

DLA NEWS

**V.I. SUBRAMONIAM
COMMEMORATION VOLUMES**
Vol. I: Studies on Dravidian - Crown ¼,
 pp. xx + 515, Rs. 1,280/- (US\$ 110/-)
*Vol. II: Studies on Indian Languages
 and Cultures* – Crown ¼, pp. xx + 458,
 Rs. 1,150/- (US\$ 105/-)

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

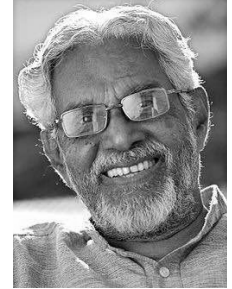
Vol. 44 Nos. 4, 5

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APRIL, MAY 2020

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

DLA AND ISDL LOSE ONE OF THEIR FOUNDING MEMBERS THROUGH THE PASSING AWAY OF PROF. PUTHUSSERY RAMACHANDRAN



Prof. Puthussery Ramachandran (92), one of the founding members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India (DLA) passed away on 14th March 2020. He rendered his active support to his beloved teacher Prof. V.I. Subramoniam not only in the establishment of DLA but also closely associated in the foundation of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics. From the very commencement of the DLA (1971), he was part and parcel of every activity of DLA and ISDL till his last breath. Prof. Puthussery Ramachandran was one of the organizing Secretaries of the First All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists, Thiruvananthapuram held under the auspices of the University of Kerala in 1971 which

48TH AICDL POSTPONED

In view of the health concerns arising out of the pandemic COVID 19, it is decided to postpone the 48th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists scheduled to be held from 22nd to 24th June 2020 at Punjabi University, Patiala. The new date will be announced later. We apologize for the inconvenience caused to the intended participants.

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan
Hon. Director, ISDL

happened to be the root cause for the origin of DLA. Similarly, from the very inception of ISDL in 1977, he served the ISDL as a member of the Governing Council. So also, he was one of the members of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics. His services to the DLA, ISDL and IJDL helped these institutions to a great extent in achieving such a miraculous growth as what we see them today.

Prof. Puthussery was not only an eminent scholar in Malayalam language and literature but was also a

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renowned poet, researcher, folkloristics expert and social reformer. He was a recipient of several prestigious awards including those from the State and Central Sahitya Akademis and various other literary and research organizations. He was also respected as an efficient administrator and organizer. As a member of the Syndicate of the University of Kerala, it was he who organized the first World Malayalam Conference in Thiruvananthapuram. So also his efforts in getting documented the relevant documents to incorporate in the factual report submitted to the Government of India helped in getting classical status to Malayalam language.

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.

G.K. Panikkar

**PROF. PUTHUSSERY RAMACHANDRAN
A REAL FRIEND OF DLA AND ISDL**

Puthussery Ramachandran (1928-2020) was attracted to the field of Linguistics through the Summer School in Linguistics organized by the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala in 1965. He did research on the language of *Kaṇṇaśśa Rāmāyaṇa*, a 15th century classic in Malayalam under the supervision of Dr. V.I. Subramoniam. Before he entered into the University service as Lecturer in the

Department of Malayalam, University of Kerala (1969), he worked as Professor and Head of the Department of Malayalam in Sree Narayana College, Sivagiri, Varkala (1967-'69).

Puthussery Ramachandran started his school life as a student of Sanskrit and passed Sāstri examination and continued his studies in English schools at Kattanam and Bharanikavu in Mavelikkara Taluq. He completed his intermediate course at Sree Narayana College, Kollam and took B.A. (Hon.) degree from the University College, Thiruvananthapuram. At the age of 15, he published his first collection of poems in Malayalam. In politics, he was an active follower of the Communist Party of India and worked as Local Secretary of that party when he was a post-matriculate student (1951-'53). As a poet, critic, researcher and organizer, Puthussery stamped his footprints in the history of Malayalam language and literature.

Puthussery Ramachandran played an important role in the formation of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India (1971). His political influence and his organizing capacity along with the academic support from the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala made the first All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists a great success. Puthussery's role in the

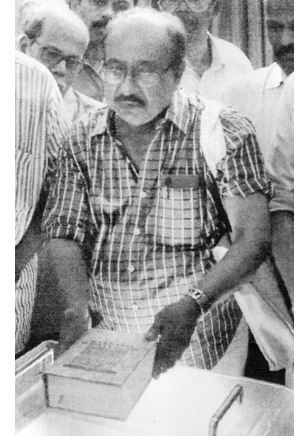
Latest Publications: COLLECTED PAPERS ON TAMIL, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. x + 374, Rs. 400/- (US\$ 40/-). TRIBUTES OF LOVE AND AFFECTION: REMINISCENCES OF PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, T.P. Sankarankutty Nair & C.S. Hariharan (Eds.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 212, Rs. 300/- (US\$ 30/-). THE RIDDLE THAT IS TAMIL, R. Kothandaraman (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. iiv + 480, Rs. 750/- (US\$ 75/-). 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/-).

establishment of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics at Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram is also noteworthy. Timely academic advice of Dr. V.I. Subramoniam empowered Puthussery Ramachandran to take up the challenge of conducting the first Malayalam World Conference at Thiruvananthapuram in 1977. Right from the time of his association with Dr. V.I. Subramoniam as a research scholar, Puthussery was closely associated with the DLA and ISDL. He was elected as the President of DLA at the 34th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists.

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics under the academic leadership of Prof. Puthussery Ramachandran prepared and submitted the report for getting classical status for Malayalam and on 23rd May 2013 the Government of India accorded the classical status to Malayalam language.

While he was in the hospital for medical treatment in 2019, he handed over the *Index of Kaṇṇaśśa Rāmāyaṇam* to ISDL with a request to publish it before his death. Immediately ISDL sent it to the press with a strong instruction to print it as early as possible. The health of Puthussery Ramachandran deteriorated towards the end of February 2020. When I with Prof. G.K. Panikkar visited him at the hospital, he was not in a position to recognize us. Soon we together went to the press and observed the progress in printing. However, ISDL managed to get a printed copy of the Index at 2.30 p.m. on 14th March 2020 and decided to release the book on 15th March 2020. But beyond our expectations, Dr. Puthussery Ramachandran left

this world at 4.05 p.m. on 14th March 2020. With heartfelt apologies, I placed a copy of the *Index of Kaṇṇaśśa Rāmāyaṇam* on the feet of our departed leader and well-wisher Dr. Puthussery Ramachandran.



His body was cremated on 15th March 2020 with state honours. No public function was held due to COVID 19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. Available C.D. members and scholars from ISDL and well-wishers of DLA and ISDL paid homage to the departed scholar before his body was taken to the cemetery.

As a life-member of the DLA, C.D. member, Governing Council member, Professor of ISDL, Executive Member of DLA, Secretary and President of DLA, Puthussery Ramachandran stood with DLA and ISDL until his last breath. May his soul rest in peace.

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

DLA NEWS

APRIL & MAY 2020 ISSUES COMBINED

We could not bring out the DLA News for the month of April 2020 due to the lockdown imposed in our country to resist the spreading of COVID 19. Hence the April and May 2020 issues of DLA News (Vol. 44, Nos. 4 & 5) are combined together in this publication.

Ed.

A PROFILE OF LATE PROF. PUTHUSSERY RAMACHANDRAN		Positions Held
Born	23 September 1928	Member Board of Studies, Oriental Studies (Oriental Faculty)
Birth Place	Vallikunnam in Mavelikkara Taluq	Academic Council (Kerala University & Madurai Kamaraj University)
Parents	Father - Pökkāṭṭu Damodaran Pillai Mother - Puthuśšēril Janakiyamma	Kerala Sahitya Akademi (University Representative 1970-'80)
School Education		Chairman Board of Studies (Oriental Faculty)
Primary	Manakadu L.P.S., Vallikunnam Government School, Vattakkad	Dean Oriental Faculty (Kerala University)
Sanskrit Sastri course	S.N.D.P. Sanskrit High School, Vallikunnam Passed Sastri Exam in 1946.	Member Advisory Committee to Cultural Publications, Government of Kerala Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham (SPCS – Kottayam) Director Board (1983-'88)
High School	Pop Pious Eleventh English High School, Bharanikkavu, Mavelikkara Taluq	Organizing Secretary First All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists (1971)
E.S.L.C.	1949	General Secretary First Malayalam World Conference (1977)
Intermediate Course	S.N. College, Kollam (1949-'51)	Executive Member Linguistic Society of India (Pune), Place Name Society of India (Mysore), Epigraphic Society (Mysore), DLA
Malayalam (B.A. Hon.)	University College, Thiruvananthapuram (1956) First Class, First Rank	Director Asian African Latin American Studies
Lecturer (Malayalam)	S.N. College, Kollam (1957 January)	Chairman Prof. N. Krishna Pillai Foundation
Professor & Head of the Oriental Faculty	S.N. College, Sivagiri (1967-'69)	President Place Name Society, Thiruvananthapuram
Lecturer (Malayalam)	Department of Malayalam, University of Kerala (1969)	Chairman Kaṇṇaśśa Chair, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
U.G.C. Fellowship	1970	Visiting Professor Leningrad University, Moscow Texas University, USA
Ph.D. Topic	1971 <i>Descriptive Grammar of Kaṇṇaśśa Rāmāyaṇam</i>	Countries visited Soviet Union (1979), USA (1983-'85), England (1983, '85, '86), West Germany (1985, '86), France (1986), Netherlands (1986)
Professor of Malayalam	1978	Publications Collection of Poems (11 books)
Director (Hon.)	International Centre for Kerala Studies	1. <i>Svātantriasamarakavitakal</i> (1948)
Senate Member	Kerala University (1969-1984) [16 years]	2. <i>Grāmīṇagāyakan</i> (1948)
Syndicate Member	Kerala University (4 years)	3. <i>Āvunnatra Uccattil</i> (1954)
Retirement	1978	4. <i>Putiya Kollanum Putiyoru Ālayum</i> (1960)
		5. <i>Śaktipūja</i> (1965)

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/-).

6. *Akalumtōrum* (1970)
7. *Agnayē Svāha* (1986)
8. *Utsavabali* (1998)
9. *Īvṛṭṭil ārum illē* (2003)
10. *Putuśśērikkavitaḱaḷ* (2008)
11. *Putuśśēri Rāmachandranre Kavitaḱaḷ* (2008)
12. Translations from Greek, African, Russian, Tamil Languages (5 books)
13. *Kaṇṇaśśa Rāmāyaṇa – Interpretation*
14. *Bhāṣabhaḱavat Gīta – Interpretation*
15. *Prācīna Malayāḷam – Interpretation of 75 Malayalam Inscriptions*
16. *Kēraḷapāṇinīyam – A Study*
17. *Kēraḷapāṇinīya Vimarśam – A Study*
18. *Teraññēṭutta Prabandhanāḷ*
19. *Īmaññil ivarōṭoppam* (Memoirs)
20. *Kēraḷa Caritrattinre Aṭiśtāna Rēkhakaḷ* (Interpretations of Inscriptions related to Kerala History)
21. *Perspectives in Placename Studies* (Ed.) (1987)
22. *Studies in Dravidian Place Names* (Ed.) (1993)
23. *F.W. Ellis on Malayalam* (Ed.) (2000)
24. *Tiḷacca Maññil Kālnaṭayāyi* (Autobiography)

Awards – More than 40 awards including *Bhasha Sammān* (Government of India) & *Eḷuttaccan Puraskaram* (Government of Kerala)

Family	Wife	Late B. Rajamma
	Daughter	Dr. Geetha Puthussery
	Sons	Unnikrishnan, Hemachandran, Premachandran, Jayachandran, Syamachandran
	Son-in-law	Dr. K.S. Ravikumar Pro Vice Chancellor Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady

Dr. Puthussery Ramachandran died on 14th March 2020.

DLA NEWS Desk

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON MALAYALAM LANGUAGE PLANNING: IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS

The Department of Linguistics, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, in collaboration with the Kerala Bhasha Institute conducted a three-day National seminar on *Malayalam Language Planning: In Contemporary Contexts* from 3rd to 5th March 2020 in Aksharam campus, Tirur. Prof. M. Sreenathan, Dean of the faculty of Linguistics chaired the inaugural session and Dr. Smitha K. Nair, convener of the seminar welcomed the gathering. Prof. V. Karthikeyan Nair, Director, Kerala Bhasha Institute inaugurated the seminar and delivered the keynote address. In the keynote speech, he emphasized the relevance of language planning in contemporary language contexts and mentioned the need to change the attitude of Malayalees towards the Malayalam language. The reputed Malayalam writer Sri. K.P. Ramanunni in his felicitation address discussed the need for making a language policy in the current scenario.

There were different sessions in the seminar which emphasized discussions on Malayalam in knowledge texts, Malayalam as administrative language, Malayalam in the educational policy of Kerala, translation policy, language technology, minority languages of Kerala, the need for policy-making and various contemporary language issues. Totally 27 papers were presented in this three-day National Seminar.

The valedictory function on 5th March 2020 started at 2 p.m. Dr. P. Pavithran delivered the valedictory address. Dr. C. Saidalavi chaired the session. There was a panel discussion on the contemporary contexts of language planning. Dr. M. Santosh welcomed the gathering and Smt. Sharanya proposed the vote of thanks. The active participation of scholars, researchers and students in the discussions contributed much to the great success of this seminar.

Smitha K. Nair



Price Rs. 5/-

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CONDOLENCE MEETING

A meeting of the members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and the International School of Dravidian Linguistics was held at 10.30 a.m. on 16th March 2020 under the chairmanship of Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Hon. Director, ISDL at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Thiruvananthapuram to mourn the sad demise of Prof. Dr. Puthusseri Ramachandran, one of the founder-members and a close acquaintance of the DLA and ISDL. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, a student and a close associate of Puthusseri Ramachandran, emotionally spoke about his good qualities both as an able academician and as an efficient organizer. He remembered the good old days he spent with Puthusseri Ramachandran in the various activities of the ISDL and DLA. On the occasion, the scholars who were students of Puthusseri Ramachandran and those closely associated with him recounted the golden days they spent along with him.

The demise of Prof. Dr. Puthusseri Ramachandran is a great loss both to the ISDL and the DLA. The members expressed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

Abdul Samed

REVIEW

TRIBUTES OF LOVE AND AFFECTION: REMINISCENCES OF PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM. Gopalakrishnan, Naduvattom; Sankarankutty Nair, T.P.; Hariharan, C.S. (Eds.). 2019.

(Continued from the last issue)

M. Rama's write-up is a recollection of his close association with VIS and his personal experiences of working with VIS as a colleague and as a researcher. K. Retnamma recalls her acquaintance with VIS and his contributions in taking forward the study and development

of Dravidian languages and linguistics to greater heights. The focus of C.J. Roy's writing is the rapport he had with VIS. He describes how VIS helped him in furthering his career. In his brief note, V.S. Sharma admires VIS for his contribution to the world of knowledge.

T. Madhava Menon tells the story of his chance meeting with VIS and how they came together after his retirement from service in 1987. Though he was not very enthusiastic to accept the Chief editorship of the *Encyclopaedia of Dravidian Tribes*, he was prompted to take it up because of the enthusiasm and missionary zeal emanated from VIS. He cherishes his association with VIS, the days he spent at ISDL and acknowledges VIS for enabling him to complete the *Handbook of Kerala* and the translation of *PuRanaanuuRu*.

[To be continued]

P.T. Abraham

NEW PUBLICATION OF ISDL

INDEX OF KAṆṆAŚŚA RĀMĀYAṆAM

Puthussery Ramachandran, 2020, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. x + 374. Rs. 1930/- (US\$ 193/-).

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN MARCH 2020

11.3.2020: *Recognition of Malayalam as a Classical Language – Experts' Report* – Chapter 2 (Continued)

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

18.3.2020: *Important Mathilakam Records – A Study*

Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (March 2020)

1. **Dr. R. Tamilselvan** (*Membership No. 1393/2020*)
Asst. Professor of Tamil, Department of Modern Indian Languages,
Faculty of Arts, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh – 202 002, Uttar Pradesh

2. **Mr. Rafsal Babu C.V.** (*Membership No. 1394/2020*)
Asst. Professor of Malayalam, Department of Modern Indian Languages,
Faculty of Arts, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh – 202 002, Uttar Pradesh

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