



46TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF INDIA

Organised by
Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir, Srinagar
(Report)

The 46th Conference of the Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI-46) was organised by the Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir, Srinagar in collaboration with the Linguistic Society of India, Pune, and the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru during October 3-5, 2024. The conference was attended by around 200 delegates, including 180 scholars and linguists from various parts of the country and also from abroad.



The inaugural session of the conference was held at Gandhi Bhawan of the University at 10.30 am on October 3. It was chaired by Prof. Nilofer Khan, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir. The other dignitaries on the dais included Prof. Keshari Lal Verma, Vice Chancellor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University, Navi Mumbai, Prof. M J Warsi, President, Linguistic Society of India, Prof. R C Sharma, University of Delhi and Prof. Aejez Mohammed Sheikh, Head, Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir and Director of ICOLSI-46.

In the welcome address, Prof. Aejez Mohammad Sheikh, expressed joy in hosting the conference and extended a warm welcome to the participants and dignitaries on and off the dais. He acknowledged the presence of senior linguists, Prof. G.K. Panikker and Prof. P.N. Kamala, whose attendance added prestige to the event.

Prof. Sheikh further highlighted the rich history of the Linguistic Society of India (LSI) and talked about the department's significant efforts over the past year. He shared that the department successfully conducted six workshops from January 2024 wherein the department collaborated with institutes like National Testing Service, CIIL, Mysuru, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, Scheme for Preservation and Promotion of Endangered Languages, Mysuru, Pratham Foundation and National Translation Mission, Mysuru.

Prof. Mohammad Jahangir Warsi, Chairman, Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University and President of the Linguistic Society of India (LSI), deliberated on the future prospects of linguistics in India. He highlighted the efforts being made by the incumbent executive of LSI in the development and growth of the discipline throughout the country. Prof. Warsi also discussed the intersection of language, technology and society. He pointed out that the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning offers exciting opportunities for linguistic study, but also cautioned about the risks these technologies pose, such as the potential

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to widen the digital divide and marginalize indigenous and minority languages. He urged scholars to think critically about how linguistic research can address these challenges, stressing that language preservation must go hand in hand with innovation.

Prof. R. C. Sharma delivered the keynote address. Prof. Sharma, a long-time collaborator with the department, expressed his appreciation for the department's efforts over the past two decades, particularly during challenging times. He acknowledged the dedication of both faculty and students in advancing linguistic research.



Prof. Keshari Lal Verma also contributed to the discussion by reflecting on the contributions of G.A. Grierson, whose work brought much-needed attention to India's local languages. He mentioned the recent requisition submitted to Parliament for the recognition of 39 additional languages and discussed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its focus on promoting local languages. Verma noted that 22 regions have already begun providing education in local languages, with textbooks now available in these dialects.

The Presidential Address was delivered by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofer Khan, who emphasized the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a critical step towards addressing language endangerment in India. She discussed the challenges posed by an education system heavily dominated by English, which often disconnects children from their mother tongues and local dialects. Prof. Khan advocated for the need to promote multilingualism and preserve linguistic diversity through education in local languages. She also acknowledged the transformative potential of technological advancements in revolutionizing language education and making it more accessible.

Prof. Khan expressed her deep appreciation for the Department of Linguistics and its relentless efforts in promoting the local languages of the Union Territory. She commended Prof. Aejez Mohammad Sheikh for his outstanding leadership and continued dedication to the betterment of the University, particularly the Department of Linguistics. She emphasized that Prof. Sheikh's work has played a pivotal role in advancing linguistic research and preserving the linguistic heritage of the region.

The inaugural session also witnessed release of three publications:

- "The Book of Abstracts" from the conference
- The 16th edition of the "Indian Journal of Linguistics" (IJL)
- "Bridging Boundaries in Language Innovation: A Festschrift for Vijay Kumar Kaul in Language and Engineering", Edited by Prof. R.C. Sharma.



The first day of the conference also featured a Panel Discussion titled "Linguistics in the 21st Century India: Challenges and Prospects", which provided a platform for insightful reflections on the evolving nature of the discipline. The session was conducted by Prof. M. Jahangir Warsi, who also served as the lead speaker, while the panellists included Prof. K.L. Verma, Prof. G.K. Panikker, and Dr. Mimi K. Ezung.

During the discussion, the panellists explored the current status and future prospects of linguistics in the 21st century. A key focus was on how linguistics today is increasingly technology-driven, with many advancements in linguistic research being enabled by technological innovations such as Artificial Intelligence and machine learning. The panellists also highlighted the challenges being faced by the discipline.

Aejez Mohammad Sheikh
University of Kashmir

(To be continued in the next issue.....)



PROF. V.GNANASUNDARAM IS NO MORE

Prof. V. Gnanasundaram (84), the Vice-President of DLA and an eminent Dravidian linguist passed away on 14th October 2024. Prof.(Dr.) V. Gnanasundaram, a distinguished and versatile linguistic scholar of high reputation with B.O.L., M.A., & Ph.D., in Linguistics from the Annamalai University is renowned for his contributions to Linguistics in the multifarious fields of Language Teaching, Production of Language Teaching Materials, Descriptive Analysis of Indigenous Speech Varieties, Preservation of Endangered Tribal Languages.

Prof. V. Gnanasundaram began his career at the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore as the Lecturer-cum-Junior Research Officer and promoted to the position of Professor - cum - Deputy Director; Thus, he served there for four decades.

During one of his research tenures, he identified Eravalla, a South Dravidian Tribal language spoken in and around the Thirumurthi Hills of Tamil Nadu, Chittur and Nenmara taluks of Palghat district. He produced a detailed Descriptive Grammar for this language apart from identifying certain unique linguistic features therein. Prof. Gnanasundaram served as an Editor for the Tamil Nadu Volume of Peoples Linguistic Survey of India in English during 2015 and brought out its Tamil Version as well in 2024.

Prof. Gnanasundaram has authored a number of books and monographs , inclusive of (i) "A Grammar of Betta Kuruba Language" in 2020 (for the Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, & (ii) "The Indigenous Speech Varieties of Tribal Communities of Tamil Nadu - A Study" in 2024 (for the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai). He is officiating as the Vice President of Dravidian Linguistic Association, Thiruvananthapuram for the past two years. Prof.(Dr.) V. Gnanasundaram will be remembered by all as an amicable friend, a reliable guide and a noteworthy philosopher.

The staff, researchers and all members of the DLA, ISDL and IJDL express heartfelt condolence on the demise of Prof. V. Gnanasundaram and also join in the grief of the bereaved family.

*C.Maheswaran, Senior Fellow, ICSSR,
Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar
University, Coimbatore*

LINGUISTICS WORKSHOP LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR A SCHOLARLY BOOK ON MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX IN MALAYALAM

A three-day linguistics workshop was held at the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala from 8th to 10th October 2024. This was organized by Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in association with Kerala Bhasha Institute and the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala.

The workshop marks a pivotal step in the academic research by bringing together distinguished experts in the field. The workshop laid the foundation for the creation of a comprehensive scholarly book on morphology and syntax in Malayalam language, addressing a critical gap in linguistic resources. The workshop's focus on morphology and syntax will lead to the development of essential linguistic resources that will help to standardize the traditional as well as linguistic structural understanding of Malayalam.

Dr. L. Sushama, Vice-Chancellor, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University inaugurated the workshop. The event brought together eminent linguists like Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Prof. M. Sreenathan, Prof. S. Kunjamma, Dr. Ravishankar S. Nair and others. Dr. N. Jayakrishnan, Assistant Director, Kerala Bhasha Institute presided over the inaugural session. Dr. Smitha K. Nair, Director, School of Linguistics, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University welcomed the gathering and Dr. L. Darwin, Head of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, expressed gratitude to the participants. Subject experts engaged in in-depth discussions during the workshop, which were later codified to form the framework for the upcoming scholarly book. Linguistic researchers from various institutions, including Kerala University, Malayalam University, and the Central University of Kerala, participated actively in the discussions. The valedictory session was inaugurated by Dr. M. Sathyan, Director, Kerala Bhasha Institute. Dr. L. Darwin presided the session. Dr. Smitha K. Nair provided a review of the workshop proceedings. Dr. N. Jayakrishnan welcomed the participants and Mrs. Maithili, Research scholar in Linguistics expressed vote of thanks.

The Kerala Bhasha Institute will publish the book, which will serve as a significant contribution to the field of Malayalam linguistics. In essence, this workshop was a landmark event that strengthens the academic foundation for the Malayalam language, ensuring its continued study and appreciation for generations to come. The resulting publication will be a significant academic contribution to the field of Indian linguistics.

*Smitha K. Nair
Director, Thunchath Ezhuthachan
Malayalam University, Tirur*

DR. P. SOMASEKHARAN NAIR MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr. P. Somasekharan Nair memorial lecture was held on 25th September, 2024 at the Seminar Hall, Rabindra Bhavan, ISDL Complex, Thiruvananthapuram. The program started at 10:30 AM with a floral tribute to Dr. P. Somasekharan Nair. Dr. Annie Tisha Jerald, Research Fellow, ISDL welcomed the gathering. Professor G.K. Panikkar, Honorary Director, ISDL, gave the presidential address. Prof. L. Ramamoorthy, former professor and head, Department of linguistics, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, delivered the memorial lecture. *Traditional Lexicography: Changes and Challenges in the Era of Artificial Intelligence* was the topic of the lecture. He introduced the idea of AI at the beginning of his talk. There are several applications for the GEN AI, such as writing code for developers, diagnosing illnesses, translating, constructing dictionaries, and producing poetry, music lyrics, and academic articles. He discussed several perspectives on GEN AI. He then described dictionaries, grammar, lexicography, and Indian philosophy of language. He has also explained Indian grammatical philosophy with a few quotes from Tholkappiyam. He deliberated in great depth on each step of the lexicography process. He stated that the contemporary lexicography is evolving within the context of the "fourth industrial revolution" and identified a number of lexicography-related difficulties. Prof. Ramamoorthy also talked about lexicography's future. The lecture was extremely informative and was attended by many young researchers, MA students and senior scholars. Dr. Remya L.B. proposed Vote of thanks.

Annie Tisha Jerald

LIVE

**LECTURE ON BRAHUI**

**Brahui Morphology
(Adjectives, Pronouns,
first four numerals)**

22nd October 2024 - 10:30 am

The International School of Dravidian Linguistics is arranging a Lecture on "Brahui Morphology (Adjectives, Pronouns, first four numerals)" on **22nd October 2024 from 10:30 am (IST)**. Interested participants can join the lecture on online or offline mode.

Speaker :

**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 and other researchers who are interested to attend this online Lecture.

Register at the earliest through **Google Form**.

Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHoeDPRUrt4ERBXT5LLoO_fk82VtIxoFwBwJcMC7KUeSIIAA/viewform

Registration is free of cost.

**TRIBAL LANGUAGES NEED MORE
ACADEMIC ATTENTION**

A joint academic gathering under the title of *National Seminar on Indian Multilingualism: Policy & Practices* and *Adi Vyakhyan 06: National Seminar On Preserving Tribal Languages Using Innovative Technology* was organised by NTRI & CFEL, Visva-Bharati at Bhasha Bhavana, Santiniketan in hybrid mode on 12th and 13th September 2024.

Under the seminar's general theme, over forty paper presenters—including linguists, subject matter experts, field practitioners, academics, and members of tribal communities from throughout the nation—presented their work on various sub-themes.

In addition to the seminar, CFEL, Visva-Bharati has published Koda, Mahali and Kurukh Dictionaries in multiple languages including the grammar book for Birhor. These books are available on its website www.cfelvb.in. The centre has published 19 books so far and also launched a mobile app named CFELVB, available in the Play Store, as a useful tool for the endangered community.

Numerous renowned academicians and young researchers from all over India participated in this two-day event.

Akash Bhagat

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

11-09-2024	<i>Computing Tools for Malayalam</i> Dr. Krishnakumar K.
09-10-2024	<i>Thottampattukal</i> Dr. Remya L.B.

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. Muralaeddharan Nair, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp.225, Rs.260/- (US\$ 26/-). GRAMMAR OF RĀMACARITAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2022, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 395, Rs.500/- (US\$ 50/-). 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/-).

PROF. A.P. ANDREWSKUTTY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty memorial lecture was held on 26th September, 2024 at the Seminar Hall, Rabindra Bhavan, ISDL Complex, Thiruvananthapuram. The programme commenced at 10:30 AM with floral tribute to Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Remya L.B. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Former Director, ISDL delivered the presidential address. The memorial lecture was delivered by Prof. M. Sreenathan, Former Senior Professor and Head, Department of Linguistics, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, and presently Senior Fellow at ISDL. The topic of lecture was *Archaeogenetics of Dravidians*. His lecture focused mainly on various theories regarding the movement of ancient population, origin of languages and diversity of languages, relationship between languages, connecting present to the past and compatibility of multiple evidences. Many junior researchers, master's students, and senior academics attended the highly informative talk. Dr. Annie Tisha Jerald proposed vote of thanks.

Remya L.B

LECTURE ON BRAHUI

International School of Dravidian Linguistics conducted a Lecture on Brahui on 15th October 2024, on hybrid mode. The speaker was Dr. Nazir Shakir Brahui (Dr. Nazir Ahmed), Director, Brahui Research Institute, Sindh, Pakistan. The topic was "Brahui Morphology (Number, Gender and Declensions)". Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Director, ISDL welcomed the speaker. The various Morphological aspects of Number, Gender and Declensions, the various studies on these topics made by noted scholars and a comparison of these studies was presented by the speaker. A good audience attended the lecture keenly. The lecture ended with a discussion and vote of thanks.

N. Muraleedharan Nair

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privileges. For details visit our
website : www.ijdl.org*

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS TRANSLATION BUSINESS AWARD

The Department of Linguistics, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod has been awarded the prestigious Samvad 2024 Award by the Confederation of Interpreting, Translation, and Localization Businesses. The department received the Best Academic Institution Award for its industry-aligned course content, recognized for fostering strong connections between academia and the business demands of the translation and localization sectors.

The award was presented during the annual conference held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on September 30, 2024. On behalf of the university Dr. G. Palanirajan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics, received the award from Mr Amitabh Nag, CEO of Bashani.

The award acknowledges the department's role in preparing students for successful careers in the growing translation and localization industries. Many students from the department have secured employment as translators, content managers, and language experts in various companies. The M.A. Linguistics and Language Technology program, offered by the department is continuously updated to reflect the current needs of the industry, ensuring that graduates are well-equipped to meet market demands.



Sujith (PRO, CUK)

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 MANIPRAVALA WORKS, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2021, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 1086, Rs. 2240/- (US\$ 224/-). INDEX OF RAMAKATHAPPATTU, 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/-).

FIVE-DAY INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENDANGERMENT OF COASTAL DIALECT AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LINGUISTS

The Department of Linguistics, Central University of Kerala organized a five day International Workshop at the Brahmaputra Block, CUK, Periya during 9-13 September 2004. Prof. Vincent Mathew, Vice-Chancellor i/c, in his inaugural address lauded the Dept of Linguistics for organizing several innovative programmes mainly for the benefit of students of Linguistics. Prof. G. Srinivasa Varma, Former Director, CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University in his key note address advocated the need for the practical knowledge of field linguistics to the students of Linguistics. Prof. Joseph Koyipally Joseph, Professor and Dean, School of Languages and Comparative Literature and Dr. Chandrabose Raghavan, Head of the Dept of Malayalam offered felicitations. Dr. S. Thennarasu, Head of the Dept. of Linguistics welcomed the guests and the gathering. Dr. Anusree Sreenivasan, Assistant Professor elucidated the theme of the programme. Dr. Zam Ngaih Cing, Assistant Professor briefed the conduct of the programme. Dr. G. Palanirajan, Asst. Professor and the co-ordinator proposed the vote of thanks.

Lectures on various aspects of field linguistics were delivered by the experts Prof. G. Srinivasa Varma, Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair, and Prof P. Chandramohan (all offline). All the students of Linguistics Department, C.U.K. participated in the work shop. The experts interacted with the participants. Different strategies and methods for the data elicitation were discussed. Online lectures were given by Prof. L. Ramamoorthy (CUK), Prof. K. Iris Koileo (St. Xavier's College), Dr. L. Darwin (Kerala University), Mr. Jerson Sebastian (Saudi Arabia), Dr. D. Anil Kumar (St. Xavier's College), and Dr. Lisba Yesudas (St. Xavier's College). Prof. G. Srinivasa Varma, Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair, and Dr. P. Sreekumar chaired various academic sessions.

All the students of the Dept. of Linguistics actively participated in the field trips and elicited data from the selected informants of the fishermen community in the coastal areas of Trikkannad and Kasaba Beach. In addition a large number of photographs were also taken which were preserved as record. The students were accompanied and guided by Prof G Srinivasa Varma, Prof. N. Rajasekharan Nair, Prof. P. Chandramohan, Dr. S. Thennarasu, Dr. G. Palanirarajan, Dr. Anusree Sreenivasan and Dr. Zam Ngaih Cing.

The approach extended by the students was professional and hence the informants were happy to provide enormous amount of primary data. The two days' intense training given to the students enabled them to conduct the data elicitation process easily. On 13th Sept. the students in groups reported their findings in the presence of the experts. This pilot survey paves way for a bigger project on the coastal dialect of Kasaragod district.

Dr. G. Palanirajan
Asst Prof. in Linguistics, CUK


WEBINAR ON INDO JAPANESE RELATIONSHIP

The Kolkata Society of Asian Studies is organizing a Webinar on *Indo Japanese Relationship - Traditional and Present Scenario* on 26th of October 2024 at 6.00 PM.

Dr. Sarmistha De Basu, Secretary, KSAS will welcome the participants. Mr. MAEDA Akira, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata will deliver the inaugural address. Dr. Purabi Ganguly, Resource Person of the Japanese Language course of KSAS will be the key speaker. Debanjan Ghosh, Lopamudra Malek and MD. Aliul Azim are the panel members.

Presidential Address will be delivered by Professor Pabitra Sarkar, Former Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University and Vote of thanks by Dr. Soumitra Kr. Bose, Academic Committee Member, KSAS.

The registered participants will get e certificates.

For Registration , Click  or scan the QR code.

New Life Members of DLA

Name & Address	Membership Number
<i>Dr. Ninitha R.</i> <i>'Nest', Cliff House Compound</i> <i>Nandankode, Trivandrum</i>	1674/2024
<i>Dr. N. Gejeswari</i> <i>81, Ukkadai Ambal Colony,</i> <i>M. Chavady,</i> <i>Thanjavur - 613001</i>	1675/2024

OBITUARY

Dr. K. Perumal (38), Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, Tamil University, Thanjavur passed away on 10/10/2024.

Dr. Perumal was quite helpful to the delegates who participated in the 51st All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists held at Tamil University, Thanjavur. The members of the DLA, ISDL and IJDL express our heartfelt condolence at the demise of Dr. K. Perumal and also join in the grief of the bereaved family.



NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SANGAM WORKS

International School of Dravidian Linguistics is organising a National Seminar on “Influence of Sangam Works on Tamil and Malayalam : A Revisit” on the 25th and 26th of October 2024 at ISDL Complex, Thiruvananthapuram. Prof. V. Thiruvalluvan, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur will inaugurate the seminar. Prominent scholars like Prof. K. Karunakaran, Former Vice Chancellor, Tamil University & Chairman ISDL, Dr. R. Saranya, Professor & Director of CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University, Prof. Arangapari, Dean, Dept. of Tamil, Annamalai University, Prof. Subramonian, HOD, Dept. of Linguistics, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore, Prof. R. Kurunjivendan, Dean, Faculty of Developing Tamil, Tamil University, Prof. Rajasekharan Nair, Mentor Professor, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore, Prof. P.M. Girish, HOD, Dept. of Malayalam, Madras University, Prof. Naduvattom, Gopalakrishnan, Honorary Professor, ISDL, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. C.R. Prasad, Professor & HOD in charge, Department of Kerala Studies, University of Kerala, Prof. Hepsy Rosemary, HOD, Dept. of Tamil, University of Kerala etc., will participate. Interested participants can register through the following link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHfuJSfTtNhjG5SOcRpNAgmx2LLm5iCiW6vesqWQxIUlnX9A/viewform>

Abdul Samed

CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STATUS GRANTED TO BENGALI, ASSAMESE, MARATHI, PALI AND PRAKRIT

The Union Cabinet approved the conferral of classical language status to Bengali, Assamese, Marathi, Pali and Prakrit on 3rd Oct. 2024. This decision, highlights India's rich linguistic heritage and aims to preserve and promote these ancient languages.

The concept of “Classical Languages” was established in 2004 with Tamil being the first to receive this status. The criteria for classical status include high antiquity of texts dating back over 1500-2000 years, a rich body of ancient literature, and a distinct literary tradition. Revised in 2005, these guidelines have since been applied to Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia. The latest additions were approved after recommendations by the Linguistic Experts' Committee (LEC) under Sahitya Akademi in 2024, which confirmed that Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali meet these standards.

Classifying these languages as “Classical” will foster their preservation through education, research, and documentation. Government initiatives, such as establishing Central Universities and Centres of Excellence, have already been promoting classical languages. This decision is expected to create jobs in academia, research, translation, archiving, and digital documentation, further enriching India's linguistic legacy.

Arup Pandit

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON SECOND & FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION



The Department of Linguistics, University College of Arts and Social Sciences, Osmania University Organized an International Webinar on Second & Foreign Language Acquisition on 1st October 2024. Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures, Michigan State University (USA) was the invited speaker. He spoke on how second language acquisition research contributes to designing language teaching programs, cross-cultural understanding, curriculum design, material development, socio-cultural approaches to second & foreign language acquisition, etc. He also touched upon some pertinent theoretical aspects related to second and foreign language acquisition. Prof. Syeda Talath Sultana, Principal & Dean, Faculty of Arts, UCASS, OU, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Ram Sheperd Bheenaveni, Vice-principal, was the Guest of Honour. Dr. K. Susheel Kumar, Chairperson Board of Studies, Dept. of Linguistics was the Convenor of the program. The Webinar was Coordinated by Dr. K. Balu Naik, Vice-Principal(H&M) and Dr. C.S. Swathy, Head, Dept. of Linguistics, UCASS, OU. Nearly 1500 registrations were received across the world and over 350 members participated Live on Zoom and YouTube and nearly 1870+ have viewed the programme. The event was a Grand Success.

*C.S. Swathy
Osmania University*

TRIBUTES OF LOVE AND AFFECTION: REMINISCENCES OF PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, T.P. Sankarankutty Nair & C.S. Hariharan (Eds.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 212, Rs. 300/- (US\$ 30/-). **THE RIDDLE THAT IS TAMIL**, R. Kothandaraman (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xxiii + 480, Rs. 750/- (US\$ 75/-). **STUDIES ON BANGLA LINGUISTICS**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. viii + 385, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-). **EVOLUTION OF A COMPOSITE CULTURE IN KERALA**, B. Padmakumari Amma, 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xiv + 341, Rs. 350/- (US\$ 35/-).



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TeLF CELEBRATED TELANGANA LANGUAGE DAY

Telugu Linguists' Forum (TeLF), Hyderabad celebrated Telangana Language Day through online mode on **09/09/2024** at **11.30 am**. After the separation of the Telangana state from united Andhra Pradesh in 2014, Telangana state government declared the eminent poet Kaloji Narayana Rao's birthday to be celebrated as Telangana Language Day. Prof. V. Swarajya Lakshmi, Retd. Professor, Department of Linguistics, Arts College, Osmania University, Hyderabad who is a well-known Telugu Linguist was the chief guest. Prof. M.C. Keshavamurthy, President, Telugu Linguists' Forum chaired the session. Dr. Praveen Gatla, General Secretary, TeLF welcomed the gathering. Prof. M.C. Keshavamurthy briefed the aims and objectives of TeLF. Later, Mr. V. Muralidhar, EC Member, TeLF introduced Kaloji Narayana Rao and the Chief Guest Prof. V. Swarajya Lakshmi to the audience. The Chief Guest, Prof. V. Swarajya Lakshmi spoke on the topic **Telangana Telugu : Structural and Sociolinguistic view**. The speaker discussed the linguistic features of Telangana dialect citing examples. She also has explained how they have developed historically from Proto Dravidian which looked peculiar to the speakers of other Telugu regions. She also has touched the written language of Telangana speakers and drew examples from stories written by them in different periods of time since 1920 A.D. She has observed that in order to keep up their language identity they used literary dialect instead of *madhyaandhra* Coastal dialect of Telugu. At the same time, they maintained distance between written language and spoken language. She opined that in order to strengthen the Telangana Telugu identity and enrich this language, dialect study is to be taken up and dialect dictionaries are to be made available to writers in various fields enabling them to use this language in their writings within Telangana region. Dr. Praveen Gatla proposed vote of thanks to the chief guest and participants. Prof. J.V. Sastry, Prof. A. Usha Devi, Prof. D. Vijayalakshmi and other Telugu Linguists attended the program.

Praveen Gatla
General Secretary, TeLF

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA ESTABLISHED THE CENTRE FOR TRANSLATION AND LITERARY GEOGRAPHY

The authorities of the University of Calcutta has decided to establish "Centre for Translation and Literary Geography" under the Faculty of Arts. The primary goal of this centre is to facilitate a dialogue between geography, culture, and the concept of space, within the context of India's longstanding tradition of translation. The founder coordinator of the centre, Dr. Mrinmoy Pramanick said, "Through translation, we will attempt to comprehend the literature of vast geographical diversity. For instance, instead of dividing West Bengal as a Bengali-speaking region, we are categorizing it by the Sundarbans, plateaus, hills, valleys and coastlines. Each of these geographical areas has its distinct identity, and through translation, we will try to connect the literature of these identities."

This initiative focuses on promoting multilingualism and translation communication, especially among marginalized languages and the languages of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India. Furthermore, through various programs, the centre seeks to establish literary geography and the broader concept of space as a foundational domain for translation in India. It aims to explore how the evolving geographical space of India is being shaped by translation and the need to integrate marginalized spaces into the Indian literary system.

The centre also focuses on the study of literature associated with specific geographical and cultural identities. It believes in using unique translation methods such as Collaborative, Classroom, and On-site translation to facilitate community dialogues and promote translation in a wider scope of peace-making and many more.

Dhrubajyoti Das