



DLA NEWS

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A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

48th AICDL NEWS

1. Revised Registration Fee for the 48th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists*

The rate for delegates from India and other SAARC countries is ₹ 2000/-, for Ph.D. Researchers with Fellowships ₹ 1500/- and ₹ 1000/- for life-members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, Ph.D. researchers without fellowship and M.A./M.Phil. students. Students of the host University need to pay only ₹ 250/-. The registration fee for delegates from other countries is US\$ 100/-. Bona fide students and research scholars have to produce a certificate from the respective Heads of Departments stating their student status to avail the concessional registration. Accompanying person, if any, has to be registered by paying ₹ 2000/- or US\$ 100/- as the case may be. Participants are requested to fill up the **registration form** and send it along with the registration fee to the Treasurer, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala by **7th February 2022**. The details of the modes of payment are given in www.ijdl.org.

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.

2. Papers and Abstracts

Abstracts and Papers for the 48th AICDL may please be sent to Dr. V.M. Subramanian, Local Secretary, 48th AICDL (Head of the Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University; vmsuman@rediffmail.com; 9047179903).

3. 48th AICDL – WINNERS OF AWARDS & PRIZES

Mrs. S.M. Katre Memorial Prize

(for M.A. topper in Linguistics – 2017-2019 batch)

M. Saraswathy, Bharathiar University &
Essa Mariam Jacob, University of Kerala

(for M.A. topper in Linguistics – 2018-2020 batch)

Radhika J., University of Kerala

Award for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Tribes

Dr. Midhun K.S., Sree Krishna College, Guruvayur

C. Achutha Menon Prize **Baneesh Narayanapillai**, C-DAC, Pune

Prof. K.M.Venkataramaiah Award

T. Madhava Menon (IAS Retd.), Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Hermann Gundert Endowment Award

NITTE University, Mangalapuram

Prof. Susheela P. Upadhyaya Award

Jayashree Aanand Gajjam, IIT, Bombay

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 * Revised registration fee is applicable only for 48th AICDL

**MATHILAKAM RECORDS –
SOME LINGUISTIC OBSERVATIONS**
(Continued from the previous issue)

Adrian Akmajian *et al* suggest that language changes seem to maintain a balance in expressibility and grammatical complexity over time. Flap rule, Vowel centering rule and the change of English language in terms of vocabulary, phonology, morphology and syntax under the French rule etc., are shown as examples of language change (Adrian Akmajian et al. 1979:328-335).

Sound change is generally the result of internal stress and strain within one speech community and that its mechanics is fundamentally that of borrowing with sound substitution according to Hoenigswald. Diachronic linguistic studies have tried in general to establish the development of various languages of the world from their concerned proto-languages through language change which was gradual, very slow and a continuous process with interruptions and abrupt endings at times. The diversity it has brought about in the branches of the same proto-language is dismaying and at times impossible to explain. Related languages, which belong to the same group or family, were once the same language: that is, they are derived, due to the operation of linguistic change over a long period of time, from a single, earlier ancestor language - explains April M.S. McMahon (1994:2). The steadiness and regularity of language changes have been explained by linguists such as Sturtevant, Hoenigswald, the Neogrammarians, D'Saussure, Bloomfield etc. It is also observed that changes like metathesis, haplology, dissimilation do not follow regularity hypothesis, since they are sporadic, not common to all words with the same context and are also observable (April M.S. McMahon: 1994:21). Verner's Law stating the change of voiceless stops in English to voiced stops or fricatives, Great Vowel Shift which suggests the diphthongization of high vowels due to drag-chain or push-chain mechanism etc., are examples of regular changes.

Linguists who have conducted studies on Comparative Dravidian such as Caldwell, Gundert, Kittel, Emeneau, Burrow, L.V. Ramaswami Ayyar, A.R. Raja Raja Varma suggest the mono-syllabic structure

of Proto-Dravidian from which the major Dravidian languages have developed. Such changes which took a long time have brought in quite diverse features in word formation and even in the grammatical categories in these languages.

The First Germanic Vowel Shift (Grimm's Law) first described by Rasmus Rask, the English Great Vowel Shift loss of /e/ and /o/, loss of Gender System and loss of exclusive, inclusive *we* distinction in Brahui due to its contact with the neighbouring Balochi language, centralization of diphthongs probably spread from the Chilmark fishermen in Martha's Vineyard as per the study of Labov, all point to the effect of language change over a long period of time.

Variations in languages may be induced by the process of assimilation or differentiation, by analogy, borrowing, fusion, contamination, random variation, or any number of processes in which the language system interacts with the physiological or psychological characteristics of the individual (Labov, 1972:1-2). Milroys make the strong claim that 'Linguistic change is slow to the extent that the relevant populations are well established and bound by strong ties, whereas it is rapid to the extent that weak ties exist in populations' (Milroy and Milroy 1985: 375). Here the concept is regarding the changes initiated from individual and spreading to the community.

Pidgins are also examples of linguistic change. According to Bickerton (1977: 49), pidginization is second-language learning with restricted input. Romaine (1988:24) opines that "A Pidgin represents a language which has been stripped of everything but the bare essentials necessary for communication. Creolization is the linguistic inverse of pidginization: while pidginization involves reduction and simplification, creolization is characterized by expansion and elaboration". Pidginization is a common feature in migrant societies. For example, the ordinary workers from other states speaking Malayalam create a pidgin variety of Malayalam with the grammar base of their mother tongue and words of

Latest Publications: INDEX OF EARLY MAṆIPRAVĀLA WORKS, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2021, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 1086, Rs. 2240/- (US\$ 224/-). INDEX OF RĀMAKATHAPPĀṬṬU, G. Sulekha, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1742, Rs. 1960/- (US\$ 196/-). 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/-). 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/-).

Malayalam. The secret language used by the Ganaka community members among themselves in Kerala in the presence of others is also a variety of pidgin. The African labour class who were enslaved by the British and transported to faraway places as plantation workers and others constituted a community of pidgin users. Singh (1991:281) tells us the example of Trinidadian Creole and the habitual markers like 'does be'. According to Dressler (1984:184), language death occurs in unstable bilingual or multilingual speech communities as a result of language shift from a regressive minority language to a dominant majority language. Hindley (1990) shows us the example of Irish in Ireland which has given way to English as people began to realize that English was the key to new opportunities.

Malayalam also has undergone changes in phonological, morphological and syntactic levels like other languages even from the very early stages. The studies of linguists such as L.V. Ramaswami Ayyar, S.V. Shanmugam have revealed the changes that Malayalam has undergone. Changes like these have been attested by scholars such as Caldwell, Emeneau, Burrow, A.R. Rajaraja Varma etc.

Language change in Malayalam with reference to Mathilakam records deserves a specific study in the background of the above scenario. Though linguists predict abrupt changes in language in the phonological level as a possibility, drastic changes in the lexicon of a language within a considerably shorter period is unusual.

Mathilakam records are the record of an ancient princely state of Kerala named Vēṅṅāṭ, from A.D. 1375 to A.D. 1758 till Mārtāṅḍavarma, the founder of modern Travancore established a centralized rule in Travancore, which were kept within the fort of Srīpadmanābha Swāmi Temple. These records throw light on the socio-economic-political and cultural history of Venad (and then Travancore) and are of immense historical and linguistic value. As the language of the records is meant for administrative purposes, it cannot be considered as a true representative of the literary or colloquial language that existed in Vēṅṅāṭ during the period. It seems to be closer to modern Malayalam than the language of Brahmāṅḍapurāṅam prose, Rāmacaritam, the sandēśa-kāvya and that of Kṛiṣṇagātha which are considered to

have been written during the period. Many words that appear in the Mathilakam records are no more used in modern Malayalam. In *Lexicon of Travancore Inscriptions* published by the Department of Archaeology in 1947, R. Vasudeva Poduval has given a list of 1864 entries from Travancore inscriptions most of which have disappeared totally from modern Malayalam. Though it accounts for all the words in various inscriptions of Travancore, there are many entries in it which are part of Mathilakam records as well. Many words which do not find a place in the Lexicon are also there in Mathilakam records which come under the list of words lost from Malayalam forever.

Though 'Malanāṭṭuvalakkam' began to show independent development at least from the beginning of the Christian era, 'centamil' was the common literary form for Tamil and Malayalam till the 8th century. Even poets of Kerala composed their works in 'centamil' during the period. The influence of Sanskrit began to increase and there was a time when Sanskrit words were used in great numbers. During the Maṅṅiṅṅavāla literature period, the decline of Tamil forms and increased use of Sanskrit and Malayalam forms are evident. After the 16th century, Malayalam began to show its distinguished identity through works of Eḷuttaccan and followers.

Chandrasekhar Anantaramayyar (1951, 2020) has presented the picture of the Malayalam language as it was during its earliest known period (the Early Old Malayalam period) which was said to have begun roughly in the last quarter of the ninth century C.E. The speech of Kerala is characterized by a large number of changes in the fields of Phonology and Morphology during this period.

L.V. Ramaswami Ayyar (1993) has divided Malayalam into the following periods:

1. The beginning of Malayalam (from about the 9th or 10th century)
2. Old Malayalam (from the 16th century)
 - a) Early Old Malayalam (till the 12th or 13th century)
 - b) Early Maṅṅiṅṅavāla period (till the end of the 14th century)
 - c) The *campu* period (till the 16th century)
3. New Malayalam (from the 16th century to the present day)

- a) Transitional New Malayalam: the period of Eḷuttaśśan.
- b) Early New Malayalam : Pūntānam, Kēraḷa Varma, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇam, Kōṭṭayattu Tampurān (16th and 17th centuries)
- c) Middle New Malayalam: The period of Kuñcan Nampiyār, Uṇṇāyi Vāriyar, Rāmapurattu Vāriyar and Kallēnkuḷaṇṇara (18th century)
- d) Late New Malayalam : From Valiya Kōyittampurān to the present day (19th and 20th century).

The above studies based on the discovery of a considerable body of new material, both inscriptional and textual, during the last few decades have provided ample materials to prove the evolution of Malayalam speech forms stage by stage.

The present study tries to identify the changes during the period from 14th to 18th century and the earlier forms still retained in Malayalam with respect to the language of Mathilakam Records.

[To be continued]

Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF ISDL

The members of the Governing Council of ISDL met at 2 p.m. on 7th January 2022 at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex at Thiruvananthapuram under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. Karunakaran, Chairman, ISDL. Besides the Council members, Dr. V.M. Subramanian, Head, Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University and Dr. N. Rajasekharan Nair, former Professor, Annamalai University attended as Special invitees. The meeting discussed various academic and administrative matters related to ISDL. It also discussed matters related to the conduct of the 48th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists at Bharathiar University on 25th and 26th February 2022. The Council offered all support to the successful conduct of the 48th AICDL and decided to nominate Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan and Dr. V.M. Subramanian as the Local Secretaries at Thiruvananthapuram and Coimbatore respectively.

REPORT – NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS AFTER DR. ROBERT CALDWELL

International School of Dravidian Linguistics has organized a two-day national seminar on *Dravidian Linguistics after Dr. Robert Caldwell* on 6th and 7th January 2022 at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Thiruvananthapuram. The seminar commenced at 10.30 a.m. with a welcome address by Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Hon. Director, ISDL. He highlighted the contributions of Dr. Robert Caldwell and other scholars subsequent to him to the languages of the Dravidian family. Dr. A.G. Menon, former Professor, Leiden University, The Netherlands inaugurated the seminar in online mode. He discussed



the progress achieved by Dravidian languages after Robert Caldwell. Prof. G.K. Panikkar, former Director, ISDL and Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair, former Professor, Annamalai University felicitated the seminar. The inaugural function came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. S. Abdul Samed, Treasurer, ISDL. Prior to the function, the delegates offered floral tributes at V.I. Subramoniam's *smritimandapam*.

Academic session I commenced at 11.30 a.m. with Prof. G.K. Panikkar's paper on *Malayalam Negatives in the Light of Caldwell's Observations on Dravidian Negatives*. In the paper, he evaluated Caldwell's views that all verbal themes in Dravidian are affirmative and negative signification is expressed by additions or changes, the negatives can be formed by adding personal endings directly to the verb stem, the Dravidian negative constructions are devoid of any overt tense markers, the particle *a* is the basic sign of negative, *il* and *al* are inherently negative, the prohibitive *arka* found in classical Tamil is a derivation from the negative particle *al* and the negative constructions in Dravidian can either be finite or non-finite. It was followed by Prof. Rajasekharan Nair's paper on *Auxiliary Verb Conjugation in Tamil, Malayalam and Kuruma Bhasha*. Auxiliary verb system is an important topic widely discussed in contemporary

linguistic literature. It occurs after the main verb in all SOV languages. In the case of Malayalam, it is difficult to acquire the auxiliary verb system because of intricate semantic context inherent in such verbs. In the second session at 2 p.m., Dr. P.M. Girish, Head, Department of Malayalam, Madras University presented his paper on *Image Schema and Embodied Cognition of the Case Markers in Malayalam*. Embodied cognition refers to the experience that embeds from the physical body to its interactions with the physical and social atmosphere. Cognitive grammar analyzes grammar in terms of conceptual and perceptual categories. Sourav Chakraborty, former Project Guide, Bengali Unit, ISDL in his paper on *Verb Forms expressing Habitual and Regular Activities in Bengali, English, Malayalam and Tamil* discussed how habitual activities are expressed through different verbal forms. Both the papers were presented in online mode.

Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair, Senior Research Fellow, ISDL in his paper *Dravidian Linguistics after Robert Caldwell* enumerated the pre- and post-Caldwell contributions of scholars to Dravidian languages. The first day's academic sessions ended with Dr. S. Abdul Samed's paper on *L.V. Ramaswamy Aiyer's Contributions to Dravidian Languages – An Overview*. He elaborately discussed the contributions of L.V.R. on Dravidian phonology, morphology, morpho-phonemics, etymology, semantics and syntax.

On the second day, the academic sessions began with a paper on *Tamil Diglossia* by Prof. K. Karunakaran, former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University. He elaborately discussed Tamil diglossia and its existential nature and significance. He stated that both language structure and language use lead to diglossia. Dr. V.M. Subramanian, Head, Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University presented a paper on *Mother-Tongue based Multilingual Education for Tribal Children of the Western Ghats: An Initiative Paradigm* in which he demonstrates that cognitive development as well as intellectual improvement is better among students who use mother tongue in education. Dr. M. Sreenathan, Professor, Malayalam University, Tirur in his paper *Sree Chattampi Swamikal the unheeded Dravidian Linguist after Robert Caldwell* elaborately discussed the contributions made by Sree Chattampi Swamikal on Dravidian languages. Chattampi Swamikal was responsible for many social,

religious, political and literary movements in Kerala. He has contributed much to Dravidian languages.

DLA News Desk

MULTILINGUAL DICTIONARY ON SANENYO

Prof. Anvita Abbi has informed that the multilingual dictionary on the endangered Nicobarese language Sanenyo on which Prof. Abbi and Rahul Pachori had been working for the past two years is now uploaded by Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru. The link to access the dictionary is <https://appel.org/sanenyodictionary.aspx>.

NOTIFICATION FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY, THE ASIATIC SOCIETY, KOLKATA

The Asiatic Society, Kolkata, an Institution of National Importance and an Autonomous Organization under Ministry of Culture, Government of India invites applications for new membership from eligible persons. Interested persons may apply in prescribed format to the General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, 1 Park Street, Kolkata – 700016 within 27.1.2022. For detailed information, please visit the Society's website <https://www.asiaticsocietykolkata.org>.

Information furnished by Prof. Mahidas Bhattacharya

GLIMPSES ON DLA

(Continued from the previous issue)

Sixth All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists

The sixth All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists was held from 3rd to 5th of June 1976 at Andhra University, Waltair. It was inaugurated by Shri. J. Vengal Rao, the Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in the presence of Sri. Appa Rao, Vice-Chancellor. Prof. R.C. Hiremath, President of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India delivered the presidential address. He said that linguistics has introduced a scientific approach to the study of languages and proved that no language is high or low, thus discarding the popular belief among some that one language is superior to others. All languages have their own place of importance in the spoken world. The difference is due to variations in cultures, and languages being the vehicle of cultures are bound to have differences too, but there is unity among various

TRIBUTES OF LOVE AND AFFECTION: REMINISCENCES OF PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, T.P. Sankaranakutty 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. xxiii + 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/-).



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Website: www.ijdl.org

E-mail: dlatvm@gmail.com

ijdlisdl@gmail.com

languages. He has also stated that linguistic studies in India have great antiquity. The three “*aṅgas*” of the six *vēdāṅgas* are nothing but the branches of linguistics i.e., *śikṣā* (phonetics), *vyākaraṇa* (grammar) and *nirukta* (etymology). Due regard was given to languages in India from very ancient times onwards. This produced the intellectual giants like Pāṇini, the first descriptive grammarian of the world, Patañjali and others. This tradition continued slowly and it gained momentum only after the Western scholars like Max Müller, Caldwell and others took up the study of Indian works.

Academic Sessions

During the three days’ meet, more than ninety papers covering almost all the branches of linguistics were presented and deliberated.

Delegates

Nearly 140 delegates from various parts of India and a few from foreign countries attended the conference.

The Members of the General Body of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India met at 4 p.m. on the 4th of June 1976 and nominated the following scholars as the Office-Bearers for the year 1976-77:

President: C.R. Sankaran (Pune); Vice-Presidents: Bh. Krishnamurti (Hyderabad), M. Shanmugham Pillai (Madurai), A.C. Sekhar (Delhi), V.I. Subramoniam (Correspondent, Kerala); Secretaries: M. Chidananda Murthy (Bengaluru), V. Prakasam (Hyderabad), G.K. Panikkar (Kerala); Treasurer: A.P. Andrews Kutty (Kerala); Working Committee Members: K.K. Raja (Chennai), B. Radhakrishnan (Hyderabad), P. Ramachandran Pillai (Kerala), E. Annamalai (Mysuru), T. Donappa (Andhra), G.N. Reddy (S.V. University), H.M. Nayak (Mysuru),

J.S. Kully (Karnataka), B.V. Suryanarayana (Banaras), N. Sanjivi (Chennai), K. Prabhakara Warriar (Annamalai); Committee for Tribal Languages: Francis Ekka (Mysuru), H. Stresser (Austria), M. Israel (Madurai); Foreign Representatives: M.S. Andronov (Russia), K. Zvelebil (Holland), H. Schiffman (U.S.A.), R.E. Asher (U.K.), A. Velupillai (Sri Lanka)

[To be continued]
Dr. S. Abdul Samed

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN DECEMBER 2021

1.12.2021: *Sanskrit Impact on Malayalam* (Continued)

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

15.12.2021: *Artificial Intelligence – Natural Language Processing – Cutting Edge Technology of Linguistics*

D. Mano

22.12.2021: *Tulu-Malayalam-Kannada Dictionary*

Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (December 2021)

- Mr. Vijayakumar A.** (*Membership No. 1448/2021*)
Junior Research Fellow, Department of Malayalam, University of Kerala, Karyavattom – 695 581, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Dr. Arvind Kumar Gautam** (*Membership No. 1449/2021*)
Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, School of Languages, Dr. H.S. Gour Central University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- Dr. Rajeev R.R.** (*Membership No. 1500/2021*)
Programme Head, International Centre for Open Source Software (ICFOSS), Sports Hub, Karyavattom – 695 581, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

DLA NEWS ENDOWMENT FUND

20.12.2021	A Well-wisher	Rs.	50.00
TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH		Rs.	2,18,932.00
CURRENT TOTAL		Rs.	2,18,982.00

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