



# DLA NEWS

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Vol. 44 No. 1

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JANUARY 2020

## A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

### 48<sup>th</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS

A meeting is arranged in the ISDL campus at Thiruvananthapuram on **27<sup>th</sup> January 2020** for a detailed discussion regarding the conduct and arrangements of the **48<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists** scheduled to be held at the Department of Linguistics and Punjabi Lexicography, Punjabi University, Patiala in June 2020. Prof. B.S. Khaira, President, Punjabi Linguistics Association and Prof. Suman Preet, Head of the Department of Linguistics and Punjabi Lexicography,

Punjabi University, Patiala will participate in this meeting and will have discussions in this regard with the ISDL Director Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan and the Office Bearers of the DLA.

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### NEW YEAR GREETINGS

*Our Best Wishes for a happy, prosperous and academically glorious New Year to all members, readers, contributors and well-wishers of DLA, ISDL, IJDL and DLA News.*

### ISDL GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Governing Council of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics will be held on **27<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at the ISDL campus, Thiruvananthapuram. The Chairman of the ISDL Prof. H.M. Maheshwaraiah (Vice Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi) will preside over the meeting. Distinguished members like Prof. R.C. Sharma (President, DLA), Prof. B. Ramakrishna Reddy (Former Chairman, ISDL), Prof. B.S. Khaira (President, Punjabi Linguistics Association), Prof. Suman Preet (Head of the Department of Linguistics and Punjabi Lexicography, Punjabi University, Patiala) etc., are expected to attend the ISDL Governing Council meeting.

### NATIONAL SEMINAR AT ISDL

A one-day *National Seminar on Minority Languages – Problems and Prospects* will be held at ISDL, Thiruvananthapuram on **27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. Distinguished scholars from various parts of India will present papers and participate in the academic deliberations.

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

## KERALA SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD TO DR. NADUVATTOM GOPALAKRISHNAN

The Kerala Sahitya Akademi's prestigious I.C. Chacko Endowment Award for Linguistics, Grammar and History of Language for the year 2018 was awarded to **Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan** for his book 'Bhashacaritradharakal' (Streams of the History of Malayalam). This is the second time Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan is selected for Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for outstanding scholarly works. Two months before the declaration of Sahitya Akademi's Award, Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan had got Prof. Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai Memorial Award for his contribution to the study of Malayalam language and literature. Kerala Sahitya Akademi has selected Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan for this award considering his contribution both in the field of Dravidian Linguistics and in the study of History of Malayalam language. Presently Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, former Deputy Director of Collegiate Education, Government of Kerala, holds many prestigious positions like the Director, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Dean, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and Special Officer of the Kerala Government's Commission for Minority Languages. He has contributed a good number of articles and books on Malayalam Language and Literature, Dravidian Linguistics and Cultural studies.

S. Abdul Samed

### NON-FINITE VERBS IN MALAYALAM (Concluding part)

It can also be observed that the pre and the simultaneous adverbial phrases are used in Malayalam. A pre-adverbial phrase shows that the action identified by the main verb with which it occurs, is performed after the completion of the action shown in the pre adverbial phrase (Abraham in press). See the sentence given in the following:

6) *muttassan vaidyane kaNTittu viiTTil etti.*

'Having consulted the physician, grandfather arrived home.'

Here, the pre-adverbial phrase *vaidyane kaNTittu* 'having consulted the physician' shows that the action identified by the main verb *ettuka* 'to reach' is performed after the completion of the action *kaaNuka* 'to consult' in the pre-adverbial phrase.

A simultaneous adverbial phrase shows that both the action identified by the main verb with which it occurs and the action shown in the simultaneous adverbial phrase are performed at the same time. See the following sentence:

7) *tozhilaaLikaL paaTTu paaTikkoNTU kaLa paRiccu.*  
'Workers weeded out the weed singing song.'

Here, the simultaneous adverbial phrase *paaTTu paaTikkoNTU* 'singing song' shows that both the actions *paRikkuka* 'to weed out' (the main verb) and *paaTuka* 'sing' (adverbial phrase) are performed at the same time.

All the facts given above lead to the conclusion that the so-called mid-verbal participles are really not verbal participles and are to be treated as a separate sub-category of verb forms. That sub-category of verbal forms can rightly be called the non-finite verbs in Malayalam.

A non-finite verb in Malayalam is a verb form that does not show tense, aspect or person. It is quite distinct from other grammatical elements like noun, verb and modifier. It is used to refer to the respective verb base and conveys its semantic content. Whenever a verb is referred to, it is done in the form of a non-finite verb.

A non-finite verb is derived by suffixing the affix *-uka* to the verb base. See the examples given below:

8) *aTikk + uka → aTikkuka* 'to beat'

*eTukk + uka → eTukkuka* 'to take'

*kaaN + uka → kaaNuka* 'to see'

**Latest Publications: 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/-). **EFFECTIVITY AND CAUSATIVITY IN TAMIL**, K. Paramasivam, 2019 Reprint, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 6 + 83, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).

*naTakk + uka* → *naTakkuka* 'to walk'

*pook + uka* → *pookuka* 'to go'

*aak + uka* → *aakuka* 'to become'

*coodikk + uka* → *coodikkuka* 'to ask'

*ceyy + uka* → *ceyyuka* 'to do'

Instances of the use of the shortened form of non-finite verb are found in the language. The shortened form is derived by the phonological process of reduction as exemplified below:

9) *vaazhuka* → *vaazhka* 'to live'

*peyyuka* → *peyka* 'to rain'

*aRiyuka* → *aRika* 'to know'

*pookuka* → *pooka* 'to go'

*paRayuka* → *paRaka* 'to say'

As mentioned earlier, non-finite verbs are used to refer to a verb. Lexicographers use non-finite verbs as entries for verb in a dictionary. Similarly grammarians also use non-finite verbs to refer to verbs in grammatical descriptions. Vice versa, verb bases in Malayalam can uniformly be derived by separating the non-finite marker from the non-finite verb forms. This process of identifying the verb bases will help in removing the aberration in identifying the verb bases noticed in some of the grammatical descriptions. In case of any difficulty in this regard, dictionaries can be referred to as entries of verbs are in non-finite verb form in all the standard dictionaries. Selection of the affixes including the correct past tense markers (out of the many past tense markers) are mostly done on the basis of the word final phoneme of a verb. Hence identification of the verb base has much significance in a Malayalam grammar (see Abraham: 2014).

A non-finite verb can either be used as a subject or as predict in equational sentences. See the sentences given below:

10) (i) *avaL naRttaki aaNU*. 'She is a dancer.'

(ii) *avaL paaTuka aaNU*. 'She is singing.'

(iii) *ayaaL pukavalikkuka aaNU*. 'He is smoking.'

(iv) *pukavalikkuka aaroogyattinU haanikaram aaNU*.  
'Smoking is injurious to health.'

(v) *pukavali aaroogyattinU haanikaram aaNU*.  
'Smoking is injurious to health.'

In the above examples, the structures *naRttaki aaNU* and *paaTuka aaNU* have similarity in their syntactic structure. The non-finite verb *paaTuka* 'singing'

(10-ii) functions like the noun *naRttaki* 'dancer' (10-i) in the predicate position of equational sentences. Again, the non-finite verb *pukavalikkuka* 'smoking' is used like the noun *pukavali* 'smoking' in the subject position of equational sentence. Hence it becomes clear that a non-finite verb functions like a noun in certain syntactic structures like those given above.

A non-finite verb can also be used to add emphasis to the main verb in a sentence as exemplified in the following example:

11) i. *naaLe avaR pradhiSeedhajaatha naTattum*.

'Tomorrow they will conduct protest march.'

ii. *naaLe avaR pradhiSeedhajaatha naTattuka tanne ceyyum*.

'It is certain that they will conduct protest march tomorrow.'

In the above sentence, the main verb *naTattum* 'will conduct' has been transformed into *naTattuka tanne ceyyum* to add emphasis to the action *naTattuka* 'conduct'. So, non-finite verbs are used in emphatic constructions as well.

The negatives of future tense verbs are formed by adding *illa* to the non-finite verb forms as shown in the following constructions.

12) *paThikkuka illa* 'will not learn'

*paRayuka illa* 'will not tell'

*paThikkilla* 'will not learn'

*paRayilla* 'will not tell'

In the above examples, the negative form *illa* is added to the non-finite verbs like *paThikkuka* 'to learn', *paRayuka* 'to tell' etc., to form negative future tense forms. When *illa* is added to the reduced non-finite verbs, negative forms like *paThikkilla* 'will not learn', *paRayilla* 'will not tell' etc., are formed.

The use of non-finite verb is found in the formation of conjunctions. Simple sentences that have an identical subject, but differ in predicates can be transformed into conjunctive structures as exemplified below:

13) i. *avaR vaLLam kaLi kaNTu*.

'They watched boat race.'

ii. *avaR vaLLattil kayaRi*.

'They got into the boat.'

iii. *avaR vaLLattil kayaRukayum vaLLamkaLi kaaNukayum ceytu*.

'They got into the boat and watched the boat race.'

The above sentence (13-iii) is formed by combining two simple sentences (13-i & 13-ii) that have the identical subject *avaR* 'they'. In the syntactic process, the main verb is changed to a non-finite verb and conjunctive marker *-um* is added to each of them to derive the conjunctive sentence (13-iii).

Non-finite verbs are also used as predicates in affirmative and exhortative sentences. See the following structures that are statements.

14) i. *katirinmeel vaLam vaykkuka*.

ii. *kuLam kalakki paruntinU koTukuka*.

In the above affirmative sentences, non-finite verbs *vaykkuka* 'to place', *koTukuka* 'to give' are used as predicates.

Again, in the following exhortative sentence, non-finite verbs are used as predicates. See the predicates in the following sentences.

15) i. *pookkaRRaTi suukSikkuka*.

'Beware of pickpocket.'

ii. *ella coodyaniiaLkkum uttaram ezhutuka*.

'Answer all questions.'

Here, non-finite verbs *suukSikkuka* 'to be beware', (15-i) *ezhutuka* 'to write' (15-ii) are used as predicates of exhortative sentences.

From the above discussion, it becomes clear that verb forms like *paRayuka* 'to tell', *naTakkuka* 'to walk', *pooruka* 'to return' etc., which do not show tense, aspect or person, do not have the characteristics of an adverbial participle. Those verb forms belong to a separate category that can be named as non-finite verbs. Those non-finite verb forms are used to refer to verbs both in lexicography and grammatical description. They are used either as subject or as predicate in equational sentences, to add emphasis to the main verb, to form negatives of future tense verbs, conjunctive sentences and as predicate of affirmative and exhortative sentences.

#### References

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---, 2012, *malayalavyakaranam - chila veendu-vicharangal*, Changanacherry: Association for Comparative Study.

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Mathen, George, 1969 (1863), *malayazhmayude vyakaranam*, Kottayam: National Book Stall.

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P.T. Abraham

## FOSSILS SYMPOSIUM

FOSSILS (Folklore Society of South Indian Languages) is going to complete 30 years of service in the field of academic folklore. Now the world has changed a lot and so also the attitude towards folklore. UNESCO has already substituted the term 'Folklore' with 'Cultural heritage'. Hence it is high time to think over on this matter and our areas of preference and also the mode of functioning of the Association if needed. In this context, to rejuvenate the work of the Association to appropriate with the need of the hour, it is decided to conduct a two-day symposium on *The Role of Fossils in the New Perspective of Folklore and Folkloristics* in collaboration with the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India in the DLA campus, Thiruvananthapuram on **28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020**.

The main themes for discussion are:

- Evaluation of the work done so far by FOSSILS
- New perspective of Folklore and Folkloristics
- The role of FOSSILS and the Institute of Indian Folklore in the new perspective of Folklore and Folkloristics

Apart from all the Executive Members of FOSSILS and eminent scholars from the DLA, Prof. B.A. Viveka Rai (Former Vice Chancellor of Kannada University), Prof. H.M. Maheshwaraiah (Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi) and Prof. B. Ramakrishna Reddy (Former Registrar of the Dravidian University) will also be attending the symposium.

Raghavan Payyanad

## Report of the Three-day National Seminar on CURRENT TRENDS IN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE IN INDIA

The School of Indian Languages, University of Kerala organized a three-day national seminar on *Current Trends in Language and Literature in India* from 11-13 December 2019 at the seminar hall, Department of Hindi, O.N.V. Memorial Academic

**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/-). **A HISTORY OF MALAYALAM METRE**, N.V. Krishna Warrior, 2018. HB. Demy 1/8. Pp. 14 + 376. Rs. 870/- (US\$ 87/-). **LEXICON OF TRAVANCORE INSCRIPTIONS**, R. Vasudeva Poduval, 2018. HB. Pp. 10 + 128. Rs. 350/- (US\$ 35/-).

Complex, Karyavattom campus. Dr R. Jayachandran (Dean, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Kerala) presided over the inaugural session. The meeting started with an invocation followed by a welcome note by Dr. S. Kunjamma (Director, School of Indian Languages). Prof. Ajaykumar P.P. (Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala) inaugurated the seminar. In his inaugural speech, he stressed the need for the improvement of linguistic and language-oriented research in the current scenario of Indian academics and the need for translations between Indian languages. Prof. G.K. Panikkar (Former Hon. Director, ISDL) and Dr. S. Nazeeb, Member, Syndicate, University of Kerala felicitated the seminar. This was followed by the keynote speech delivered by Dr. Sarita G. (Department of English, Government Women's College, Thiruvananthapuram). She emphasized that the development of English in India is not as a foreign language, but as one of the regional languages of India. India has a long tradition of English language writing that is often under-appreciated. And, it is also said that a frank, confessional style has been a distinctive feature of Indian literature in English. She explained how the landscape of literature is shifting rapidly in this age of electronic media. She concluded the keynote address by talking about eco-feminism - linking the tragedy of environmental destruction with the destruction of feminine. The seminar was embellished by the presence and presentations of resource persons from different areas of Indian Linguistics. On the first day, Dr. S.P. Sreenivasan (Department of Tamil, University College, Thiruvananthapuram) delivered his talk on *Status of Academic Research in India*. He emphasized the need for an Education approach in regional languages being preferable to English, as the student has fewer problems in the form of an unfamiliar language to get adjusted to. Another resource person, Dr. Curiously Bareh (Department of Linguistics, Central University of Kerala) talked on how Austro-Asiatic languages are autochthonous to South East Asia. He opined that the Mon-Khmer, Munda and Assamese are genetically related. Dr. M. Sreenathan (Professor & Dean, Malayalam University) and Prof. V. Vasudevan (Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit) were the other resource persons who gave informative lectures on different issues in the current Indian academic arena. Forty-five papers were presented in the seminar by

teachers, research scholars and students from different departments. The seminar ended with a valedictory function on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 2.30 p.m. in which Dr. S.A. Shanavas (Head, Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala) presided.

S. Kunjamma

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#### PROJECT 'SEED' TO DOCUMENT DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES – CeLK, UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

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The Centre for Endangered Languages of Kerala (CeLK), Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala has launched a project named *SEED* to document the Malapulaya and Malakurava languages of Kerala. For this, a team of five members was constituted: Dr. S. Arul Dayanand and Dr. Mahesh (Senior Research Fellows), Mr. Sarath V.S. and Mr. Bashid Shamnaj A. (Research Assistants) and Mr. Joji V.T. (Technical Assistant). The primary survey conducted by CeLK found that Malapulaya and Malakurava are on the verge of becoming potentially Endangered Dravidian languages, spoken by tribal communities in the Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam districts of Kerala. The documentation will be completed by two months' field visit by the team and also through the recording of their speech varieties in the Language Elicitation and Documentation Studio of CeLK at the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala. CeLK is functioning with financial support from the UGC and under the direction of an Expert Advisory Committee chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala. CeLK has already completed the documentation of the Malapandaram language and GIS mapping of Endangered Languages of Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts of Kerala and they are available on the website <http://www.endangeredlanguagemapofkerala.in/languagemap.html>.

S. Prema

Co-ordinator, CeLK

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#### ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

##### LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN DECEMBER 2019

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04.12.2019: *Dravidian Culture*

**Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan**

11.12.2019: *Semantic Variations in the Words of Cognitive Languages*

**Dr. N. Varija**

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**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 EŁUTTACCHAN'S ADHYĀTMA RĀMĀYAṆAM**, N.R. Gopinatha Pillai, 2018, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. 20 + 548, Rs. 850/- (US\$ 85/-).



Date of Publication 15.1.2020

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DLA News Vol. 44 January 2020

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## KERALA SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD TO PROF. SCARIA ZACHARIA

**Prof. Scaria Zacharia** has received Kerala Sahitya Akademi award for his overall contributions to Malayalam language. Prof. Scaria Zacharia energized Malayalam knowledge network by adding more than one hundred texts to its canons. His discovery of the rare works of Hermann Gundert and many invaluable texts of Malayalam from the Tübingen University archives in Germany was a groundbreaking moment in the history of Malayalam studies. Digital versions of these manuscripts are now available for scholars across the world. This paved way for many empirical and theoretical developments in literary historiography, textual analysis, comparative literature, translation studies, folklore, and cultural studies. His contributions to the area of Jewish Malayalam studies, particularly through *Karkuzhali* (a bilingual book on Jewish Malayalam folk songs published by the Hebrew University), not only revitalized the fading cultural memories of Kerala, but also showed Kerala as a hyphenated society citing text, practices and narratives in different languages. His pioneering works have earned him many accolades like Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship at the University of Tübingen, DAAD Fellowship at the University of Tübingen and Visiting Research Professor at Hebrew University, Israel. In view of his immense contributions, he was also appointed as the first Hermann Gundert Chair Professor at the University of Tübingen. He has delivered invited public lectures at many leading institutions across the world, including American Library of Congress, Harvard University and Oxford University. He has more than 30 books and 180 articles to his credit. Malayalam University has also recently announced its decision to confer D.Litt. to Prof. Scaria Zacharia.

### NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (December 2019)

1. **Mr. Kunnath Chandrasekharan** (*Membership No. 1382/2019*)  
E-3, Sivaji Sapphire, Jawahar Nagar, Kowdiar, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003, Kerala
2. **Mrs. Tirumala Pal Biswas** (*Membership No. 1383/2019*)  
413/1 Jessore Road, Dum Dum, Mrinalini, Kolkata – 700 028, West Bengal
3. **Mr. Arup Pandit** (*Membership No. 1384/2019*)  
Vill. Gureghar, P.O. Bishnubati, Dist. P. Bardhaman – 713 404, West Bengal
4. **Mr. I. Suthakaran** (*Membership No. 1385/2019*)  
Advocate, No. 31, Lawyers Chamber, High Court Campus, Madurai – 625 023, Tamil Nadu

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

9.12.19	Dr. S. Saravanan	Rs.	1000.00
23.12.19	Prof. A.G. Menon	Rs.	4500.00

**TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH** **Rs. 4,92,646.00**

**CURRENT TOTAL** **Rs. 4,98,146.00**

### Contribution to DLA NEWS ENDOWMENT FUND

3.1.2020	Mrs. Sreekumary T.S.	Rs.	100.00
	Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan	Rs.	100.00

**TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH** **Rs. 2,14,642.00**

**CURRENT TOTAL** **Rs. 2,14,842.00**

Printed and published by Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Dean, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, Thiruvananthapuram. Edited by G.K. Panikkar on behalf of Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. Pageset by Harikumar Basi (ISDL). Printed at Solar Offset Printers Private Limited, Manvila, Thiruvananthapuram. Published at International School of Dravidian Linguistics, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala, India.