), PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. 6 + 84, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).

There is a strong cult of *devi* and it is adored in various forms like *devi, mai, kania, ahohi* and *sonji mai* and all the *devi-s* are associated with the cultivation of crops. Dr. Bharath Kumar presented his paper *Convergence and Divergence of Cognate Words in Tamil and Kannada*. There is a convergence in terms of phonetics and meanings of cognate words in these languages and there is also divergence in terms of the way the words get conceptualized as these languages have evolved. In this study, the semantics of the cognates and compounds in Tamil and Kannada are analysed and their usages in literary and non-literary contexts.

Dr. K.N. Geethakumari presented the paper *Language and Power in the novel 'Rani'*. The novel 'Rani' by Jaishree Misra sets its event and characters in a well-defined historical context – the colonization of the British in India. It portrays how Manikarnika, a spirited girl from Varanasi, became Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi and the predicaments she had to face when the kingdom of Jhansi was annexed by the British on the ground that the Maharaja of Jhansi did not have a son to inherit the throne. The language of power expresses how ideas are conveyed and used to speak or command as the situation demands.

Session VIII on *Sociolinguistics and Language Technology* was chaired by Prof. S. Rajendran. Five papers were presented in this session. Dr. Mahanand Madki presented his paper titled *Karnataka Border Language Issues*. The neighbouring states of Karnataka – Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and it is inevitable to think of the language and state boundaries and how the neighbouring states have influenced Kannada language.

[To be continued]

R.R. Thampuran

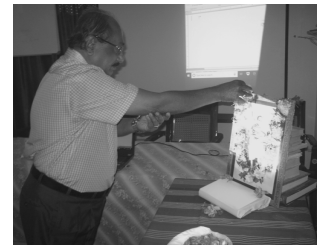
INTENSIVE COURSE IN MALAYALAM FOR NON-MALAYALEES

International School of Dravidian Linguistics has organized an intensive course in Malayalam for non-Malayalam speakers. The course intends to provide the skills of reading and writing Malayalam to people who are interested to learn Malayalam such as central government employees from other states of India, research scholars and scholars from different fields. The duration of the course is 21 days. The course was formally inaugurated at the ISDL City Office Complex by the Hon. Director, Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan on 16th September 2019. Dr. N. Gopinathan Nair, Dr. Vijayakumari and a host of scholars were present at the inaugural function.

N. Muraleedharan Nair

ISWARCHANDRA VIDYASAGAR BIRTH CENTENARY

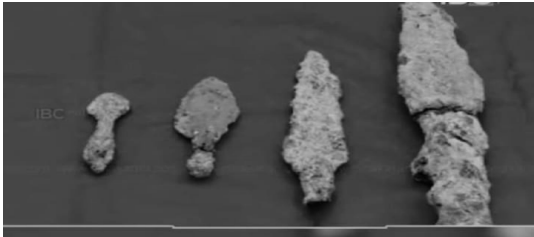
ISDL celebrated the 200th birth centenary of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar on 26th September 2019 at Rabindra Bhavan, ISDL, Menamkulam. On this auspicious occasion, scholarly lectures and a documentary show were organized by the Bengali academic group working at ISDL. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Hon. Director of ISDL inaugurated the function. He gave a brief introduction to the life, work and achievements of Vidyasagar. Prof. M. Rama, former Director of ISDL spoke briefly on Vidyasagar. Dhrubajyoti Das, Research Officer, Bengali Unit shifted his focus more to Vidyasagar as a social reformer. Thirumala Biswas, Research Fellow in the Bengali Unit spoke about the life of 19th-century Bengali women and Vidyasagar's contribution in women empowerment. Arup Pandit and Stalin Sardar, Junior Research Fellows working in the Bengali Unit highlighted the literary works of Vidyasagar and his contribution in the field of education. Dr. Abdul Samed, Senior Fellow spoke on the various socio-political aspects of 19th-century Bengal that were influenced by Vidyasagar. The function ended with a documentary that portrayed Vidyasagar not only as a cause of social reform but also as a true intellectual spirit. The function was attended by the academic and administrative staff of ISDL. The programme was compered by Akash Bhagat, Junior Research Fellow in the Bengali Unit of ISDL.



Dhrubajyoti Das

KEELADI FINDINGS: TRACEABLE TO 6TH CENTURY BCE: REPORT

In a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age, the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.



This is the first time the date has been officially announced by the TNAD. The new findings in the report released on Thursday by Minister for Tamil Culture and Archaeology K. Pandiarajan here placed the Keeladi artefacts about 300 years earlier than previously believed – 3rd century BCE.



One of the six samples collected at the depth of 353 cm. and sent for carbon dating test in U.S. “goes back to 580 BCE”, Commissioner for Archaeology T. Udayachandran said.



The report titled *Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam on the Banks of River Vaigai* was published by the TNAD. The results from the fourth excavations suggested that the “second urbanization [the first being Indus] of the Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in the Gangetic plains.”

The report also spelt the site as Keeladi as against the erstwhile widely used Keezhadi. The recent scientific dates obtained for the Keeladi findings pushed back the date of the Tamil-Brahmi script to another century i.e., 6th century BCE. “These results clearly ascertained that they attained literacy or learned the art of writing as early as 6th century BCE”, the report stated. It said no object of worship was found at the site.

Six carbon samples collected from the fourth season (2018) of excavations at Keeladi were sent to Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S. for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating.

After analyzing the AMS dates obtained, noted archaeologist Prof. K. Rajan felt the recent excavations at Keeladi presented strong evidence for some of the hitherto held hypotheses.

The samples of skeletal fragments were sent to Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute in Pune, and it identified them of species such as cow/ox (*Bos indicus*), buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), sheep (*Ovis aries*), goat (*Capra hircus*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and peacock (*Pavo cristatus*).

“This finding suggests that the society in Keeladi had used animals predominantly for agricultural purposes”, Mr. Udayachandran said.

Fifty-six Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds were recovered from the site of excavation conducted by the TNAD alone, the report stated.



Price Rs. 5/-

RNI 29572

DLA News Vol. 43 October 2019

Date of Publication 15.10.2019

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Weaving Industry

Pottery specimens from Keeladi sent to the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy through Vellore Institute of Technology for mineral analysis confirmed that water containers and cooking vessels were shaped out of locally available raw materials.

“Recovery of 10 spindle whorls, 20 sharply pinpointed bone tip tools used for design creations, hanging stones of the yarn, terracotta spheres, copper needle and earthen vessels to hold liquid clearly attest to the various stages of weaving industry from spinning, yarning, looming and weaving and later for dyeing”, the report added.

While three excavations were undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India, the fourth excavation was undertaken by the TNAD. The fifth excavation by the latter is under way.

[**Courtesy:** To *The Hindu* dated 20.9.2019 for the matter and to Dr. Vijaya Rajeswari, Tamil University, Thanjavur for the photographs]

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN TAMIL LANGUAGE FOR NON-TAMILS

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics conducts a Certificate Course in Tamil language (Evening course) for Non-Tamils from 16th October to 13th November 2019 at Manonmaniam Sundaranar Malikai, Kunnumpuram, near Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram. Students, teachers and people from general public can attend the course. Interested persons may please contact the Chief Coordinator of the proposed course Mr. D. Mano (Mob.: 8547315714). For details, visit website www.ijdl.org. Office No. 0471-2704953.

LIST OF DLA LIFE-MEMBERS

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

Name and Address	Amount	Date of Joining
109. Dr. Baldevaraj Gupta A-20, New Campus, University of Jammu Jammu Tawi – 180004	₹ 200	9-8-1974
110. Ms. D. Sanyaktha Koshal Central Institute of Hindi Sri Aurobindo Ashram, New Delhi – 16	₹ 200	13-8-1974

[To be continued]

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN SEPTEMBER 2019

04.09.2019

Sociohistorical Context of Mother Goddess Worship in Kerala and Bengal **T. Madhava Menon IAS**

18.09.2019

Recognition of Malayalam as a Classical Language – Expert Committee Report: Chapter 1

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

25.09.2019

Recognition of Malayalam as a Classical Language – Expert Committee Report: Chapter 1 (Continuation)

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA

(September 2019)

1. **Mr. U.N. Jayaprakash Maiya**

(Membership No. 1376/2019)

#12, ‘Vikramasadana’, 1st A Main Road, 2nd Cross, Shivanagar, Bengaluru – 560 010, Karnataka

2. **Dr. Pramod Kumar**

(Membership No. 1377/2019)

Asst. Professor, Department of Linguistics & CSTLS, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Anuppur District – 484 887, Madhya Pradesh

3. **Dr. Mahesh M.**

(Membership No. 1378/2019)

IPDF, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Madras, Chennai – 600 036, Tamil Nadu