



DLA

NEWS

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

Vol 42 No. 1

Website www.ijdl.org Email: dlatvm@gmail.com; ijdlisdl@gmail.com

JANUARY 2018

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

45th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

on

Case, Agreement and Postpositions

(Continued from the last issue)

Session 3A – *Phonetics, Phonology and Phonetic Change* – in room 202 was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. Rama. Five papers were presented in this session. Prof. G.K. Panikkar presented a paper *Malayalam Reflexes of Dravidian */*.

In Malayalam dialects, /l/ of the literary language is found pronounced in different ways. He has explained that it does not occur in word-initial position; medially it

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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.

occurs inter-vocally and as the first constituent in consonant clusters. Analysis of phonetic features was made on the Malayalam reflexes of **/* and also a comparison of it with spoken and written Tamil and also with old Kannada was done. The paper concluded with the following observations: Prof. Bh. Krishnamurti's positing of **/z/* as voiced retroflex fricative, Prof. P.S. Subrahmanyam's suggestion of **/z/* as approximant do not fit in from the Malayalam point of view. The position of articulation is to be reconstructed as palatal and the manner of articulation may not be fricative. It might have been a palatal lateral.

Abhinav Kumar Mishra and Amit Kumar Chandrana in their paper *Regularity in Sound Patterning: A Morphophonemic Study of Maithili Verbs* made an attempt to search the various morphophonological markers attached with the verbal roots in Maithili. They have tried to look at these verbs on the morphological grounds and ended up with some interesting results and they have found a unique sound patterning in the verbal paradigm of Maithili.

Mansi Bajaj presented the paper *Word Accent in Punjabi Words with Affixes*. Every word in Punjabi has a relatively more prominent syllable. The focus of the study was on the placement of the prominent syllable and understanding of accentuation is important for understanding phonological aspects of Punjabi.

Bipasha Patgiri in her paper on *Neutralization, Voicing Assimilation and Nasal Assimilation in Mising* explained that syllable-final laryngeal neutralization and voicing assimilation is a cross-linguistically common phenomenon and Mising, an Eastern Tani language of the Tibeto-Burman family, spoken in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh is no exception. Mising always exhibits a regressive directionality of voicing assimilation and laryngeal neutralization.

A paper on *Sound Change in Telangana Telugu: A Comparative Study* was presented by Devune Datturam. This paper was a comparative study of major regional dialects of modern Telugu to the sound changes in Telangana Telugu. He has tried to reconstruct the proto Telugu forms giving examples of word-medial vowel deletion, meta thesis and some more vowel changes.

Session 3B – *Tribal Languages* – was held in room 216. Prof. B. Ramakrishna Reddy chaired the session. Prof. R.C. Sharma welcomed the delegates. Five papers were presented. Dr. R.R. Thampuran presented the paper *Language Endangerment among Tribal Groups in Kerala*. This paper explained some aspects of language endangerment in Paniya, Adiya, Malayaraya tribal groups settled in Wayanad and Idukki districts of Kerala, exploring various reasons for endangerment of their mother tongue in linguistic, socio-cultural and educational

contexts. A considerable change in the socio-cultural and economic setup of these tribes was explained. The paper concluded with remarks about acculturation, bilingualism, tribal literature in regional language, educational programmes, high level of religious conversions and their impact has resulted in language loss and a certain degree of language endangerment.

The paper *Locating the Category of Tribe in a much celebrated Model of Development: Reflexes from Kerala* was presented by K.S. Hakkim. He has pointed out that the model of development received by the common man is not suitable for tribal development and protected discrimination by the state is a crucial factor. Displacement of tribal groups from their settlements, forest rules and land reform Acts by the Government have resulted in an economic interdependency of tribal groups.

Lourembam Surjit Singh in his paper *Ethno-linguistic Vitality in the Genesis of Inpui Tribe* has explained that Inpui, also called Kabui or Puimec, is an endangered indigenous tribe and its mother tongue is also named as Inpui. It belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family of languages and it is spoken in Manipur and a few parts of Nagaland. There are differences of opinion in tracing the history of the tribe, originated from a cave and the name and location of the cave is still scientifically or anthropologically untraced. He tried to find out an amicable solution from the point of view of oral historic traditions compared to the new version of human evolutions.

Dr. Gail Coelho in the paper *Betta Kurumba Nominalizers* presented the

view that Betta Kurumba is an endangered Adivasi language spoken in mountain regions at the meeting points of the three states – Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. This language has a set of four nominalizers: /-əda/ singular nominative, /-əga/ plural nominative, /-ən/ singular oblique and /-ətarə/ plural oblique. Many Dravidian languages make a distinction between nominalizers used to create verbal nouns and those used to create participial nouns. Betta Kurumba conflated the two categories. Several morpho-syntactic properties of nominalized verbs in Betta Kurumba are discussed in this paper.

Dr. A.M. Sreedharan presented the paper *An Introduction to Beary Community and Beary Language*. The Beary-s are a trader community settled in river banks and the coastal belt, mainly from Ullal to Mulki in Mangalore Coast and Kasargod to Manjeswar in Kasargod Coast. He has explained that the origin of this social dialect can be easily traced to the Tulu dialect. Commonly used Malayalam words are not found in this dialect. He argued that this dialect has deviated from other Muslim dialects of Kerala and is spoken among Tulu speakers.

The session ended with the remarks of the Chairman, Prof. B. Ramakrishna Reddy.

After lunch, Session 4A – *Meaning and Morphosyntax* – was held in room 202. Prof. R.C. Sharma welcomed the delegates. Prof. R.R. Thampuran chaired the session. Six papers were presented. Dr. K. Srikumar presented the paper *The Syntax of the Verbalizer in /peṭuka/ Malayalam*. He explained that Malayalam has an element /peṭuka/ which occurs as an independent verb, a verbalizer or as a passive morpheme syntax of /peṭuka/ as a verbalizer affixes on to

nominals denoting 'states'. He showed that all verbalizing cases of /peṭuka/ involve an underlying structure with an argument structure which is not distinct from the structure of sentences with /peṭuka/ as an independent verb, although their surface forms may look quite distinct and their argument structure is sustained even when the verbalizer /peṭuka/ is causativized.

Nandini Bhattacharya presented the paper *Adjectives of Quantity in Bangla: A Semantic View*. She argues that approaches to the structure of natural language defining adjectives are categorized as modifiers of quantity and quality. Adjectival quantity words or Q-adjectives occur in a varied range of syntactic structures and evidently entail several semantic features. She has described with sufficient examples about the adjectival quantity words in Bangla occurring in various syntactic positions which encode a range of semantic features. This paper provides a comprehensive semantic mapping of the quantity adjectives in Bangla and examines the difference between the semantic distribution of quantifiers and adjectives of quantity in Bangla.

Arunkumar's paper *Classifying Bāngarū Verbs* provides the classification of verbs in Bāngarū based on Hindi verb classes. A detailed account of un-accusative and un-ergative verbs has been provided with different diagnostic tests to define clearly the distinction between them. The latter part examines the passive formation in language and discards the legitimacy of passivization through vowel alternation.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Kaul in his paper *Ingestive Verbs in Hindi* explains Masica's categorization of a set of verbs as ingestive. These set of verbs behave a little differently

while being transitivized or causativized. In Hindi causative constructions, the NP referring to the intermediary or non-causal agent is usually marked by the postposition /ko/ provided the non-causal predicate is intransitive. This paper describes the so-called ingestive verbs as a category on the computational linguistic model and sees its validity as a distinct class of verbs, both semantically and grammatically.

Sandhya Shankar in her paper *Time, Tense and Aspect in Malayalam Narratives of 3-6-year-old Multilingual Children* analyses time, tense and aspect as children's narratives in Malayalam. It takes into context the multilingual setting of the child. Narratives are based on two picture books where they have to narrate the story. She concludes that children tend to mix the use of the past and suddenly move on to a present descriptive narrative. She also shows that children use English words with Malayalam case markers.

Shubham Srivastava, Shraddha Ratori and Sarada Biswas in their paper *Reduplicating Adjectives in Hindi* looked at reduplication of adjectives in Hindi and the semantic and pragmatic repercussions of the same. They conclude that this study can provide some insight into semantic typology in relation to reduplication and the compositional semantics across Indian languages.

R.R. Thampuran who chaired the session gave critical remarks on all papers presented from the viewpoint of morpho-syntax and semantics.

R.R. Thampuran

TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL DLA MEMBERS

The DLA News may have to be sent through email to the members. Hence, please be kind enough to inform your email address if not already sent to us.

Editor

NATIONAL SEMINAR IN ISDL

A National Seminar on *Language Situation in India in the 21st Century* will be held in the International School of Dravidian Linguistics in collaboration with the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore on 14th and 15th February 2018 at the ISDL campus in Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram. Reputed scholars from different parts of India will participate and present papers in the seminar.

A NOTE ON FORENSIC LINGUISTICS IN INDIA

1. Introduction: Use linguistics to investigate the truth and deliver justice is the philosophy of Forensic Linguistics (henceforth FoLi). Language can hide and reveal the truth. On the other hand, language is an evidence of truth. Therefore, the truth potential of language can be used for investigation, delivering justice and rule of law. FoLi is the use of linguistics for crime investigation, court trial and other judicial procedures. FoLi covers the language of law and language in investigation and language of trial and the issues of interpretation of judgment and law. It is a well-established area of applied linguistics in developed nations with structured training programmes in many universities and institutions. There are journals and organizations like *Forensic Linguistics: The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law* and International Association of Forensic Linguistics, The International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics respectively. However, FoLi is not introduced in India in spite of its wide potential in our multilingual nation. The already-established forensic infrastructure by the central and state governments across the nation did not properly utilize FoLi as a new scientific knowledge to assist the Criminal Justice Delivery System of the country (*Gazette of India* 2010).

2. The Scope of Forensic Linguistics: All aspects of language from the level of phonetics to discourse analysis are dealt with by FoLi for investigation, trial and interpretation. A random introduction of some of the applications of FoLi in each level of languages is given here: (a) **Auditory Phonetics:** Speaker identification by victims and witnesses; voice identification; identification of social or regional accent or dialect; listener perception of 'speaker age' and 'telephone speaker' recognition; (b) **Acoustic Phonetics:** Speaker identification by phonetic analysis, voice quality, phonological variation, speaking speed; effects of intoxication on speech; phonetic manifestations of speaker's affective state (e.g. stress); disambiguating speech from background sounds; enhancement of audio records of disputed utterances; (c) **Semantics:** Interpretation of words, phrases and sentences; interpretation of texts (contracts, insurance policies, communications, restraining orders, statutes, contracts, legal texts); ambiguity in texts and laws; interpretation of spoken discourse in reading of rights (warnings and police cautions) and in police interviews and interpretations of jury instructions; (d) **Discourse and Pragmatics:** Discourse of specific contexts; the language of the courtroom; the language of specific speech acts (threat, promising, warning, offer and acceptance, defamation, denial, perjury, sexual harassment, sexual assault); (e) **Stylistics and Questioned Authorship:** Author's identification; possible suspected authors; descriptive methods of authorship identification; dialect evidenced in written language; questioned time and occasion of writing; stylometry and statistical methods in questioned authorship (forensic and literary); corpus linguistics in forensic analysis and computer programs related to questioned authorship; (f) **The Language of the Law:** Clarity and brevity in the law; (g) **The Language of the Courtroom:** Language of witnesses; the language of lawyers; the language of judges; (h) **Interpretation and Translation:** Pre-trial interpreting; courtroom interpretation; interpretation with cultural and dialect differences; questioning in interpreted testimony; courtroom role of the interpreter;

(i) **Document Examination and Plagiarism Detection, and Handwriting and Signature Identification and Discrimination** etc.

3. The Scope of Forensic Linguistics India: The linguistic diversity and the multilingual nature of our country provide wide scope for FoLi in India. No effort has been so far reported to use FoLi in India in any police investigation, court trial or the interpretation of law. FoLi can modernize and sophisticate investigations. For instance, the statement of the accused is recorded by the investigating officer in the language of the investigating officer, which is more or less near to the language of the accused. This often underrepresents the events, attitudes and even the world-view of the accused. Very often, the accused is dictated the statements attributed to him by the investigating officer as reported in the Timothy John Evans case in England, further explored by the linguist Professor Jan Svartvik in 1968. In a country like India with 74% literacy, practice of linguistic technique to check the accuracy of the documentation of the statements of the accused and the witness(es) will enhance the Right to Fair Trial guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution. Section 277 in The Code of Criminal Procedure categorically ensures the access of trial in the language of the accused. There, the role of FoLi is primordial in India. The use of 22 scheduled languages in judiciary necessitates the role of FoLi in the interpretation and accuracy of law. The scope of FoLi in relation to investigation, trial and interpretation of law is exceptionally important in the Indian situation. The Perceptive Plan of Indian Forensics (2010) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India reported that only the laboratory in Chandigarh, of the four of the Central Forensic laboratories in India (Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kolkata and New Delhi), is minimally equipped with speaker-identification infrastructure. Needless to tell about the other potentials of FoLi in India. However, the 2010 Gazette of the Ministry of Home Affairs created a Directorate of Forensic

Science Service with wide scope of innovation (Government of India, 2010). No effort has been reported so far to develop the capacity of linguists to assist the investigation agencies or court-related language of law and FoLi.

4. Action Plan: Considering the above factors, an action plan for the use of FoLi in investigation, trial and interpretation of law and judgment can be developed with the following sub-components: (a) **Resource Development:** Training materials for FoLi can be developed to include FoLi as a component of police training. This should be made available in all the scheduled languages and in English; (b) **Teaching and Human Resource Development:** Develop a postgraduate syllabus in FoLi as an optional subject for postgraduate students of linguistics, M.A. and for L.L.M. Advanced diploma courses in FoLi can be offered for investigating officers on demand; (c) **Initiation of an Institutional Infrastructure:** A National Centre for Forensic Linguistics (NCFL) can be started in India with a State Centre in each state in collaboration with the Department of Linguistics in each state. Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Ministry of Home Affairs, Hyderabad can initiate this development in collaboration with the police departments and linguistics departments of all states in India; (d) **Research Agenda and FoLi Database:** Research agenda for FoLi in India and different types of FoLi database necessarily need to be developed. Above all, FoLi can generate a number of job opportunities for linguists across the languages in India.

Supporting Documents: 1. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. 2010. *The Perceptive Plan of Indian Forensics*; [http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/pdf/IFS\(2010\)-FinalRpt.pdf](http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/pdf/IFS(2010)-FinalRpt.pdf). 2. Government of India. 2010. *Gazette of India*, Part-Sec-1 dated 18th December 2010.

S. Prema, University of Kerala

MEMORIAL LECTURES IN ISDL

Two memorial lectures will be held in the International School of Dravidian Linguistics in February 2018. *Prof. P. Somasekharan Nair Memorial Lecture* will be delivered on **14th February 2018** at 3.30 p.m. by Prof. Ravisankar S. Nair. *Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty Memorial Lecture* will be delivered by Prof. Mahidas Bhattacharya at 3.30 p.m. on **15th February 2018**.

KARUNASINDHU DAS MEMORIAL LECTURE IN KOLKATA

The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata has arranged the second *Karunasindhu Das Memorial Lecture* (2017-18) on **16th January 2018** at Vivekananda Hall. The lecture will be delivered by Swami Suparnananda, Secretary of the Institute on the topic *śikṣāviśaye śikṣaker kathā* ('The Views of a Teacher on Education').

NEW APPLICANTS FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP OF DLA

(December 2017)

- Dr. Sunandan Kumar Sen** (*Membership No. 1320/2017*)
Flat 32, Block 2, 10, Raja Rajkrishna Street, Kolkata - 700 006, West Bengal
- Dr. S. Mothilal Nehru** (*Membership No. 1321/2017*)
T.C. 41/479, Mani Road, Kuriathy, Manacaud P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 009, Kerala
- Mr. Chironjib Bora** (*Membership No. 1322/2017*)
Habial Gaon, P.O. Gonakpukhari, Golaghat District, Assam - 785 622

Contribution to DLA News Endowment Fund

28.12.17	Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan	Rs.	250.00
TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH		Rs.	2,00,651.00
CURRENT TOTAL		Rs.	2,00,901.00