



DLA

NEWS

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

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MAY 2021

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NO POSTPONEMENT TO 48TH AICDL

We were getting many queries on holding the 48th AICDL in the light of the second wave of the pandemic COVID-19. Accordingly, the Governing Council of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics and the Managing Committee of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India had a combined meeting on 27th April 2021 at ISDL Complex, Thiruvananthapuram. For the information of all intended delegates and members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, the decisions taken in this regard are given below:

1. The 48th AICDL may be held as scheduled by observing the COVID protocols suggested by the State and Central Governments.
2. The Conference sessions and all official meetings of ISDL and DLA scheduled from 24th to 26th June 2021 will be held as online for outstation members and as offline (abiding the number restriction if any) for local members. This is applicable for all the Office-bearers of the DLA, IJDL and ISDL and also for the delegates to the 48th AICDL.
3. No accommodation will be provided to the delegates or any of the Office-bearers by the sponsors either in the ISDL campus or outside.
4. It is decided to reduce the Conference registration fee to Rs. 1000/- for citizens of India and other SAARC countries. The life-members of DLA and students are eligible to have 50% concession in the registration fee.
5. It is also decided to refund the excess amount, if any, remitted towards registration fee to all those who have already registered for the Conference.
6. The Presidential address and all endowment lectures will be delivered only through online. If the copies of the Presidential address and endowment lectures are obtained sufficiently early, we will upload them in our website www.ijdl.org so as to enable both online and offline participants to download them.

The winners of the Prizes and Awards will be declared at the Conference. The Certificates and Prize-money will be handed over as per the instructions of the recipients.

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

We hope that we could clarify the doubts if any regarding the conduct of the 48th AICDL. If any further clarification is required, please contact Dr. Muraleedharan Nair (Phone: 8301907098, Email: nair.m3@gmail.com).

Along with all of you, we are extremely sorry for our inability to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India originally planned to commence from 13.8.2020 to 12.8.2021. So also, our plan to hold the 48th AICDL at Thiruvananthapuram in a grand way too was jeopardized due to factors beyond our control. Let us hope for the best. We will fight together in this critical juncture for the progress of DLA, ISDL, IJDL and ultimately of our nation and of all humanity.

The Office-bearers of the DLA and ISDL beg your pardon for all the inconveniences caused to you.

Expecting your active cooperation in making the 48th AICDL a grand success from the academic point of view.

**Report: INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON
“CRAFTING RESOURCES FOR LANGUAGE
PEDAGOGY AT DIGITAL AGE”**

The Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University has organized a two-day International webinar on *Crafting Resources for Language Pedagogy at Digital Age* from 20-21 March 2021.

The inaugural function commenced at 10 a.m. on 20th March 2021. Shri. Amit Khare IAS, Honourable Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Prof. Tariq Mansoor, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University presided over the function.

Prof. Mohammad Jahangeer Warsi, Chairman, Department of Linguistics and the Director of the

International webinar has delivered the welcome address.

Prof. Vaishna Narang (JNU, New Delhi) delivered the keynote address. She pointed out that the present switchover to online teaching and assessment led to the huge mismatch between the two i.e., teacher-student and online systems. The role of teachers shifted to content manager to just impart information to cover up the syllabi. She insisted that we should go beyond information sharing and focus on Metacognitive Skills.

Prof. Syeda Nuzhat Zeba, Dean, Faculty of Arts, speaking on the occasion opined that the Department of Linguistics, Osmania University has always upheld the academic temperament by indulging itself in research and innovations. She also said that the webinar would prepare a road map for the framework of designing and development of teaching materials, flexibility in online education and accessibility and visibility of resources.

Shri. Amit Khare, Honourable Secretary, in his inaugural address pointed out that National Education Policy 2020 tries to bring transformative change in the education system. He stressed the need to have every academic institution establish Virtual laboratories to conduct virtual experiments.

Prof. Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, in his presidential address has shared with the audience the glorious journey of completion of 100 years of Aligarh Muslim University and also talked about prominent achievements of the University. He also counted the research projects of the Department for the protection and preservation of endangered languages of Birhor and Chinali. Prof. Tariq Mansoor reiterated that the Department is also involved in interdisciplinary collaboration with IIT-Bombay in Cognitive Linguistics.

In his welcome address, Prof. M.J. Warsi, Chairman, Department of Linguistics and the

Latest Publications: **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/-). **THE MOTHER GODDESS IN BENGAL AND IN KERALA**, T. Madhava Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 463, Rs. 600/- (US\$ 60/-).

Director of the webinar mentioned that this webinar has become a worldwide forum to share and discuss pertinent issues of language pedagogy.

Dr. Nazrin B. Laskar and Dr. Abdul Aziz Khan, Organizing Secretaries of the webinar, have successfully coordinated the program. Dr. Nazrin B. Laskar proposed the vote of thanks.

In the academic sessions, eminent scholars from different parts of India and abroad have presented papers. They include experts like Prof. Panchanan Mohanty (formerly of Central University of Hyderabad), Prof. Imtiaz Hasnain (Aligarh Muslim University), Prof. Umarani Pappuswami, Deputy Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru, Dr. Arif Al-Ahdal, Qassim University, Saudi Arabia, Prof. A.R. Kidwai, Director, HRDC, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Prof. Cindy Brantmeier, Washington University in St. Louis, USA, Prof. Gulbahar Beckett, Iowa State University, USA, Prof. Gabriela Nik, Ilieva, New York University, USA, Prof. Pushpinder Syal, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Prof. Rajneesh Arora, Director Lucknow Campus, English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad, Prof. Ravindra Gargesh, Samarkand State University.

Valedictory session

The valedictory session commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Mohammad Jahangeer Warsi, Chairman, Department of Linguistics and the Director of the webinar at 3 p.m. on 21st March 2021. The programme was presided over by Prof. Zaheeruddin, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, in his valedictory address on *Automatic Essay Grading* discussed the different approaches and methods and challenges of Natural language processing (NLP) and showed how important and efficient is the current approach of deep neural network in automatic grading.

Prof. S. Imtiaz Hasnain, Officiating Dean, Faculty of Arts, reflecting on Prof. Bhattacharyya's talk mentioned that the pandemic has opened up new avenues as well as challenges in pedagogy.

Prof. Zaheeruddin, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, in his presidential address, said that since its establishment, the

Department of Linguistics focussed on teaching and research on Urdu language. He also pointed out the views of Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi that AMU has played a significant role to strengthen India's relations with many countries.

Dr. Nazrin B. Laskar successfully conducted the programme. Dr. Abdul Aziz Khan proposed the vote of thanks.

M.J. Warsi

THE BIRTHPLACE OF HANUMAN – A NEW CLAIM

'Jabali', nestled in the Anjanadri Hills that forms a part of the sacred abode of Lord Venkateswara, is the original birthplace of Lord Hanuman, opine the authorities of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). The Vice-Chancellor of National Sanskrit University, Muralidhar Sharma pointed out that the TTD had arrived at this conclusion "after taking all the historical, geographical and epigraphical evidence into consideration". The TTD Pundit Parishad, specially constituted for the purpose, has also agreed with this finding.

[Courtesy: **The Hindu**, 22.4.2021 (Special Correspondent)]

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

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

Bangla and Other Indian Languages: Linguistic and Cultural Relations is a collection of papers presented at the two-day National Seminar conducted in March 2020 at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram. This volume contains 21 research papers presented at the seminar. The topics range from linguistic peculiarities of individual languages to comparative and contrastive study and similarities in language and culture. The book is a storehouse of information to scholars, researchers and students alike.

In the first article *Linguistic Features Common to Indo-Aryan (Bengali & Others) and non-Indo-Aryans*, Kakali Mukherjee draws certain linguistic similarities between Indo-Aryan languages (including Bengali) and

ustro-Asiatic. The author tries to establish that since the ancient times the convergence between Vedic classical Sanskrit and Austric-Dravidian languages took place both in grammatical structure as well as in lexicons due to the integration of the people belonging to these three divergent language families even from prehistoric times. The phonological, morphological and syntactic level convergence is explained in detail with examples. That is why Bengali, Sanskrit and other North Indian languages which belong to Indo-Aryan, a sub-group of Indo-European, have many linguistic features shared with non-Indo-Aryan languages belonging to Austro-Asiatic and Dravidian.

The article *Linguistics and the Cultural Relations of Bihar and Bengal* as projected in the Bengali Novel 'Dhorai Charit Manas' by Sarmistha de Basu presents the story of the insignificant Dhorai who is a poor Harijan, Tatma, the Rama prototype. He is a true representative of the Biharis working in Kolkata, who set in to establish the Ramarajya and ended up in a militant group fighting the British invaders. This story shows us the mixture of a language Hindi to Bhojpuri to Maithili to Bengali - the cultural assimilation and meaningful cultural bonding of the Bihari subalterns with the Bengalis. The sharing of literary traditions between the various linguistic groups in the background of colonial India finds expression in the novel.

Language Attitude: A Study of the Diasporic Communities in Kolkata by Aditi Ghosh tells us to what extent, Kolkata, the multilingual city, affects the language, attitudes of the speakers of minority languages where Bengali, English, Hindi and the various mother tongues of the inhabitants form part of their everyday life in the city. Majority of the informants welcome speaking, reading, writing and communicating in mother tongue in private situations whereas English followed by Hindi is preferred in the field of education.

Anita Bandyopadhyay in *Bengali Grammatical Tradition* discusses the tradition of writing Bengali grammars. The study starts with Manoel da Assumpsam's 'Bengali Grammar' published in 1743 and ends with 'Bhāṣā-Prakāś Bāmlā Vyākaraṇ' published by Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji in 1939. Two different traditions by two different groups of scholars are identified here: the European method followed by

the foreign scholars and European tradition under the grab of Indian scholarship followed by the Indian scholars. Latin notions of different parts of speech were represented in the western tradition whereas the definitions of different grammatical ideas were mainly based on the logical foundation of Indian tradition in the latter.

The article by Prof. G.K. Panikkar *Pronunciation of Malayalam: Areas to be concentrated by the Bengali Speakers* cautions the Bengali speakers about the short and long vowels which exist as separate phonemes in Malayalam. So also unlike in Bengali, the alveolar voiceless stops 't' in Malayalam, the laterals 'l', 'ɭ' and 'ɻ', the trills 'r' and 'r̄', fricatives 's', 'ś' and 'ṣ' and the different nasal phonemes etc., also need special attention by the Bengali speakers. For effective communication with Malayalees, it is necessary that the Bangla speakers should know the phonemic features such as the ones mentioned above.

Prof. P. Visalakshy in her article *The Impact of Jayadeva's Gītagovinda on Indian Culture* analyses Jayadeva's 'Gītagovinda' as an erotic-devotional lyric poem having great philosophical outlook, where the Paramātmā unites with the Jīvātma. The aṣṭanāyika saṅkalpa depicts the different moods of heroines as illustrated in classical art forms like Mohiniyāṭṭam, Bharatanāṭyam, Kathakali, Keraḷaṇaṭanam, Oḍissi, Maṇipuri, Kathak etc. 'Gītagovinda' had a unique role in the development of artistic traditions of India like literature, music, dance, textile design etc. Aṣṭapāṭi and its theatrical representation aṣṭapāṭiyāṭṭam and Kṛiṣṇanāṭṭam developed from 'Gītagovindam'. The erotic mysticism of 'Gītagovindam' was a major influence for taking Jayadeva's spiritual philosophy to every corner of the world in addition to the nook and corner of India.

Folklores in Transition: Revisiting Vijayadan Detha's Duvidha and Lal Bihari Dey's 'The Ghost Brahman' by Lipi Agarwal is an attempt to kindle the quest on the web between local folktales of India with a focus on the Bengali folktale 'The Ghost-Brahman' and the Rajasthani tale 'Duvidha', re-told through plural forms of media in multiple spaces and translated into English from the regional languages of Bengal and Rajasthan. It also conveys the message that a good translation requires a good amount of love, dedication and labour.

[To be continued]

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/-).

HERO STONE DISCOVERED

The Hindu dated 22-4-2021 carries a news item in which it is stated that a one-foot tall 'hero stone' depicting a man atop an elephant is found in a place called Chathurangapara near Nedumkandam, Idukki district, Kerala.



The report highlights its importance through the statement "It is for the first time in South India that a clear image of a hero atop an elephant has been found." As per the description given, this hero holds a bow and other weapons. He has ornaments on his ears and neck. Another person and an animal form are also seen nearby. The place as per the belief of many historians is situated along an ancient trade route from Kerala to Madurai. P.J. Cherian, former Director of the Kerala Council for Historical Research, has opined that the banks of the Periyar were home to a rich civilization and was linked to international trade from Muziris. Corroborating many other pieces of evidence obtained from the region, one can reasonably conclude that a culturally vibrant society lived in the high ranges of Kerala, as is evident from the archaeological findings.

[Courtesy: **The Hindu**, 22.4.2021 (Giji K. Raman)]

Report: INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON DIVERSITY IN INDIAN CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The School of Indian Languages, University of Kerala conducted a three-day International Webinar on *Diversity in Indian Culture, Language and Literature* from 8th to 10th March 2021. More than fifty presentations by eminent academicians in eleven main sessions and fourteen parallel sessions were held in the International webinar. The deliberations focused on linguistic unity in the diversity of India. It emanated a multicultural and multilingual diversity - an ethnological museum, as denoted by Vincent A. Smith.

The following scholars have presented papers in this international webinar: Prof. K. Vanaja (Retd., CUSAT), Mr. Muthu Nedumaran (Malaysia), Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan (Central University of Gujarat),

Prof. Prabhakar Singh (Banaras Hindu University), Prof. N.K. Sundareswaran (University of Calicut), Dr. Venugopala Panicker (Retd., Professor, University of Calicut), Dr. Jencis Kumar (University College), Prof. P.V. Narayanan (Sree Sankaracharya University), Dr. H.K. Santhosh (Sree Neelakanda Government Sanskrit College). Followed by the main sessions, presentation of research papers by faculties and scholars of the Departments of Linguistics, Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi and Sanskrit and from other institutions were held.

S. Kunjamma

IN MEMORIAM: PROF. H. BALASUBRAMANIAM (1932-2021)

Prof. H. Balasubramaniam, a well-known scholar in Hindi, Tamil, Sanskrit and Malayalam and Sahitya Akademi Award winner for translations passed away on 3rd April 2021 at Delhi. A native of Thiruvananthapuram and member of a family of Hindi scholars, he did many translation works in these four languages. He got his Ph.D. in Linguistics (1982) working on the topic *A Contrastive Analysis of Hindi and Tamil Sentence Structures*. As a teacher of Hindi in the Central Hindi Directorate, he helped to frame syllabi and teaching materials including dictionaries between Hindi and Tamil. As a Senior Consultant, he designed the Malayalam-Hindi Translation Course in Indira Gandhi National University (IGNOU), New Delhi. He was invited as a Visiting Professor at the JNU where he helped in training many M.Phil. and Doctoral students of Tamil in translation and comparative literature. He has translated about thirty important works between Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and English. His Hindi translations include important classics from Tamil starting from Tolkappiyam, Bhatkti poems, Tirukkural, Ramalinga Vallalar and the works of Subramania Bharati. He is also quite at ease in translating the works of modern authors like Pudumaippittan, Jeyakanthan, Akilan, Ki. Rajanarayanan, Neela Padmanabhan, Thoppil Mohamed

INDEX OF BHĀṢĀKAUṬĀLĪYAM, 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/-). **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/-).



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Meeran, Vairamuthu, Sooryakanthan and others. His translation of Sri Lankan fiction of Tamil authors like Jeevakumaran, Kalanidhi Jeevakumar, Udayanan into Hindi are very important. Among his translations, the complete translation of Tolkappiyam into Hindi in collaboration with Prof. K. Nachimuthu for the Central Institute of Classical Tamil is a landmark achievement. Equally creditable is his complete translation of Subramania Bharati's poems into Hindi. Among the translations from Malayalam to Hindi, the important work *Vedangalute Naadu* by E.M.S. Nampoodiripad, the great Marxist scholar-statesman is worth mentioning. Equally, his Tamil translations of important Hindi works like Gopi Chand Narang's Sahitya Akademi award-winning work on *Structuralism*, Phaniswarnath's short stories, Chandrasekhar Rath's novel *Yantrarudh* are meritorious. He was a recipient of many awards including an honour from the President of India and Sahitya Akademi. The Uttar Pradesh Bhasha Sansthan Samman, Nalli-Thisai Ettum Translation Award, Chinnappa Bharathi Trust Award are the other important awards he received. He built intellectual bridges between languages through his lifelong works in the field of translations. He was a life-member of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. Truly, the generations of scholars to come will remember and appreciate his greatness and the importance of his works. He is survived by his son and daughter. The world of scholars mourn the demise of this great multilingual scholar. May his soul rest in peace. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members and friends of Prof. H. Balasubramaniam.

K. Nachimuthu

LIST OF DLA LIFE-MEMBERS

(In the Chronological Order; Continued)

178. Mrs. K. Rajeswari 11 th Rajaji Street, Arakkonam – 631 001	₹ 300	1-7-1977
179. Mr. C. Subramoniam Pillai Prof. in Tamil, University of Kerala, Trivandrum	₹ 300	16-8-1977

[To be continued]

NEW PUBLICATION OF ISDL

Bangla and other Indian languages: Linguistic and Cultural Relations

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan & Dhruvajyoti Das (Eds.),
2021, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. viii + 483, Rs. 600/-
(US\$ 60/-).

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN APRIL 2021

07.04.2021: *Lexical Field: An Application to Natural Language Processing*

D. Mano

21.04.2021: *A Brief Survey of Lexicography in Malayalam*

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

NEWLIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (April 2021)

- Dr. Jayashree Aanand Gajjam** (Membership No. 1430/2021)
M-103, Sun Universe, Near Navale Bridge, Pune – 411 041, Maharashtra
- Ms. Ankita Swetaparna** (Membership No. 1431/2021)
C1-1302, 7 Hills Apartments, Power Welfare Society, Kokapet, Hyderabad – 500 075, Telangana
- Dr. U. Karuppathavan** (Membership No. 1432/2021)
2/304, Dr. Radhakrishnan Street, Narayanapuram – 625 014, Madurai
- Dr. Narendra Ranjan Malas** (Membership No. 1433/2021)
Rastala, P.O. Bishnupur, Dist. Bankura – 722 122, West Bengal
- Dr. Ravikumar Stephen** (Membership No. 1434/2021)
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- Dr. Lalita Murty** (Membership No. 1435/2021)
456, IIM, Bannerghatta Road, Bilekhalli -560 076, Bengaluru, Karnataka