A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

47ᵗʰ ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
on Language Endangerment
(20-22 June 2019, Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga)

CONTENTS

Those who are desirous of attending the *47ᵗʰ All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists (AICDL) & International Symposium on Language Endangerment* (ISLE) may please register for the same at the earliest. The registration fee (Rs. 1,500/- for life-members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association and students without fellowships; Rs. 2,000/- for Ph.D. researchers with fellowships; Rs. 3,000/- for delegates from India and other

Our Best Wishes for a happy, prosperous and academically glorious New Year to all members, readers, contributors and well-wishers of DLA, ISDL, IJDL and DLA NEWS.

SAARC countries; US$ 300/- for delegates from other countries) may please be sent to the Secretary, Dravidian Linguistic Association, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 586, Kerala by **18ᵗʰ May 2019**. The abstract of the paper to be presented in the AICDL/ISLE may please be sent to the Local Secretary, *47ᵗʰ AICDL / Local Secretary, ISLE* by **5ᵗʰ April 2019** and the full paper by **18ᵗʰ May 2019**. The last date of entry for books, dictionaries, monographs, research papers etc., with relevant materials for assessment with regard to awards and prizes is **5ᵗʰ May 2019**. Those who are interested in becoming life-members of the Dravidian Linguistic Association may please send the life-membership fee (Rs. 3,000/- [US$ 450/-]) to the Secretary, Dravidian Linguistic Association. The registration form for attending the *47ᵗʰ AICDL & International Symposium on Language Endangerment* and the application form for life-membership of DLA can be obtained from our website *www.ijdl.org*.

46ᵗʰ AICDL & ISLELT - Report
(21-23 June 2018, Jadavpur University, Kolkata)
(Continued from the last issue)

Sreelakshmi K.M.'s paper, *Socio-linguistic Perspective in the Pattern of Borrowing: A Case Study of Konkanis in Kerala*, discusses the language contact and linguistic convergence in Kerala Konkani. The paper was primarily concerned with the convergence in the phonological and morphological features and the extent of language shift in the present generation. Sufficient examples on number, gender, cases, kinship terms and borrowings are provided. The paper ends with the remark "the language shift in Konkani used in Kerala is due to the contact with the Dravidian languages and though the upper-caste Konkani Brahmins have maintained their language at home domain, the lower-caste Kudumbi-s have largely shifted to Malayalam".

Session 2A on 22.6.18 started at 3.20 p.m.

Prof. M. Rama chaired the session and totally six papers were presented in this session.

Dr. Priyanka Shukla presented her paper titled *Linguistic Landscape, Code Mixing and Language Change in Globalization: A Case Study of Kolkata*. This paper focused on the linguistic landscape of Kolkata to explore questions of language displayed in public space, code mixing and language dominance. It provided a linguistic framework for analysis of the types of code mixing and highlighted the importance and influence of English which is a global language. From a linguistic perspective, the paper documents the influence of English on the development of Bengali, Hindi and other languages.

Dr. Gail Coelho's paper titled *Innovations affecting PDr Causativizers in Betta Kurumba* opines that causative verbs are formed in Betta Kurumba by attaching the *sequence /-v- ; śu -p- -iśu/* to the verb stem (1). The first part */-v, -p/* in this pair of suffix sequences is a reflex of the PDr causativizer. The second part */-iśu/* is an innovation which Betta Kurumba shares with Kannada. Both these languages

employ */-iśu/* as the regular causativizer, used after intransitive and transitive stems. The regularization of these causativizers has led to convergence of these suffixes with non-past suffixes in the language, which are formally identical.

Dr. N. Gopinathan Nair in his paper on *Tharisappally Copper Plates – A Linguistic Study* discusses the language peculiarities of this Malayalam document pertaining to 9ᵗʰ century A.D. The language of this document did not reveal the peculiarities of the six rules provided in *Kēraḷa Pāṇinīyam* like nasal assimilation etc., which differentiate Tamil and Malayalam.

[To be continued]
R.R. Thampuran

INTRODUCING FORENSIC LINGUISTICS IN INDIA: A STUDENT EXPERIENCE WITH KERALA POLICE

Student internship of the Kerala Police Academy (KEPA) opened new window for the introduction of Forensic Linguistics (henceforth FoLi) in India. FoLi was introduced in Kerala by a workshop organized by Dr. S. Prema of the University of Kerala and Mr. Sethuraman IPS of the Police Training College during 26-28 March 2018. In continuation of the workshop, KEPA offered a fifteen-days internship to me at Hitech Cell, Cyber Crime Investigation Department, Police Headquarters, Vazhuthacadu, Thiruvananthapuram, Research and Publication Wing of KEPA and Regional Forensic Lab, Thrissur under the guidance of Dr. Jayesh K. Joseph, Criminologist, Kerala Police for the researcher to get acquainted with the legal ways and explore the scope and possibilities of FoLi in the crime scene. The members of KEPA were eager to know the potential and the role of FoLi in supplementing police investigation.

The director of Hi-tech Cell, Sri. Starmon R. Pillai (Inspector of Police) and their whole division were ready to listen and acknowledge the possibilities and potential of Forensic Linguistics. In

the real cybercrime scenes of abusive / anonymous / fake Facebook posts, Whatsapp messages, threatening / suicide e-mail investigations the FoLi can play an effective role.

Dr. Jayesh K. Joseph, the versatile academician and criminologist of Kerala Police, acknowledged the potential of FoLi in the investigation process and triggered new realms for the future of FoLi. The opportunity to meet Annamma John, former Assistant Director, FSL and the highly professional forensic scientist with hundreds of successful investigations to her credit and known in the police circle as Lady Sherlock Homes was a great academic exposure. The interactions reached to a point that there were no books written about document authentically from the experience of Malayalam language. She hopes that in future the initiatives for the same will come from forensic linguists. The traditional method of document analysis is limited to handwriting cross-checking and matching. The method of analysis proposed by FoLi takes into account all the features of language which are hidden from the surface level. The stylometric features can reveal a lot about text. The word count, word length, punctuation, lexical, syntactic, content, character, punctuation features etc., are taken into account for the analysis. The area of FoLi is not limited to document analysis. It ranges from voice identification, statement analysis of the victim and suspect to authorship profiling etc.

The interaction with police officers and researchers of various ranks at KEPA was helpful in popularizing the subject and its potential. The fifteen days of internship resulted in a work entitled as *The Role of Forensic Linguistics in the Crime Scene* under the Research and Publication Wing (KEPA). The collaboration of FoLi with Kerala Police will lead forward the FoLi in Kerala and enhance the use of linguistics for police investigation.

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University of Kerala

THE PROCESS OF VERBAL NOMINALIZATIONS IN EARLY TAMIL LITERATURES

Abstract

As far as modern Tamil is concerned, nominalizations happen by adding noun suffixes to the

bases which may be adjectival roots, verb roots, Sanskrit bases, noun bases etc. The suffixes which are added to the bases, whatever they may be as mentioned above, are called nominalizers. The same processes have more or less been noticed for nouns even in ancient literatures. The nominalizers cause the conversion of the bases into nouns. This study mainly concentrates on the formations of the verbal nouns in early Tamil literatures which are obsolete in middle modern Tamil, though many kinds of nouns and their formations are available. This study also attempts to discuss the process of *sandhi* rule with apt examples when the verbal noun suffix *–tal* is added to verbal bases which end with -*l* (alveolar) and -*ḷ* (retroflex) in Early Tamil Literatures and traditional Tamil grammars in Tamil.

Introduction

As per traditional definition, a noun indicates a person or thing. It can occur in the sentences as subject. Plural and case suffixes are added to it as opposed to verb. It is a superordinate form. The noun is divided into many types according to the requirement of meanings like human, non-human, based on person, object, place, time, quality, action, pronoun etc. Of them, verbal noun and participial noun are special categories, since they have derived from verb roots while others from other roots. Naṉṉūl is one of the traditional grammars in Tamil; it lists out suffixes for verbal nouns as *–ci, -pu, -mai, -al, -tal* etc. But, the modern linguists classified the suffixes into two kinds viz. 1. Derivative noun suffixes and 2. Verbal noun suffixes. The suffix *–tal* alone is after long contemplation considered for the formation of verbal noun whereas the others for derivative nouns. This is perhaps the reason why the constructions with derivative noun suffixes accept plural markers (*muyal + ci > muyaṟcikaḷ* 'efforts'; *koḷ + kai > koḷkaikaḷ* 'principles'), case markers (*muyaṟciyai, koḷkaiyai*) and qualified by the adjectives (*nallakāṭci* 'good scene', *nallapaṭippu* 'good reading') while the constructions with verbal noun suffixes do not accept plural markers and qualified by the adverbs. The scholars like Kothandaraman (1997; 75) mention that "the nouns like *ōṭutal, ōṭuvatu* can accept case markers and never occur after an adjective. The verbal nouns with the

pattern of the *ceytal* are formulated by adding the suffix –*tal* to the bases. The suffix –*tal* has the allomorphs –*ttal, -al*". According to his conception, the suffix –*al* can't be treated as verbal noun suffix, since it is used to create only for derivative nouns. Subbiah (1983; 96) points out that "the verb root with the nominalizing suffixes –*tal, -ttal, -al* are accommodated into verbal nouns while the verb root plus noun suffixes as –*ppu, -cci, -vu, -kkai* into derivative nouns". On observing the considerations of both, the noun suffix –*al* cannot be included for formulating the verbal noun. After careful examination, the suffix –*al* is treated as derivative noun suffix. The construction with verbal noun suffix –*tal* has fully verbal nature. As far the explanations seen above, the suffix –*tal* and its allomorph –*ttal* alone are considered to be verbal noun suffixes.

Tolkappiyam, the earliest traditional grammar in Tamil and Sangam literatures, has verbal nouns in synonymous forms. For instance, *kōṭal = koḷal = kōḷ* 'getting', *colal = collal = collutal =coṟṟal* 'saying'. These occurrences of more words in the literatures show the richness of the vocabulary. But, it is difficult to identify what type of sandhi rules have been applied for creation of verbal nouns which will be discussed later. The synonymous words used to signal the same meaning in early Tamil may be dialectal variants.

1. Verb roots end with –*l, ḷ* plus verbal noun suffix *-tal*

The verbal nouns are formulated when the verb roots end with *l, ḷ* accept the suffix –*tal* as follows:

$$kal + tal > kaṟṟal \text{ 'learning'}$$
$$vil + tal > viṟṟal \text{ 'selling'}$$
$$kēḷ + tal > kēṭṭal \text{ 'asking'}$$

Tolkappiyam also mentions that before *'t'*, the letters –*l* and -*ḷ* are changed into *ṟ* and *ṭ*.

laṉaveṉavarūumpuḷḷimuṉṉart

taṉaeṉavariṟṟaṉavākummē -T. E. 149

If *t* and *n* are the initial elements of the succeeding word, and *l* and *ṉ* are the final elements of the preceding word, *l* of the former are respectively changed into *ṟ* and *ṉ*.

ṇaḷaveṉpuḷḷimuṉṭaṉaveṉattōṉṟum -T. E. 150

The same *t* and *n* are changed into *ṭ* and *ṇ* if they are preceded by *ṉ* and *ḷ* respectively.

However, some of the sandhi rules already existed as *kal + tal, kēḷ + tal* for the formation of words *kaṟṟal, kēṭṭal*, they seem to have been inadequate for clear formulation of the words to modern linguists. They have infixed another consonant that is identical with the initial consonant of –*tal,* so as to arrive at the resultant forms.

$$kal +t + tal > kalttal > kaṟṟal \text{ 'learning'}$$
$$kēḷ + t + tal > kēḷttal > kēṭṭal \text{ 'asking'}$$

Kumaraswamy Raja (1987; 4) claims that "the past tense forms of the verbs *kēḷ* 'ask' and *kal* 'learn' are *kēṭ -ṭ -* and *kaṟ -ṟ -*, respectively. These are to be derived from **kēḷ -tt-* and **kal- tt*, since both these verbs are 'strong'. When the plosivization rule operates on these two forms, it will convert the lateral into plosive yielding *kēṭ -tt-* and *kaṟ -tt-,* respectively". In the same way, Kothandaraman (2004; 10) rightly puts his suggestion as "the term *kēṭṭu* which is the pattern of *ceytu* is reconstructed as **kēḷintu.* The base form **kēḷintu* firstly changed as **kēḷittu.* After losing its –*i*-, it contracted as **kēḷttu*. Next to the above processes, the contracted form **kēḷttu* is changed into **kēḷṭṭu* and then**kēṭṭṭu*. Finally it is changed as *kēṭṭu.* He (2004; 161) also pays much attention to show the evidences for supporting the above functions of the words from southern regional literatures and Malayalam. "After the retroflex letter, the state of being double hard consonants is attested not only in southern regional literatures but also in Malayalam language; instances *kaṭalttōṇi 'kaṭaṟṟōṇi'* 'sea-boat', *pulttara 'pultarai'* 'grass ground', *muḷcceṭi,* 'thorn plant' *muḷkkāṭu* 'thorn wood jungle'. Also Kamatchinathan (2013) opines similar to the above proposals. "*kal + t + tal>kaṟṟal*; 'learning' *kēḷ +t + tal>kēṭṭal* 'asking'.

For explaining the processes in the forms like *kaṟka, kēṭka*, Kumaraswamy Raja uses the theory of NPP (Nasal Plosive Plosive) which was put forward by himself. Kumaraswamy Raja evolved this theory to identify the theory of NPP by the influence of the principle of 'convertibility of surds and sonants' of Caldwell. It is possible to assume that Raja would have tried to investigate this kind of forms such as *kaṟka, kēṭka* by the existence of other kinds of forms like *celka, velka* in Tamil. All the forms end with laterals in the verbal themes. But, when the four forms are

conjugated with tense markers, the former two have the pronunciation with hardness as *kaṟka, kēṭka,* while the latter set has softness as *celka, velka*. The first set i.e., *kaṟka, kēṭka* is considered as strong verbs and the latter set *celka, velka* as weak verbs according to the adhering of tense suffixes. So, for explaining the sandhi operations, the second set does not cause any difficulty. But, much attention is required for explaining the creation of the first set which contrasts with the second set based on formation. As such, Raja additionally inserts the consonant which is identical with the initial letter of succeeding component between root and suffix. He uses the additional insertion of the consonant to differentiate the conjugation for weak and strong verbs. His description is shown below:

kal-kka - derived from the root '*kal*'

kaṟ-kka - lateral is changed into plosive by the influence of plosive i.e., 'l' > 'ṟ'

kaṟ-ka - the consonant '*k*' is deleted by the rule of deletion '*k*' > 'Ø'

Raja would not have been appreciated if he had sanctioned ordinary *sandhi* rule for the conjugation of strong verbs as traditional grammars as below:

*kal-ka

However the form **kal-ka* formulated like *celka, velka* is unacceptable in Tamil. So, by claiming of the new and acceptable theory, Raja is recognized in the linguistic field to be correct by eminent Linguists like T. Burrow, Bh. Krishnamurti, P.S. Subrahmanyam and so on.

2. Lengthening of the vowels in monosyllabic verb roots

The short vowels *e* and *o* presented in monosyllabic verb roots which end with laterals are lengthened into *ē* and *ō* when the roots meet with initial letter *t* of the succeeding word. But in the same environment cited above, the rest of the short vowels *a*, *i* and *u* do not get lengthening. This change is not found even in the disyllabic verb roots.

These types of lengthened forms frequently occurring in Sangam literatures and *sutra*-s of traditional grammars in Tamil are as follows:

cel + tal = cēṟal 'reaching'- Tol. 976-1

cel + tal = cēṟal 'reaching'- Akam. 221-14

vel + tal = vēṟal 'winning'- Puṟam. 45-6

vel + tal = vēṟal 'winning'- Puṟam. 111-2

kol + tal = kōṟal 'killing'- Kuṟaḷ - 321

koḷ + tal = kōṭal 'receiving'- Tol. 102-5

koḷ + tal = kōṭal 'receiving'- Naṉ. 40

The lengthening of the vowels *e* and *o* occurs only in the occasion of *sandhi* when the laterals of the monosyllabic verb roots meet with *t* (*cel + tal = cēṟal*); but the laterals co-occur with other letters, the vowels do not get lengthening (*cel + ka > celka; koḷ + kai > koḷkai*). This environment of lengthening is only in four verb roots as *cel* 'go', *vel* 'win', *kol* 'kill' and *koḷ* 'receive'. Other words are out of practice in the above environment such as *col* 'say', *mel* 'chew' etc.

The lengthening of the phoneme in the verb roots is not so common in linguistics when operating the *sandhi*. Manickam (1972; 33) points out that "the vowel of the verb root is lengthened when the verbal noun suffixes are added to verb roots *cēṟal, vēṟal, kōṟal*. By this, the words *cēl* 'fish', *vēl* 'spear', *kōl* 'stick' could probably be derived from *cel*, *vel* and *kol*. However, while he tries to explain the derivation of the words, more adequate delineation needs to be found out for the related hypothesis. But, Kumaraswamy Raja suggests a kind of explanation for analyzing them as follows:

cel + ti>cehṟi - in *sandhi āytam* augmented

ce Øṟi - *āytam* deleted

cēṟi - vowel got lengthened in the place of *āytam* losing by the rule of compensatory lengthening.

This is one kind of explanation which is very appropriate for the processes.

[To be continued]
S. Saravanan

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS / CONFERENCES / LECTURES

DR. P. SOMASEKHARAN NAIR & DR. A.P. ANDREWSKUTTY MEMORIAL LECTURES
ISDL Campus
30 January 2019

Dr. P. Somasekharan Nair and Dr. A.P. Andrewskutty Memorial Lectures will be held on 30th January 2019 in the International School of Dravidian Linguistics campus at Menamkulam.

5ᵀᴴ NATIONAL LANGUAGE CONFERENCE
Cuttack
4-7 February 2019

The *5th NLC* is jointly organized by Institute of Odia Studies and Research, Bhubaneswar and Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. For more details, contact: Dr. Subrat Kumar Prusty (9090465758), Dr. Biswanandan Dash (9437473350) or Dr. Ajit Kumar Nayak (9338749992).

2-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON NEW TRENDS IN INDIAN LINGUISTICS
ISDL Campus
14-15 February 2019

For details, contact Dr. Abdul Samed (*ijdlisdl@gmail.com*; 04712704953 (Off.), 9495246269 (Mob.)).

6ᵀᴴ ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF LINGUISTICS AND FOLKLORE
22-23 February 2019

The *6th AICLF* is organized by Punjabi University, Chandigarh and School of Punjabi Studies. For details, contact *plapanjab@gmail.com*, *surjitpbiu@gmail.com* or 91946441816 (Mob.).

SHARING TEACHING-LEARNING EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE
TLC, IIT (BHU), Varanasi
9-11 January 2019

For details, contact Dr. Anil Thakur, *mi_anil @yahoo.com*.

5-DAY SCHOOL ON MACHINE LEARNING, DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS AND AUTOMATIC SPEECH RECOGNITION (ASR-19)
NERTU, Osmania University, Hyderabad
8-12 March 2019

For details, contact Prof. P. Laxminarayana, *plaxminarayana@yahoo.com*; 914027098066 (Off.), 919490 80548 (Mob.).

LIST OF DLA LIFE-MEMBERS
(In the Chronological Order; Continued from the last issue)

Name and Address	Amount	Date of Joining
Dr. R.V.K. Tampuran Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Kerala	₹ 220	31.3.1973
Dr. N. Sanjeevi Prof. & Head, Department of Tamil, Madras University, Madras-5, Tamil Nadu	₹ 200	5.4.1973
Dr. C.J. Daswani 157, Sahyog Apartments, Mayur Vihar, Delhi-91	₹ 200	5.4.1973
Mrs. Eileen Marjorie Whitely School of Oriental African Studies, University of London, London WC1E 7 HP, U.K.	₹ 200	1.5.1973
Dr. A. Joseph 56, Salai Road, Tiruchirappalli-620 003, Tamil Nadu	₹ 200	1.5.1973
Dr. K. Kunjunni Raja 3, Sri Ram Colony, Theosophical Society, Adayar, Madras-20, Tamil Nadu	₹ 200	2.8.1973
Dr. Helen E. Ullrich Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA	$ 50	12.8.1973
Dr. H.M. Nayak Godhuli 5th Main, Dayalakshmipuram, Mysore-570 012, Karnataka	₹ 200	12.8.1973
Dr. R.C. Hiremath Kelyeri Road, Saptapur, Dharwar, Karnataka	₹ 200	12.8.1973
Dr. G.N. Reddy	₹ 200	12.8.1973

[To be continued]

ISDL RESEARCH FORUM
LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN DECEMBER 2018

05.12.2018: *Ādivāsikaḷuṭe Bhāṣayum Samskāravum*
Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan

19.12.2018: *Co-existence of Indian Languages*
Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan