



# DLA NEWS

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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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September 2023

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



## 77<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics and Dravidian Linguistic Association of India celebrated the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with great enthusiasm and pride. In the presence of a gleeful gathering, Prof. G.K. Panikkar (Hon. Director) hoisted the flag at 9.00 am in the ISDL premises, and the national anthem was sung by the staff and scholars. Later, a meeting was held in the CD room at ISDL. There were speeches by Prof. G.K. Panikkar (Hon. Director), Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Former Director), Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair (Treasurer, ISDL), and the representatives of the staff and Research Fellows (ISDL and DLA). There was a feeling of honor and patriotism in everyone's heart. At the end, sweets were distributed to everyone.

*Aiswaria G. Shajan*

## LECTURE SERIES ON BRAHUI

International School of Dravidian Linguistics is extremely happy to announce a series of three lectures on Brahui by a Brahui scholar Dr. Nazir Shakir Brahui. The speaker Dr. Nazir Shakir Brahui is a native speaker of Brahui and presently the Director of the Brahui Research Institute, Pakistan. He is a prolific writer and eloquent speaker in Brahui language.

The first lecture is on **September 28, 2023 at 10.30 AM (IST)** which is “On the Ancient Brahui Script”.

The second lecture is on “Dravidian Names of Brahui Tribes, Areas and Cultural Things”. The third lecture will be “On Linguistic Study of Brahui–Phonetics, Morphology, Syntax and Basic Vocabulary”. All these lectures will be arranged through live online platform.

These lectures are arranged for the benefit of the Researchers in Dravidian. Those who are interested to attend may please register.

Due to practical problems we limit the admission only to the members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India.

**Separate registration is needed for each lecture.**

For details see our website : [www.ijdl.org](http://www.ijdl.org)

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## **50<sup>TH</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS AND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CURRENT TRENDS IN LINGUISTICS**

### **Report**

(Continued from the August issue)

In the second session which was chaired by Prof. L. Ramamoorthy, Prof. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh presented the paper *Language contact across time: A study of Kashmiri Lexicon*. He discussed the influence of the Sanskrit, Persian and Urdu languages on the lexicon of Kashmiri. It also attempted to trace the changes that occurred at different linguistic levels, especially the phonological, vis-à-vis the process of nativization. Dr. P. Sreekumar presented a paper titled *Reforming Teaching Linguistics in India in the Context of NEP 2021 and Outcome-based Education (OBE)*. It was an attempt to develop a pedagogic model to restructure, reform and decolonize linguistics teaching in India and proposed certain pedagogic models for the teaching of linguistics in India according to the framework of NEP 2021 and OBE. He discussed how colonial narratives shaped linguistics in India and argued that the discipline of linguistics must be reformed to strengthen linguistic solidarity. Dr. Renuka Devi presented a paper on *Gender Discrimination: Being born a woman entails facing discrimination*. She discussed various causes of discrimination and stated some important constitutional provisions for the empowerment of women.

The first parallel session in the Multimedia classroom, Department of Linguistics was chaired by Dr. Darwin L. There were six presentations in this session. The paper *Language Mixing in the Contact Languages of Northern Kasargod: An Exoskeletal Analysis* by Ritu Santh explained the nature of shared linguistic patterns among the non-standard contact varieties of Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu (three South Dravidian languages) and Konkani (an Indo-Aryan language) in the linguistic convergence area at Kerala-Karnataka border. Dr. G. Palanirajan presented a paper on *Case Suffixes and Postpositions in Tamil*. This paper discussed how traditional grammars especially Tolkappiyam treated case markers and postpositions in the section on VeeRRumaiyiyal of Collatikaram. Dr. L.R. Prem Kumar and Pankaj Dwivedi presented a combined paper on *Negative in Finite Verb - A Comparative Study of Tamil and Saurashtri*. This paper discussed the structural features of negatives

in finite verbs in Tamil and Saurashtri and their relation with Indo-Aryan languages like Marathi. Catherine Ann Michael and Dr. Reenu Punnoose presented their paper on *Malayalam-Tamil Language Contact in Palakkad: the Case of Rawthers and Tamil Brahmins*. The study focused on two Malayalam-Tamil contact varieties spoken by two ethnically distinct communities in Palakkad—the Rawthers and Tamil Brahmins and explained how and in what ways languages change and how two or more language systems interact and influence each other in creative ways. Ms. Salsanath presented her paper on *Writing System Used in Ozhukku*. She explained various other scripts along with her focus area. Dr. Syam S.K. presented *A study on the cultural significance of Mannan Tribes*. He narrated the important cultural aspects and ethnic peculiarities of the Mannan tribal communities of the state of Kerala.

The second parallel session in the Multimedia Classroom, Department of Linguistics was chaired by Dr. Syam S.K. There were five presentations in the session. Dr. M. Selva Durai's paper was on the *Koraga Tribal Community in Karnataka*. He discussed the life and culture of the Koraga community settled in Karnataka. Dr. Suresh P. presented his paper *The Contribution of the Vettakadu Irula Tribal Community to Folk Medicine in the Coimbatore District of Tamilnadu*. He discussed the Irula community's traditional medicine practices and their strong belief in traditional medicine. The Vettakkadu Irulas cure patients using animal meat in addition to herbs and other natural ingredients.

Dr. Arul Dayanand together with Dr. S. Prema presented a paper on *Malapulaya documentation: A threatened endangered language*. This paper was a description of one of the endangered languages of Kerala Malappulaya. It was an audio-video documentation corpus for the Malappulaya language that could be used for many different things, as well as a basic sketch of the grammar and an online dictionary. Dr. Lijisha A.T. and Dr. Darwin L. presented *Seasonal terms and knowledge*

**Latest Publications:** AN ACCOUNT OF BANGLA DISCOURSE PARTICLES, Rajat Ghosh, 2023, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 142, Rs.300/- (US\$ 30/-) GLOSSARY OF GRAMMATICAL TERMS IN TRADITIONAL MALAYALAM GRAMMARS, C.S. Jayakumari Kunjamma, 2023, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 232, Rs.450/- (US\$ 45/-) THE ART AND EDIFICE OF GENDERLECT, B. Sreedevi, 2023, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 160, Rs.320/- (US\$ 32/-) A DICTIONARY OF SANSKRIT, PRAKRIT AND PALI WORDS IN TAMIL AND MALAYALAM, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2022, HB, Crown 1/4, pp. 988, Rs.2300/- (US\$ 230/-) A SOCIO-CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND LINGUISTIC STUDY OF THE PATHANS OF KERALA, S. Abdul Samed, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 104, Rs.130/- (US\$ 13/-) MAPPILA MIGRANTS IN ANDAMANS - A SOCIO-LINGUISTIC STUDY, N. Muraleedharan Nair, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp.225, Rs.260/- (US\$ 26/-).

of the Cholanaikka tribe in Kerala, Western Ghats; A Cognitive semantics analysis. This paper was an attempt to analyze the seasonal terms of the Cholanaikka people using the perspectives of Cognitive linguistics. Dr. Darwin L. presented his paper on *Cases in Malayalam – A Corpus-Based Linguistic Study*. He tried to find out the occurrence of the case markers and the possibility of the collocational or colligational conditioning of the occurrences of the case markers using corpus-based morphological analysis.

The third parallel session in the multimedia classroom was chaired by Prof. S.A. Shanavas. There were four presentations in that session. Prof. K. Sreekumar's paper was on *Directed Manners of Motion in Malayalam*. Prof. B.S. Khaira's paper was on *Tones in Punjabi*. The paper was an attempt to explore the features of tone in the Punjabi language. A tone in the Punjabi language is a distinctive feature that provides a unique place to Punjabi among Indian languages. The tone in Punjabi language is lexically significant, contrastive but with a relative pitch on each syllable.

Dr. Vijayarajeswari presented *Issues in translating Mudhuvan tribal language poems into Tamil*. She pointed out the difficulty in translating the literature of tribal languages into Tamil. Prof. M.C. Kesava Murty presented a paper on *Split Intransitivity and Argument Realization in Telugu*. This paper attempts to address the argument realization, particularly in the case of unergative and divergent verbs in Telugu.

The first technical session at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial Conference Hall commenced with Dr. Kakali Mukherjee as the session chairperson. The technical session opened with the presentation of Dr. Mukherjee on *Tibeto-Himalayan Languages – A Brief Overview*. The presentation covered the complete deliberation on the key aspects of Tibeto-Himalayan Languages. The next paper was on *The Comparative analysis of Hindi and Bangla Tongue twisters* by a group of young scholars, Suvam Sen, Abhijeet Satsangi & Siddharth Chauhan. The

presentation was enriched with examples from both languages and grabbed the interaction from the delegates. The third presentation, *Problem in Detecting Bengali Homophones in Speech-to-Text System* by Suvam Sen threw light on the semantic ambiguities in processing using computational tools. The last presentation was on *E-learning methodologies in a second language learning classroom* by Avik Mukherjee. The presentation brought out how effectively the E-learning methodology could be utilized in second language learning. The session turned out to be highly informative and interactive with the versatile nature of scholarly presentation.

The second technical session here commenced at 11:40 AM with Prof. K. Srikumar on the chair. The session contained four presentations by young researchers on various spheres of language, linguistics and technology. The first paper was on the *Omission of words when exposed to the multi dialects* by Vijila and Fousia. The presentation contained real examples of omission of words in multi-dialect environments like the campus, and campus hostel. The next presentation was on the *Impact of Word of Day Practice in schools for improving second language communication – A Study* by Ajeesha Alex and Kavya S. Sunil. The study elaborated on the merits of the Word of the Day practice and gave suggestions for using the new words in their daily communication. The third presentation on *Kerala Youth's Language and Vocabulary as Influenced by Mass Media* was by Densha Devis & Aswini. How popular social media influenced the language of youngsters of Kerala is elaborated with examples. The last paper of the session was on *Neuroplasticity as an application in Artificial Intelligence* by Aparna S. Pillai and Rinsiya Rahim. The paper observes how Neuroplasticity works in language learning from a linguistic perspective and this paper concludes how Neuroplasticity works in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The session ended with clarification of questions and a summing up of the collective opinion by the chair.

(To be continued....)

**S. Prema**

**LIVE****ONLINE SPECIAL LECTURE****“ON THE ANCIENT BRAHUI SCRIPT”**

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics is arranging a Special Lecture on “On the Ancient Brahui Script” on **28<sup>th</sup> September, 2023** from **10:30am to 12:30pm (IST)** in online mode (on Google meet platform).

Lecture will be delivered by:

**DR. NAZIR SHAKIR BRAHUI**  
(DR. NAZIR AHMED)

Director  
Brahui Research Institute  
Sindh, Pakistan



It is an open invitation to the DLA Members all over the world. As a special case other researchers who are interested to attend this Special Lecture are also welcome. Those who wish to attend may please register at the earliest through [GoogleForm](#). Registration is **free of cost**.

**ARE KERALITES IMMIGRANTS FROM BENGAL?**

In the extract of the interview of Dr. Varahalingam (Anthropologist) by N.S. Mani published in the Statesman Weekly (25-11-1995), Dr. Varahalingam opines that the present day Keralites are the descendants of the Bengali population who migrated to Kerala. According to him during the Aryan movement towards the east, the Kapalikas of Bengal had to flee from Bengal in order to escape from the attacking Aryans and settled in Kerala. The Kapalikas are worshippers of Durga. For Dr. Varahalingam, it is due to this one can find several resemblances between the Bengalese and the Keralites including the Durga worship.

(Courtesy to Mr. N.S. Mani &  
The Statesman Weekly)

*Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan*

**OUR SALUTE TO ISRO SCIENTISTS**

The forum of the staff and Researchers of the ISDL and DLA at its meeting held on 25-08-2023 unanimously passed a resolution congratulating the Scientists of ISRO for their successful launching of Chandrayaan. Their dedication and hard work made India one of the very few scientifically advanced countries of the world. This success makes every Indian to be proud and elated.

**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/-). **INDEX OF KAṆṆAŚŚA RĀMĀYAṆAM**, Puthusserry Ramachandran, 2020, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1122, Rs. 1930/- (US\$ 193/-).



## ONLINE SPECIAL LECTURE ON “EGOCENTRIC QUESTIONS IN BANGLA AND HINDI-URDU” (15<sup>th</sup> November 2023)

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics is arranging a Special Lecture on “Egocentric Questions in Bangla and Hindi-Urdu” on **15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023** from **10:30am to 12:30pm** in online mode **LIVE** (on Google meet platform).

Lecture will be delivered by:

### Dr. Rajesh Bhatt

Professor of Linguistics  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, USA



It is an open invitation to the DLA Members all over the world and other researchers who are interested to attend the Special Lecture on Google meet platform. Those who wish to attend may register at the earliest through **GoogleForm**. Registration is **free of cost**.

Prof. Rajesh Bhatt completed his BTech in Computer Science at IIT Kanpur in 1993 and got his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania in 1999. He is interested in the comparative syntax of the Modern Indo-Aryan languages, the syntax-semantic interface, Tree Adjoining Grammars, and creation of linguistic resources for South Asian Languages. At the University of Pennsylvania, he worked on Tree Adjoining Grammars with the Indo-American computational linguist Aravind Joshi. His dissertation on convert modality was co-advised by Sabine Latridou and Anthony Kroch. He is currently a full professor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has also taught as a visiting professor at MIT and at various LSA summer institutes, the LISSIM summer schools in India, the NYI in Saint Petersburg Russia, and the Crete Ling Summer School. He is one of the founding editors of the Journal of South Asian Languages.

## ONAM CELEBRATED



As in the previous years, this year also ISDL, DLA and IJDL celebrated Onam with grand enthusiasm. In the morning at 10 am a colourful *pukkaalam* was laid in front of the Administrative Block. The *nilavilakkam* in the middle of the *pukkaalam* was lighted by the present and former Directors. After that, the members assembled at the Seminar Hall and talked on the importance of Onam. In the meeting, all the participants shared their golden memories in connection with Onam. In the noon a delicious ‘*Onasadya*’ was served which was followed by different ‘*Onakkalika!*’ upto 5 pm.

S. Abdul Samed

## A RECOGNITION TO BRAHUI



The caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Mir Gul Khan Naseer addressed the Balochistani Nawabs in Brahui language. Although he could speak in Urdu, he adopted the public language of Balochistan.

Nazir Shakir Brahui

## LINGUISTS HONOURED

Dr. K. RAMASAMY, Former Professor cum Deputy Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru and Former Officer in Charge, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai received the prestigious **Kalaigarnar Karunanidhi Semmozhi Tamil Award 2023** for his contribution to Classical Tamil Studies from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Mr. M.K. Stalin, in the meeting held at the Secretariat, Chennai on 5-9-2023. He was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation, a prize money of Rs. 10 lakhs and a bronze statue of Dr. Kalaigarnar Karunanidhi.



He passed M.A. Linguistics with flying colours from Annamalai university in 1972 and obtained Ph.D (Topic: A Contrastive Analysis of the Relative Clauses in Tamil and English) from CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai university in 1988. He started his career in CIIL, Mysuru. He has taught Tamil as a second language in the Southern Regional

Language Centre, Mysuru from 1983 to 2003 for the school teachers deputed by various governments. Also taught Tamil to foreign nationals from Australia, Canada, China and Sweden at different periods in the SRLC, Mysuru. He served as Director in charge of CIIL on different occasions. Organised about 100 events (meetings, workshops, training programmes, seminars, conferences etc.) relating to the plan scheme for Classical Tamil. He has assessed more than 100 Tamil books under the Grant-in-Aid scheme of CIIL.

He has several valuable publications to his credit. He has successfully supervised almost a dozen Ph.D scholars. He has organized several Refresher courses, Orientation Programmes and Workshops. He has visited institutions in Nepal, Mauritius, and Malaysia for academic interactions. His performance, both in the administrative and academic fronts in the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai attracted the Tamil language lovers and the Government of Tamilnadu alike. This is the major reason for conferring of this prestigious award to him.

Dr. R. LALITHA RAJA, Assistant Professor, CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai university was awarded the **Best Teacher Award** by Annamalai university on the occasion of Teachers' Day celebrations held on 5-9-2023. It was presented to her by the Chief Guest Prof. V. Thiruvalluvan, the Hon'ble Vice-chancellor of Tamil University in the presence of Prof. R.M. Kathiresan, the Hon'ble Vice-chancellor of Annamalai university.



Dr. Lalitha Raja was awarded M.A. Linguistics and Ph.D (Topic: Syntactic Development of Tamil Mother tongue children in learning English) degrees from Annamalai university. She has also been appointed as In-charge of the Centre for Speech and Language Disorder Studies at the CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai university. As the Life member of DLA she has been actively participating in the academic activities of DLA.

She has 9 awards to her credit. She has successfully completed 11 research projects after getting finance from funding agencies like UGC, ICSSR, NCERT, and RUSA. She is an adjunct faculty for Arupadai Veedu Medical college, Pondicherry since 2021 onwards. She was a Fellow (Post Doctoral Research) at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla during 2016-2018. She has authored 3 books and published 66 research articles. She has presented research articles in 68 National and International seminars and conferences. She has visited institutions in UK, Cambodia, Vietnam and Singapore for academic pursuits. She has also delivered 29 special/invited lectures. She has successfully supervised 9 scholars for Ph.D. She is also a *Registered Rehabilitation Professional-Special Educator* (Mental retardation). She has been training children with speech and language disabilities. Currently she is also pursuing the research project 'Communicating with Womb'.

*N. Rajasekharan Nair (Annamalai University)*