

**V.I. SUBRAMONIAM
COMMEMORATION VOLUMES**
Vol. I: Studies on Dravidian - Crown ¼,
 pp. xx + 515, Rs. 1,280/- (US\$ 110/-)
*Vol. II: Studies on Indian Languages
 and Cultures* - pp. xx + 458, Crown ¼,
 Rs. 1,150/- (US\$ 105/-)
*Phonetics and its Application to
 Different Areas* - Demy 1/8, pp. 160,
 Rs. 200/- (US\$ 15/-)

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



**Eminent Indologist and Tamil Scholar
 PROFESSOR A. VELUPPILLAI
 PASSES AWAY**

It is with extreme grief we report the demise of **Prof. A. Veluppillai** [(79); (1936-2015)], an internationally known Tamil scholar of Eezham (Sri Lankan) origin at San Francisco USA on 1st November 2015. He fell down

in the bathroom, collapsed immediately and never recovered.

He was a great scholar of excellence and a man of fine qualities which distinguished him from others. Shying publicity, he always worked like a sage and brought out research works of very high standard displaying his sharp insights and new findings. When his counterparts from Sri Lanka like Prof. Kailasapathy and Prof. Sivathampi are known for the freshness they brought forth in literary criticism by their allegiance to new theoretical paradigms like Marxism and sociological criticism, Prof. A. Veluppillai in his inimitable style fashioned on the traditional and modern Indological critical practices, brought in new perspectives and findings in Tamil research which are pioneering in the area of medieval and classical literary and epigraphical studies.

I still remember how Prof. V.I. Subramoniam, the doyen of Dravidian studies, recognized his brilliance even when Prof. Veluppillai was a young researcher, and invited him to Thiruvananthapuram in 1973 to work as a Senior Fellow in the DLA. When the young Veluppillai, at the age of 25, was selected for the highly competitive Ceylon Civil Service, a prestigious career awaited him, but he chose to become a teacher and researcher which was dearer to his heart. Having received training under great scholars like Prof. Kanapathi Pillai, Prof. T. Burrow and others, Prof. Veluppillai had been very active in Tamil research. His interest encompasses areas like classical Tamil, Tamil epigraphy, archaeology, history, grammar, Tamil linguistics, literary historiography, history of ideas, religion etc. I know how much he was affected by the Eezham war and that he was not properly recognized by the world of scholarship in India in spite of his high credentials. He was deported from India when he came with his family to attend the IATR Eighth World Conference at Thanjavur in 1995 on a misreading of his name with that of the father of LTTE supremo Veluppillai Prabhakaran and was never given visa to visit India again. It is a great pity that his dream to return to his homeland when peace returns has never been realized.

My friend and classmate, late Dr. S. Sathiyamoorthy of Trincomalee, and myself maintained a very excellent personal relationship with him and his family. I remember the days when Prof. Veluppillai was at Kazhakuttom in Thiruvananthapuram during 1973 with his son Arulalan and daughter Sivappriyai, both kids at that time, and his wife Mrs. Meenakshi Veluppillai. I also remember my visit to Uppsala and the stay

CONTENTS	
Obituary	1
43 rd AICDL - Report	2
Kotunnallūr Bhagavati Temple	3
Prof. A.P. Andrewskutty Memorial Lecture	4
AICRL 2015 at Jalandhar, Punjab	4
Report - Short-term Intensive Course at CALTS, University of Hyderabad	5
Prof. M. Rama felicitated	5
Malayalam-Day Celebration ...	6
iDravidian 2015	6
Best Teacher Award - Dr. Mubarak Ali	6
New Life-Members	6

with his family during 1996, when he received the Honorary Degree from the University of Uppsala during the tenure of Prof. Peter Schalk. It was in a glittering ceremony that he received the rare honour after an investiture lecture on *Tiruvarutpayan*, a Saiva Siddhanta text.

Among his academic works, his monumental research on *Study of the Dialects in Inscriptional Tamil* (1976) was done when he worked as a Senior Fellow in the DLA. *Sasanamum Tamilum* (1971) is

the areas of common interest of the Tamils the world over. I proposed him for the *Kural Peetam Award* of Central Institute of Classical Tamil in 2008 and *Paari Ventar Paintamizh Viruthu 2015* of Tamilpperayam.

He represents one of the last links of great scholastic traditions of Eezham and it is a great loss to the world of scholarship, a void none can fill.

ENROL AS DLA LIFE-MEMBER NOW AND SAVE RUPEES ONE THOUSAND. THE PRESENT LIFE-MEMBERSHIP FEE OF Rs. 2,000/- (US\$ 250/-) WILL BE ENHANCED TO Rs. 3,000/- (US\$ 450/-) FROM 1ST JANUARY 2016 ONWARDS. HENCE TAKE THE LIFE-MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT ANY DELAY.

the first well-written Text book on Tamil Epigraphy. The publication of *Ceylon Tamil Inscriptions* Volumes I, II (1972), *Pandya Inscriptions: A Language Study* (1972) and *Epigraphical Evidences for Tamil Studies* (1980) are his other scholarly works. Prof. Veluppillai's works on *Tamil varalaru Ilakkanam (Historical Grammar of Tamil)* (1966) and *Tamil Ilakkiyathil Kalamum Karuthum (History of Ideas in Tamil Literature)* (1969) are his conceptually absorbing books of pioneering nature. *Tamilar Samaya varalaru* (1980), *Tamilum Samayamum* (1986), *Yazhpanamanruminrum* (1986), *Eezhat Tamil Ilakkiyathin varalaruppinnai* (1986), *Īlattuppalaḷaiyailakkiyaṅkaḷ - Varalārutēṭal* (2009), *Īattuarīṅarāḷumaikaḷ* (2010) are the other notable works by him. He also co-edited with Peter Schalk of Uppsala University, Sweden a few volumes on 'Buddhism and religion in Tamil country'.

His contributions also include a good number of invaluable research articles published in international journals, books and volumes. Some of his unpublished papers also need to be published. In fact, he was working on such a project in his last days, which has to be completed soon by his admirers. *The Tamils from the Past to the Present: Celebratory Volume in Honour of Professor Alvappillai Veluppillai on the Occasion of his 75th Birthday* was edited by Prof. Peter Schalk in 2011 (and can be accessed from www.profveluppillai.org).

I have been in touch with him regularly and we exchange mails on the area of Tamil research and

Prof. Veluppillai was one of the early life-members of the DLA and he regularly contributed to the *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*. His last published article, according to our information, is *Origin of Jainism in Eastern North India and its Arrival and History in South India* in the *V.I. Subramoniam Commemoration Volume II – Studies on Indian Languages and Cultures* published by the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram.

The demise of Prof. A. Veluppillai is a great loss in the field of research both in Tamil and Indology.

We, the members of the Dravidian Linguistics Association and the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, express our deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to his wife and the bereaved members of his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

K. Nachimuthu

43rd AICDL
A GRAND ACADEMIC EVENT
(Continued from the last issue)

The second parallel session on 18th June 2015 chaired by Prof. C. Maheswaran, which started at 2 p.m., had four paper-presenters. The first paper was on *Eco-linguistic Features of Modern Malayalam Poetry* by N.G. Devaki. She

explained with suitable illustrations the connection between language and environmental problems and how it is reflected in Malayalam poetry. The paper was highly impressive and was well appreciated by the participants. The second paper by P.N. Kamala was a review of Derrida's paper 'Structure sign and Play in the Discourse of Human Sciences'. She also pointed out the applicational aspects of Derrida's concept. C. Nalini's paper *A Study of Ambiguity Stage in Thirukkural Translation* was quite interesting. Thirukkural, the renowned philosophical work of ancient Tamil has been translated into many languages. Nalini illustrated with examples lexical and structural ambiguities occurred in some of the translations of Thirukkural. This paper highlighted the problems encountered in translating a classical work like Thirukkural where sentences carry both lexical and grammatical ambiguities. Repsy Mariam Mathew presented the paper *Metonymic Nature of Malayalam Suffixes*. She has enumerated different suffixes and pointed out the metonymic nature of each of them. Since studies on this topic are very negligible, she argued for giving more attention to its study. After the paper presentation, the Chairman in his Presidential remarks expressed his views on these topics. He opined that all the four papers were of high standard and he congratulated, both, the paper-readers and the participants for their active involvement in making the session very lively and fruitful.

The session at 3 p.m. under the Chairmanship of Prof. N. Nataraja Pillai had four informative papers from different fields. N. Rajashekharan Nair touched upon one of the components of language-learning through his paper *On Writing Skill*. Much attention is not given, at present, by linguists to this domain. Promoting listening and speaking skills are quite fundamental in language-learning, but the other two skills viz., reading and writing, are also very important. He pointed out the types of errors committed by B.Tech. students in Tamil Nadu and Kerala while writing English. *Linguistic Analysis and Teaching Tamil as Second Language* was the

paper presented by Nataraja Pillai. The importance of Linguistics in language-teaching is now reconsidered by all. How linguistic analysis helps in teaching Tamil as second language was well explained through this paper. He also talked on the new approaches to second language teaching, focusing on functional and communicative aspects of language. Alisha Vandana Lakra's paper was on Kurukh, a north Dravidian language, and investigated the possibilities of acquiring the language through reduplication and the problems involved in it. Prasanth R.I. presented the paper titled *Lost Word in the Lost World*. After the presentation, the participants asked questions and sought clarifications. All the queries were answered. Then the Chairman, Prof. N. Nataraja Pillai made the concluding remarks.

[To be continued]

S. Raja & K.N. Geethakumari

KOṬUÑĀLLŪR BHAGAVATI TEMPLE – FROM A HISTORICAL AND SOCIOCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from the last issue)

Pārvati, taking pity on her, gave her a few drops of the perspirations of Śiva. Pārvati then asked her to use this in the best possible manner. Manōdari returned to the scene of the fight with these drops but, on arrival, she found that she was too late. By that time, the victorious Kāḷi was on her way to Kailāsaṃ carrying the severed head of Dārūka. Manōdari took vengeance by throwing the drops upon Kāḷi which at once turned into smallpox. Kāḷi immediately fell down exhausted and weak. Śiva came to know about the mishap and created a bhūta, karṇākarna, from his ears. The bhūta approached Pārvati, licked her body and wiped away the swollen skin. As soon as Kāḷi recovered, she got hold of Manōdari and broke her bones. Kāḷi cursed her: "You may not be able to harass humanity hereafter. You may not be called Manōdari but Vasūrimāla."

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 & Dhruvajyoti Das, 2014, PB, Demy 1/8, Pp. xvi + 128, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).

It is a matter of significance that each caste following a particular occupation had a role to play in the kāvu. Though the custodians of the temple were Nairs, other castes like Tīyās, Mukkuva, Malayan, Taṭṭān, Pulayan have certain claims to the temple and represented the caste during festivals by offering distinct items relating to their identity and occupation.

[To be continued]

B. Padmakumari Amma

**PROF. A.P. ANDREWSKUTTY
MEMORIAL LECTURE**

Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Kapil Kapoor, Chancellor, M.G. International Hindi University, Wardha, Maharashtra at 10 a.m. on 9th November 2015 at the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala. Dr. S.A. Shanavas, Head, Department of Linguistics presided over the function. Dr. Muralikrishnan T.R. spoke on the valuable contributions of Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty. Dr. S. Kunjamma welcomed the dignitaries and Dr. S. Prema proposed the vote of thanks.

**ALL INDIA CONFERENCE
ON REGIONAL LANGUAGES - REPORT
10-12 October 2015, Jalandhar, Punjab**

A very successful conference on regional languages was organized by Punjabi Bhasha Akademi, Jalandhar, Punjab in collaboration with Punjab Academy of Social Sciences, Literature and Culture, Jalandhar from 10th to 12th October 2015. 70 delegates from outside Punjab belonging to 15 states and 17 languages participated in the conference. In his welcome address, Dr. Joginder Singh Puar, Akademi President and former Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala stated that the aim of the conference was to gather scholars from different languages to ascertain the situations prevailing in India with regard to different languages. Describing the situation in Punjab, he stated that a number of institutions had been established but not much meaningful work had been done. This was due to the non-supportive attitude of the successive governments, though a number of people were working and producing some results, he said. He hoped that collective all-India efforts would ensue and other regions too would organize such Conferences so

a public opinion could be built to pressurize governments for taking the much-needed action. He emphasized that along with prevailing upon the governments, we need to produce the materials required for the use of different languages in various domains.

Dr. Deepak Pawar, Department of Political Science, Mumbai University delivered an inspirational inaugural address. He stated that the whole matrix of language, culture and empowerment has to be understood and accordingly changes have to be made. He talked about organizing India according to linguistic divisions, but after 1947 talking about language issues is considered to be divisive. But linguistic identities have not resulted into a balkanization of India. Mere creative literature is not development of a language. It has to be used in education, administration, media, judiciary and other domains of social life. Even ministers are making absurd statements that Hindi is the national language of India despite there being no such constitutional provision. We are facing two kinds of linguistic colonialism - external i.e., English and internal i.e., Hindi. Empowerment of a linguistic community is essential for the development of a language. Elitist Indian intelligentsia is contributing to English hegemony. In India, linguistic federalism is the need of the hour.

Dr. Om Gauri Dutt Sharma, Deputy Director-General, Jalandhar Doordarshan emphasized that though Hindi was the official language of the Indian Union, literary works in Hindi are very less. He described the spread of TV channels and their impact on Indian languages.

S. Iqbal Singh, former Lt. Governor, Puducherry, in his Presidential Address, stressed that only regional languages can be the means of effective communication in India because much of the population does not understand either Hindi or English. He said he was the first to speak in Punjabi in the Indian Parliament. He emphasized the need to involve all the people in the decision-making process.

Dr. S.P. Singh, former Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab and Senior Vice-President, Punjabi Bhasha Akademi while proposing the vote of thanks pointed out the need for federalism. Nobody is against Hindi, but domination of Hindi over other languages has to be opposed. A

number of so-called Hindi states are not actually Hindi states because the language of the people there is not Hindi. He cited the examples of Maithili, Bhojpuri, Rajasthani, Garhwali etc.

[To be continued]

Joga Singh & Sukhvinder Singh Sangha

A REPORT ON “A SHORT-TERM INTENSIVE COURSE IN DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS”

21st – 26th September 2015

CALTS, University of Hyderabad

This course was conducted for commemorating the bicentennial of **Francis Whyte Ellis**'s (1816) finding proof of the concept of a family of languages spoken in South India, later called as the Dravidian family of languages or the South Indian Family of languages by Robert Caldwell (1857). The Dravidian Linguistics Association, during its annual national conference held from 18th to 20th June 2015, unanimously decided to launch a yearlong program comprising of an International and a number of national conferences, seminars and workshops on Dravidian studies.

CALTS has approached heads of various institutions to extend their support in this regard. Thanks to Prof. Awadesh K. Mishra, Director, CIIL who came forward to accept the proposal to conduct the workshop.

The course was conducted with an aim to promote the understanding of the Dravidian languages in terms of descriptive, historical and comparative studies. The course aimed not only to help specialist teachers engaged in teaching the discipline but also to provide training for other linguists to conduct a course in historical linguistics involving Dravidian languages, and to offer practical training in comparative linguistics for researchers and administrators.

The registered participants from institutions such as Central University of Kerala (2 scholars), Central University of Karnataka (4 scholars), Dravidian University (6 scholars), Annamalai University (9 scholars), Amrita University (1 scholar), English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU- Hyderabad) (4 scholars), Centre For Development Of Advanced Computing (CDAC-Hyderabad) (1 scholar) and University of Hyderabad (15 scholars) attended this course.

Many renowned Dravidian scholars were kind enough to become the faculty members for this work. They include eminent Professors like P.S. Subrahmanyam (formerly Director, Centre of Advanced Studies in Linguistics, Annamalai University), Dravidian historical comparativist, B.R.K. Reddy (formerly Dean, School of Language Development, Telugu University), expert on Dravidian and Munda convergence, K.V. Subbarao (formerly Prof. Radhakrishnan Chair Professor, University of Hyderabad), expert Typologist of South Asian convergence, Peri Bhaskararao, IIT, Hyderabad (formerly ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), expert on acoustic phonetics of exotic languages, G. Uma Maheshwar Rao (Director, CALTS, University of Hyderabad), Dravidian and Central Asian language families, L. Ramamoorthy (Head, Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages (LDC-IL), CIIL), corpus studies in Dravidian, and K. Parameswari (Assistant Professor, CALTS, University of Hyderabad), Computing Divergence studies in Dravidian.

[To be continued]

G. Uma Maheshwar Rao & K. Parameswari

COMMENTS ON V.I. SUBRAMONIAM COMMEMORATION VOLUME I – *Studies On Dravidian*

“An excellent volume, worthy of Dr. V.I.S.”

R.E. Asher

*“Designed beautifully with contemporary contents.
An excellent tribute to the renowned Professor.”*

P. Perumal Samy

PROF. M. RAMA FELICITATED

Prof. M. Rama, former Honorary Director of International School of Dravidian Linguistics and retired Professor of Kannada, Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala was felicitated at a function organized by Prof. M. Rama Abhinandana Samithi on 27th September 2015 at Government Higher Secondary School, Paivalike Nagar, Kasaragod. It was in recognition of his services as an educationist, translator and researcher. Many eminent personalities were present at the inaugural session which was presided

Recent Publications: **The Contribution of Melpüttur Nārāyaṇa Bhaṭṭatiri to Sanskrit Literature with Special Reference to Vyākaraṇa**, P. Visalakshy, 2013, Crown ¼, pp. 428, Rs. 900/- (US\$ 81/-). **A Contrastive Analysis of the Phonological Systems of Bengali and Malayalam**, Dhruvajyoti Das, 2014, pp. xii + 140, Rs. 220/- (US\$ 20/-). **Studies on Bangla from a Broader Perspective**, G.K. Panikkar, Syamala Sasidharan & Sourav Chakraborty (Eds.), 2015, pp. 216, Rs. 230/- (US\$ 23/-).

over by Sri. Manikanta Rai, President, Paivalike Grama Panchayat. Sri. P.B. Abdul Razak, Manjeshwar MLA, inaugurated the session. A symposium was held highlighting Dr. Rama's literary and linguistic contributions. The felicitation ceremony in the afternoon was presided over by Dr. B.A. Viveka Rai, former Vice Chancellor, Kannada University, Hampi. A felicitation volume comprising of 70 articles focusing on different aspects of Kannada, Tulu and Malayalam languages was released by Dr. T.P.S. Nayar, Director-General, Heritage Study Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

MALAYALAM-DAY CELEBRATION

Malayalam-Day Celebration was held at the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala on 9th November 2015. Dr. N. Veeramanikandan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala inaugurated the function and Dr. S.A. Shanavas, Head, Department of Linguistics presided over the meeting.

iDRAVIDIAN 2015

Natural Language Symposium on Dravidian Languages on 10th December 2015

&

International Conference on Natural Language Processing (ICON-2015), 11th – 14th December 2015 at IIITM-K, Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram, India

iDravidian is a symposium on South Indian languages which provides forum for researchers to share and discuss their ongoing work for building NLP tools and systems relating to their respective languages.

Topics of interest: Basic core technologies, Linguistics, Applications, Resources.

Research papers are invited on any aspect of NLP and Linguistics pertaining to Dravidian family of languages.

For details, visit <http://www.iiitm.ac.in/idravidian2015/>.

BEST TEACHER AWARD TO DR. MUBARAK ALI

The GRABS Educational Charitable Trust conferred 'Best Teacher Award' on Dr. Mubarak Ali, Associate Professor, CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University on 1st November 2015 in Chennai.

NEW ENROLMENT FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP (October 2015)

1. **Dr. Manjunatha T.** (Membership No. 1214/2015)
398, 11th Cross, Jakkur Layout, Jakkur Post, Bengaluru
North, Bengaluru - 560 064, Karnataka
2. **Dr. S. Saravanan** (Membership No. 1215/2015)
Thirumanja Veethi, Melaperumpallam Post, Tranquebar
Taluk, Nagapattinam - 609 107, Tamil Nadu
3. **Dr. Syam S.K.** (Membership No. 1216/2015)
4/518, "Brindhavanam", SVLRA F1B, Sreevilas Lane,
Toll Junction, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695
003, Kerala
4. **Dr. Lopamudra Choudhury** (Membership No. 1217/2015)
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Darshan
Bhavan, Jadavpur University, Kolkata - 700 032, West Bengal
5. **Dr. V. Shanmugaraj** (Membership No. 1218/2015)
Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of Linguistics, Madurai
Kamaraj University, Madurai - 21, Tamil Nadu
6. **Mr. B. Jeyachandran** (Membership No. 1219/2015)
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Madurai
Kamaraj University, Madurai - 21, Tamil Nadu
7. **Mr. Thivya Nathan** (Membership No. 1220/2015)
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, School of
Linguistics and Communication, Madurai Kamaraj University,
Madurai - 21, Tamil Nadu
8. **Mr. M. Chinna Samy** (Membership No. 1221/2015)
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Madurai
Kamaraj University, Madurai - 21, Tamil Nadu
9. **Dr. V. Malaimozhi** (Membership No. 1222/2015)
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, School of
Linguistics and Communication, Madurai Kamaraj University,
Madurai - 21, Tamil Nadu
10. **Mrs. J. Sheela Selva Kumari** (Membership No. 1223/2015)
Research Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Madurai
Kamaraj University, Madurai - 21, Tamil Nadu