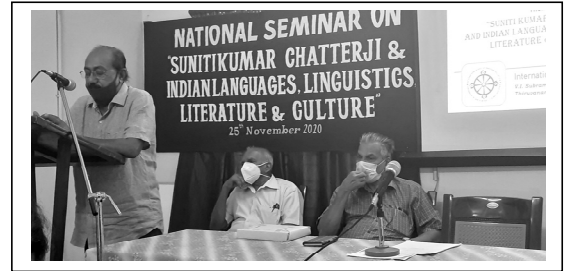


## NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SUNITI KUMAR CHATTERJI & INDIAN LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE AND CULTURE 25-11-2020



The International School of Dravidian Linguistics organized a national seminar on *Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Indian Languages, Linguistics, Literature & Culture* on the occasion of his 130<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary on 25 November 2020 at the seminar hall, Rabindra Bhavan, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram. This seminar was originally scheduled to be conducted on 26 November, the date of birth of S.K. Chatterji but preponed to 25<sup>th</sup> due to the All India Strike. The inaugural function of the seminar began at 10.15 a.m. with an invocation in Sanskrit to the Almighty by Dr. Varija N. (Senior Research Fellow, ISDL). In his welcome speech, Mr. Dhruvajyoti Das (Research Officer cum Academic Coordinator, Bengali Unit), explained the functioning of the Bengali Unit and of the Suniti Kumar Chatterji Chair at ISDL. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Hon. Director, ISDL) presided over the function. He narrated the intimate relationship of the great Bengali scholars with the International School of Dravidian Linguistics like Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji, Prof. Sukumar Sen, Prof. S. Bhattacharya, Prof. Subhadra Kumar Sen, Prof. Pabitra Sarkar, Prof. Mahidas Bhattacharya and Dr. Sanghamitra Saha. Prof. Gopalakrishnan also gave a brief note on the progress and development of the Bengali Unit of the ISDL and on the research works published from this unit. Prof. G.K. Panikkar (one of the founding members of DLA and the former Director, ISDL) delivered the Presidential address. He shared to the participants fascinating as well as stimulating memories with Suniti Kumar Chatterji as one of his students in the Summer School of Linguistics at Sagar University, 1961 and later as the Organizing Secretary of the first All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists at Thiruvananthapuram in 1971. Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji commanded the respect of both linguists and literary men not only of India but also of Europe, America, Russia, China, Japan and many other countries. It was due to his academic brilliance and intellectual acumen.

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Prof. Panikkar also presented a gist of Chatterji's contributions to the academic field and also his intense efforts for the development of the languages of India. Prof. V. Karthikeyan Nair (Director, The State Institute of Languages, Government of Kerala) inaugurated the seminar. In his inaugural speech, he emphasized the significance of strength in unity. He shared the history of the epoch-making event, the national-day celebration for mother tongue in 1952 by Dhaka University students. He appreciated the thought of 'undivided Bengal' in literature, art and culture.

Prof. Nair strongly argued that, 'culture is embedded in language'. For him, all knowledge is kept in language. He highlighted the power of language as a tool to enslave and liberate people. The beauty of language is expressed through literature and analyzed by linguists. The significance of the works of Suniti Kumar Chatterji is definitely 'immortal'. Dr. S. Abdul Samed (Treasurer, ISDL) proposed the vote of thanks.

The seminar was enriched by the participants and presentations of papers from eminent scholars. There were ten papers on various aspects of the contributions of Suniti Kumar Chatterji (SKC) in the field of language, literature and linguistics. The first academic session began at 11.45 a.m. Prof. P. Visalakshy presented a paper on *The Influence of Srikr̥ṣṇakarṇāmr̥ta on Bengal Vaiṣṇavism*. She observed the existing bond in cultural and devotional spheres of Bengal and Kerala in the case of Bhakti movement. Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair presented a paper entitled *The Cosmopolitan Nature of Indian Culture and Language as depicted by Prof. S.K. Chatterji*. His paper pointed out a reversed

theory on the existence of Dravidians in India in the early ages. Dr. S. Abdul Samed presented *S.K. Chatterji's Views on Dravidian and Dravidian Languages*. He cited numerous evidences on the antiquity put forward by SKC regarding Dravidian and Dravidian languages. The first session consisted of three papers and concluded at 1.15 p.m.

The second session started at 2 p.m. with an online paper presentation by Dr. Kakali Mukherjee. Her paper titled *Highlights of Bengali Language in the Line of Suniti Kumar Chatterji* explained the intellectual acumen he had, his early days, the contributions he gave to Bengali language, literature and linguistics that changed the identity of Bengal and our nation in front of the whole world. The presentation was followed by another online paper *An Analysis of a Bengali Grammar written by Suniti Kumar Chatterji* presented by Mr. Sourav Chakraborty. He emphasized the perspectives of SKC on Bengali grammar and the significance of the study is still alive. Dr. Varija N. presented a paper on *Analysis of the Concept Dravidian by Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Sediya Krishna Bhatta*. She gave an informative lecture on the concept 'Dravidian'. The paper commented on the views of the derivation of the word 'Dravidian' by Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Sediya Krishna Bhatta.

In the third session, Mr. Stalin Sardar presented a paper on *Suniti Kumar Chatterji: His Life and Works* which gave precise notes on SKC. The next paper was by Mr. Dhruvajyoti Das which pointed out the findings of SKC in his paper *A Reading of 'Bengali Phonetics'* authored by Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji.

**Latest Publications:** COLLECTED PAPERS OF V.I. SUBRAMONIAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2020, HB, Crown 1/4, pp. 6+187, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-). EVOLUTION OF MALAYALAM, Anantaramayyar Chandrasekhar, 2020, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 8+216, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-). THE DRAVIDIAN CULTURE AND ITS DIFFUSION, T.K. Krishna Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 58, Rs. 75/- (US\$ 7.50/-). THE MOTHER GODDESS IN BENGAL AND IN KERALA, T. Madhava Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 463, Rs. 600/- (US\$ 60/-). INDEX OF KAṆṆAŚŚA RĀMĀYAṆAM, Puthuserry Ramachandran, 2020, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1122, Rs. 1930/- (US\$ 193/-).

Mr. Akash Bhagat presented a paper on *A Study of Suniti Kumar Chatterji on First Bengali Grammar*. He attempted to figure out the major findings by SKC in his book. The final paper of this session named *Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji and the History of Bengali Literature* was presented by Mr. Arup Pandit. He gave an outline of Bengali literature since the period of SKC. In the afternoon session, seven papers were presented. Each paper was followed by lively discussions. This one-day seminar concluded with a valedictory session in which Prof. M. Rama (Former Director, ISDL) presided.

Aiswaria G. Shajan

## DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 – COMMENTS

(Continued from the last issue)

5. **Curriculum & Pedagogy:** The Policy envisages a partial summation of institutional education at Grade 10, and diversion to vocational and “any other courses” available. This implies that by that grade, **all** students must have gained the confidence and ability to “stand on their own feet”; and to be less dependent on parental spoon-feeding that they seem to be at present.

As envisaged, the school system will be institutionalized and virtually secluded from stage 1 (age 3-8) onwards. It rightly emphasized change in the curriculum to activity based and experiential modes. However, the intention seems to be to retain it as an “ivory tower”, without reference to or participation with the community of which it (the school) is a component. It is “experiential” only within the confines of its own “academic” requirements; and does not have constant reference to and feedback from the situation in which the community of which it is a part lives and has its being. Even though, for example, the children walk between paddy fields every day to school, the curriculum does not envisage the rousing of the “academic” curiosity of the child in the why and what of agriculture as practiced by his own elders. It does not seek to inculcate in the child the conviction that the features of agriculture as practiced, and as lived, can be the subject of study in the classroom. It does not reveal to the

cognition of the student that his own father, who toils in the mud, may have something to “teach” that is as respectable and meaningful as the stories that his accredited, “B.Ed.”-qualified teacher narrates in the class. The Policy write-up does not indicate that the litmus paper that the student uses in the school laboratory can be used to test some quality of the water that irrigates the fields her father tills, and the produce from which she and her family eats.

**Suggestion:** After the paragraph: “The above-described stages... be required”, add:

*“All institutions and educational grades envisaged in this Policy are part and parcel of the communities whose children attend them, and in whose jurisdiction the institution is located. At each stage in the cognitive development of the children, the link with the life-as-lived and the activities-as-practised by the communities of which they are members will be brought to focus by relating them to the curriculum and the experiential learning modules.*

*The children will be brought up to appreciate and value the knowledge-base of the local farmers and artisans, who will be honoured as preceptors in extra-curricular activities wherever possible. The link between the school and the community is and should remain close. Teachers should be trained to integrate the knowledge base of the local community with the curriculum and pedagogy”.*

[Note: The inclusion of a paragraph as suggested will increase the relevance of the paragraphs that follow, viz., those headed: “Holistic Development of Learners”, “Reduce curriculum content to enhance essential learning and critical thinking”, “Experiential Learning”, & “Empower students through flexibility of course choices”.]

[To be continued]

T. Madhava Menon (IAS Retd.)

Former Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University

## REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON 5Ts - TRANSLATION THEORY, TOOLS, TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS

The three-day international webinar on **5Ts - Translation Theory, Tools, Techniques and Tactics** was conducted by the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India in association with the Department of Translation, Faculty of Languages, University of Sana, Yemen, and the School of Language and Literature, Farook College,

**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/-).

Calicut, Kerala, India. The webinar held on Zoom platform from 23 to 25 November 2020 brought together nearly thousands of like-minded students, researchers and stalwarts in the field of linguistics and translation who hail from different continents across the globe.

“There have been a lot of efforts in translations across the globe which stood the test of time. Translations are inevitable and thus the webinar has great relevance”. Prof. (Dr.) P.P. Ajayakumar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala drove home the crux of the webinar in his inaugural speech. Prof. S.A. Shanavas, Head, Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala presided over the inaugural function. He pointed out how the population differentiated in race, ethnicity, languages etc., and how translations become the unifying force. Dr. S. Prema, Webinar coordinator and Asst. Professor, presented the theme of the webinar by reiterating the importance of translation as human transcendence to overcome the limitations of differences in language. Prof. Abdel Rahman A. Abdarabou, Professor, University of Sana’a, Yemen, Prof. Al Qasem Muhammad Abbas, Rector, University of Sana’a and Dr. K.M. Naseer, Principal, Farook College, Kozhikode, India adorned the positions of Chief Guest, Special Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. In his Keynote address, Prof. Hasan Said Ghazala, Professor of Translation and Stylistics, Umm Al Qura University, Makkah al Mukarramah, Saudi Arabia stroke the right note by distinguishing the two terms theorization and theoreticization and called for purifying practice-based translation theories of baseless and contradictory theoreticized contentions and fallacies. “The intended audience will decide whether the text will function in the intended way”. Prof. Christin Nord, the renowned Translation theorist and practitioner in Germany, pronounced the theoretical underpinnings on translation in her special address. Dr. Sajitha M.A., the webinar coordinator and chairperson, School of Languages and Head, Department of English, Farook College, Calicut, India and translation theorist Dr. Muhammad Al Aqeeli, webinar coordinator and Asst. Professor and Head, Department of Translation, Faculty of Languages, University of Sana’a, Yemen, gave felicitations in the inaugural ceremony. Mr. Eassa Ali Muhammad Ali, Webinar Organizing Secretary and Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, India welcomed the gathering while Dr. Ubaid V.P.C., another Organizing Secretary and Asst. Professor of English, Farook College, India proposed the vote of thanks.

[To be continued]  
S.A. Shanavas

**Review. A LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL STUDY OF MALAYALAM AND TAMIL.** Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan. 2018. Thiruvananthapuram: International School of Dravidian Linguistics. Pp. 183.

(Continued from the last issue)

### Chapter 11: Sanskrit Impact on Malayalam

In Malayalam, the early literary works which have ample use of Tatbhava and Tatsama Sanskrit words date back to 9<sup>th</sup> century C.E. In *Lilātilakam*, *Kēraḷabhāṣa* has two dialects, *Utkṛstabhāṣa* and *Apakṛstabhāṣa*. This classification was made on the basis of the amount of Sanskrit words used. From *Lilātilakam* it is clear that *Kēraḷabhāṣa* was immensely rich in Sanskrit words. The paper further analyses the literary works of pre *Lilātilakam* era and post *Lilātilakam* era to give a vivid view of the influence of Sanskrit on Malayalam. Moreover, the paper provides a list of Tatsama and Tadbhava words and their adaptations in Malayalam with the rules of Tatbhavatisation.

### Chapter 12: Kannada and Tulu elements in Malayalam

The paper states that whenever we consider the evolution of Malayalam from a proto form, we often take into account the influence of Tamil but hardly mention the influences of Kannada and Tulu. Here the paper seeks to trace elements of Kannada and Tulu in Malayalam. There are several phonological and lexical parallelisms existing in all the three languages. For instance, in spoken Malayalam, word initial [i]>[e], [u]>[o]. These changes are quite common, therefore, often ‘ila’ becomes ‘ela’ and ‘vila’ becomes ‘vela’ but in written form, the modern Malayalam retains the Tamil form ‘ila’ and ‘vila’ but it is interesting to note that in Kannada and Tulu they are pronounced as ‘ela’ and ‘vela’ which is similar to that of Malayalam. Lexical, phonological and morphological parallelisms in Kannada, Tulu and Malayalam suggest the intermingling of an immigrant group during the formative period of these languages. As a result, certain linguistic features become common for all the three languages.

### Chapter 13: Maṇipravāḷa in Major Dravidian Languages

The paper describes the journey of Maṇipravāḷa from being a lingua franca to creole and

again from a creole to a literary genre. The basis of Maṇipravāḷa in Malayalam is *Kēraḷabhāṣa* mixed with Sanskrit. The standardized form of Malayalam is used in *Maṇipravāḷa* literature since it was meant for the upper classes such as the Brahmins, Kṣatriyas and Ambalavāsis. The flow of Arya Brahmins from North India to Kerala started even before the 1<sup>st</sup> century C.E. The Brahmins brought with them their languages i.e., Sanskrit and Prakrit. In order to communicate, a ‘miśrabhāṣa’ was developed which is a blending of Sanskrit and Malayalam. Later on, this ‘miśrabhāṣa’ gave rise to a literary style called *Maṇipravāḷa*. Specimens of *Maṇipravāḷa* are available in the works of Tōlan, a court poet of King Kulaśēkhara in the 9<sup>th</sup> century C.E. Again, in *Līlātilakam* (1385), we get some phonological and morphological features of Malayalam along with a detailed description of *Maṇipravāḷa*. There are nine types of *Maṇipravāḷa* in Malayalam. It is only in Malayalam that *Maṇipravāḷa* is developed as a literary genre in both prose and poetry. It is a medium of composing epics, puranas and Mahakavyas. The Kashmiri scholar Abhinavagupta also attested the existence of *Maṇipravāḷa* in Dakshinapatham in his *Abhinava Bharati*. The Jains of Tamiḷakam also encouraged *Maṇipravāḷa* style by using it in their commentaries and hymns. According to *Vīrācōḷiyam*, *Maṇippiravāḷam* is a poetic style formed as a result of the blending of Sanskrit with Tamil. Though there are instances of *Maṇipravāḷa* style in the writings of Tamil, Telugu and Kannada scholars, its usages are not as extensive as seen in Malayalam.

#### Chapter 14: Gātha genre in Malayalam

This paper gives a vivid description of *gātha* genre of Malayalam Literature. Gatha is a Sanskrit word meaning ‘song’. In Malayalam literature, the word Gatha denotes a poetic genre which refers to Krishna Gātha where the Mañjari meter is used for versification. Mañjari is a meter having a couplet as a unit and is not divided into quatrains. Each line of the couplet consists of 4 feet, in which one is tri-syllabic with five *mātrā*-s. All the syllables are usually pronounced as long. The paper also claims that the tunes that are designated as *Gātha* were familiar to the Malayalees even before the composition of Krishna Gātha. Such tunes were heard before in

Tōḷṛam sung for *Kalijyāṭṭam* by Peruvaṇṇān and Perumalayan communities of North Malabar. *Rāmacaritam*, one of the earliest poetic works, is an example of such tune. Moreover, *Gātha* genre had a major role in spreading Bhakti movement in Kerala though some scholars believed that *Gātha* can be regarded as a means to achieve freedom from Sanskrit since the language of Krishna Gātha is free from most of the archaic and relic forms attested in *Rāmacaritam*. *Gātha* lost its grandeur after Krishna Gātha, and one of the major reasons for such decadence is the limited use of Sanskrit words. Furthermore, the style of Mañjari meter was quite inadequate in representing aesthetic sentiments like “vīram”, “raudram” etc.

#### Chapter 15: Hermann Gundert’s Malayalam-English Dictionary

The name Gundert is immortal in the history of Malayalam language through his Malayalam Grammar and Malayalam-English Dictionary. The present paper mainly focuses on Gundert’s method of data collection, salient features and also the limitations of Gundert’s dictionary. Benjamin Baily published his *Malayalam-English Dictionary* in 1846 but there were certain shortcomings which compelled Gundert to publish his dictionary incorporating new ideas emerged in the then lexicography. Not only that Gundert did extensive fieldwork, he collected data from each social group and caste. Another source of his data was the Malayalam works of different periods including *Rāmacaritam*. The salient features of Gundert’s *Malayalam-English Dictionary* as described in this paper are as follows:

- i. Gundert’s *Malayalam-English Dictionary* is the first dictionary in any Indian language that has deviated from the model laid by Sanskrit lexicography.
- ii. Gundert’s *Malayalam-English Dictionary* includes explanations for each and every root, stem derivations, description of head word. Such an attempt is the first of its kind in the history of Indian lexicography.
- iii. The paragraph writing system as proposed by Gundert through his *Malayalam-English Dictionary* stands as a unique feature.
- iv. Gundert’s *Malayalam English Dictionary* also incorporates idioms, dialectal variations, explanations for historical names, loan words etc.

The paper also possesses a detailed description of Malayalam grammar as proposed by Gundert and without the assistance of this grammar one cannot fully decipher the morpho-phonological notes attached to each lexical item of Gundert's *Malayalam-English Dictionary*.

[To be continued]

*Tirumala Pal Biswas*

### VISITORS TO THE ISDL

On 25 November 2020, the following scholars visited the ISDL:

**Prof. Umarani P.**, Deputy Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore; **Prof. Ashok Kumar Ranjere**, Department of Kannada Language Studies, Kannada University, Hampi; **Prof. Ganesan Ambedkar**, Professor, Department of Dravidian & Computational Linguistics, Dravidian University, Kuppam; **Prof. Thiruvalluvar**, Professor, Department of Linguistics, Annamalai University

They visited the *Smritimandapam* of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam. They also went to the Library and Publications Unit of ISDL.



### ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

#### LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN NOVEMBER 2020

04.11.2020: *The Literary and Linguistic Stylistic Patterns used in the Bengali Translations of Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai's novel 'Chemeen'* **Arup Pandit**

11.11.2020: *Variety of Usage of Synthetic Marker Ø (Zero) and the Correspondence in Malayalam* **Dhrubajyoti Das**

18.11.2020: *Language Change and Malayalam with Reference to Mathilakam Records*

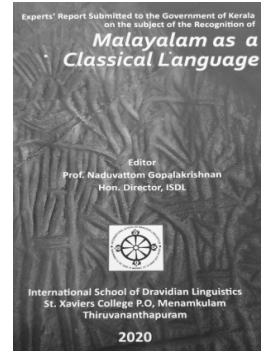
**Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair**

### NEW PUBLICATION OF ISDL

#### MALAYALAM AS A CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

(Experts' Report submitted to the Government of Kerala on the Subject of the Recognition)

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2020, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. xx+616, Rs. 1250/- (US\$ 125/-)



#### NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (November 2020)

- Mr. Sam Robert** (Membership No. 1413/2020)  
C/o Raju, "Roadarikathu Veedu", Utharamcode, Kottoor P.O., Kattakkada, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 574, Kerala
- Prof. Ashok Kumar Ranjere** (Membership No. 1414/2020)  
Professor, Department of Kannada Language Studies, Kannada University, Hampi, Vidyanarya, Hospet Taluk, Bellary District - 58276, Karnataka
- Mr. C.S. Hariharan** (Membership No. 1415/2020)  
"Saishree", 1AC - 315 (First Floor), 3C Main, Opposite CMR Law College, Bhuvanagiri, Bengaluru - 560 043, Karnataka

#### Contribution to PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM ENDOWMENT FUND

25.11.20	Prof. Umarani P.	Rs.	5000.00
<b>TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH</b>		<b>Rs.</b>	<b>4,98,146.00</b>
<b>CURRENT TOTAL</b>		<b>Rs.</b>	<b>5,03,146.00</b>

#### Contribution to DLA NEWS ENDOWMENT FUND

16.11.20	Prof. M. Rama	Rs.	500.00
<b>TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH</b>		<b>Rs.</b>	<b>2,15,932.00</b>
<b>CURRENT TOTAL</b>		<b>Rs.</b>	<b>2,16,432.00</b>