



# DLA NEWS

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*Dravidian Syntactic Typology*  
Sanford B. Steever, 2017, PB, Demy 1/8,  
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JUNE 2021

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

## 48<sup>TH</sup> AICDL POSTPONED

With utmost sorrow and anguish, we the members of the DLA and ISDL have received the unexpected shocking news of the passing away of **Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah**, the Chairman of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 3.30 p.m. The ISDL and DLA are very much indebted to him for his invaluable contribution for their academic achievements and progress. We, the members of the DLA and ISDL pay homage to our beloved leader and join with his family and friends in this period of grief and agony.

As a token of respect to our departed Chairman, the members of the Governing Council and the Executive

Committee of DLA have decided to postpone, for the time being, the 48<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists scheduled to be held during 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The revised schedule will be announced later.

*Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan*  
Director, ISDL & Dean, DLA

## PROF. H.M. MAHESWARAIAH'S DEMISE AN IRRECOVERABLE LOSS

We are stunned by hearing the shocking news of the passing away of Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah, the Chairman of ISDL, General Secretary of Folklore Society of South Indian Languages (FOSSILS) and the former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Karnataka. He was born on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1950 in Hithala, Shimoga district of Karnataka. He got B.Sc. from Mysore University in 1971, M.A. in Linguistics in 1974 (First Class, First Rank), Ph.D. in Linguistics in 1979 and later in 1983 he took another M.A. degree in Kannada Language and Literature. Both the M.A. degrees and the Ph.D. were obtained from the Karnatak University, Dharwad. His teaching career began when he joined the Institute of Kannada Studies, Dharwad as Lecturer in 1978. He was promoted as Reader in 1989 and as Professor in 1997. After his superannuation from the Karnatak University, he actively continued in various academic ventures. During his whole academic tenure of forty-three years, he has reached almost every height which an academician can achieve.



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

Prof. Maheswaraiah visited many foreign countries on academic missions including Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Switzerland, Malaysia, Thailand, USA, Singapore etc. He received the Hermann-Gundert-Gesellschaft Assistance to visit Tubingen University, Germany with assistance from Cologne and Fern University of Germany to visit various academic institutions in Europe and to attend the Seminar on Ferdinand Kittel. He received grants to participate in dialogue with India Basel Mission Heritage at Switzerland. He visited England in 1993 and 2003 on the invitation of the Institute of Indian Culture, London. His academic areas of interest were Linguistics, Instrumental Phonetics, Modern Kannada Literature and Folkloristics.

Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah was a man of action. I met him for the first time during the 'International Conference of Dravidian Linguistics' organized by ISDL in 1986 at Thiruvananthapuram under the stewardship of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam, where I was in charge of hospitality. It was a memorable event for the Indian linguists. Even before that, I knew him through his contributions of notes and small essays in *DLA News*.

While serving as Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Karnataka (for about 6 years), he started ten additional Departments including Linguistics and Folklore and encouraged the departments to conduct eleven Master's-Degree programmes in various disciplines. Four language programmes were also started. It shows his commitment in academic activities. The campus of the Central University of Karnataka situated a little far away from the city had acute scarcity of water. He succeeded in recycling of waste water so as to overcome this problem. He has constructed a number of hostels for the students. It is possible



*At the inauguration of FOSSILS office in the Tribal Block of ISDL*

to see a tremendous development of the Central University of Karnataka during his tenure in all spheres including campus development. As Vice-Chancellor, he has exhibited human touch in every activity of the University.

Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah has occupied many prestigious positions in the Karnatak University, Dharwad such as the Head of the Department of Linguistics, Faculty Dean, Chairman of R.C. Hiremath Institute of Kannada Studies, Senior Professor, Member of Syndicate & Academic Senate, Coordinator of UGC SAP for Karnatak University. So also, he was in charge of the Registrar and of the Vice-Chancellor of this University. Besides the positions in Karnatak University, he was entrusted with many responsible duties by many other Universities, Institutions, U.G.C., Government of India and Government of Karnataka. In addition to his being the Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Karnataka, he was entrusted with the charge of Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Kerala for some time. He also served as the Director, Centre for Excellence in Classical Kannada and also as a Senior Professor at C.I.I.L., Mysore.

**Latest Publications:** **BANGLA AND OTHER INDIAN LANGUAGES: LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan & Dhrubajyoti Das (Eds.), 2021, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. viii + 483, Rs. 600/- (US\$ 60/-). **INDIAN STYLISTICS**, Desamangalam Ramakrishnan, 2020, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 8 + 73, Rs. 170/- (US\$ 17/-). **MALAYALAM AS A CLASSICAL LANGUAGE**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2020, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. xx+616, Rs. 1250/- (US\$ 125/-). **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/-).

Prof. Maheswaraiah was also a Visiting Faculty of the Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics, Annamalai University. He was a Governing Council Member of N.C.E.R.T., Member D.S.E.R.T. (Government of Karnataka Textbook Committee), Coordinator – Dialect Survey of Kannada (Government of Karnataka), Member of the Selection Committee for U.G.C. Emeritus Professorship, Chairman – N.A.A.C. for different regions, Advisory Committee Member of the Dravidian University – Kuppam, President – National Award Committee on Classical Languages, Member – U.G.C. SAP Review Committee etc. He was an office-bearer in many professional bodies of which the Secretary of LSI, DLA and FOSSILS are worth mentioning.

Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah was revered by his students as a good teacher and researcher. Under his supervision, 21 people have taken Ph.D. He was an in-depth researcher and erudite scholar and his contributions to Linguistics, Kannada and Folkloristics are substantial. He has published 18 books, more than 120 research papers and has undertaken many major and minor research projects. Among his publications, the four volumes of Dialect Studies brought out by him are of immense value. People’s Linguistics Survey of India, Karnataka Volume for which he was the Editor (Published by Bhasha Research Centre, Vadodara and its English version published by Oriental Black Swan, New Delhi) is also an important contribution in the field of Linguistics. In his research projects “Duration of Vowels and Consonants in Kannada – A Spectrographic Analysis” (1987-88) needs special mentioning.

He was a recipient of many awards and prizes such as Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award, Karnataka State Janapada Award, Yakshagana Award, Global Man Award Singapore etc.

As Member and Secretary of Folklore Society of South Indian Languages (FOSSILS),

Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah was instrumental in organizing multiple activities of FOSSILS like workshop series, directory of South Indian folk performances and performers, publications etc. In a nutshell, he helped a lot in all endeavors of FOSSILS by his active participation and contributions. He as Editor brought an annotated bibliography on Kannada folklore – ‘kannada samkshipta vivaraNatmaka janapada grantha suuci’ and brought ‘janapadadalli saiddhaantika drushTi’, a Kannada version of workshop material prepared by FOSSILS.

Due to his commitment to work, pleasant manners and cordial interaction with fellow members of FOSSILS, he was elected unanimously as General Secretary of FOSSILS in 2012. The Institute for Indian Folklore submitted a project proposal to the Government of India to establish a National Academy for Indian Folklore, an Indian Council for Folklore Research, an exclusive University for Indian Folklore and a Museum of Indian Folklore. He is one among the four who prepared the project proposals.

Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah’s association with DLA commenced as early as in 1973 i.e., from the very third year of its founding. During the Third All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists (1973) held at Karnatak University, Dharwad, Prof. Maheswaraiah, then a student at the Institute of Kannada Studies, was an active volunteer of the Conference and it was due to the efforts of youngsters like him the Third All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists became a glorious event. Since then, he maintained his close association with DLA. So also, he was closely associated with ISDL from its very beginning. He served the DLA and ISDL in various capacities such as Member, Committee of Management – DLA and the Secretary of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. So also, in 1988 he was nominated as a member of the DLA Benchmark Preparation Committee. He

**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/-).



10. **Dr. Panneerselvam & Smt. Thavamani Panneerselvam Award** for the Translation of a Book from Tamil to Kannada or vice versa. The award amount is ₹ 5000/-. The book should have been published within a period of 3 years before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 (for 2020) and before 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (for 2021).

11. **Dr. K.N. Kuppuswamy Award** for a Lecture / Comparative Study of a Grammatical Text of Tamil, Sanskrit, Prakrit or Pali. The award amount is ₹ 3000/-. For Comparative Studies, only those published before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 (for 2020) and before 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (for 2021).

12. **Dr. P.C. Ganeshsundaram Award** of ₹ 2500/- to a Voice Researcher and to a Machine Translator, in alternate years, by evaluating their published articles or books.

13. **Prof. Susheela P. Upadhyaya Award**, of ₹ 5000/-, for a young researcher below 40 years who has produced a good monograph or Ph.D. research thesis or a good article on any branch of Modern Linguistics, within a period of 3 years before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 (for 2020) and before 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (for 2021). Joint authorship will also be considered but in that case, the award amount will be equally shared by the authors.

### CONDOLENCE MEETING

A meeting of available CD members, research fellows and staff of ISDL & DLA was held on 14.6.2021 at 11 a.m. in the CD room of ISDL to condole the untimely demise of Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiyah, Chairman of ISDL. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Hon. Director, ISDL chaired the meeting. He recollected a few memories of his academic relationship with Prof. Maheswaraiyah. Dr. Abdul Samed read the condolence message. A moment's silence was observed to pay respects to the departed soul.

### Review. BANGLA AND OTHER INDIAN LANGUAGES: LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS.

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan & Dhruvabjyoti Das (Eds.)  
ISDL, Thiruvananthapuram, 2021

(Concluding Part)

Arundhati Das through the article *Viśākhadatta's Mudrārākṣasa and some historical Dramas in Bengali Language: A Social and Literary Illumination* establishes how historical plays like *Mudrārākṣasa* written by Viśākhadatta, Sirājddaulā, Mīrkāśim, Chatrapati Sivaji etc.,

by Girishchandra Ghosh and a host of other plays have been created to inspire and ignite the spirit of nationalism and patriotism in Bengali literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In *Mudrārākṣasa*, it was only the competition of two diplomats trying to seize each other with their intelligence whereas they later attempt to motivate the common people in the nationalistic and the political consciousness.

Monamie Mukherjee draws a beautiful pen-picture of Nabneeta Dev Sen and Alice Malsenior Walker, two prolific feminist writers, one born in 1938 in Bengal, India and the other in 1944 as an Afro-American in Georgia, U.S. in the article *Feminism There and Then: A Comparative Study in Poetry of Nabneeta Dev Sen and Alice Malsenior Walker in Contrasting Demography and Society*. The writer evaluates both these writers and has projected the issues of human alienation, the dissociation of thought and feeling, the disasters of modernization and the ironies of daily existence of women in their era through their works.

The article *The Poetics of Representation: Translocating Shakespeare's Macbeth in Bengali and Malayali Cultures* by Alankar Das Dalal is aimed at highlighting the reception of one of Shakespeare's most tragic plays, *Macbeth* in Bengali and Malayali cultures with respect to the Bengali translation of *Macbeth* by Utpal Dutt and its cinematic adaptation in Malayalam, 'Veeram', a film by Jayaraj.

*Numeral Formation in Sinhala, Bengali and Tamil: A Contrastive Study* by Dhamika Jayasinghe arrives at the conclusion that the formation of two-digit numerals in classical Sinhala and Bengali (both of which are Indo-Aryan languages) is similar. However, in modern Sinhala, the said formation is almost similar to Tamil and other Dravidian languages possibly due to their close contact.

In her paper *Comparative Study of Vowel Length in Bengali and Bhalavali Vowels*, Varija N. concludes that Bengali does not have long and short vowels separately whereas Bhalavali, a sister language of the same family, recognizes long and short vowels, which may be due to the latter's close contact with the Dravidian languages such as Kannada and Tulu.

S. Abdul Samed's paper on *Bengali Culture, Language and Literature* is an inquiry into the tradition of Bengali culture, language and literature.

**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 BHĀṢĀKAUṬALĪYAM**, 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/-).



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In the article *Bengali, Dravidian and Keralite Cultures - Similarities*, N. Muraleedharan Nair has tried to bring in the closeness of the cultures of Bengal and Kerala as in borrowing of language, literature, worship, art forms and so on.

T. Jamal Mohammed observes the new path opened to the suppressed and downtrodden people of Kerala by the Kerala visit of Swami Vivekananda and the creation of a sense of vigour and enthusiasm in the activities of the backward classes in Kerala by the visit of Ravindranath Tagore through his paper 'Two Great Bengalees in Kerala'.

Jeena S. Nair has drawn a comparison of vowel phonemes in Malayalam and Bengali through her paper *Comparison between Vowel Phonemes in Malayalam and Bengali* and observes that Malayalam has long and short vowels while Bengali has only short vowels. The presence of less nasal vowels and more diphthongs also marks Bengali vowels as different from those of Malayalam.

*Nasal Consonants in Bangla, Malayalam and Tamil: A Contrastive Study* by Dhrubajyoti Das focuses on the difficulty of Bengali speakers to pronounce some Malayalam and Tamil phonemes and the difficulty of the latter groups to pronounce Bengali phonemes properly. The occurrence of these sounds in different unusual contexts makes it difficult for the South Indian and Bengali speakers respectively.

Stalin Sardar analyses in detail the social and economic development and well-being of the Bengali migrant workers in Kerala in his article *Bengali Migrants in Kerala - the Recent Scenario*.

A cross-cultural study of Malayalam and Bengali metaphor with special reference to the conceptual theory of metaphor is attempted in the paper *A Cross-Cultural*

*Study of Malayalam and the Bangla Metaphor with Special Reference to Conceptual Theory of Metaphor* by Tirumala Pal Biswas.

Akash Bhagat presents a contrastive study of adjectives between Bangla, Hindi and Bhojpuri in terms of function and the uses through his paper *Adjectives - A Contrastive Study Between Bangla, Hindi and Bhojpuri*.

The life of fishermen was the topic of discussion in Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai's novel (Malayalam) 'Chemmeen' and Mainik Bandopadhy's novel (Bengali) 'Padmanadir Majhi'. A comparative study of the fishermen's life in Kerala and Bengal is the topic of study in Arup Pandit's paper *The Life of Fishermen: A Comparative Study with Special Reference to Chemmeen and Padmanadir Majhi*.

Variety is its core. Language is its life. Culture is its pulse. The papers presented in *Bangla and other Indian languages - Linguistic and Cultural Relations* is a mine of themes for the scholars, students and researchers of language and linguistics. In-depth study of the grammatical traditions, deep analysis of the language peculiarities, interesting comparisons and contrast of the cultures and expressions mark this publication by the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram, different from other similar texts. The 21 articles presented in the volume present before us different approaches, methodologies and conclusions on the topics they analyze. The inspiring and educative articles of the veterans and the inquisitive and exploratory observations of the researchers make the volume a valuable asset to any study of language and culture. The book edited by Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan and Dhrubajyoti Das and published by ISDL in 2021 is a worthy contribution in the field of linguistics and cultural study.

N. Muraleedharan Nair