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A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS - 2016 (ICDL-2016)**

**&
44th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF
DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS (AICDL)**

16-18 June 2016

**UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD
Hyderabad, Telangana**

Those who would like to participate and present papers in the **44th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists** are requested to register their names and send the abstracts of their papers as early as possible. The registration fee (Rs. 750/- for life members and students and Rs. 1,500/- for others) for the conference may please be sent to the Treasurer, Dravidian Linguistics Association, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's

College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 586. In the case of students, bona fide certificates from the respective Heads of Departments are required. The abstracts of the papers can be directly mailed to Prof. G. Umamaheswara Rao, Local Convener, ICDL-2016 & 44th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists, CALTS, University of Hyderabad.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The last date of entry for books, dictionaries, monographs, research papers etc., with relevant materials for assessment is **5th May 2016**. All entries or recommendations should be sent to the Convener, ICDL-2016 & 44th AICDL, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala.

List of Awards

1. **Mrs. Katre Memorial Prize** (Rs. 1,000/-) for M.A. topper in Linguistics (2014-15). The Universities and Heads of Departments are requested to forward the mark lists of suitable candidates.
2. **Award for the Best Paper in the Conference** (Rs. 1,000/-) by a young full-time student or research scholar. Only bona fide students and full-time research scholars, who have produced certificates from their respective Heads of Departments stating their student status, can take part in the competition.
3. **Prof. K. Anbazhakan Award** (Rs. 3,000/-) for Translation of Tolkappiyam in any international language. The book should have been published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2016**.
4. **Award for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Tribes**, of Rs. 3,000/-. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before **1st May 2016**.

CONTENTS	
ICDL 2016 & 44 th AICDL	1
Poet O.N.V. Kurup is no more	2
Report - 43 rd All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists	3
Book Review	4
From Proto West Coast Dialect to Malayalam	4
AICRL (Jalandhar) – Report	5
Umberto Eco passes away	6
Shanavas meets Brahui speakers in Iran	6
New Life-Members	6

4. **Award for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Tribes** (Rs. 3,000/-). It should have been published within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016.

5. **Shri. C. Achutha Menon Prize** (Rs. 2,000/-) for the Best Article or Book published on 'Computer and Language', It should have been published in an Indian journal and by an Indian, within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016.

6. **Dr. George Jacob Award** (Rs. 2,500/-) for the Best Monograph on Dravidian Linguistics in any Indian language other than Dravidian. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016.

7. **Prof. K.M. Venkataramaiah Award** (Rs. 3,000/-) for the Study of Linguistic Minorities. It should be an Indian publication, written in any international language other than Indian, and published within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016.

8. **Dr. Hermann Gundert Endowment Award** (Rs. 3,000/-) for the Best Dictionary, Lexicon or Encyclopaedia on any major Dravidian Language or any Dravidian Tribal Language. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016.

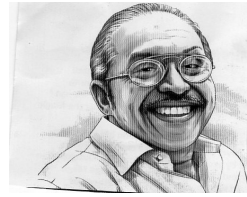
9. **The Phonetic Society of India Endowment Award** (Rs. 3,000/-) for a book on Phonetics in general or on Phonetics of any Indian language. It should have been published within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016.

10. **Dr. Panneerselvam & Smt. Thavamani Panneerselvam Award** (Rs. 5,000/-) for the Translation of a Book from Tamil to Kannada or vice versa. The book should have been published within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016.

11. **Dr. K.N. Kuppaswamy Award** for a Lecture / Comparative Study of a Grammatical Text of Tamil, Sanskrit, Prakrit or Pali (Rs. 1,500/-).

12. **Prof. Susheela Upadhyaya Award** (Rs. 5,000/-) for a young researcher below 40 years who has produced a good monograph or Ph.D. research thesis or a good article on any branch of Modern Linguistics, within a period of 3 years before 1st May 2016. Joint authorship will also be considered but in that case the award amount will be equally shared by the authors.

POET ONV KURUP IS NO MORE



The Indian literary scene, especially Malayalam language and literature, lost the most outstanding poet O.N.V. Kurup on Saturday the 13th February 2016. He was 84. His poetic career which started during the turbulent 1940-s spanned several decades mesmerizing the hearts of many. Though he was basically trained in the classical Indian tradition in scholarship and poetic expressions, he is endowed with a romantic vision which brings into his poems and lyrics innumerable diversity of themes. The nation honoured him with the Padma Sri in 1998 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011. He won the Jnanapith Samman in 2007, Kerala Sahithya Akademi award in 1971 (for *Agnisalabhangal*) and Kendra Sahithya Akademi award in 1975 (for *Aksharam*). The Kerala State honoured him with the Ezhuthachan Puraskaram in 2007. His collection of poems entitled *Uppu* (Salt) won the Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1981 and also the Vayalar Rama Varma literary prize in 1982. ONV was also presented with Changampuzha Award, Asan prize, Ulloor prize and he had also won the State Government's award for the best lyricist, a record 14 times, besides the National Award. The Russian Government honoured him with the Pushkin prize recently.

Prof. O.N.V. was an erudite scholar and a great teacher, and had earned a place in the hearts of all Malayalis as their favourite lyricist.

Prof. O.N.V. Kurup was a well-wisher of the Dravidian Linguistics Association and extended his support in its developmental programmes. It was he who advised the Government of Kerala to entrust the Dravidian Linguistics Association for preparing the Experts' Committee report for getting classical status to Malayalam. He was in the Committee of Linguists constituted for the attainment of classical status to Malayalam.

The meeting of the Council of Direction held on 17th February 2016 at V.I. Subramoniam

Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram condoled his death. Dr. G.K. Panikkar, Director, ISDL and Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Secretary, DLA paid glowing tributes to him and remembered his wholehearted cooperation with the DLA.

43RD ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS - Report

(Continued from the last issue)

The afternoon session on 19th June 2015 started with two parallel sessions. Seven scholars presented papers in the session chaired by Prof. G.K. Panikkar. The paper titled *Identifying Discourse Connectives and their Arguments in Malayalam* by Sheeja S, Lakshmi S and Sobha Lalitha Devi dealt with different kinds of connectives and their usage in the Malayalam discourse structure. Saranya R in the paper *Developing Computerized Tool for Teaching Morphological Processing* aimed at developing a very simple tool for creating awareness on the basic principles of morphology and computational linguistics. M. Suseela made an attempt to study complex noun phrases with different types of constituents in the paper *Characteristic Features of Sangam Tamil Noun Phrases*. Dhrubajyoti Das pointed out the difficulties of translation from Bangla to Malayalam in the paper *Problems of Manual and Automatic Translation from Bangla to Malayalam with Special Reference to Synthetic Marker [-r] of Bangla*. He suggested some strategies which may reduce the problems of manual and automatic translation from Bangla to Malayalam. The paper *Constructing Noun Ontology for the Tourism Domain* by Arul Dayanand focused on the concept of noun ontology and its importance for developing semantic web. Varija N discussed the formation and usage of complementizers in her paper *Extended Functions of Complementizers in Tulu*. Madhivanan R spoke of the transcription methods followed in Tamil lexicon. In the interactive session, all the queries relating to these topics were answered. The chairman concluded the session with his remarks on each of these papers.

In the parallel session I chaired by Prof. N.G. Devaki, six papers were presented. Swathi S examined the effect of Modality in recognizing words and non-words by Telugu-speaking dyslexic children in the

paper *Non-word Recognition by Telugu Dyslexics*. N. Senthamarai and R. Lalitha Raja highlighted sign language and written language skills for children with hearing impairment in the paper *MLS and Grammatical Categories of Tamil children with Hearing and Hearing Impairment*. The paper *Effectiveness of Phonological Remedials along with Behavioural Techniques for Children with Mental Subnormality* by R. Indumathi and Lalitha Raja was on the developmental disability that occurs in the early childhood period which affects their communication and social behaviour. Soibam Rebika Devi brought out the problems of translation from English to Manipuri in the paper *Contrastive Analysis and Translation – English to Manipuri*. P.R. Suganya's paper was on the *Problems of Pronunciation in Samachar English of the Elementary School Children*. Sulochana presented the paper titled *Structure of Kuruvanchi Literature*.

Under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Hepsy Rose Mary, Selvakumar R, Marikkannan A, Sivavenkatesh L, Charletmary M, Paulraj R and Mahalakshmi P presented their papers.

A symposium on Dravidian Tribal Languages was convened and Prof. Umamaheswar Rao and other distinguished linguists presented their contributions.

Prof. Bhupinder Singh Khaira delivered Smt. Lacchmi Jessaram Gidwani Memorial Lecture on the third day of the AICDL. The lecture titled *The Forest of Symbols* intended to examine the creative process of symbols. He made an attempt to unfold the aesthetic and cultural nature of the Punjabi mind by describing symbols used by them in different periods of time. Prof. K. Karunakaran chaired the session and a lively discussion followed, as there are regional variations in interpreting symbols.

In the session chaired by Prof. K. Rangan, seven scholars presented their papers. P. Ramanathan discussed the contributions of some (less well-known) linguists and scholars of the 20th century who shed light on the relationship between Dravidian and other language families. The problems of communication disorder and language delay were explained in the paper *Challenging Language Delay – A Linguistic Analysis* by Kavitha Navakulan. S.R. Soumya talked

Recent Publications: **Studies on Bangla and Dravidian**, Syamala Sasidharan, Sourav Chakraborty & G.K. Panikkar (Eds.), 2014, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 208, Rs. 220/- (US\$ 20/-). **Tulu: An Intensive Course**, M. Rama, 2013, PB, Crown ¼, pp. 12 + 132, Rs. 200/- (US\$ 20/-). **Bangla Basic Vocabulary**, Tapas Kayal & Dhrubajyoti Das, 2014, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. xvi + 128, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).

of different strategies adopted for subtitling, in the paper *Cultural Problems of Subtitling: A Case Study*. Vandana, Niladri Sekhar Dash and Jayashree Chakraborty examined the sources of ambiguity in *Newspaper Headlines in Hindi*. In the paper *Junctures in Telugu*, Babi Duli illustrated with examples the external open junctures in Telugu. Umaraj's paper was on *Antonyms in Cre-A Dictionary and Collins Cobuild Dictionary*. He explained how antonyms are presented with lexical meanings in both these dictionaries. The paper, *The Concept of Trinity and God in Holy Bible* by Annie Tisha Jerald centered on the translated versions of Bible in Malayalam. She pinpointed the similarities and differences in treating the concept of Trinity and God in these versions. After discussing the key issues in these papers, the Chairman ended the session.

[To be continued]

S. Raja & K.N. Geethakumari

BOOK REVIEW

Malayalam as Classical Language

K. Ravindran & T.P. Sankarankutty Nair

2015. Thiruvananthapuram: Sree Uthradom Thirunal Institute of Culture [SUTIC]. Dawn Offset Printers, Thiruvananthapuram. Rs. 240/-.

The Government of India has recognized a new category of languages by designating them with the status *Classical Languages* and notified languages like Tamil, Kannada and Telugu from the Dravidian group by issuing separate notifications. Subsequently, under a similar notification, Malayalam was also declared as a classical language. The main criteria for recognizing a language as classical are the following: (a) high antiquity of its early texts / recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years, (b) a body of ancient literature which is considered as a valuable heritage by generations of speakers, (c) the literary tradition to be original and not borrowed from another speech community and (d) the classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots. The authorities considered these criteria before making the notification on 8th August 2013.

Shri. K. Ravindran and Shri. T.P. Sankarankutty Nair have jointly authored this publication. The first

chapter deals with the efforts that culminated in the notification granting the classical status, Chapter II elaborately describes Chilappathikaram and its relation to Kerala. Chapter III - Roman Trade – portrays the language and script. Chapter IV is devoted to Malayalam language.

It is in the fourth section that the evidence collected by a committee consisted of Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan is included and the summary of which was presented and discussed by a meeting of the invited persons under the auspices of the Dravidian Linguistics Association. The collection of the data involved stupendous effort and proved to be a solid piece of evidence in declaring Malayalam as a classical language. Details regarding (a) high antiquity, (b) body of literature, (c) literary tradition and (d) identity as a separate language are given. The reference to nearly 170 books, papers and journals make the study authentic and the authors have proved their acumen as researchers of high academic achievements.

In addition to the problem relating to the classical status, the book provides much new information on *Chilappathikaram*, *Vanchi*, *Parayur Kutha Chakkaiyan*, *Kodungallur Bhagavathy Temple*, *Attukal Bhagavathy*, *Kannaki episode* and such other matters pertaining to ancient history of Kerala. The Roman trade in ancient period also proves to be an interesting topic.

The authors, both of whom have proved their mettle, have enriched the ancient period of Kerala history by this most relevant material pertaining to the day i.e., the classical status of the language. Much has to be done in this field and the present monograph may prove to be a valuable starting point.

N.P. Unni

FROM PROTO WEST COAST DIALECT TO MALAYALAM

(Continued from the last issue)

The chief innovations noted in West Coast dialect are listed below. This includes the findings of scholars who investigated the origin of Malayalam language.

1. Proto South Dravidian *e*, *o* became *i* and *u* in West Coast dialect **e* > *i*, **o* > *u*

Recent Publications: **The Morphosyntax of the Dravidian Languages**, P.S. Subrahmanyam, 2013, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. xxx + 687, Rs. 1,000/- (US\$ 100/-). **A Survey of Smriti Literature**, N.P. Unni, 2013, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 8 + 164, Rs. 200/- (US\$ 20/-).

The third academic session was related to the theme *Social Justice / National Integration and the Role of Language / Politics of Language*. Dr. Chaman Lal chaired this session and Dr. Boota Singh Brar co-chaired it.

[To be continued]

Joga Singh & Sukhvinder Singh Sangha



UMBERTO ECO PASSES AWAY

With immense grief, we report the demise of Prof. Umberto Eco, eminent semiotician, philosopher and critic on 19th February 2016 at Milano, Italy. At the time of his death, he was Emeritus Professor at the University of Bologna, a position he held since 2008. His well-known books on semiotics include *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*, *A Theory of Semiotics*, *The Role of Reader and the Limits of Interpretation*. He also authored a multitude of academic texts, children's books, essays and novels. He cofounded *Versus*, a semiotic journal which is a platform for scholars who work on signs and signification.

For his invaluable contribution to philosophy and language, the University of Belgrade in Serbia awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2009. He got an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L.) from Indiana University, Bloomington in recognition of his research on language and semiotic studies. He also received an honorary Doctor of Letters from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

His death is an irredeemable loss to researchers and linguists who focused their attention on semiotic studies.

Reported by S. Kunjamma

SHANAVAS MEETS BRAHUI SPEAKERS IN IRAN

Dr. S.A. Shanavas, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala visited Iran and met Brahui-speaking people. Brahui is one of the minority languages in Iran. He met Brahui speakers who are settled in Lautuk, 60 km. away from Zabol in Sistan and Baluchistan province which lies on the border with Afghanistan. Brahui people are Sunni Muslims and around 2000 people live there. Most of them are multilinguals. Persian is their official language and Brahui is their mother tongue. The new generation is more comfortable with Persian and they know Brahui as well. He met Mr. Mulla Abdul Hameed, a 76-year-old informant who was very active and gave lots of information about the language. According to him, Brahui people settled there around 1000 years back and they speak Brahui only among themselves. Brahui in Iran has been influenced by several local languages and Persian and English words are more in numbers. The Iranian Brahui received little attention only and descriptive study of it is not yet completely done. The first three ordinals and cardinals are original Brahui and the rest are borrowed from Persian.

S.A. Shanavas

NEW ENROLMENT FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP (February 2016)

1. *Maryam Ahmad Usmani* (Membership No. 1253/2016)
14 Alig Apartments, Shamshad Market, Aligarh – 202 002, Uttar Pradesh

Contribution to Prof. V.I. Subramoniam Endowment Fund		
25.02.16	Dr. . P. Jeyakrishnan	Rs. 1,000.00
02.03.16	Mr. K. Ravichandar	Rs. 500.00
TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH		Rs. 4,41,646.00
CURRENT TOTAL		Rs. 4,43,146.00
(Including FD)		