



DLA

NEWS

ELAMITE AND DRAVIDIAN : A REASSESSMENT
Filippo Pedron, 2023, PB, Demmy 1/8, pp. 264, Rs.450/- (US\$ 40/0)

DRAVIDIAN TOWNS IN THE MAHAVASTU AND MILINDAPANHA A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY
Bryan G. Levman, 2023, PB, Demmy 1/8, pp. 152, Rs. 350/- (US\$ 30/-)

Vol. 49 No. 4

Website <http://www.ijdl.org>

Email: dlavis1971@gmail.com; ijdlvtm@gmail.com

April 2025

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

52ND ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS AND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NEP AND EQUIPPING MOTHER TONGUE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

HEARTENING RESPONSE TO 52ND AICDL

The registration for the 52nd AICDL is in progress. Many researchers from different parts of India and a few from abroad have already registered. Our request to the intended participants is to register immediately without further waiting.

For registration, visit our website www.ijdl.org Link for registration : <https://forms.gle/uGLwHFvZ9sNNjGPb6>

All correspondences with regard to the registration for the conference should be sent to dlavis1971@gmail.com

One can download the pdf registration form from our website (www.ijdl.org). The mode of payment details are given in the registration form. The requisite registration fee can be remitted in person, by post or by bank transfer. **Please send the filled-up registration form to the Secretary-DLA by post or by e-mail to dlavis1971@gmail.com on or before 31st May, 2025.**

The following lectures will be the highlights of the conference

- A. ENDOWMENT LECTURE**
- PROF. ANVITA ABBI ENDOWMENT LECTURE**
Padmashri Prof. Ganesh Devy (Professor of Eminence & Director, School of Civilization, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai)
- B. MEMORIAL LECTURES**
- PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Prof. G. Balasubramanian (Former VC, Tamil University, Thanjavur)
 - PROF. SUNITI KUMAR CHATTERJI MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Dr. S. Natanasabapathy (Former Director, CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar)
 - PROF. NAGAMMA REDDY MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Dr. L. Sobha (Director, AU-KBC Research Centre, MIT Campus, Anna University, Chennai)
 - PROF. KARUNASINDHU DAS MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Prof. A.G. Menon (Leiden, The Netherlands)
 - PROF. S.K. VERMA MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Prof. Santhoshkumar (Dept. of English, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar)
 - PROF. A. CHANDRASEKHAR MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair (Mentor Professor in Linguistics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore)
 - PROF. CHEKKURI RAMARAO MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Prof. M.C. Kesava Moorthi (Professor of Linguistics, Dravidian University, Kuppom)
 - PROF. H.M. MAHESWARAIAH MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Dr. Sayeegeetha (Head, Dept. of Humanities, Nitte Deemed to be University, Mangalore)
 - PROF. K. MAHADEVA SASTRI MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Prof. A. Usha Devi (Retd. Professor of Linguistics and Lexicography, Telugu University)
 - DR. PARSO GIDWANI & LACHHMI JESSARAM MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Prof. K. Karunankaran (Former VC, Tamil University, Thanjavur)

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| 52nd AICDL - Announcement | 1 |
| Brahui Day Celebrated | 3 |
| Prof. T.B. Venugopala Panicker Passed Away | 4 |
| 11 th All India Conference of Linguistics and Folklores 2025 | 4 |
| Prof. Retnamma Passed Away | 5 |
| Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak Awarded the 2025 Holberg Prize | 5 |
| International Conference on Indian Languages, Translation, and Application of Artificial Intelligence in Language Technology | 6 |
| Workshop on "Treatment of Morphology and Syntax in Tamil Grammar" | 6 |
| Ten - Days Workshop | 6 |
| ISDL Research Forum | 6 |
| New Life Members of DLA | 6 |
| Report on National Seminar on 'India as a Linguistic Area - A Revisit' | 7 |
| SAFAL 2025 | 8 |

TO THE KIND ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE DLA

Please make all correspondences to DLA and IJDL through our new e mail ID's

DLA : dlavis1971@gmail.com

IJDL : ijdlvtm@gmail.com

Latest Publications: PAPERS IN LINGUISTICS Vol. II, Panikkar (Ed.), S. Abdul Samed, N. Muraleedharan Nair (Asst. Eds.), 2024, PB, Demmy 1/8, pp. 320, Rs. 650/- (US\$ 65/-) THE INFLUENCE OF SARASVATIKANTHABHARANA ON PRAKRIYASARVASVA, P. Visalakshy, 2024, PB, Demmy 1/8, pp. 216, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-) ENGLISH BANGLA MALAYALAM BASIC VOCABULARY, Dhruvajyoti Das, 2024, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 133, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-)

FOR DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE THE CONTENT OF THE BROCHURE ISSUED BY PROF. S. SARANYA, ORGANIZING SECRETARY 52ND AICDL, CAS IN LINGUISTICS, ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY, ANNAMALAINAGAR IS GIVEN BELOW:

52ND ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS AND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NEP 2020 AND EQUIPPING MOTHER TONGUE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

CAS In Linguistics, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar

in collaboration with
Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru
Dravidian Linguistic Association of India &
International School of Dravidian Linguistics
Thiruvananthapuram

The 52nd All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists is sponsored by the Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar. It will be held during 19-21 June, 2025. The sponsoring institution expects the collaboration of the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru and the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram.

About the Sponsoring and Collaborating Institutions

Annamalai University was founded by the legendary philanthropist and farsighted visionary, Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar in 1929. It is one of the oldest universities in South India which sprawls over a vast and sylvan campus of 1000 acres, located just to the east of Chidambaram, the Abode of the Cosmic Dancer, Lord Nataraja. The University houses about 50 Departments of Study under Eight Faculties and plays a key role in social, cultural, and economic uplift of the people across the rungs of society for nearly a century.

(1) Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics – Annamalai University

The Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics of the Annamalai University is an International Centre for Dravidian Linguistics in general and Tamil Linguistics in particular. Further it is one of the pioneer institutions in India which promotes higher research and learning in Linguistics. The centre attracts scholars and students from different states of India and also from abroad. The very inception of this Centre owes to a liberal grant given by UGC in 1954 to commemorate the silver jubilee celebration of the Annamalai University. The University utilized this amount to start a Department of Dravidian Philology, which developed into a full-fledged Department of Linguistics. The Department started part-time Diploma courses in Linguistics and languages in the year 1958, and two year M.A. Degree course in Linguistics in 1960. In 1963, the Department was upgraded as a Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics. The Centre came under the special assistance scheme, i.e. the Commonwealth Educational Co-operation Programme and Colombo plan in the year 1967. The UGC also included this Centre under the scheme of helping the faculty members from the affiliated colleges to improve their academic qualifications under the Faculty Improvement Programme. As a result of its contributions in the field of linguistics in general and Dravidian Linguistics in particular, this Department is attracting eminent scholars both from India and abroad for academic deliberations. By the total output of research activities in the form of Ph.D. dissertations, post-doctoral research projects, academic programmes like seminars, workshops, conferences, more importantly publications, C.A.S. in Linguistics, Annamalai University occupies a prominent position in the global linguistics map.

(2) Central Institute of Indian Languages

The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) at Mysore, an institution under the Ministry of Education was set up in 1969 to help in evolving and implementing the language policy of the Government of India and to coordinate the development of Indian Languages by promoting research in the areas of language analysis, language pedagogy, language technology and language use in the society. The

Institute promotes Indian languages through several comprehensive schemes. There are seven Regional Language Centres (RLC) located at Bhubaneswar, Pune, Mysore, Patiala, Guwahati, Solan and Lucknow. The CIIL provides support and facilities for the all-round development of the languages of India. It also publishes instructional materials and research reports. The RLCs conduct teacher-training programmes wherein the secondary school teachers deputed by States and Union Territories are trained in languages other than their mother tongue. CIIL provides financial assistance to individuals and voluntary organizations by supporting bulk purchase, publication of manuscripts and magazines in Indian Languages (other than Hindi, Urdu, Sindhi, Sanskrit and English) including tribal languages. On the basis of the recommendations of National Knowledge Commission, Ministry of Education has set up National Translation Mission (NTM) with the main objective of functioning as a clearing house for all translation activities, both theoretical and practical, in as many Indian languages as possible. Besides, the Mission also provides links between users of translated materials at different levels and in different activities to the public and private agencies.

(3) Dravidian Linguistic Association of India & International School of Dravidian Linguistics

The Dravidian Linguistic Association of India was established on March 15, 1971. The first All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists (AICDL) was held at Trivandrum under the auspices of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala under the leadership of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam in June 1971. As per the decision of the 1st AICDL, The Dravidian Linguistic Association of India was formally registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act of 1955 (Act XII of 1955), with Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee as its President, Prof. V.I. Subramoniam, Prof. R.C. Hiremath and Prof. M. Mahadeva Sastri as Secretaries and Dr. G.K. Panikkar as Treasurer. Later to attract international scholarship and to facilitate research work, the "International School of Dravidian Linguistics" was established on February 25, 1977. These two organizations are at present the forerunners of Dravidian Studies in India. These two together has published 181 research publications so far. The DLA also publishes the internationally reputed journal "International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics".

THE 52ND ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS (AICDL)

This conference provides a forum for leading linguists working on the various aspects of linguistics in this country to come together under one umbrella and to decide the future course of action. It also provides an opportunity for the young Indian linguists to get advice and suggestions from senior scholars. So also, this assemblage of delegates helps to foster intimacy and to create the feeling of oneness with people speaking different languages, practicing different customs, believing in different religions, staying at different regions and belonging to different ethnic groups. Along with this conference an 'International Symposium on NEP 2020 and Equipping Mother Tongue for Higher Education' will also be conducted in which leading educationalists will take part. This Symposium will definitely be a remarkable stride towards a clear exposition of the Government's policy of imparting instruction in all levels including higher education through the medium of mother tongue.

Preferred Areas of Deliberations

Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics, Applied Linguistics, Dravidian Linguistics, Historical & Comparative Linguistics, Language Contact, Computational Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Language Pathology, Linguistic Typology, Areal

Linguistics, Language Teaching & Testing, Endangered Languages, Indo-Aryan and Austro-Asiatic Linguistic Studies, Writing Systems, NEP 2020, Translation Studies, Cognitive Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Media Linguistics, Forensic Linguistics, Field Linguistics, Indian Grammatical Tradition, Language Acquisition, Brain and Language, Clinical Linguistics, Speech Synthesis, Mathematical Linguistics, Semiotics, Stylistics, Neurolinguistics, Folkloristics, Tribal Studies, Cultural Studies, Lexicography, Corpus Linguistics, Manuscriptology, Palaeography, Archaic Linguistics, Nostratic Studies, Internet Linguistics, AI and Language Science.

Awards and Prizes

As in the previous years, during the 52ndAICDL also, various awards and prizes will be given to scholars and students. The following are the awards and prizes to be awarded at the 52nd All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists.

(1) Mrs. Katre Memorial Prize (2) Award for the Best Paper in the Conference (3) Prof. K. Anbazhakan Award (4) Award for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Tribes (5) Shri. C. AchuthaMenon Prize (6) Dr. George Jacob Award (7) Prof. K.M. Venkataramaiah Award (8) Dr. Hermann Gundert Endowment Award (9) The Phonetic Society of India Endowment Award (10) Dr. Panneerselvam & Smt. ThavamaniPanneerselvam Award (11) Dr. K.N. Kuppuswamy Award (12) Dr. P.C. Ganeshsundaram Award (13) Prof. Susheela P. Upadhaya Award (14) Shri. C. Subramoniam Memorial Award (15) Telugu Award (16) Colin P. Masica Award (17) VennelakantiPrakasam Award (18) Manikkam & P.N. Kamala Award

Special Lectures

In addition, there will be the following eleven special lectures by eminent linguists.

ENDOWMENT LECTURE

1. PROF. ANVITA ABBI ENDOWMENT LECTURE

MEMORIAL LECTURES

1. PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM MEMORIAL LECTURE
2. PROF. SUNITI KUMAR CHATTERJI MEMORIAL LECTURE
3. PROF. NAGAMMA REDDY MEMORIAL LECTURE
4. DR. PARSO GIDWANI & LACHMI JESSARAM MEMORIAL LECTURE
5. PROF. KARUNASINDHU DAS MEMORIAL LECTURE
6. PROF. S.K. VERMA MEMORIAL LECTURE
7. PROF. A. CHANDRASEKHAR MEMORIAL LECTURE
8. PROF. CHEKKURI RAMARAO MEMORIAL LECTURE
9. PROF. H.M. MAHESWARAIAH MEMORIAL LECTURE
10. PROF. K. MAHADEVA SASTRI MEMORIAL LECTURE

The above lectures will be the hall mark of the All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists.

Registration

The participants can opt either Online or Offline registration but not both.

Abstract:

Participants who intend to present papers are requested to send their abstract of the paper in English / Tamil to the organizing secretary. The abstract not exceeding 300 words should consist of the main points of the paper to be presented at the conference. Spot registration is allowed as per the discretion of the Organizing Secretary. The abstract may please be sent to dlas52auling@gmail.com

Papers:

The papers should be submitted in A4 size with margins of 1.5 on all the four sides of each sheet. They must be fully 1.5 spaced with soft copy and sent to the mail ID dlas52auling@gmail.com

Dates to Remember:

Last date for abstract : 01-05-2025
Last date for submission of full paper : 15-05-2025
Last date of Registration : 31-05-2025
Dates of Conference : 19,20 & 21 June 2025
Venue : CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University

Location of Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar:

Annamalai University is situated at Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram. The distance to Chidambaram is approximately 240 km from Chennai towards South. It is well connected by road and rail. Buses frequently ply from Koyambedu & KCBT, Kilambakkam. Train facility is available from Egmore & Thambaram. Hi-Tec deluxe bus service is also available from Chennai. The Annamalai University campus is situated at the East of Chidambaram town, 3 km from Bus stand and 2 km from Railway station. Accommodation will be arranged in the University guest house and hostels.

Office Bearers of the Conference

Chief Patrons : **Prof. T. Arutselvi**, Member, Vice-Chancellor Convener Committee, Annamalai University.
Prof. Shailendra Mohan, Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru.

Patrons : **Prof. K. Karunakaran**, Chairman ISDL & Former Vice Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur.
Prof. N. Bhakthavathala Reddy, President, DLA and Former Professor of Folklore Studies & Dean, School of Folk and Tribal Lore, Telugu University, Warangal,
Prof. Aranga Pari, Dean, Faculty of Indian Languages, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.
Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Director, ISDL & Dean, DLA

Advisory Committee Members

Former Directors, CASL
Prof. G. Srinivasa Varma **Prof. K. Balasubramanian**
Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair **Prof. S. Natanasabapathy**
Prof. A.G. Natarajan

Organizing Secretary

Prof. R. Saranya, Director, CAS in Linguistics

Joint Secretaries

Dr. P. Manimaran, **Dr. R. Durai**, **Dr. R. Lalitha Raja**,
Dr. P. Vijaya, **Dr.C.Kuppusamy**

Coordinators : **Prof. P. Chandramohan**, **Dr. P. Kumaresan**

Contact Address: **Dr.P.Chandramohan**, Professor, CASL,
Annamalai University Mobile: 82480 96645 &
94429 09892 Mail: chandruling@gmail.com
Dr. P. Kumaresan, Associate Professor, CASL,
Annamalai University, Mobile: 93458 35788
Mail: drpkling@gmail.com

BRAHUI DAY CELEBRATED

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics and Dravidian Linguistic Association of India together celebrated April 5th 2025 as Brahui Day. In a meeting organised at the ISDL Seminar Hall, Rabindra Bhavan, Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Hon. Director, ISDL who presided the meeting elaborately discussed the importance of Brahui language, a member of the Dravidian family of languages, its characteristics and geographical distribution. In the occasion Dr. S. Abdul Samed and Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair, Senior Research Fellows addressed the gathering and spoke on the salient features of Brahui. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Arup Pandit, Junior Research Fellow, DLA. Prior to the meeting Dr. Annie Tisha Jerald, Junior Research Fellow, ISDL warmly welcomed the participants.

Abdul Samed S.

PROF. T.B. VENUGOPALA PANICKER PASSED AWAY

Prof. T.B. Venugopala Panicker, an unassuming scholar with deep knowledge and expertise in Malayalam grammar, literature, comparative linguistics and translation passed away on 2nd April 2025 at the age of 79.

T. B. Venugopala Panicker was born in Tharamel House, Ezhikkara, North Parur, Kerala on 2nd August 1945, as the youngest son of Ulanattu Balakrishna Panicker and Meenakshi Kunjamma. After obtaining his B.Sc. in Physics from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, his inborn passion for language and literature led him to pursue M.A. in Malayalam at the same college, which he completed with first class in 1968. His keen interest in language studies took him to Annamalai University, where he earned M.A. in Linguistics with first class first rank in 1970. He was later awarded Ph.D. for his thesis titled *A Critical Study of Piiṭhika of Keerala Paṇṇiniyam*, under the guidance of Professor Sukumar Azhikode from the University of Calicut.



After a brief stint as a Research Assistant at Madras University, Prof. Panicker joined the Department of Malayalam at the University of Calicut in 1973. Since then to until his retirement on 31st March 2006, he taught Malayalam grammar and linguistics. He also served as the Head of the Department from 2003 to 2005 and later as Dean of the Faculty of Languages at Kannur University. Prof. Panicker was also UGC Emeritus Professor at Calicut University during 2007-2009. His valuable contributions as a member of the Boards of Studies in various universities across Kerala also deserve special mention.

Prof. Panicker had deep interests in Malayalam grammar, Historical linguistics, Malayalam literature, Kerala culture, and Lexicography. In addition to his regular teaching at Calicut University, he frequently lectured on Malayalam language and linguistics both within Kerala and outside. Several international scholars—including Richard Tremblay (Canada), Eva Szilly (France), and Michael Tarr (USA)—came to study Malayalam under his guidance. He served as a Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, where he taught Malayalam during the March–June semester, 2012. He supervised many Ph.D. and M.Phil. students and worked on projects related to lexicography and the Mahl language spoken in Minicoy as Principle Investigator.

He had a profound understanding of Tamil and Sanskrit and their relationship with Malayalam. He translated two Tamil works into Malayalam—one scholarly work *Leelathilakam: Bhaashaasastra Drishtiyil* by Dr. S. V. Shanmugam and the other, a novel *Kuunan thoppu* by Thoppil Mohammed Meeran. He was the founder President of the Calicut University Linguistics Forum (CULF). Prof. Panicker also edited two volumes of *Malayaala Vimarsham*, the journal of the Department of Malayalam, which focused on studies in linguistics and grammar.

He authored widely in Malayalam and English, contributing research papers and seven books, along with two edited volumes on Malayalam grammar and linguistics. Notable among them are *Bhaashaartham* (Semantics), *Noam Chomsky*, and *Studies on Malayalam Language*. His book on Noam Chomsky introduced the great linguist's works to Malayalam readers. He also interviewed Chomsky in 2001 for Kairali TV Channel.

Prof. Panicker organized several seminars and workshops including the Kerala Panineeyam Centenary Seminar, which significantly promoted linguistic studies in Malayalam. As a sincere and humble scholar, Prof. Panicker sparked interest in linguistics among young minds and nurtured a generation of scholars who continue to contribute to Malayalam linguistics. Until the final days of his life, he remained engaged with friends and students, discussing various aspects of language. His ability to trace Dravidian roots and compare them with Sanskrit and Prakrit was truly remarkable.

He received the Kerala Sahitya Academy's I.C. Chacko Endowment Award in 2000 for his book *Bhaashaartham*, Kerala Sahitya Academy Award for overall contributions to the Malayalam language and literature in 2015 and the Kendra Sahitya Academy Award in 2005 for his translation of *Kuunan toopu* from Tamil to Malayalam.

Prof. T.B. Venugopala Panicker is survived by his wife, P. Rajalakshmi (a retired Malayalam professor), his son Kannan, and his daughter, Athira. He was an active member of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. His demise is a significant loss to DLA, ISDL, and IJDL.

G.Balasubramanian

11TH ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF LINGUISTICS AND FOLKLORES 2025

The Punjabi Linguistics Association, Patiala collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Journalism, Languages and Culture, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana is organizing the 11th All India Conference of Linguistics and Folklores 2025 on 'The Role of Folklore, Language and Culture in Education and Nation Building : NEP 2020' from 8th - 10th October, 2025. Papers are invited on themes related to Language and Oral Traditions, Folklore and Cultural Identity, Socio-linguistics and Dialect Studies, Endangered Languages and Folklore Conservation, Digital Humanities and Folklore Documentation.

Abstract Submission Deadline : 30th May, 2025

Notification of Acceptance : 15th June, 2025

Full Paper Submission : 30th July, 2025

For abstract submission and registration : aiclf2025@gmail.com
For inquiries, Contact : Dr. Jagdish Kaur (9256446863)
Organising Secretary

Bhupinder Singh Khaira

PROF. K. RETNAMMA PASSED AWAY

Prof. K. Retnamma, Former Vice-President Correspondent of DLA and ISDL passed away on 25-03-2025. Her services were of immense value in the growth of DLA and ISDL. She served these institutions as a CD member, Governing Council Member, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President Correspondent.

I have more than 40 years of intimate academic relation with Prof. Dr. K. Retnamma. It was late Dr. V.I. Subramoniam who introduced me to Prof. K. Retnamma while I was a research scholar in the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala. She was known to me as a Malayalam Lecturer during 1970's and later as a Ph.D Scholar in linguistics. 'Descriptive Grammar of Ananthapuravarṇanam and Vāsudēvastavam' was her research topic. Along with other descriptive grammars of Malayalam Classical works, the dissertation on Early Maṇipravāḷa works by Prof. Retnamma helped me to analyse the language of Rāmacaritam the earliest classical poem in Malayalam. One important feature I noted in the dissertation of Prof. K. Retnamma was the classification of verb stems on the basis of present tense markers. Verb stem classification in all other descriptive dissertations on Malayalam Classical works were prepared on the basis of past tense markers. In my academic service as lecturer in Government colleges, I got the opportunity to work with Prof. K. Retnamma. After a span of thirty two years of service in various Government Colleges of Kerala, she retired as the Deputy Director of Collegiate Education.

As soon as she became a research fellow in linguistics, she and her husband Shri. Vamadevan, Chief Judicial Magistrate took life membership of DLA. As a C.D. member, Secretary, Vice President Correspondent, she rendered commendable service both to DLA & ISDL. After her retirement from college service Prof. Retnamma became a Senior Fellow of the ISDL and chose the study of early inscriptions in Kerala. The outcome of this study was the book entitled as 'Early Inscriptional Malayalam' published by DLA in 1994. The corpus of this study was 45 inscriptions in Malayalam dated from 830 to 1250 C.E. After Anantharamayyar Chandrasekhar popularly known as A.C. Sekhar, Prof. Retnamma was the first person to undertake a serious study on early Malayalam inscriptions. She had several books in Malayalam like Ananthapura Varṇanam - (Text and interpretation), പ്രാചീനശാസനങ്ങളും മലയാളപരിഭാഷയും (Translation of early inscription), മലയാളഭാഷാചരിത്രം എഴുത്തച്ഛൻ വരെ (History of Malayalam language upto Eḷuttachan). She was a devotee of Sri Narayana Guru. Prof. Retnamma wrote brilliant interpretations on Guru's songs in Malayalam and Sanskrit.

In the history of DLA, Prof. Retnamma's contribution will be inscribed in golden letters. As an earliest woman Malayalam Linguist and as a faithful disciple of Dr. V.I. Subramoniam she will be remembered for ever by the linguists of Dravidian Academic circle.

The members, staff and research fellows of DLA and ISDL express their heartfelt condolence in the demise of Prof. K. Retnamma.

Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK AWARDED THE 2025 HOLBERG PRIZE

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak has been awarded the 2025 Holberg Prize, a prestigious international honor in academia. Funded by the Norwegian government and administered by the University of Bergen, the prize includes a cash award of \$540,000. It is often referred to as the "Nobel Prize" for the fields of arts and humanities, social sciences, law, and theology. Spivak is the first Indian recipient of this esteemed award.



As a University Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak has significantly influenced literary discourse since the 1970's, particularly through her seminal essay, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (1988). In this work, she argues that dominant discourse often marginalizes the voices of underrepresented groups, with a specific focus on subaltern women within discursive practices and cultural institutions.

Born in Kolkata in 1943, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak studied at the University of Calcutta and Cornell University. She has maintained a close connection to Bengal, collaborating with academics and authors such as Mahasweta Devi. Her translation of Devi's short story "Draupadi" introduced this powerful and provocative text to a wider audience. She views translation as both a political and philosophical act, as it serves to democratize knowledge. Additionally, she has translated the work of French philosopher Jacques Derrida, particularly his book "Of Grammatology," which introduces the concept of deconstruction. She employs deconstructive analysis in her examination of "Draupadi."

Arup Pandit

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/-). **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/-). **GRAMMAR OF RĀMACARITAM**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2022, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 395, Rs.500/- (US\$ 50/-).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDIAN LANGUAGES, TRANSLATION, AND APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY



The Department of Linguistics and the Department of Computer Applications, Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU), jointly organized a two-day International Conference on Indian Languages, Translation, and Application of Artificial Intelligence in Language Technology during March 24-25, 2025 in the hybrid mode.

Gist of the Conference Proceedings

(1) Inaugural Function: The conference began with an inaugural function at the RUSA Hall, where Dr. K. Umaraj welcomed the delegates and Prof. M. Ramakrishnan highlighted the significance of AI in Language Technology. (2) Expert Insights: Prof. K. Karunakaran emphasized preserving the Tamil language, while Prof. K. Sarukesi stressed developing software for uncultivated languages. (3) Research Presentations: Over 170 research papers were presented by scholars from India, the USA, UK, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong. (4) Launch of AI-Based Software Tool and Books: The Department of Linguistics launched an AI-based software tool and two books. (5) Valedictory Function: The conference concluded with a valedictory function, where Prof. Saranya delivered the presidential address and Prof. Nagarathinam delivered the valedictory address.

Conference Outcomes

The conference provided a platform for around 200 students and researchers to benefit from lectures by eminent scholars. The event was deemed a grand success, with participants engaging in meaningful discussions and knowledge sharing.

K. Umaraj

WORKSHOP ON "TREATMENT OF MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX IN TAMIL GRAMMAR"

A workshop on "Treatment of Morphology and Syntax in Tamil Grammar" was held at the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai, from 18th -27th March, 2025.

In the inaugural function Prof. R. Chandrasekaran, Director of CICT, Chennai delivered the Presidential Address and Dr. R. Bhuvaneshwari, Registrar of CICT delivered the felicitation address. Dr. M. Selvadurai, Junior Research Officer and Workshop Coordinator at CICT, Chennai, welcomed the guests and participants.

The workshop was aimed to analyze and compare the grammatical frameworks found in Tamil language grammar books with those of related languages such as Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu etc. The paper presenters in the workshop included Prof. G. Subramaniyan, Prof. S. Jayaprakash Prof. K. Bala Subramaniyan, Prof. N. Manoharan, Prof. P. Marudanayagam, Dr. K. Palanirajan, Dr. K. Balaraman, Dr. A. Senthilnarayanan, Prof. S. Thirugnanasammantham and Dr. G. Satish. The workshop concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. M. Selvadurai.

Selvadurai M.

TEN - DAYS WORKSHOP

The Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), is organizing A Ten-days workshop on "Akam Tradition of Tamil" from 14 -23rd May, 2026. The aim of this workshop is to study the origin and development of the grammatical tradition in the grammatical texts of Tamil language. For details visit : <https://forms.gle/RrWcEhu9nZZ3FRW77>, <https://www.cict.in/>.

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

| | | |
|------------|---|------------------------|
| 14-03-2025 | <i>Sanskrit Schools of Grammar</i> | Mr. Arup Pandit |
| 19-03/2025 | <i>Some Sporadic Sound Reflexes in Malayalam Dialects</i> | Prof. G.K. Panikkar |
| 26-03/2025 | <i>Dysgraphia : Disorder of Written Expression</i> | Dr. Annie Tisha Jerald |
| 02/04/2025 | <i>Geographical Distribution of Tibeto-Burman and Tai-Kadai</i> | Dr. Remya L.B. |

New Life Members of DLA

| Name & Address | Membership Number |
|---|-------------------|
| Dr. Sujith N. Thampi 'Gulmohar', MLA Road, Aramada P.O. Thiruvananthapuram - 695 032 | 1694/2025 |
| Dr. Jisha C.K. School of Folklore Studies, University of Calicut, Calicut University P.O. Malappuram - 673 635 | 1695/2025 |
| Dr. Zam Ngaih Cing Brahmaputra Block, Department of Linguistics, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod | 1696/2025 |
| Mr. Gunti Prem Sagar D. No. 7-417, Seetaramanjanya Peta, Mangalagiri, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh - 522503 | 1697/2025 |
| Mrs. Dahini Ponnen Blue Shark Lane, Le Hochet, Terre Rouge, Pamplemousses, Mauritius 21805 | 1698/2025 |

TAGORE'S GITANJALI, K. Jayakumar, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp.95, Rs. 130/- (US\$ 13/-). ENDANGERED SPEECHES OF IDUKKI IN KERALA, V.R. Prabodhachandran Nayar & K. Velappan, 2021, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 12+500, Rs. 660/- (US\$ 66/-). INDEX OF BHARATAMALA, R. Saraswathy Kutty Amma, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp.892, Rs.1100/-(US\$ 110/). COLLECTED PAPERS OF LV RAMASWAMI IYER, G.K. Panikkar, K. Rangan & Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Eds.) 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp.826, Rs. 990/- (US\$ 99/-). INDEX OF EARLY MANIPRAVĀLA WORKS, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2021, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 1086, Rs. 2240/- (US\$ 224/-). THE DRAVIDIAN CULTURE AND ITS DIFFUSION, T.K. Krishna Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 58, Rs. 75/-(US\$ 7.50/-). THE MOTHER GODESS IN BENGAL AND IN KERALA, T. Madhava Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 463, Rs. 600 (US\$ 60/-). INDEX OF KAṆṆĀŚŚĀ RĀMĀYAṆAM, Puthuserry Ramachandran, 2020, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1122, Rs. 1930/- (US\$ 193/-).

REPORT ON NATIONAL SEMINAR ON 'INDIA AS A LINGUISTIC AREA – A REVISIT'*(Continued from previous issue)***Academic Session – III (Day 02)**

The second day's first session and parallel session commenced at 9:30 a.m. at the Rabindra Bhavan, Seminar Hall and in Room No. 2. There were fifteen papers in the forenoon session. The session (Seminar Hall) was chaired by Prof. K. Suryanarayana. The first paper was presented by Prof. Aejez Mohammed Sheikh on "Legacy of Contact and Borrowing Vis-à-Vis the Structure of the Kashmiri Language." His paper examined the influence of language contact and borrowing on Kashmiri, analyzing its impact on grammar, vocabulary, and linguistic features. This was followed by Dr. Peter Edwin Hook's online presentation on "The Typology of Apprehensives in South Asian Languages," where he explored the linguistic phenomenon of apprehensive categories and their classification across South Asian languages. Mr. Vijay Kumar Kaul presented an online paper titled "Dardic Languages: Dialects and the Areas," discussing the geographical distribution and dialectal variations of Dardic languages in northern South Asia. The session continued with Prof. K. Srikumar's paper, "Linguistic Convergence: Some Grammatical Reflexes," which analyzed two grammatical features of Dakkhini Hindi in Hyderabad, illustrating how they reflect linguistic convergence. The session concluded with Dr. V.M. Subramanian's paper, "The Influence of English Language on Tribal Languages of the Nilgiris: A Lexical Analysis," highlighting the complex interaction between English and the tribal languages of the Nilgiris. These discussions enriched the seminar by addressing various aspects of linguistic contact, convergence, and typological influences in the South Asian linguistic landscape.

Academic Session – IV

The parallel session was chaired by Dr. C. S. Swathy. The session covered a diverse range of linguistic studies. Ms. Riddhi Praveen Karkare presented a paper titled "A Survey of Kinship Exclamations in Indian Languages," investigating the presence or absence of kinship exclamations across various Indian languages and analyzing their socio-pragmatic contexts. This was followed by Ms. Bhavya C. P.'s paper, "Exploring Intercultural Traits in Folklore: A Comparative Analysis of Haryanvi and Malayalam Proverbs," which explored how these proverbs reflect India's cultural identity and linguistic diversity. Ms. Pooja B. Pradeep presented "Causatives across Indian Languages," examining the morphosyntactic patterns and typologies of causative constructions. Ms. Sikha P. P. discussed "Phatic Communication across Indian Languages," emphasizing its role in shaping India as a sociolinguistic area, as proposed by P.B. Pandit. The session concluded with Dr. Anusree Sreenivasan and Aswathi P.A.'s paper, "Typology of Epenthetic Vowels in English Loanwords Across Indian Languages," which analyzed the phonological adaptations of English loanwords in Indian languages. The session provided valuable insights into the intricate relationships between language, culture, and linguistic structures in India.

Academic Session – V

This session at Rabindra Bhavan, chaired by Prof. K. Karunakaran, featured insightful discussions on linguistic and cultural diversity. Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair presented the first paper, "Names of Fishes in Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, and

Urdu," which examined the fish-naming practices in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu), emphasizing linguistic and ecological influences. Followed by the first paper Prof. Bakthavathsala Reddy presented the paper titled "South Indian Folk Performing Arts—Commonness and Diversity," exploring shared elements and regional variations in folk traditions. Dr. Manjulakshi L. and Dr. Anjaneyulu G. presented "An Observation on the Pan-Indian Characteristic of Echo Word Formation and Reduplication with Special Reference to Telugu and Kannada," analyzing the semantic intricacies of these linguistic features. The session concluded with Prof. Ataulah Khan's paper, "The Characteristics of Urdu Among Kerala's Non-Native Speakers," highlighting how Urdu is uniquely adapted by speakers in Kerala. This session provided valuable insights into language evolution, folk traditions, and linguistic adaptation across diverse Indian communities.

Academic Session – VI

This parallel session was chaired by Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan. The papers presented were exploring linguistic and cultural interconnectedness in India. Mrs. Mythili Raja, Dr. Syam S. K., and Ms. Reshma A. presented "Unveiling the Linguistic Nuances of Proverbs in Selected Indian Languages: A Comparative Study," illustrating how proverbs serve as repositories of collective wisdom, reflecting both regional diversity and pan-Indian cultural unity. Mr. Arup Pandit followed with a paper "Makar Sankranti: A Pan-Indian Festival," comparing the celebrations of Poush Sankranti and Pongal to highlight India's rich cultural diversity. Mrs. Vijaya Lekshmi C.S. presented a paper on "The cultural legacy and social significance of Panan community in Indian context" which made a scholarly investigation on the Panan community. The session concluded with Dr. Remya L.B., Dr. Annie Tisha Jerald, and Ms. Gouri V.B. presenting "Shared Features in Indian Festivals," which examined the amalgamation and mutual influence of cultural traits across Indian festivals.

Academic Session – VII

The afternoon session was chaired by Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair at Rabindra Bhavan. There were three insightful presentations. Dr. Ganesan Ambedkar presented a paper titled "Pattern Matching in the Concept 'India as a Linguistic Area,'" which analyzes case markers and postpositions in Tamil, Malayalam, and Koya languages. Dr. Smitha K. Nair presented "Linguistic Representation and Inclusivity in India," emphasizing the importance of recognizing linguistic diversity as a national asset and advocating for measures to protect it in the face of globalization. Following that, Dr. P. Sreekumar presented a paper on "Collective across Bharatiya Languages," which explored the expression of the collective concept in different Indian languages and identified shared linguistic features.

Academic Session – VIII

This parallel session, chaired by Prof. M. Rama, began at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Abdul Samed presented a paper titled 'Convergence between Indo-Aryan and Dravidian in which he discussed key areas of convergence, including phonetic borrowings, syntactic similarities, and shared lexical items. Dr. L.R. Premkumar presented the paper, titled "Influence of Dravidian on the Gender Features in Saurashtri Nominals," exploring how



Price Rs. 5/-

RNI 29572

DLA News Vol. 49 April 2025

Date of Publication 15.04.2025

V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex
St. Xavier's College P.O.
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586

Tel. 0471-2704282; Mobile :9188608982

Website : www.ijdl.org

E-mail : dlavis1971@gmail.com

ijdlsvm@gmail.com

Dravidian linguistic features have impacted gender markers in Saurashtri, an Indo-Aryan language spoken in Tamilnadu. Then, Dr. Mahboob Zahid presented his paper "Patterns of Reduplication in Rajasthani Languages: A Comparative Analysis within India as a Linguistic Area Framework", It examined reduplication patterns in Rajasthani languages and their connection to broader linguistic trends in India. Dr. Aiswaria G. Shajan concluded the session with her paper, "India's Linguistic Tapestry: Reconciling Multilingual Challenges and Diversity," discussing the complexities of India's multilingual landscape, the coexistence of diverse languages, and the need for preserving linguistic diversity amid challenges in communication, education, and governance.

Academic Session – IX

The session after the tea break was chaired by Prof. Ataulh Khan. Dr. M. Ramesh Kumar presented the paper "A Linguistic Study on Multilingualism in Contemporary Tamil Films," analyzing the use of multilingual culture and fictional languages in Tamil cinema. Mr. Ravindra Reddy M (online) followed with "Linguistic Diversity: Promoting Spiritual Unity and Diversity in India," exploring how linguistic diversity serves as a vehicle for religious and spiritual expression in the country. Dr. Sarmistha De Basu presented "Pan-Indian Folklore Studies in Reference to Beliefs," delving into folk beliefs and the significance of village deities and ancient gods in shaping Indian cultural traditions. The session concluded with Dr. Aneesa Farooq, Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq, and Mr. Sajad Ahmad Teli (online) presenting "Spiritual Unity in Diversity: The Essence of Indian Religions," discussing the spiritual unity across diverse religious traditions in India and its role in fostering social harmony.

Academic Session – X (Day 03)

The third day's session, chaired by Prof. V. Renuga Devi, began at 9:30 a.m. at Rabindra Bhavan and featured seven papers. Prof. L. Ramamoorthy presented "Silappathikaram: A Text of Dravidian and Aryan Synthesis," exploring the integration of Dravidian and Aryan elements in the epic. Prof. M. Sreenathan followed with "Synonymous Portrayals of the Concept of India as a Linguistic Area," analyzing the concept of linguistic unity in India across disciplines. Dr. S. Prema presented "Preventive Constructions Across Indian Languages," focusing on the role of preventive constructions in Indian languages. Dr. S. Vijaya Rajeswari examined "The Role of Reduplicants in Tamil and Malayalam Translation:

Challenges and Solutions," addressing the complexities of translating reduplicants between the two languages. Prof. S. Kunjamma presented "Cultural Convergence in Indian Music—An Overview," discussing the blending of cultural influences in Indian music. Dr. Ninitha presented "Large Language Models in Indian Languages—Initiatives and Challenges," highlighting the challenges of developing language models in India's diverse linguistic landscape.

Academic Session – XI

The final session, chaired by Prof. V. Saratchandran Nair, began at 11:45 a.m. in which five papers were presented. Dr. V. Narayanan Bhattathiri presented "Palaeolinguistics of Sanskrit by Semantic Etymology in Yaska's Tradition: Impact on Awareness of India as a Linguistic Area," emphasizing the role of Sanskrit in linguistic palaeontology through semantic etymology. Mr. Dibya Prakash Panda followed with "A Typology of Negative Existential Cycle in Eastern Indo-Aryan Languages," analyzing negative existential and verbal negators in four Eastern Indo-Aryan languages. Mrs. Shree presented "Cultural Themes and Social Significance in Indian Festivals: A Case Study," focusing on the cultural and social significance of Onam and Deepavali. Ms. Lizbeth James and Dr. L. Darwin discussed "Cultural Syncretism and Language in the Indian Scenario," exploring the interrelationship between cultural syncretism and language. The session concluded with Prof. G.K. Panikkar's paper, "Substratum Influence in the Evolution of India as a Linguistic Area," examining how substratum influences have contributed in the formation of India as a linguistic area.

55 research papers were presented over three days, covering various aspects of linguistics related to the seminar theme. These papers were delivered by distinguished professors, scholars, and researchers from across India and abroad, offline and online. The valedictory session, held at Rabindra Bhavan on February 7 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, began with a warm welcome by Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair (Senior Research Fellow, ISDL). Prof. N. Bhakthavathsala Reddy (President, DLA & Retired Professor, Telugu University, Warangal) addressed the gathering, followed by the Valedictory Address by Prof. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh (Head, Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir). Dr. Ninitha R. and Mr. Dibya Prakash Panda presented the seminar assessment, and the session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Abdul Samed, Treasurer, ISDL.

Aiswaria G. Shajan
Resource Person, NTS-I, CIIL, Mysuru

SAFAL 2025

The sixth edition of the South Asian Forum on the Acquisition and processing of Language (SAFAL 2025) will be held at the University of Colorado Boulder between 17th to 19th November, 2025. The abstracts are reviewed on a rolling basis until 31st August, 2025. For more details :

<https://www.colorado.edu/conference/safal2025/>

Printed, edited and published by Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Dean, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, Thiruvananthapuram on behalf of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. Assistant Editors (1) Dr. S. Abdul Samed (2) Dr. N. Muraleedharan Nair. Page set by Aswathy A. (DLA). Printed at Publication Division, DLA.