



DLA NEWS

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AUGUST 2022

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV



On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav related to our nation's 75th year of independence, the staff and scholars of DLA, ISDL and IJDL are greatly honoured and join with each and every citizen of our motherland in their pride and joy in celebrating our 75th Independence Day. On this memorable occasion, let us unite together and strive hard to lead our beloved nation to attain further heights and glory. Every one of us should recall and assert that multilingualism and multi-culturalism constitute the soul of our nation. At the same time, running across this pluralism, there exists a strong unifying force which bonds our nation as a single entity. Please bear in mind that apparently divergent languages and cultures of India share many features in common which hold us together. Let us join to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on this happy occasion and uphold our unstinting unity and cultural ethos which will surely lead our nation to become a global power. On this auspicious occasion, let us also reaffirm our promise of serving the nation through diligence and academic excellence.

49th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Session-wise Report

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June 28, 2022

The Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University in collaboration with DLA, CIIL, ICPR, AnSI and VCW organised the 49th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists and International Symposium. The first session was chaired by Prof. S. Kunjamma, and six research papers focusing on core areas of linguistics were presented. The papers ranged from discussing specific processes like syllable markedness in the Mappila variety of Malayalam language and intonation patterns in the Sylheti variety of Bangla language to broad studies like the phonological study of Bajjika. One of the papers also focused on polysemy in verbs. The papers ranged from descriptive studies to comparative studies between languages and/or varieties of languages. The languages in focus ranged from Dravidian languages Telugu and Mappila variety of Malayalam to Semitic language Arabic - compared to the Indo-European English language - and

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also Indo-Aryan languages Sylheti variety of Bangla, Bajjika and Sanskrit.

The chair commented on the importance of descriptive studies and their role as stepping stones for raising bigger linguistic questions.

The second session of the 49th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists and International Symposium was chaired by Prof. Shobha Satyanath. The papers focused on a variety of topics ranging from core areas of study to allied areas of study in the field of linguistics. Papers focusing on core areas discussed topics like nominal forms in Hindi in the frame of conjunction verbs, the pronominal system of Banjara language, compounds in Tibeto-Burman language Maram and coined Tulu words used in formal functions. One of the papers that concentrated on interdisciplinary areas discussed mathematical and computing of conversational meaning in order to find the underlying principle that governs the formulation of conversational meaning and another is on the changes in the body care advertisements with a particular focus on beauty metaphors.

The chair remarked on the interlinking nature of language and culture and the relative importance of syntax and semantics. The chair further pointed out the growing technological advancements and uses of linguistics in automatic tagging and programming but also highlighted the fact that humans are indispensable.

The chair also mentioned the importance of sociolinguistic approach on the study of advertisements noting the survey of consumers of different age groups and how it would be helpful in the industry.

The third session of the 49th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists and International Symposium was chaired by Shri. Gopal Parihar. A variety of research papers were presented at the session including a metrical study explained with concentric circles representing the different aspects or themes of Akam. It aimed at the presenter's socio-cultural aim of preserving and promoting old traditions and arts and highlighting the Dravidian Paradigm and presenting it to a non-Tamil audience. There were presentations studying the plural form of Erukala language spoken in Telangana, plural formation in Lambadi language, verbal forms of Bajjika, and also a comparative study of the morphological changes in word formation of Marwari in Thanwas and Chakradharapur regions.

The chair applauded the presenters. As the group was diverse, concerning not just topics and themes, but also age group. Descriptive and insightful papers on Indo-Aryan and Dravidian languages were presented, showcasing the linguistic diversity of the nation.

[To be continued]
Abhinav Kumar Mishra,
Organizing Secretary, 49th AICDL

STRENGTHENING THE LINGUISTICS FACULTY : STEPS TAKEN

Steps are taken to strengthen the Faculty of Linguistics of the Central University of Kerala through the decision of the University to appoint Dr. L. Ramamoorthy as Professor, Dr. Thennarasu Sakkan and Dr. Sreekumar P. as Associate Professors, Dr. Anusree Sreenivasan and Dr. Zam Ngaih Cing as Assistant Professors. Hope the other Universities will also follow suit.

DLA News Bureau

49th AICDL

REPORT ON SPECIAL LECTURES

June 28, 2022

**Keynote Address: Prof G. Umamaheshwara Rao,
President, LSI**

Topic: *Desiderata in Dravidian Studies Since Bh. Krishnamurti's (2003) The Dravidian Languages*

The Keynote address of Prof. G. Umamaheshwara Rao was an inspiring and thought provoking one, aimed at motivating and also bringing forth the requirement of continuing more research in the field of Dravidian Languages. As the contemporary age has witnessed an academic drought, The keynote speaker mentioned the importance of the Right to Information in one's mother tongue as that enables and further empowers democracy. One must empower language through technology, build technological tools and contribute to the field of linguistics in respective languages.

The audience interaction also led to some important informative discussions, the keynote address was helpful in providing insight on the correct methodology and litmus tests for proper collection of data and language comparison.

The chairman Prof. Vijay Kumar Shukla, Rector BHU emphasized the need for teaching Comparative and Historical linguistics in academic institutes. The session was concluded by these inspiring words from the Chair: "Think high, think above and make sure something is achieved"

Endowment Lecture 1 :

Prof. V. I. Subramonium Endowment Lecture

The very first lecture, Prof. V. I. Subramonium Memorial Endowment Lecture, by Prof. Rajeshwari Maheshwaraiah was on the topic 'Auxiliaries in Dharwad Kannada'. It was chaired by Prof. R.C. Sharma. The discussion continued on the topic of constraints in the distribution of

auxiliaries in Dharwad Kannada. There was also a request for evidence to distinguish between Dharwad Kannada and literary Kannada for further research.

Endowment Lecture 2:

Prof. Nagamma Reddy Endowment Lecture

After the Endowment Lecture No. 1, Prof. K. Srikumar delivered the lecture on 'Syllable coda in Malayalam: A Reappraisal' for the Nagamma Reddy Memorial Endowment Lecture. It was chaired by Prof. G. Umamaheshwara Rao. The chair commented on the different perspectives the paper put forward with respect to Malayalam syllables. An attendee asked for further elaboration on the syllable schema referring to gemination of coda on the onset.

Endowment Lecture 3:

Prof. Karuna Sindhudas Memorial Lecture

Prof. P. Vishalakshy delivered the lecture on "Bhoja's Influence on Kerala Sanskrit Grammatical Literature with special reference to Prakriyasarvasva". The lecture was of comparative

nature, trying to find parallels and influences of Bhoja's sarasvatikantabharana on Kerala Sanskrit Literature. The extension and restrictions of the scope of the sutra through differences in interpretation and various differences in the views were noted. It was highlighted that the work significantly differs from Panini's Ashtadhyayi in its technological terminology. The lecture also pointed out various readings of the sutras and the Dravidian words sanctioned in Bhoja's work.

In conclusion, It was stated that Kerala Grammarians do not blindly follow 'Trimunivyakaranam', and both the grammatical works *Sarasvatikantabharana* and *Prakriyasarvasva* are complete and comprehensive.

The Chair mentioned his time in Thanjavur, and emphasized the importance of Indian Grammatical Traditions. The Chair also urged upcoming scholars to ponder and work in the field of modifying and improving upon existing traditional texts.

[To be continued]
Abhinav Kumar Mishra
Organizing Secretary, 49th AICDL

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE OF DLA

The Life Membership fee of Dravidian Linguistic Association of India is enhanced from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 5000/-. This will come into effect from first January 2023. Hence those who are interested to become Life Members of DLA may please take the Life Membership without any delay so that they can save Rs. 2000/-.

TOWARDS LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

A gist of the speech of Prof M.J. Warsi, a prominent Indian linguist and Chairman, Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on the role of cultural and linguistic diversity in building sustainable societies and the value of linguistic diversity, is given below:

He was delivering the keynote address on 'Linguistic and Cultural Diversity: Some Reflections' in the Refresher Course of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on the topic, 'Towards Linguistic Diversity'.

Speaking on the rich culture of linguistic plurality and diversity in India, Prof. Warsi expressed the views on how Indian multilingualism is greatly increasing in prevalence and popularity.

He said: "The magnitude of linguistic diversity in India can be determined by the fact that according to the Census of India (2011), there were 121 major languages in India with 1599 other languages".

"The majorly spread Indo-European, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman language families in India have a long history of the transmission of features and it is on the basis of these shared features, American anthropologist, Murray Barnson Emeneau published his famous article 'India as a Linguistic Area', in 1956", added Prof Warsi. He emphasized: "Despite the fact that each Indian state has adopted one or two of the official languages for doing business and governance, a number of other languages are also spoken by distinct population cohorts giving India an incredible degree of linguistic variety".

Prof Warsi comprehended Indian linguistic diversity at subnational levels but also referred to an alarming United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) study. He warned: "With 196 of its languages listed as 'endangered', India tops the UNESCO's list of countries having the maximum number of dialects on the verge of extinction. Two of these potentially extinct languages (Manipuri and Bodo) have been categorized as

‘endangered’ and ‘unsafe’ under UNESCO 2010 Schedule”.

Prof Warsi pressed for learning new languages to respect cultures, lifestyles, customs and beliefs. He emphasized: “Language is a precious gift, representing unique and distinct cultural heritage. It is the means by which culture, traditions and shared values are conveyed and preserved”.

BOOK RELEASE FUNCTION

The Agricultural Dictionary in Tamil titled ‘tamizh veeLaaN kalaiccoRkaLin vaTTaaraveeRupaaTTu akaraati’ (ISBN. 978-93-5523-064-5) authored by Dr. N. Rajasekharan Nair, Dr. S. Raja and Dr S. Sundarabalu published by Kalachuvadu Publications, Nagercoil was released at the Coimbatore Book Festival held in the Codissia Trade Fair Complex, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore on 22-7-2022. Book lovers started thronging the fair complex when it was opened on Friday morning.

Prof. K. Karunakaran, Former Vice chancellor, Tamil University, Chairman of ISDL & President of Tamil Mozhiyiyal Sangam, released the volume which is a pioneering work based on the principles of lexicography and linguistics. The first copy was received by Prof. V. Thiruvalluvan, Vice-chancellor, Tamil University. Prof. Karunakaran, in his special address congratulated the authors for bringing out such a dictionary for the benefit of the academic community and society at large. He also mentioned that the preparation of such a research work is possible by trained linguists like these authors. He admired Kalachuvadu Publications, Nagercoil for taking up this important work under their publication list.

Prof. V. Thiruvalluvan in his inspiring address highlighted the relevance of this kind of dictionaries since vocabulary items in the agricultural domain are fast disappearing due to the advent of modern technology in the agricultural arena. Hence it is the primary duty of lexicographers to attest such words with the original meaning in the dictionaries of this kind.

N. Vijayan
Bharathiar University

PROF. K. KARUNAKARAN’S 80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore organized a one-day programme on 16-6-2022 at the Seminar Hall to honour Prof. K Karunakaran, who was the Founder Head of the Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University on his 80th birth day.

Prof. P. Kaliraj, VC, Bharathiar University, in his presidential address acclaimed the activities of Prof. Karunakaran who promoted the study of Linguistics in Bharathiar University. He also announced the creation of a Dravidian Languages and Cultural Centre in the Dept. of Linguistics, Bharathiar University.

Prof. R. Jaganathan, VC, Periyar University, Salem in his inaugural address highlighted the role of Prof. K. Karunakaran in bringing together all the linguists with him. Prof. V. Thiruvalluvan, VC, Tamil University praised Prof. Karunakaran as his predecessor who enhanced the academic ambiance of Tamil University and released the commemoration volume – Collected papers on Linguistics, Literature, Culture, and Society – containing 61 research papers. The first copy was received by Dr. M. Paramasivam, Malaysia. In the felicitation address he appreciated Prof. Karunakaran who safeguarded the study of Linguistics in India and Malaysia. Prof. K. Karunakaran’s latest honour as the Chairman of the Governing Council of ISDL, Thiruvananthapuram was emphasized in the deliberations.

Prof. K. Rangan, Former Head, Dept. of Linguistics, Tamil University in his keynote address in the “International Seminar on Linguistics, Literature, Culture, and Society” focused on the need for the study of Linguistics in our country.

N. Rajasekharan Nair
Professor of Linguistics (Retd.)

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INDEX OF EARLY MANIPRAVĀLA 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/-). **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/-).

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Glimpses on DLA

(Continued from the July issue)

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[To be continued]
S. Abdul Samed

MATHILAKAM RECORDS – SOME LINGUISTIC OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from the July issue)

The matter decided together by Karuva Māthēvan Thēvan, Attiyare Nārāyaṇan Sṛīdharan, Neytachēry Krishṇan Nārāyaṇan, Kūpakkāra Padmanābhan Padmanābhan, Attiyare Divākaran Kaṇṭan, Muṭṭavile

Padmanābhan Padmanābhan, Māmpally Nārāyaṇan Kaṇṭan, Koḷathare Thēvan Nārāyaṇan, Nārāyakkōṭṭathu Nārāyaṇan Chaṅkaran, official of the temple committee, Nair representative of the temple committee Kōvīndan Iravi and Accountant Kāman Kāman in Perumāḷ vyālam Vṛśchika vyālam in Neytachēri and Kūpakkara vāriyams on this day, the 2nd Mīna nāyar month of Monday anīlam nakṣatra, when Sri Mahāparatakōṇattu Srī Paramālmmanūpūti Turuvaṭi and Dēsangaṅattu Kilpērūr Srī Vira Kēraḷa Varmarāya, the elder Tiruvaṭi both of whom have come and stayed there.

Observation

The educational and social changes in Travancore began with the introduction of English Education at the state level in 1834 under Svātīrūnāl. Before that schools were started in Nagercoil and Thiruvananthapuram by the Prussian Missionary W.T. Ringletab and Rev. Meed of London Mission Society after 1809. By this time other schools were also started by the Christian missionaries to promote education among the poor and neglected sections of the society aimed at their missionary objectives. This paved the way for education to all the sections of the society. New opportunities were also an attraction for the learners. Within a short time many English words have crept into Malayalam.

There were many words in common use in Malayalam till the early 20th century (as given below). Their disappearance from Malayalam did not take even a century. Travancore becoming part of the Indian Union, increased use of Sanskrit and English, reforms in land tenure, tax accepting new systems of weights and measures introduced by the Govt. as part of the National policy, accepting English as the administrative language etc. etc. might have contributed to the language changes in Malayalam.

Just like language change, the question whether the change is a gain or loss for the language is also a question of fascination to linguists. In the context of globalization where the world is converging to a point, this question attains importance. No language of the world remains unchanged. But sentiments and patriotism make people think that their language is lost or contaminated. But is it not gaining through the other side when certain aspects of the language is disappearing? Certainly, it needs a lot of contemplation to decide.

The word list appended below throws light on the socio-cultural significance of the period. The agricultural importance of the period is conveyed through the weights and measures used during the period. Important information is conveyed through the coins used in the period and the general list of words which focuses on the type of land, the chief crops grown there, the compounds surrounding the houses, markets for slave trade and trade of cattle, the various taxes imposed on the various sections and professions of the people and on agricultural products, penalties imposed, the land tenure systems etc. etc.

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

kalacam	'a measure of rice'
kalan	'a measure of grain equal to 15 kuṟuṇi'
kuṟuṇi	'a measure of grain equal to 10 nāli'
cōṟumaṭa	'a measure of cooked rice'
taṭi	'a measure of paddy field'
tallə	'a measure of grains'
tuṇi	'a measure of paddy field'
maṭa	'a kind of measure'
māvə	'a measure equal to one fifth of a quarter'

General terms:

āccanakkə	'order, guard'
āccanappēr	'an orderly'
aṭukkuvatə	'dues'
antarāyavum	anupōkavum 'akamē uḷla varavum cilavum'
aḷikkayum	'destroy and'
iṇaṇṇar	'relatives, own people'
irikkiṇṇappōḷə	'while sitting'
uḷḷiṭta	'included'
kaṇakiṇṇu	'aptly, suitably' karaiyaṭiyum
karaiṇṇappāṭum	'jalāśayattinaṭuttuḷla karayum
karaiyaṭiyum	karaiṇṇappāṭum 'jalāśayattinaṭuttuḷla karayum karayaṭiyum'
Kalppiccēm	'ordered'
kāṇiṇṇappōḷə	'while seeing'
kīliyakkam	'previous practice'
kuṟateṇṭam	'prāyaścittam', 'amends'
kūṭtamaṭakkə	teṇṭappetta vaka 'total tax dues'
kaiyaṇṭu	atikariccupōṇna 'kayil vaccu anubhaviccupōṇna', 'kept in possession'
cellinṇappōḷə	'when entered'
taṇṭikkollumārūm	'collect tax and'
taṇṇiya cāti	'low caste'
niraṭṭil	'tie together/bundle'
pilpākam	'afterwords'
pōtaravə	'completeness'
maṭamaliccatu	'maṭham ākṛamiccu naṣippiccatu', 'attacked and destroyed the Mutt.'
mutalpparṛāka	'chieftain of cēkavaṟ'
muṟiṇṇapēr	'mariccavaṟ', 'people who died'
viṇṇappam	'parāti', 'petition'

Money:

accə	'an old coin of 12 th century'
kaliyan	'a coin' also known as kaliyan-panam/taṅkappaṇam'
tiramam	'an old coin'
paṇam	'a silver coin prevalent in old Travancore'

Revenue and resources:

antarāyavum	'hindrance'
irukkiḷāpōkavum	vārakkāṇavum 'rent and interest on loan'
uḷḷikkaṭamai	'tax on onion'
kāṭṭuvāriyūm	vaṭṭavariyūm 'tax for cultivation in forest and collecting forest products'
kuṟateṇṭam	'fine on crimes'
cekku iṟa	'tax on oil mill'
ceṟukoṭe	'a kind of pepper/betel vine'
cēriṇṇaṇṇilam	'tax on farmyard attached to Govt. and temple land'
tantuvikkiṟapēr	'tax on thread'
taṟikkaṭamaiyūm	koṭikkaṭamaiyūm 'tax on looms and new clothes'
tiruppiḷaivakaiyūm	ponvariyaṇṇam 'penalty and tax on gold'
teṅkupāṭṭikkāṇam	'tax on coconut trees'
toṭṭiyūm	toṭṭippāṭṭum 'yard and a small garden adjoining the house with it.'
nakkavum	nakkamcelavum 'a daily fair or market for slaves and cattle and the expenses connected.'
naṅcupuṇce	'wet and dry crops'
nattavum	nattappāṭṭum 'house site and compound around the house'
paruttikaṭamaiyūm	āvaṇakkīn kaṭamaiyūm 'tax on cotton and castor'
māvum	maṭappuṟavum 'a land measure equal to 13/40 of an acre and land owned by mutt.'
vāci	pāṭṭam 'oral tenure'
veṭṭipāṭṭam	'tax for clearing land'

[To be continued]

N. Muraleedharan Nair

New Life Member of DLA - July 2022

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ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

List of Papers Presented in July 2022

06-07-2022 : *Politeness : The Universal Strategy and its effect over a Cinema*

Mr. Shankhadeep Sarkar

13-07-2022 : *Online Lexical Resources on Tamil: Present and Future-Part I*

Mr. D. Mano

20-07-2022 : *Online Lexical Resources on Tamil: Present and Future-Part II*

Mr. D. Mano

27-07-2022 : *Discussion on Re-Structuring Linguistics (Course) Syllabus*