



DLA NEWS

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DECEMBER 2019

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

48th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS

Arrangements in Progress

Prof. B.S. Khaira, President, Punjabi Linguistics Association has informed that the arrangements for the 48th AICDL are in progress. The conference will be organized under the leadership of **Prof. Suman Preeth**, Head of the Department of Linguistics and Punjabi Lexicography, Punjabi University, Patiala with the active support of the Punjabi Linguistics Association. The Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and the International School of Dravidian Linguistics will also extend their wholehearted support and co-operation.

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NON-FINITE VERBS IN MALAYALAM

The present paper examines the syntactic and semantic characteristics of non-finite verb forms in Malayalam. Those verb forms which do not show tense, aspect, and person are deemed as non-finite verbs. While explaining the categories of verb forms in Malayalam, A.R. Rajaraja Varma categorizes a set of verb forms as verbal participle (*vinayeccam* in Malayalam). To him the character of a verb particle is that it precedes the main verb and is dependent on it. He further sub-categorizes verbal participles as pre (*mun*), post (*pin*), basic (*tan*), mid (*naTu*) and conditional verbal participles (Rajaraja Varma, p. 261). Among them, pre and post verbal participles are used as past and future adverbials respectively. A mid verbal participle is deemed to be used as a present verbal participle. Verb forms like *keeLkkuka* 'to listen', *aRiyuka* 'to know' are treated as mid verbal participles by him. He also points out that these verbal participles can be used like a noun as well as like a verb (*ibid*, p. 222).

The mid verbal participles are formed by suffixing *-a*, *-ka*, *-uka* to the verb base (Rajaraja Varma, p. 262). He provides the following examples:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <i>cey</i> 'to do' - <i>ceyya</i> , <i>ceyka</i> , <i>ceyyuka</i> | <i>keel</i> 'to listen' - <i>keelka</i> , <i>keelkkuka</i> |
| <i>aRi</i> 'to know' - <i>aRiya</i> , <i>aRika</i> , <i>aRiyuka</i> | <i>ooT</i> 'to run' - <i>ooTa</i> , <i>ooTuka</i> |

Rajaraja Varma further states that the mid verbal participles do not show tense, aspect or person. Those forms are used also to refer to verbs in references (p. 262).

George Mathen opines that a verb root shows mere character of a verb and treats the verbal forms derived after affixing the suffixes like *-ka*, *-kkuka* to the verb base as verbal nouns. For him the following forms are verbal nouns derived from verb roots:

- 2) *aRi* 'to know' - *aRika*
aTu 'to arrange' - *aTukkuka*
naTu 'to plant' - *naTuka*

He also points out that the affixes like *-kkuka*, *-kuka* are reduced to *-kka*, *-ka*, resulting in the formation of verb forms given in the examples below:

- 3) *naTakkuka* 'to walk' - *naTakka*
niikkuka 'to stand' - *niikka*
aakuka 'to become' - *aaka*

Negative verbal nouns are formed when the affix *-uka* is replaced by *-aayka*. See the examples given below:

- 4) *naTakka* 'walking' - *naTakkaayka* 'not walking'
uNNuka 'eating' - *uNNaayka* 'not eating'
 (George Mathen, p. 116)

As pointed out earlier, according to Rajaraja Varma, a pre-verbal participle shows past verbal participle and a post-verbal participle shows future verbal participle. In fact a pre adverbial participle does not show any tense at all. It occurs with main verbs that are past, present or future. See the examples given below:

- 5) i) *amma kuTTiye taaraaTTU paaTiyuRakki.*
 'Mother made the child sleep singing lullaby.'
 ii) *amma kuTTiye taaraaTTU paaTiyuRakkunnu.*
 'Mother makes the child sleep singing lullaby.'
 iii) *amma ennum kuTTiye taaraaTTU paaTiyuRakkum.*
 'Mother will daily make the child sleep singing lullaby.'

Though the pre adverbial participle *paaTi* 'sang', in the above examples, is a past tense verb in form, it does not show any tense. It occurs with past tense (*uRakki* 'made sleep'), present tense (*uRakkunnu* 'make sleep') as well as future tense (*uRakkum* 'will make sleep'). It (*paaTi* 'sang') functions just as a modifier that shows only the manner in which the

action identified by the main verb *uRakkuka* 'to make sleep' is performed.

The proposition of Rajaraja Varma that a mid verbal participle should show the present verbal participle; needs revisit. It can be seen that the verb forms like *paNiyuka* 'to build, to work', *keTTuka* 'to tie' do not show tense. Moreover, they occur with verbs that show past, present and future tenses. They neither possess the characteristics of a modifier nor modify the verb they occur with.

Rajaraja Varma mentions about the absence of present tense in early Malayalam. That means, in early Malayalam two tenses – past and non-past – were in use. Because of that reason (i.e., the absence of present tense) a verbal participle showing 'present tense' is not found even in the present day Tamil- Malayalam (ibid, p. 268). He also states that both the pre and post verbal participles have encroached on most of mid verbal participle topics (ibid, p. 266). The second statement appears to contradict the first statement.

Rajaraja Varma's dilemma in categorizing the verb forms like *paNiyuka* 'to work', *keTTuka* 'to tie' is clearly expressed in his description of mid verbal participles that runs as follows. If verb forms like *paNiyuka* 'to work', *keTTuka* 'to tie' etc., are not included in the category of verbal participle, they can only be considered as verbal nouns. But they possess the characteristics of a verb. Hence they cannot be deemed as verbal nouns. Since they do not function as modifiers, they do not belong to the category of verbal participle. As they are not finite verbs, they cannot be treated as main verbs. In such a situation, as a solution to problem, those verb forms are grouped into a sub-category with the name mid adverbial participle.

A mid adverbial is a simple verb which does not show tense, aspect or person. It can be used either as a subject or as a predicate (ibid, p. 262). He provides the following examples:

- 5) i. *vyaajam paRaka sariyalla.* 'Telling lie is not right.'
 ii. *sukhamaay vazhka* 'Live happily.'

In the first example (5-i) above, *paRaka* 'telling' acts like a noun and takes the position of the subject of the equational sentence. In the second example (5-ii), *vazhka* 'to live' acts like a verb and takes the position of a predicate. It becomes clear from the above usages of mid verbal participles, that they (mid verbal participles)

are not real verbal participles (ibid, p. 270). Moreover, a mid verbal participle can be used as nominative, instrumental and locative as per the context in which it occurs in a sentence.

Abraham (2014) points out that two-tense system (i.e., past, non-past tense distinction) is prevalent even in the present-day Malayalam. Use of tripartite tense system (i.e., past-present-future tense distinction) is limited to sentences which are affirmative statements. Even then, the present tense is used very rarely in the common usage of the language. Further, two-tense system (past, non-past tense distinction) is followed in the formation of relative participles in Malayalam (see Abraham, pp. 96-98). So it can be deemed that verbal participles also show past and non-past tense distinction.

[To be continued]

P.T. Abraham

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON *DRavidIAN LINGUISTICS AND* *DR. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM*



A two day's National Seminar on *Dravidian Linguistics and Dr. V.I. Subramoniam* was conducted by the International School of Dravidian Linguistics on 25-26 November 2019 in the ISDL campus at Menamkulam. On 25th morning, after paying floral tributes at Dr. V.I. Subramoniam's *smrithimandapam*, the inaugural session was started. The welcome speech was given by Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Director, ISDL. Prof. G.K. Panikkar, founder-member of DLA and former

Director of ISDL delivered the presidential address. The function was inaugurated by Prof. A. Govindankutty Menon, The Netherlands. He released the book *Tributes of Love and Affection: Reminiscences of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam* by handing over a copy to Smt. Krishnakumari, the younger sister of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam. Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Puducherry felicitated the function. Twenty-two papers were presented in these two days. Eminent scholars from different parts of the country took part in the seminar. The valedictory function on 26th November 2019 started at 3.30 p.m. Prof. M. Rama, former Director, ISDL was the chief guest. Dr. S. Rajendran, Emeritus Professor, Amrita University delivered the valedictory address on the topic "*Dr. V.I. Subramoniam*". Two representatives of the participants, Ramesh Kumar and Greeshma G. gave a brief narration on their experiences in the national seminar. Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan proposed the vote of thanks.

Jeena S. Nair

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON RAJBANSHI LANGUAGE

On 8th & 9th November, 2019, a two day's National Seminar on *Linguistic Aspects of Development of Teaching Materials in Rajbanshi Language* was organized by the Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Cooch Behar, West Bengal in collaboration with the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Debkumar Mukhopadhyaya, Vice-Chancellor of the Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University. The Registrar of the University Dr. Abdul Kader Safily introduced the objectives of the program appreciating the role of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. Prof. Mukhopadhyaya welcomed the participants and scholars. Prof. Sujit Kumar Das, the Treasurer of the Asiatic Society, delivered the presidential address.

Dr. Shyamsundar Bhattacharya, Philological Secretary, Asiatic Society also spoke on the occasion. In his speech, he elaborated the linguistic situation of North East India. According to his opinion the linguistic communities in India have a general

tendency of language maintenance, not language loss. He stressed the need for giving adequate attention to the identification of all the varieties of Rajbanshi and their geographical distribution. It will help for the standardization of Rajbanshi. The form and function of the language demand attention of the speech community by taking care of corpus development like the development of dictionary, literature, essays on different subjects using this language as a medium, and the extension of the use of these forms in different spheres of life. Dr. Satyendra Nath Barman, Former Director of CIIL delivered the Keynote address. Shri. Bijaya Chandra Barman, former Chairman Rajbanshi Bhasha Academy and Dr. Madhab Chandra Adhikari, Dean of Postgraduate Study elaborated the present linguistic status of Rajbanshi language and the distribution of language in North Bengal. Mr. Prasenjit Barman, former Director of the Rajbanshi Bhasha Academy talked on the relationship between Rajbanshi and Bengali language from a historical perspective. It is emphasized that Rajbanshi and Kamtapuri are different by name and not by their linguistic contents.

In the academic sessions, Prof. Prakash Chandra Pattanaik, Prof. Kishore Kumar Rarhi, Prof. Nikhilesh Roy, Prof. Jyotirmay Pradhani, Shri. Nagendranath Roy, Shri. Dhaneshwar Roy, Ms. Asha Singh, Dr. Harimadhaba Roy, Dr. Indramadhab Das, Shri Jagadish Roy Aswat, Prof. Dipak Kumar Roy, Smt. Bhaswati Roy, Prof. Madhab Chandra Adhikary, Dr. Amal Kanti Roy, Prof. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, Shri. Santosh Barman, Prof. Haridas Sarkar, Shri. Pijush Sarkar, Shri. Bhagirath Das, Dr. Sablu Barman, Smt. Kalpana Roy presented papers on different issues related to the Rajbanshi language and literature. In the sessions, the paper-presenters discussed on the present status of the language, the pedagogical need of this language, history of Rajbanshi language study, the history of translated literature, discussion on the folk literature of Rajbanshi, the language of Rajbanshi poetry and the Bhaoyaiya songs, language contact etc. Dr. Nikhilesh Roy commented that the literary acceptance of any language of this status cannot earn the identity only by protest or frustration; it is possible by creating an amount of qualitative literature by acquiring wise world view. Prof. Mahidas Bhattacharya, Prof. Satyendra Nath Barman, Dr. Chandramalli Sengupta chaired the sessions.

Mahidas Bhattacharya

REPORT OF THE 47th AICDL & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on Language Endangerment

20-22 June 2019

Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi

(Concluding Part)

The special session on Bangla language started at 9.30 A.M. on 22.6.2019. Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan chaired the session. Seven papers were presented. Dr. Khaira presented *Tones in Punjabi*. Dhruvajyoti Das presented *Bengali Malayalam Common Vocabulary*. Stalin Sardar presented *Bengali Migrants in Kerala*. Dr. Sulthana Parvin presented *A Study of Lexical Errors committed by Polytechnic Students in West Bengal*. Prof. P. Visalakshy presented her paper titled *The Contribution of Bengal to Sanskrit Literature* and Prof. N. Gopinathan Nair presented his paper *Prakrits and Modern Indian Languages*.

The *International Symposium on Language Endangerment* started at 11.30 A.M. Prof. Ramaswamy chaired the session. Dr. R.R. Thampuran, Dr. S. Abdul Samed, Dr. P. Kumaresan, Heisnam Kenny Devi, Bobita Sarangthem, Dr. Ramamoorthy, Dr. Murigeppa, Dr. Rajasekharan and Dr. Rajeshwari actively participated in the discussions.

Session XII on *Phonetics and Phonology* started at 2 p.m. Dr. Gail Coelho chaired the session. Three papers were presented in this session. Jibin Kiran K. presented his paper *Spectrographic Analysis of Retroflex Sound /s/*. He opined that there are dialectical differences in the pronunciation of retroflex sounds. He has also stated that there exist significant gender differences in the /s/ pronunciation of Malayalees. Umesh Chamling presented his paper *Contrast between Pronunciation and Orthographic Nepali*. He remarked that in modern Nepali a huge difference has occurred in the phonological and orthographic levels. Albin Ricoxalxo presented his paper *A Comparative Study of Phonological Variations between Kurux and Kisan*. Kurux and Kisan both are indigenous languages situated in Chotanagpur area, mainly in Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Orissa. Both the languages belong to the Dravidian family (North Dravidian). The nasalization, voiceless velar fricative [x] and voiceless glottal stop [ʔ] are the major phonological variations found in Kurux. Dr. Shilpa Vernekar presented her paper *Lenition in Konkani*. In Konkani, an

Indo-Aryan language, the process of lenition can be observed in the dialects. The process of lenition can be studied in several stages like degemination, spirantization, strong to weak sound changes and voicing of consonants.

Session XIII on *Phonetics and Phonology* started at 2 p.m. Prof. G.K. Panikkar chaired the session. Four papers were presented in this session. Paromita Nandy presented her paper *Lateral Approximants and their Phonetic and Phonological Realization in Bangla and Malayalam*. Dr. Sayigeetha presented the paper titled *A View through Tulu Phonemes*. In this paper, the Tulu phonemes are recognized and analyzed. Catherine Ann Michael presented *Dental and Alveolar Nasals in Delhi-based Malayali Migrants*. Interstate mobility of people from Kerala results in multilingualism. The study focuses on the impact of migration on their mother tongue, especially on the use of nasal sounds. Latha Sri presented her paper *An Automatic Rule-based Verb Phrase Translation from English to Telugu and Odiya*. This paper also reports the algorithm used in translation.

Session XIV *Psycho, Cognitive, LTT and Neuro* started at 3.45 p.m. Prof. A. Murigeppa chaired the session. Shromi Mohan presented the paper titled *Error Analysis of Phrase Collection in Sinhala spoken by Tamils*. The paper aims to identify the types of errors in Sinhala phrases spoken by Tamils. Dr. Ameen Ali Mohammed presented *Influence of Explicit Teaching of English Phonotactics and its Constraints on Yemeni EFL Learners*. The study investigated monosyllabic word structures, syllabification of words, constraints on mono, double and triple onsets and codas and triple consonant-vowel combinations.

Session XV *Psycho, Cognitive, LTT and Neuro Linguistics* started at 3.45 p.m. Prof. Channaveer chaired the session. Jatothu Naresh presented the paper *Comparative Analysis of Certain Aspects of Russian, English, Hindi, Telugu and Lambadi for help in teaching Russian in India*. Dr. Sunitha Kudlikor presented the paper titled *Children's Language Diversity*. The language of children can be discussed with the language models in which parents speak in front of kids and kids' language model and their language learning capacity.

Session XVI *Folkloristics, Descriptive Linguistics and General* started at 2 p.m. Prof. B.S. Khaira chaired the session. Dr. M. Selvadurai presented *Dravidian Language Family – Koraga Language*. Koragas are

tribals and they are regarded as impure and unclean and were considered untouchables by mainstream social groups. Their cultural life, name of subgroups, family type and economic and cultural activities are worth mentioning. Dr. C.G. Sankar presented *Religion of Sourashtra People in Folklore Linguistics*. Religious and linguistic aspects in their folklore are discussed and also cultural deviations.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory session of the 47th *All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists and International Symposium on Language Endangerment* organized by the Central University of Karnataka, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and International School of Dravidian Linguistics took place at the University guest house Hall No. 1 on 22/06/2019 at 4:30 P.M. Prof. H.M. Maheshwaraiah, the honourable Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Karnataka chaired the function. Dr. Hanumegouda, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, was the coordinator. Dr. Safia Parveen acted as the Compeer for the Valedictory session. Prof. Basavaraj Donur, Head of the Department of English welcomed all the dignitaries and scholars who came from various parts of India for the Conference and International Symposium on *Language Endangerment*. He also presented the report of the conference proceedings. He has pointed out that 70 papers were presented in 24 sessions of the 47th AICDL conference.

After the welcome note and presentation of conference proceedings, the honourable Vice Chancellor felicitated the stalwarts of linguistic studies like Prof. K. Karunakaran, Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Prof. A. Murigeppa, Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan and Prof. M. Rama.

The Valedictory address was delivered by Prof. K. Karunakaran, former Vice Chancellor of Tamil University, Thanjavur. He was really proud to acknowledge that in its long history of 47 years, the DLA never failed to conduct its annual conference. It shows the academic enthusiasm of its members. In his address, he specially mentioned the history of Dravidian studies and grammar that dates back to *Tolkappiyam*, the earliest extant work of Tamil literature and linguistics. He emphasized Dravidian



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studies as a distinct field of academic activity. Prof. Karunakaran concluded his words referring to the significance of Dravidian Culture from a pan-Indian perspective.

In the feedback responses at the valedictory session, three participants of the conference – Prof. K.P.P. Nambiar, Pradyoth Hegde and Ms. Prajisha A.K. – shared their experiences of the conference.

The Presidential remarks were made by the honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. H.M. Maheshwaraiah. He expressed his extreme happiness for being the host of this prestigious conference, which was also a reunion for many of his old friends from the linguistics field. He was also grateful to the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India for selecting his university as the host institution.

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Director, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram expressed his gratitude to the University for organizing the 47th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists and expressed his heartfelt thanks to Prof. H.M. Maheshwaraiah, the Vice Chancellor. He also congratulated Prof. Vikram Visaji, the Local Secretary of the conference and the entire organizing committee for making the event a grand success.

The vote of thanks on behalf of the University was proposed by Sri. Azeem Pasha, the Assistant Registrar of the Central University of Karnataka.

R.R. Thampuran

**DR. P. SOMASEKHARAN NAIR & DR. A.P.
ANDREWSKUTTY MEMORIAL LECTURES
ISDL Campus, 20 December 2019**

Dr. P. Somasekharan Nair and Dr. A.P. Andrews Kutty Memorial Lectures will be held on 20th December 2019 in the International School of Dravidian Linguistics campus at Menamkulam. Dr. PSN endowment lecture will be delivered by Prof. T.B. Venugopala Panicker. Prof. E. James R. Daniel will deliver Dr. APA endowment lecture.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Manonmaniam Sundaranar Centre for Dravidian Cultural Studies, University of Kerala has organized a national workshop on *Documentation of Dravidian Culture: Conservation Process & Digital Technology* from 2nd to 6th December 2019 at the Department of Tamil, University of Kerala. Resource persons from reputed academic centres have participated in the workshop which was organized by Dr. P. Jeyakrishnan, Director, MSCDCS.

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN NOVEMBER 2019

- 06.11.2019: *Murugan – A Proto Dravidian Word*
Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan
13.11.2019: *An Introduction to Bhāṣābhagavadgīta*
Dr. Vijayakumari

NEW PUBLICATION OF DLA

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

**ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR IN ISDL
Minority Languages – Problems and Prospects
27TH JANUARY 2020**

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA

(November 2019)

- Mr. Akash Bhagat** (*Membership No. 1380/2019*)
House 233/A, Manaskamana Pally Gali 2, Near Agrahi Club, Jhaljhalia, Malda – 732 101, West Bengal
- Ms. Greeshma Govindarajan** (*Membership No. 1381/2019*)
'Sargam', Keerthi Nagar, Thollakkara P.O., Ottapalam – 679 102, Palakkad, Kerala

**Contribution to
Prof. V.I. Subramoniam Endowment Fund**

26.11.19 Prof. K. Nachimuthu	Rs. 2000.00
TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH	Rs. 4,90,646.00
CURRENT TOTAL	Rs. 4,92,646.00