



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/-)

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NOVEMBER 2020

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT OF DLA (2019-2020)

(Continued from the last issue)

Fixed Deposits

DLA has 33 fixed deposits for the face value of Rs. 70,11,979/-.

DLA News

DLA News, a monthly newsletter of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, was started in August 1977 and since then it is published quite regularly. *DLA News* reports all academic activities of DLA, ISDL and other institutions concerned with linguistics and allied disciplines. It also deals with recent trends in linguistics and gives the details of seminars, workshops and conferences organized by the DLA, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, other academic institutions and University Departments.

During the year April 2019 to March 2020, 12 editions of the *DLA News* were published disseminating knowledge and information. Announcements of conferences and seminars on linguistics and languages organized in different universities have been given wide publicity through *DLA News*. So also, the abstracts of the proceedings of some important linguistics conferences are also published in *DLA News*. Research articles of scholars in linguistics are also serialized in *DLA News*.

Through its columns, the DLA fraternity expresses condolences to the bereaved family of the departed souls who were eminent linguists or life-members of the DLA.

The *DLA News* is sent through email to all those life-members who have email ID and to many of the institutions in India and abroad. In addition, 600 copies of *DLA News* are printed and posted free to the life-members of DLA (who prefer printed copy) and to the leading administrators and intellectuals in India. *DLA News* is also mailed to scholars and institutions in India and abroad. It can also be downloaded from our website www.ijdl.org. Twelve issues of *DLA News* every year will cover most of the research activities of the linguistics departments of India.

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47th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS

DLA conducted the 47th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists & International Symposium on Language Endangerment at the School of Humanities and Languages, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi from 20 to 22 June 2019 and it was a great success. More than 150 scholars from all over India and abroad participated and presented papers in the conference.

Collaboration and Support to ISDL

The DLA extends full support and collaborates with all academic activities of the ISDL. Since DLA is presently housed in the ISDL campus, the DLA gives all possible support for the works in connection with campus development, maintenance works, campus beautification etc. During 2019-2020, DLA has spent around Rs. 25000/- for this purpose. For the completion of another seven rooms in the Tribal Block, DLA had spent around Rs. 12 lakhs during this financial year.

Administrative & Publication Division
Dravidian Linguistic Association of India

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS

The International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics was started in January 1971 by the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala. The journal was later taken over by the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India for its effective running in 1976.

IJDL is published biannually i.e., in January and in June. Till now, this journal is published in time without having any break. The

first issue of the 49th volume of *IJDL* (January 2020) is already published. Many prestigious institutions including universities in India and abroad are regular subscribers of *IJDL*. In addition to this, some of the accredited booksellers all over the world are the subscribers of our Journal. This financial year (2019-2020) has shown an increase in the total amount received from subscription of *IJDL* including the sale of back volumes of the Journal and the total amount comes to Rs. 70,729/-. It may be noted that the *IJDL* issues are regularly sent free of cost to the life-members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India.

IJDL offers a platform for linguists and scholars in allied disciplines to express their innovative ideas and new findings. The two issues of *IJDL* published in the financial year 2019-2020, as usual, maintained the standards expected for such a prestigious Journal. The contents of *IJDL* Vol. XLVIII No. 2 (June issue) consist of 9 articles, 2 reviews and Index. The contents of Vol. XLIX No. 1 (January issue) consist of 9 articles and 2 reviews. In both issues, the contributors include well-known Professors and young researchers. All articles are selected purely on their merit.

DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 – COMMENTS

(Continued from the last issue)

Suggestion: The existing paragraph may be replaced with:

“It is well-known that many ST communities in India have, over the ages, perfected systems of ECCE consistent with life-as-lived by the

Latest Publications: *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/-). *COLLECTED PAPERS ON TAMIL*, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. x + 374, Rs. 400/- (US\$ 40/-).

community concerned. In some cases, these systems may be reinforced so that education above the levels envisaged by these systems may be seamlessly made available to the children. In other cases, new procedures may have to be developed, complementary to the traditional systems, and incorporating the concepts being developed in this Policy. The ST communities have under enactments like PESA, Forest Rights Act etc., several rights of self-determination that cannot be compromised by bureaucratic decision making. The Central Ministry of ST Affairs will jointly with those of MHRD, Women & Child Development, Health and Family Welfare help the State Governments to devise programs specially tailored to the ST communities in their States, consistent with the culture of the ST community concerned, and with the full informed consent of the community concerned, through their organizations recognized either by tradition or by enactment”.

3. Foundational Literacy & Numeracy: One of the most welcome statements in the Policy is in regard to “Special attention (to be given) to employing local teachers or those with familiarity with local languages”. In States where the recruitment of teachers is through highly centralized agencies and procedures like the State Public Services Commission (e.g. Kerala), the formulae for posting of teachers consistent with rank gained, preference expressed, and community identification often result in the posting of teachers to schools where the dialect which the teacher uses is unintelligible to the students. In ST areas of such States, teacher posts are left unfilled, even though ST recruits from those areas are posted in distant locations.

Suggestion: A paragraph may be added, as follows:

“In several ST areas, teachers’ posts remain unfilled even though qualified ST candidates from those areas are posted elsewhere. Wherever necessary, rules will be changed to ensure that ST teachers are posted in their own

home areas. Non-tribal personnel posted in schools in such areas will be relocated in order to accommodate ST teachers wherever available”.

[Note: Some ST communities in India traditionally adopted a 20-based number system. They have been, over the years, adjusting to the 10-based system, but there may be still pockets where at the hamlet level, the earlier system is still in use. This, and several other local issues may arise in our vast country – this emphasizes the need for a decentralized operational strategy rather than centralized approaches.]

The Policy rightly emphasizes the importance of ensuring sound nutritional standards. This is complicated not merely by availability of the requisite materials, but also by cultural preferences and familial behaviours. Especially in ST areas, children may be exceptionally sensitive to such issues. Biological features like intolerance to milk etc., may also be complicating factors. *Therefore, the provision of breakfast etc., in schools in the ST areas should be carefully planned, with the full-informed participation of the parents and medical experts.*

4. Drop-out: It is well-known that one of the reasons for drop-out is the need to utilize the child’s labour in traditional occupations like certain forms of agriculture. This is not always reprehensible, because such occupation is the future livelihood of the young people, and early exposure to its chores is invaluable – in the perception of the student and his people, even preferable to the attainments promised by the formal educational system.

As a special solution to this problem, particularly in the case of families below the poverty line, school systems have to be devised that will harmonize the school vacations/holidays and the periods for cyclical increase in demand for livelihood occupations of the community.

The Policy emphasizes the need for the re-establishment of the credibility of Government

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/-).

Schools. Kerala has signally achieved increasing the desirability of admission in Government Schools in preference to even prestigious private institutions in the same locality. It is heartening to note that in this context, the Policy states:

“Alternative and innovative education centres will be put in place **in cooperation with civil society** to ensure that the children of migrant labourers, and other children who are dropping out are brought back into mainstream education” (**emphasis** supplied.)

[Note: This **emphasis** has been supplied because it is one of the rare mentions of recognition in the Policy, of collaboration with local communities in devising and management of educational activity!]

Children should LOVE going to school. The responsibility for ensuring that should be primarily with the teachers concerned. The attractiveness of the school will depend largely on its acceptability to an association with the local communities.

Multiple pathways to learning: The Policy, again rightly, emphasises the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDG) and advocates both formal and non-formal education modes. It proposes to expand and strengthen distance education systems for “meeting the learning needs of young people who are not able to attend a physical school”. However, the programs proposed are closely “equivalent” to the levels and grades of the formal school system. Thus, the Policy will lead to a “formalization” of informal systems in order to achieve “equivalence” with school products!

The need for non-formal systems arises from a multiplicity of causes, the most important of which is requirement that the child is a participant of the production processes constituting the livelihood of the community. Here again, the variations of conditions that may be encountered in India are countless. The essence of non-formal systems should be a corresponding variability.

The noted educationist, the late Sri Viswanathan (Padma Sri) of the Mitraniketan,

Vellanad, used to ponder over the conundrum of whether “Education” should be for “Life” or for “Livelihood”. He sought for answers in a combination of the philosophies and methodologies adopted by Rabindranath Tagore at the Viswa Bharathi, “Community Centred Education” developed by Morgan in USA, the liberal value systems enshrined in the Danish Folk School Movement, and “Craft-centred Education” practiced by Mahatma Gandhi in Wardha. He tried to implement these innovations through institutional systems, but found that the emphasis had to shift from “Education for Life” to “Education for Livelihood”, the latter being synonymous with entitlement to employment under Government or other institutional employer as far as Kerala is concerned. The abiding lesson from these experiences is that every system of informal education has to factor in local realities and conditions. Ideally, they have to be individually tailored to meet specific individual requirements. Endless variety, changing combinations, and differing strategies are essential in what is a most dynamic situation.

[To be continued]

T. Madhava Menon (IAS Retd.)

Former Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University

**TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN ESL/EFL SETTING:
STATUS AND PROSPECTS
REPORT**

(Continued from the last issue)

Plenary lectures were delivered by Prof. B. Hariharan, Head, Institute of English, University of Kerala, India, Prof. Anter Abdellah, South Valley University, Egypt, Prof. Ivy Song Jiayang, Xiamen University, China, Prof. Lal C.A., School of Distance Education, University of Kerala, India, Mansi Bajaj, University of Texas, USA on the topics *The Diary an English Teacher did not Keep, A Brief History of ELT in Egypt over the 20th Century, Brief Introduction of English Language Education in China, Continuous Professional Development of ESL Teachers: Need and*

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 BHĀṢĀKAUṬĀLIAM**, 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/-).

Lacks, Teaching a Foreign Language Online respectively. There were nine technical sessions which were brainstormed with the nuances of language learning and teaching, pedagogy, online teaching, assessment. Along with the Yemeni professors and research scholars, many eminent personalities from Egypt, Malaysia, China, USA, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and India participated and presented papers. Stalwarts like Prof. Anter Abdellah, Egypt, Prof. Bindu R.L., India, Dr. Morsal Shaif Mohammad Haidarah, Yemen, Dr. Muhammad Azanee Saad, Malaysia, Prof. Rajendran S., India, Dr. Basim Alamri, Saudi Arabia, Dr. Bekalu Atnafu, Ethiopia, Prof. Dr. S.A. Shanavas, India and Dr. Sajeena Shukkoor, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Kerala, India chaired the technical sessions.

The conference witnessed discussions and deliberations on ELT for Community Engagement, ELT Teachers' dilemma in classrooms in vernacular schools, effects of Audio Visual aids, innovative pedagogical styles, impact of ICT resources on ESL learners, use of folktales in ELT, effect of teachers' feedback, selecting and evaluating podcasts, best practices in online language assessment, usage of digital tools, use of corpus-based instructional mediation, use of inquiry-based writing instruction, role of games in EFL learning, role of linguistics in ELT, English education at higher secondary level in Kerala, India. The conference proceedings were summed up by Dr. Sajeena Shukkoor, India. The two-day conference ended with the release of the book titled *The Relation between Stylistics and Linguistics* by Dr. B. Sreedevi, former Emeritus Professor, University of Kerala. The book was compiled and edited by Prof. S.A. Shanavas and published by the University of Kerala.

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 9: Influence of Tamil literature in Malayalam

The paper tries to portray the influence of Tamil Literature in the evolution of Malayalam as a

distinct, separate and unique language. The earliest available literary work of Tamil-Malayalam school is *Rāmacaritam* which is a *pāṭṭu* style of poetry which stands as a best example of the influence of Tamil Literature in the formative period of Malayalam. Again, in promoting the Devi cult in Kerala, *Cilappatikarām* played a very significant role. As per the Tamil epic, Goddess Kannaki's ascent to Heaven was from Tirucenkunru. Again, *Tolppāvakkūttu*, a puppet show performed as a ritual in the Kali Temple of Palakkad district, has a Tamil origin. Furthermore, the origin of Musical plays in Malayalam is also inspired by the Tamil musical Plays which were widely staged in Kerala in the latter half of 19th century.

Chapter 10: Tolkāppiyam and Līlātilakam

The first book on Malayalam Language is *Līlātilakam* which appeared in the second half of the 14th century. The paper deals with the comments as depicted in *Līlātilakam* regarding the language spoken at that time in Kerala. According to *Līlātilakam* there were only *Cōḷa Bhāṣa* and *Pāṇḍyabhāṣa*, regional dialects of Tamil and it is eventually interesting to note that there is no *Cerabhāṣa* at that time, though geographically Kerala was a part of the ancient Cera Kingdom. Again, the commentators of *Tolkāppiyam* called the language of Malaināṭu (Kerala) as *Malaināṭṭu vaḷakkam* but it had its own phonological and morphological features which are alien to Tamil. Taking into consideration of all these references, *Līlātilakam* proclaimed the language of Kerala as *Kēraḷabhāṣa* which is different from Cola and Pandya Tamil.

[To be continued]

Tirumala Pal Biswas

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON 5Ts "TRANSLATION, THEORY, TOOLS, TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS"

The Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, India in association with the Department of Translation, Faculty of Languages, University of Sana'a, Yemen and the School of Language and Literature, Farook College (Autonomous), Calicut, Kerala, India is organizing a three-day International Webinar on "*Translation, Theory, Tools, Techniques and Tactics*", from 23 to 25 November 2020. For more details, contact Prof. S.A. Shanavas, Head of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, India (sasnavs@gmail.com, +91-9495074811).

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/-). **DRAVIDIAN**, Suniti Kumar Chatterji, 2019 (Reprint), PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. 6 + 84, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).



Price Rs. 5/-

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DR. SOMASEKHARAN NAIR LECTURE HELD IN ISDL

Dr. P. Somasekharan Nair Memorial Lecture was held on 6 November 2020 in the International School of Dravidian Linguistics campus at Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram. Prof. G.K. Panikkar delivered the lecture. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Director, ISDL) welcomed the gathering and Dr. Abdul Samed proposed the vote of thanks.

NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Bengali Unit of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics is organizing a one-day National seminar on *Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Indian Languages, Linguistics, Literature and Culture* on 26 November 2020 in connection with his 130th birth anniversary at Rabindra Bhavan, ISDL campus, Thiruvananthapuram. He is the first President of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India.

EZHUTHACHAN PURASKARAM TO PAUL ZACHARIA

Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the highest literary honour of the Government of Kerala, in the name of Thunchaththu Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, the father of modern Malayalam, has been awarded to Paul Zacharia for his contribution to Malayalam literature.

POET AKKITHAM NO MORE

Malayalam poet and Jnanpith laureate Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri (94) died in Thrissur on 15 October 2020. He was born in 1926 at Kumaranallur in Palakkad. He has authored four dozen works in poetry, stories, plays and essays. His work *Balidarshanam* won the Kerala and Kendra Sahitya Akademi awards in 1972-73. He was

awarded the Padma Shri in 2017. Apart from the Ezhuthachan Award he won in 2008, Akkitham was bestowed with Odakkuzhal Award, Asan Award, Sanjayan Award, Lalithambika Antharjanam Award and several other honours.

Harikumar Basi

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN OCTOBER 2020

- 07.10.2020: *Review of Natural Language Processing*
Renjith Sekhar R.
- 14.10.2020: *Pānar Community in the Sangam Period*
Dr. Vijaya Lekshmi C.S.
- 21.10.2020: *Bengalees in Kerala – “A Sociolinguistic Study”:
Data Analysis on Language Aspects*
Stalin Sardar
- 28.10.2020: *Malayalam-Bengali Dictionary: An Introduction*
Mr. Akash Bhagat

NEW PUBLICATION OF DLA

COLLECTED PAPERS OF V.I. SUBRAMONIAM
Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2020, HB,
Crown 1/4, pp. 6+187, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-)

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (October 2020)

1. **Mr. Praveen Singh** (*Membership No. 1408/2020*)
1/724, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow – 226 022, Uttar Pradesh
2. **Dr. Manish Kumar** (*Membership No. 1409/2020*)
P-304, Shri Radha Vintage, Opp. Shri Radha City, Govardhan Road,
Madhura – 281 004, Uttar Pradesh
3. **Dr. Meena C. Debashish** (*Membership No. 1410/2020*)
E-203, May Flower Grande, Mallapur, Hyderabad – 500 076,
Telangana
4. **Ms. Vijaya Lekshmi C.S.** (*Membership No. 1411/2020*)
“Lekshmi Bhavan”, Kurinchilakode, Kokkothamangalam, Mandela,
P.O. Nedumangad, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 543, Kerala
5. **Mr. Dupukuntla Ramesh Bhushan** (*Membership No. 1412/2020*)
Room 323, 2nd Floor, SPPEL, Central Institute of Indian Languages,
Manasagangotri, Hunsur Road, Mysuru – 570 006

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