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45th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on Case, Agreement and Postpositions ENDOWMENT LECTURES

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The endowment lecture on Prof. Karunasindhu Das was delivered by the eminent scholar Prof. Kapil Kapoor. Before the commencement of the lecture, Prof. R.C. Sharma gave a brief introduction on

Prof. Karunasindhu Das and Prof. Kapil Kapoor. Prof. Ramesh Bhardwaj was in the Chair. The following is a brief note on the endowment lecture of Prof. Kapil Kapoor titled *Panini Grammar – The Other Paradigm*.

Linguistics as a separate discipline had its inception in India in the middle sixties when the first wave of ‘linguists’, including such luminaries as Bh. Krishnamurti, D.P. Pattanayak, R.N. Srivastava *et al*, started returning from sponsored linguistic studies in USA and became Readers / Heads / Founders of existing / new Departments of Linguistics. They came equipped with ‘Transformational Grammar’ with Noam Chomsky as its chief priest.

Through the subsequent decades, this theory, popularly known as TG, remained the theory for explaining all allied linguistic phenomena such as psycho-, social etc. The TG theory is based on the assumption of sentence as the unit of language. Principles of linearity, dependency of parts of a sentence, transformational interrelationship of sentences and hierarchy govern the description. The problem with this theory is that it is not a complete explanation of language organization and therefore there is plenty of theorizing but no grammar. Chief absence from the system is the analysis and taxonomy of verbal and nominal bases in the absence of which, the formulated rules cannot

be applied algorithmically on the lexicon.

Paninian system is a system of (a) rules and (b) lexicon structured to provide input to rules. Three classified lexical enumerations (verbal bases, nominal bases and assigned gender) are adjuncts of the body of rules while finite sets of *upasarga*-s (derivational prefixes attached to nominals, 'substantives' in Jespersen's vocabulary), *nipata*-s (indeclinable particles), grammatical affixes and other derivational affixes get listed as rules. The classified finite phonological units are also listed as adjunct that precedes the body of rules. In this way, Panini system is a complete system and this 'completeness' makes *Ashtadhyayi* an explicit, comprehensive, rule-bound grammar.

Theoretically, in Panini, the morphological construction (unit of utterance, *ukti* as Bhartrhari calls it) and not the sentence is at the centre of language structure. This is because while the Chomskyan system springs from and explains fixed-word-order languages, the Panini system is a system for free-word-order configurational languages. Second, Panini grammar sees sentential relationships not as 'transformations' but as 'substitutions'. However, in the generation of structurally related sentences, both the systems employ necessarily the same three operations which antedate the Chomskyan employment by at least 2900 years, used as they are for the first time in the Indian grammatical tradition

by 9th century B.C. Yaska in his *Nirukta* – Yaska's terms are: *lopa* (deletion), *vikara* (modification), *agama* (addition). The third notable difference is of the conception of language the grammar accounts for. Panini's object language is *Bhasha*, the spoken language and *Chhandas*, the compositional language based on this spoken language of the people. Therefore, the changes that occur in the forms of words in speech, *sandhi* (assimilation and dissimilation etc.), the domain of morphophonemics, are his central concern. However, basing himself on 'performance', Panini describes the structure of grammar at the 'competence' level.

Five principles convert a collection of elements or units of language into structures or principled arrangements: (1) principle of sequence or order, (2) principle of linearity, (3) principle of agreement, (4) principle of centripetal control, (5) principle of hierarchy of organization. The first level of grammar is *varna*; the second level is *akshara*, syllable. The third level is of *shabda*, words which are made of syllables. Next level of organization is *pada* (morphological construction). Formation of *pada* from *shabda*, *pada-siddhi*, is the domain of grammar.

Panini has exercised a strong formative influence in the construction of modern linguistics via

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de Saussure who was a Sanskritist and taught Sanskrit as a professor of Sanskrit at Geneva before he came over to Sorbonne. It has served as a model for grammars of many languages - Persian, Tibetan, Tamil, Prakrit besides many Indian and central Asian languages. In the 19th century, its replacement by the Latin model under the influence of English education has contributed towards 'de-intellectualization' of the Indian tradition. However, on account of its appropriateness for computational grammar formalism, the *Ashtadhyayi* has come to be studied in a big way all over the world in the departments of linguistics and computer systems. In the days to come, it will become the centre of language and linguistic studies in India.

[To be continued]

**PROF. RAMESH CHAND SHARMA –
FELICITATED**

Prof. Ramesh Chand Sharma, the renowned linguist and Head, Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, University of Delhi was felicitated in a colourful event that lasted for nearly 8 hours from 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 28th September 2017 at the Department of Linguistics in connection with the rare occasion of his retirement and birthday. The enthusiasm and participation shown by the audience mark the gratitude and love towards Prof. Sharma. The event included poetic meet, cultural and musical

performances etc. The welcome address portrayed Prof. Sharma's 42 years of dedicated work in the field of linguistics. He is the author of 4 books and has written more than 100 articles. He has supervised 30 Ph.D. and 35 M.Phil. dissertations. It was due to his efforts that neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics were included in the curriculum of linguistics as well as in NET/JRF. The six felicitation volumes released in connection with this function mark the real affection of his colleagues and stalwarts and academicians from other institutions towards Prof. Sharmaji.

**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

**ARYA-DRAVID RACIAL CATEGORIES
AND COLONIAL RULE**

**Comments on Prof. Rajnath Bhat's Article in
DLA News (Vol. 41 No. 8 August 2017)**

Depending on and quoting the remarks of thirty-three European and Indian scholars from several areas like Linguistics, Philology, History, Politics, Law, Demo-graphy and Genetics, Prof. Rajnath Bhat in his article tries to establish the Aryan racial theory and Sanskritic supremacy.

His views on language have often led to controversies when he describes the history of 'give

INDEX OF RĀMACARITAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2017, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1224, Rs. 1400/- (US\$ 140/-). **V.I. SUBRAMANIAM COMMEMORATION VOLUMES I & II**, G.K. Panikkar, B. Ramakrishna Reddy, K. Rangan & B.B. Rajapurohit (Eds.), 2015, HB, Crown ¼: *Vol. I: Studies on Dravidian*, pp. xx + 515, Rs. 1,280/- (US\$ 110/-); *Vol. II: Studies on Indian Languages and Cultures*, pp. xx + 458, Rs. 1,150/- (US\$ 105/-).

and take' of Tamil language and Sanskrit, and his infatuation with Sanskrit and points of emotions sometimes disclose a kind of historical absurdism and at times ignorance in Semitic languages like Coptic, Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic and others. When he states that Semitic verbs are incapable of tense-mood conjugation and the speakers of those languages are unable to formulate and practise multiplicity, diversity or plurality and so their creative intellectual activity, abstraction and metaphysics are deeply shrunk, he is not remembering a number of linguistic features like declension, inflection, conjugation, vowel-economy etc., of the Semitic languages and also their intellectual capability. The contribution of these languages is only the spirit behind Euphrates, Tigris, and Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations. Moreover, the holy scriptures like Pentateuch, Old Testament, Quran etc., are brought out in these languages only. Further, the revelation of monotheistic philosophy of their religions was of a high degree of linguistic success and non-ambiguity. Expressing their history, philosophy, law, jurisprudence, mathematics, medicine, astronomy, agriculture, engineering, industry, commerce, poetry, art and architecture without caring for the verb modality of the language is untenable. His view that "the new theory of languages has produced a new theory of race" may be correct only to a certain extent because its validity is in doubt since language and race need not necessarily be in consonance. In addition, his statement that the Asian soil never was the birth place of the Aryans cannot be accepted so affirmatively, since some of the scholars do consider 'Central Asia' as the birthplace of many human races. Please note that the Indo-Aryan and Dravidian families of languages are not a creation of the colonialists and hence terming them as a product of colonial divide is unfortunate.

E. Sainuddin

MA-KKO-THAI

(Continued from August 2017 issue)

Trade guilds Anjuvannam, Manigramam Valanjiyar and Nanadesi were operating from the ports of Muyirikodu and Kurakkeni Kollam, Pandalayini Kollam and other Chera ports. Anjuvannam surfaced from the middle of the 9th century. Originally, it denoted all West Asian merchants which included Jews, Syrian Christians, Muslims and Parsees but was later dominated by

Muslims. Manigramam was a body of indigenous merchants rooted in interior places. The leaders of Anjuvannam and Manigramam were given the right to regulate and collect taxes and duties. They were also given vast areas of land, and some castes of people residing in the area, handed over, were to be the serfs under the trade guilds. In addition, they were given as many as 72 privileges which included Panchavadyam, Sanghu, Pavada, Pallakku and also Pakalvilakku - similar to beacon lights allowed to VIP-s.

The Kollam copper plates of Stanu Ravi in his 5th regnal year (A.D. 849) records grant of land and labourers to Terissa Palli (Christian church) in Kurakkeni Kollam constructed by the efforts of one Maruvan-Sapir-Iso and entrustment of its maintenance to Anjuvannam and Manigramam who were given several rights and privileges. In the Jewish copper plates, Bhaskara Ravi (A.D. 1000), the king, during a visit to Muyirikodu, gave grant of title of Anjuvannam and privileges to Joseph Rabban, a Jew in Muyirikodu. It is clear from the copper plates that Muyirikodu is a port which imported and exported materials. Further, Bhaskara Ravivarman was conferring the right of Anjuvannam, not when he was in the capital city but during a visit - a clear indication that the port was not a part of Ma-kko-thai but somewhere near the capital city of Ma-kko-thai. Muyirikodu of the Jewish copper plates could be the ancient Chera port of Musiri, referred to in a Tamil epigraph, Sangam poems and in the descriptions of Roman geographers Pliny and the Peryplus. The fact that Musiri was a live port even in medieval periods is proved by the mention of the name of the port in the Jewish copper plates of Bhaskara Ravi. The location of ancient Musiri could not be fixed based on archaeological evidence because earlier excavations carried out in ancient Mahodayapuram proved habitation in the place only from 8th century onwards and archaeological evidence was lacking in respect of early historic settlements. In the Veeraraghava Pattayam of 1225 C.E., executed in Mahodayapuram by a successor of the Perumals, the port was mentioned as *Kodungalloor Azhi* indicating that the port had moved to the northern banks of river Periyar. The materials collected from excavations in Pattanam, 7 km. south of Kodungalloor (Kodumkollur) and 1 km. to the south of Paravur Thodu, a distributary of river Periyar, proved beyond doubt that a port which carried out maritime trade with Red Sea ports and Mediterranean existed there from about 300 B.C. up to the middle ages. In view of the archaeological evidence that has come to light, the inevitable

conclusion could only be that Pattanam may be part of Musiri itself or part of a greater Musiri complex.

[To be continued]

K. Ravindran

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON LANGUAGE DISABILITY – MALAYALAM UNIVERSITY

The Department of Linguistics, Thunchath Ezhuttaccan Malayalam University, Tirur, Kerala organized a national seminar from 4th to 6th October 2017 on Language Disability and also awareness programmes intended to reduce various types of speech defects and language acquisition problems among children. Scholars and researchers from various universities participated. Deliberations were mainly on topics like language acquisition, language and intelligence, language deficiency, speech defects, psycho-linguistics, neurolinguistics, language problems in differently abled children, teaching and learning of languages etc.

The awareness programmes were organized in Vettom Panchayat. A good number of women and children participated quite eagerly.

TONOGENESIS IN DOGRI

(Continued from the last issue)

Languages with "stiff" glottalized consonants and tense voice developed high tone on the preceding vowel and those with "slack" glottalized consonants with creaky voice developed low tone.

There have been researches that led to questions such as whether 1) the initial consonant is a factor in tonogenesis; 2) the high-low dimension of vowels is another important factor in tonogenesis.

There are generalizations showing that voiced initial consonants lead to low tones while vowels after aspirated consonants acquire a high tone. When final consonants are lost, a glottal stop tends to leave a preceding vowel with a high or rising tone (although glottalized vowels tend to be of low tone), whereas a final fricative tends to leave

a preceding vowel with a low or falling tone. Vowel phonation also frequently develops into tone. This is noticeable in the case of Burmese.

Previous studies of tonogenesis have revealed that languages with monosyllabic form are more likely to develop tones (Matisoff 1973, Thach 1996, Thurgood 2002). On the other hand, a number of research reports on tonogenesis are apparently found to deal with disyllabic forms (Yupho 1989, Teeranon 2006).

Before the arrival of published results, many historical and comparative linguists tried to reconstruct a proto-language to reveal that languages might form more contrastive tones through changes in the initial and final consonant features in their parent languages. This concept was first introduced by Przyluski (1924). A conventional case of tonal evolution was proved with Vietnamese by Haudricourt (1954) and was later clarified by Matisoff (1973).

Vietnamese, the national official language of Vietnam, is a tonal language. However, in early 6th century, this language was non-tonal. Its syllables during this period were of open as well as closed types. It was the loss of final consonants that caused phonologically distinctive pitches or tones to emerge viz., level, falling and rising tones.

At the end of the 12th century, the number of tones had increased to six through the loss of the voicing of initial consonants. When the voiced consonants lose their voicing (e.g. /b/ > /p/), low and high tones emerged to avoid homophones. Tones emerge to replace consonant voicing and to differentiate word meanings. This is to say when /p/ becomes /pa/, a high tone results, and when /b/ becomes /pa/, a low tone results.

Following the initial work on the theory of the development of contrastive tones in Vietnamese, further work on the acoustic study of tonal evolution or tonogenesis has revealed

many universal phenomena that might give birth to tones: the influence of initial consonants on the F_0 of the following vowels; the influence of final consonants on the F_0 of the preceding vowels; the influence of high-low vowel dimension on the F_0 of the vowels. However, we will not go into the acoustic dimensions of tonal evolution; rather our focus of concern is the birth of tones in Indo-Aryan languages of the Indian sub-continent, mainly Dogri. Before we take into account the tonogenesis in Dogri, let us take a brief look at the arrival of tones in Punjabi.

2.0 Tonogenesis in Punjabi

There are ample cases which enable one to infer some general statements about the birth of tones. The usual source of substantiation is comparative data from closely related languages. For example, if a group of non-tonal language contrasts [ta] and [da], and one tonal language in their midst instead contrasts [tá] and [tà] on the same pair of lexical items, we may suppose that the tonal contrasts on the vowels have arisen out of the loss of a prior voicing contrast on the onsets.

The best-known source of tonal contrasts is a voicing contrast in obstruents. Voiced obstruents are known to lower the pitch of the following vowel, and voiceless obstruents may even raise it. There are various reasons for it. Voicing in obstruents is associated with slacker vocal folds, and a lowered larynx. Both these tend to lower pitch, at least at the start of the following vowel. Voiceless obstruents seem to have tenser vocal folds and thus tend to raise the pitch on the following vowel. Even if the consonants lose their voicing contrast over a period of time, the pitch

difference may persist and the burden of contrast is then shifted from a voicing contrast in the consonant to a tone contrast in the vowel.

It has been observed that many a times, tone arises as an effect of the loss or merger of consonants. In the case of non-tonal languages, voiced consonants cause following vowels to be articulated at a lower pitch than other consonants do. This serves as a minor phonetic detailing of voicing. However, in case of the loss of consonantal voicing, the incidental pitch difference may be left over to carry the distinction that the voicing had carried, and thus becomes significant (phonemic). This is what one finds in Punjabi where the murmured voiced aspirated consonants vanished and left the tone. In a study conducted by Gill and Gleason (1972), it was found that in Punjabi, breathy voiced consonants get devoiced and triggered low tone if word initial and elsewhere in the word, breathy voiced consonants triggered high pitch on the preceding syllable while maintaining the voicing.

[*bhai* pài 'brother'; *labh* láb profit']

[To be continued]

Devina Kaul

NEW APPLICANTS FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP OF DLA (SEPTEMBER 2017)

1. **Dr. Iris Koileo** (*Membership No. 1317/2017*)
T.C. 37/1339, "Chandrakantham", Plavodu, Kodunganoor
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