Report of the 46th International Conference of the Linguistic Society of India

October 3-5, 2024

Organised by

Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir, Srinagar

In collaboration with the Linguistic Society of India, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru, and Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

Day one, Date: 3rd October 2024

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 for October 3-5, 2024. The conference was attended by around 200 delegates, with 180 scholars and linguists from various parts of the country outside Kashmir and outside India participating in the event.

The inaugural session of the conference was held at Gandhi Bhawan of the University at 10.30 am on October 3. The inaugural session 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. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh, Head, Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir and Director of ICOLSI-46.

In the welcome address, Prof. Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh, Head of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir, and Director of ICOLSI-46, 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 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 explored the critical 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 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 toward 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. Aejaz 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.

It was followed by the Radhabai Katre Memorial Lecture which was delivered by Prof. Shobha Satyanath, a prominent sociolinguist and former head of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Delhi, who has extensively researched sociolinguistics in multilingual communities, particularly in the Indian context. In her lecture, she focussed on the diversification of Assamese into Nagamese over the last 200 years. Drawing upon classifiers, the lecture provided a quantitative model to assess the extent of divergence that has occurred in Nagamese resulting in a new divergent system. Drawing upon the speech and earlier textual archives the talk showed that while Assamese has remained fairly stable over time during the same time Nagamese has undergone a significant shift in various key parameters giving rise to a new system. The talk provided a framework to analyse both continuity and change within the two languages.

Four parallel technical sessions were held in the afternoon. The technical session on Sociolinguistics was chaired by Prof. Shantanu Gosh, Amity University, New Delhi. Following presentations were made in this session.

1. Language Attitude and Maintenance Among Karbis in Upper Hengrabari Area of Kamrup Metropolitan District Assam by Rashmita Rahang
2. Linguistic Politeness in Public Spaces: Analyzing Norms in the Linguistic Landscape of Assam by Gargi Dowarah, Debraj Gogoi & Sweta Sinha
3. Structural Convergence and Language Attitudes: The Symptoms of Language Maintenance and Shift by Gargi Roy & Sayantani Banarjee

4. Taboo Languages in Indian Culture: Unraveling Attitudes and Evolution among Young Adults in Kerala by Anupama
5. Kinship Terms in Marwari: A Sociolinguistic Study by Rashmika Goswam & Dhanapati Shougrakpam
6. 'Hinglish' and Notions of Language Purism among Indian Adults: Exploring Language Attitudes in the Hindi Belt by Sadaf Khan & Thapasaya J
7. Language Shift in Nepali Variety Spoken in Assam by Upasana Devi & Paramita Purkait
8. Exploring the Use of Code-Switching as a Tool for Identity among Younger Generations by Mayuri Kailas & Vinod Bhatt
9. Retention of Certain Archaic Features of Kashmiri in Kishtwari by Vijay Kumar Koul

The parallel session on Syntax was chaired by Prof. Shahila Zafar. The presentations explored various syntactic structures in different languages, analysing how languages manage grammatical constructs such as word order, sentence formation, and clause structure.

Following is a list of the presentations that took place in this session.

1. Finding the Underlying Structure of Ditransitive Constructions in Odia by Monica Rajguru & Jooyoung Kim
2. Defining Veridicality in Terms of Mood and Finiteness by Shubham Kumar Srivastava
3. An Ontological Classification of Hindi Nouns by Jyoti Kumari & Praveen Gatla
4. Formation of Adjectives in Lower Wancho by Suni Jyoti Kalita
5. Verbless Clauses in Telugu-Finiteness by Kothakonda Suman
6. Grammatical Tone in Maram by Joanna J, Tulika Gogoi & Amlesh Gope
7. The Prenominal System of Dhundhari by Rijushna Gogoi & Dhanapati Shourakpam
8. Perspective Marking in Contact: The Case of Agartala Bangla by Sayantani Banerjee & Gargi Roy
9. A Typological Study of Symmetricity in the Negation of Standard Odia and Sambalpuri by Dibya Prakash Panda & Thapasaya J

The third parallel session was themed as Linguistics & Literature, Language Teaching & Semiotics which was presided by Dr. Suman Preet Virk.

This session focused on the intersection of linguistics and literature with language teaching, particularly exploring how linguistic concepts are applied in both literary analysis and teaching methodologies.

Presentations covered diverse topics such as the role of linguistic structures in literature and innovative approaches to language education.

Following presentations were given in this session.

1. A Comparative Study of the Morphosyntactic Features of Kakrala Urdu and Urdu by Noman Tahir & M.J. Warsi
2. Case Marking and Agreement in Patna Urdu by Shamim Fatma
3. Syllabic Structure of Urdu as Spoken in Allahabad by Sadia H Hassan
4. Ethnicity and Tradition: A Sociohistorical Study of Bapsi Sidhwa's Selected Novels by Sadaf Fareed
5. Jacques Derrida's 'Floating Signifiers' in Haikus in Tamil by P.N. Kamala
6. Representation of Multifaceted Portrayal of Women and Gender Discourse in Digital Space: A Critical Study of Select Hindi Web-series on OTT Platforms by Mamta & Om Prakash
7. Use of ICT tools in an Andragogic ESL Classrooms: A Study by Shadab Khan, Shree Deepa & Amaratheja Abati
8. Signages in Airports: The Multi-Pronged Linguistic Jugaad Model by Shree Deepa & Geetha Durairajan

The fourth parallel session on Computational Linguistics, Translation & Semiotics was chaired by Prof. Niladri Sekhar Das, and focused on computational linguistics, translation studies, and semiotics, delving into the application of computational models for language processing and translation, as well as the study of symbols and meaning in communication. The following papers were presented in the session.

1. Kashi Tourism Question-Answering Hindi and Telugu Dataset: An Ontological Study byPraveen Gatla & Anushka
2. Tokenization Showdown: Evaluating Byte Pair Encoding and Unigram Tokenization Techniques for Assamese by Bhabarnab Kashyap
3. Kauravi WordNet: A Case of Language-Specific Synsets and Lexical Mismatch by Vaibhav Singh & Imran Ali
4. Comparative Analysis of Human and Machine Translation of Telugu: Linguistic and Cultural Divergence by Vanka Ramesh
5. Role of Post-Editing in Improving the Quality of Neural Machine Translation Output: A Case Study of English & Telugu by K. Rajyarama & Venna Mounika
6. Constraints in Translating Verbs of Motion from English to Kashmiri by Sudheer R. Bhan
7. Critical Thinking in the Era of Artificial Intelligence by Uzma Afreen & M.J. Warsi

8. Sign Language ~ Zareena Sultana

A cultural programme was organised in the evening which included various Kashmiri musical items.

Day 2, October 4

The second day of the "46th International Conference of the Linguistic Society of India" (ICOLSI-46) commenced with a plenary lecture which was delivered by Prof. Niladri Sekhar Dash on the topic 'Digital Lexicography in Digital India: Dreams and Challenges'.

Prof. Dash emphasized the crucial role technology plays in shaping the future of Indian linguistics. His core argument revolved around how digital lexicography could transform linguistic studies in India and whether the country is prepared to develop the necessary resources to make digital dictionaries (DD) readily accessible to students and teachers alike. Prof. Dash described digital lexicography as a new and exciting "avatar" in modern linguistics.

It was followed by another plenary talk on which was delivered by Professor Pradeep Kumar Das on the topic "Ergativity as an Enigma in Some Major Indian Languages". Prof. Das began by highlighting the importance of ergativity in linguistic typology, particularly in languages exhibiting full or split-ergative patterns. In his talk, Professor Das emphasized the importance of clarity and precision in analysing ergativity, particularly when dealing with complex linguistic data. He warned against the risk of misrepresentation, which can easily occur when glossing over split-ergative patterns in languages. He called upon linguists to adopt a meticulous and detailed approach in analysing ergativity, as accurate representation of language structures is crucial for advancing linguistic theory.

The plenary talks were followed by technical session II which included four parallel sessions. Here's a breakdown of the sessions:

Parallel Session 1: Language & Media Stylistics

Chaired by Prof. G. K. Paniker, this session focused on the interplay between language and media stylistics, examining how linguistic elements are used in various media formats. The presentations explored the influence of language on public discourse, advertising strategies, and the implications of digital communication on contemporary linguistic practices.

The session included the following presentations.

1. Using Mobile Apps and Websites for Creative Writing: Prospects and Challenges by Nujhat Nuari Islam & Shafaat Mobarok Abdul Jabber
2. Hashtags to Emojis: Analysis of Language Features on Social Media by Shagufta Iram

3. Advertising Methods of Language and Attractive Function of Form by C.G, Sankar & T.S. Santhi
4. A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Politeness and Persuasive Strategies in Advertisements: A Comparative Study of Indian and American Newspapers by Md. Zeeshan Alam
5. Comprehensive Linguistic Study on the Communicative Effectiveness of Expressions used in Urdu Print Advertising by Mohamad Tahir & Mohd Rafe
6. Cognitive Metaphors in Rashmirathi by Rakhi Mishra & Harsh Kumar
7. Style Variation in KambRaamaayannam's Poetics by V. Deenathayali
8. A Holographic Study of Love Metaphors in Hembarua's Poetry by Sweety Bayan

Parallel Session 2: Psycholinguistics

This session was chaired by Prof. Abhinav Kumar Mishra, and delved into psycholinguistics, the study of how language is processed in the mind. It examined cognitive mechanisms underlying language comprehension, production, and acquisition, as well as the interplay between language and thought. The presentations explored various aspects of psycholinguistics through empirical research and theoretical discussions.

The following presentations were made in the session.

1. Paraphasia in Aphasia as a Reflection of Lexical Semantic Breakdown by Abhishek BP & Brajesh Priyadarshi
2. A Study on Reading Deviation at Morpho-phonological level produced by Bilingual Dyslexic School Children of Delhi by Indira Priyadarshini & Mamta
3. Effect of Gender in Development of Attention in Malayalam Speaking Children by Brajesh Priyadarshi, Abhishek B.P & Juniya Joby
4. Comprehension of English Preposition by Visually Impaired Children: A Socio-Cognitive Study by Soumya Abidi & Nazrin B. Laskar
5. Do Emotions Behave like Words of a Language by Koyel Mukherjee, Bidisha Som & Abhishek Shrivastava
6. Bilingual Sentence Processing: Unraveling the Role of Working Memory and Expectation in English Passive Constructions for Indian Bilinguals by Apurva & Ganna J
7. Pictures Elicitation Task: Assessing Language Domination through Grammaticality by Nilanjana Chowdhury, Bidisha Som & Sukumar Nandi

8. Decoding Joy: A Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of Hindi Idiomatic Expressions on Happiness by Abhijeet Satsangi

Parallel Session 3: Language Culture, Contact, Identity & Revitalization

This session, chaired by Prof. Shobha Satyanath, focused on the interplay between language, culture, and identity, exploring how languages evolve and interact within communities. It emphasized the significance of language contact and revitalization efforts, examining how linguistic diversity reflects cultural identity and the challenges faced in preserving endangered languages.

The session featured a variety of presentations that highlighted critical aspects of language revitalization and sociolinguistic dynamics:

1. Examining the Vitality of Naga Languages through Intergenerational Language Transmission by Kethokhrienuo Belho
2. Sociolinguistic Analysis of Language Shifts in Media: A Study of Regional Vernaculars and their Impact on National Discourse by Habibur Rehman & M.J. Warsi
3. Digital Documentation and Archiving of Angikan Folklore for future Generation by Niharika Kumari & Abhigyan Dwivedi
4. Causatives as Politeness Strategy in Eastern Indic Languages by Satyam Kumar
5. Word Formation in Hinglish: Exploring Affixation, Blending and Compounding in Hindi-English Code-Mixing Words by Alok Kumar & Shubham Kumar
6. [kùrã̀] [kúrã́] [kúrã́] – Changtongya Chungli and The Myth of "Course" Dialects by Moachiba Jamir
7. Modernization of Punjabi Language Expression in Sikh Journals (1900-1920): A Study in Language Digitization and Archiving by Guntasha K. Tulsi
8. Revitalization Meitei Mayek: Opportunities and Challenges in 21st Century Manipur by Bijayanti Devi Haobam

Parallel Session 4: Language Teaching, Learning & Testing

This session was chaired by Prof. Michal Schwarz, and focused on language teaching, learning, and testing, exploring various approaches to language education and the factors influencing language acquisition. It examined how pedagogical strategies and assessment methods impact language learning outcomes and the role of language in shaping educational experiences.

The session featured a diverse range of presentations, provided below.

1. Linguistic and Non-Linguistic Elements on Undergraduates' and Postgraduates Willingness to Speak: An Investigation on Factors that Promote or Inhibit Classroom Participation at Banaras Hindu

University, Varanasi, India by Krishna Mohan Singh & Shreya Pandey

2. Idiom Production in School Going Children: An Empirical Study on Hindi Speaking Children by Sheerin Hena
3. Alienating Impact of Language Testing Method in West Bengal Government Schools: A Case Study by Moomal Majee
4. Understanding the Awareness of Training Teachers in Phonics Instruction through Synthetic Phonics Method by P.Ravi Kumar
5. History of Development of ESL Assessment in Higher Education in India: A Critical Review by Lina Mukhopadhyay
6. Socio-Cultural Impact of Communicative Competence in Academic English in Multicultural Environment: A Study by Jaipal
7. English Language Learning in the Digital Age: Opportunities, Challenges and Innovation in Indian Scenarios by Filza Zaki Khan & Adil Khan

The 2nd Technical Session was followed by the 3rd technical session, spread over four parallel sessions.

Parallel Session 1: Discourse Analysis, NEP & Historical Linguistics

This session was chaired by Dr. Musavir Ahmad, and focused on how discourse shapes political, social, and cultural narratives, the implications of NEP on language policies, and the historical evolution of languages.

The session included discussions such as:

1. Death Reportage on Communal Violence: A Critical Discourse Analysis by Kavita Yadav & Abhijeet Satsangi
2. War of Words in Indian Political Discourse by Apurbalal Senapati
3. Pandemic Parodies: Exploring Intertextuality in COVID-19 Humorous Discourse on X by Bageshree Ramdas Bageshwar & Shahila Zafar
4. Persuasive Politics: Rhetorical Analysis of Speeches in Indian Election Campaigns by Kanupriya Mali
5. The Rise of a Bengali Koine in Assam and its Relationship with the Local Tibeto-Burman Languages by Kakoli Dey
6. The Gender Evolution in the Sequels of Cinderella: A Study in Critical Discourse Analysis by Jeeni Gupta & Sonu Gupta
7. Mother Tongue as Sociolinguistic Disjuncture: Negotiating Multilingualism within an Institution of Higher Education by Nishaant Choksi

8. Linguistic Inefficacies in Indian Trademark Laws by Vineet Kumar & Abhinav Kumar Mishra

Parallel Session 2: Pragmatics, Morphosemantics & Morphology

This session was chaired by Prof. Pradeep Kumar Das, and focused on pragmatics, morphosemantics, and morphology, three core areas of linguistics that explore how meaning is constructed and interpreted in communication.

Presentations in this session addressed various aspects of meaning and word structure:

1. A Formal Representation of Illocutionary Force by Sarada Bandana Biswas & Shubham Kumar Srivastava
2. Modal Polysemy and Applying Talmy's Force Dynamics in Sylheti by Puja Shil & Gautam K. Borah
3. Temporal Nomenclature: The 24 Terms for Each Hour in the Arabic Language by Muhammed Ashraf K., Ali Hassan T, S.A. Shahnavas & Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh
4. Thematic Role Mapping and Case Polysemy in Kurux by Sandesha Rayapa & Spandan Pattnaik
5. Morphological Processes in Kannauji: A Study of PNG Markers by Katyayani Singh
6. Productivity of Assamese Suffixes: Probabilistic Outcome and Clustering in R by Pinky Moni Gayan & Arup Kumar Nath
7. Reduplication in Thadou by M Hemminlal Hoakip
8. Syncretism in Verbal Inflection of Standard Assamese by Dawashree Ojah & Arup Kumar Nath

Parallel Session 3: Syntax & Morphosyntax

This session chaired by Dr. Mimi Kevichusa Ezung, centered on syntax and morphosyntax, two essential areas of linguistics that explore sentence structure and the relationship between morphology and syntax.

The presentations in this session covered a wide range of topics:

1. Morpho-syntactic Variation between Mauritius and Indian Bhojpuri Language by Bablu Ray & Siddhant Kumar
2. The Postpositional Locative Case Markers in the Dogri Language by Tanu Gupta, Barnali Chaudhary & Amitash Ojha
3. Function of Light Verbs in Maithili by Pradeep Kumar Das & Smriti Choudary
4. A Study Analyzing Whole Segment Processes in Dogri by Devina Krishna
5. Conjunct Verb Constructions in Azamgarhi by Zoya Fatma

6. The Tense-Aspect Encoding and the Enigmatic-n/d̪ Marker in Asur Language by Zoya Khalid
7. Agreement in Khortha by Siddhart Sanket
8. Classifiers, Numerals and their Structural Interaction in the Karbi Language by Joynal Ali

Parallel Session 4: Phonetics & Phonology

This session, chaired by Prof. Rajneesh Arora, focused on phonetics and phonology, two fundamental branches of linguistics that deal with the sounds of language. The session featured presentations that explored a range of phonetic and phonological phenomena:

1. Acoustic Observation of Rhoticism in Indian English between Native Tamil and Malayalam Speakers by Keerthana K S & Syam S K
2. Prosodic Encoding of Focus in Chokri by Amlesh Gope, Tulika Gogoi & Sekholu Tetseo
3. Acoustic Analysis of the Birhor Language: A Study of Speech Signals in an Endangered Austroasiatic Language by Devarati Jana & Susmita De
4. Phonological Pattern of Echo Reduplication in Kosli by Paroma Sanyal & Pranab Bagartti
5. Compensatory Lengthening in Malayalam: Evidence for Coda Moracity by Greeshma Joseph, Paroma Sanyal & Terese Liam Tom
6. Accent and Stress Patterns in Bagri-Accented English: A Spectrographic Analysis by Madan Lal
7. A Phonetic Analysis of Lenition in the Speech of Bilinguals with Stuttering by Ashima Saseendran
8. Hindi Conjunct Consonants among Hindi-Speaking Dyslexics by Riya Singh & Mamta

At the end of the day, the General Body Meeting of LSI was held in Gandhi Bhavan, University of Kashmir, which was presided over by the President LSI Prof. M J Warsi. Prof. Abhinav Kumar Mishra, Secretary LSI and Prof. Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh, Editor *Indian Linguistics*. and Director ICOLSI-46 shared the dais with him. The President and the Secretary highlighted the work done by the incumbent LSI since it took over. They welcomed suggestions from the General Body Members for the society's growth and future plans.

Day 3, Dated October 05

The first session of the Day 3 at ICOLSI-46 began with a plenary lecture by Prof. Shantanu Ghosh on 'The Integrative Role of Cognitive Science and Linguistics—The Road Ahead'. The session was chaired by Prof. M J Warsi, Chairman, Department of Linguistics, AMU, Aligarh and the

President LSI. Prof. Ghosh's talk revolved around two major themes: the nature of linguistics as a discipline and the ways it should evolve to stay relevant in the 21st century, especially in the context of advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) like ChatGPT.

Prof. Ghosh began by positioning linguistics within the broader field of cognitive science. He explained that cognitive science deals with the nature of intelligent behaviour and the human mind, while linguistics investigates the structure, processing, and acquisition of language. Linguistics, according to Prof. Ghosh, is a convergent discipline that contributes theoretical models and empirical findings to our understanding of the cognitive processes underpinning language. Prof. Ghosh outlined five key contributions of linguistics to cognitive science: 1. Cognitive Models 2. Experimental Methodologies, 3. Relationship between Language and Thought, 4. Computational Modelling , and 5. Knowledge Representation

The plenary talk was followed by a special session on the theme 'Kashmiri Language, Linguistics and Literature' which was attended by Prof. Shafi Shauq, Prof. Nazir Ahmed Malik, Prof. Nazir Ahmed Dhar, Prof. Shad Ramzan and Dr. Satish Vimal. The session was chaired by Prof. Salahuddin Tak, Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literature.

Prof. Shafi Shauq's presentation focused on the distinct syntactic structure of Kashmiri, particularly its V2 word order, which sets it apart from most Southeast Asian languages. He explained that despite prolonged contact with languages that follow an SOV order, Kashmiri has maintained its SVO structure. This, he suggested, points to something unique in the roots of the language, hinting at its resilience and historical depth.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Malik addressed the question of whether Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh could be classified as a distinct linguistic area within the framework of the project "India as a Linguistic Area". He defined a linguistic area as a region where languages from different families coexist and influence each other, sharing common features like verb structures and echo words.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Dhar discussed the long-standing debate over Kashmiri's classification as a Dardic language. He noted that early linguistic scholars, such as Grierson, questioned whether Kashmiri should be grouped under Indo-Aryan, proposing instead a separate Dardic classification. Prof. Dhar highlighted the absence of voiced aspiration in Kashmiri, a key feature of Indo-Aryan languages, as evidence of its distinctiveness.

Prof. Shad Ramzan, the Convener for the Sahitya Board of Kashmiri Language, focused on the rich tradition of Kashmiri poetry. He argued that Kashmiri poetry stands apart from both Sanskrit and Persian poetry in terms of its metaphors, rhythm, and tone, reflecting the uniqueness of the language. According to Prof. Ramzan, while Kashmiri has accepted

influences from Sanskrit (e.g., *Suriya* for "sun") and Persian (e.g., *Aftaab*), the language has always retained its distinctiveness.

Dr. Satish Vimal expressed his excitement about the conference and commended Prof. Aejaz for his contributions to Kashmiri linguistics. He referenced the ongoing research at Tehran University, which is revisiting the origins of Persian language based on new discoveries, suggesting that similar efforts should be made for Kashmiri.

Prof. Salahuddin Tak, in his presidential address, discussed the phonological structure of Kashmiri. Prof. Tak speculated that Kashmir's historical connection to shepherd communities who migrated to the region might have contributed to this Arabic influence, which he believes should be further researched. His comments highlighted the diverse historical and cultural factors that have shaped the Kashmiri language.

The session ended with felicitation of Prof. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh, Head, Department of Linguistics, by the faculty of the Department of Urdu on being given the additional charge of Head, Department of Urdu.

After this, the parallel sessions of the fourth technical session were atarted. Here's an overview of the sessions:

Session 1: Phonetics & Phonology

This session, chaired by Prof. Lina Mukhopadhyay, focused on phonetics and phonology, with an emphasis on the acoustic and phonological properties of various languages. The presentations explored how sound patterns are realized in different linguistic contexts, examining acoustic features, sound variation, and how these features contribute to our understanding of endangered and lesser-studied languages.

The presentations included:

1. A Phonological Overview of Gorum Language by *Hilal Ahmad Dar, Sujoy Sarkar & Shailendra Mohan*
2. The Phonological Analysis of Ta'izzi Dialect by *Sanaa Taha Mohammad Omar Aqeel & Osamah Ameen Mohammad Awadh*
3. An Acoustic Study of the Nasal Vowels in Nepali by *Nisha Upadhayaya & Neelam Singh*
4. Vowel Reduplication in Malayalam by *Ashitha Rachel Jacob & Somdev Kar*
5. Comparative Phonological Study of Hindi and Magahi: A Pilot Study by *Supriya Chauhan*
6. Phonological Features of Sak and Thang Hrangkhol by *Elizebeth Hrangkhol*
7. Exploring Phonological and Sociolinguistic Variation in the Endangered Sonowal Kachari Language by *Zitaksyor Sonawal*

8. Linguistics and Ancient Ethnohistories Within the Framework of Complex Societies and Complex Systems: Implications and Promising Gaps by *Michal Schwarz*

Session 2: Morphosyntax

This session, chaired by Prof. Adil Amin Kak, focused on morphosyntax, the study of how morphological and syntactic structures interact within languages. The presentations highlighted the grammatical organization of modifying clauses and nominal categories, providing insights into the morphosyntactic features of less-studied languages. The session provided a diverse array of presentations including:

1. The Status of the Modifying Clause in Khiamniungan by *Mimi K. Ezung & Keen Thaam*
2. Focus Particles in Magahi by *Satyam*
3. Relative Clause in Sambalpuri by *Gurudev Kushal & Sri Shibashish Panda*
4. Decoding the Threads of Communication: A Look at Tense, Aspect and Mood in Tai Phake by *Rita Saha*
5. Some Constrains to Identify Anaphors and Antecedents in Magahi by *Shweta Chandra*
6. Morphosyntax of Nominal Categories in Mewati by *Mohd Akbar & Nazrin B. Laskar*
7. Relative Clause Construction (RSS) in Yimkhiung: A Morpho-Syntactic Enquiry by *Dinkur Borah & Amlesh Gope*

Session 3: Language Teaching

This session chaired by Prof. Vikay Kumar Koul, focused on language teaching, exploring methodologies and frameworks that enhance language education. The presentations addressed both theoretical and practical aspects of language instruction, examining how linguistic analysis can inform teaching practices and improve learner outcomes.

The session included the following presentations:

1. Morphological Analysis in Paninian Grammar and its Implications for Second Language Education by *Seema Abhigyan Dwivedi & Niharika Kumari*
2. Academic Writing in English in the Indian Context at Higher Education Levels: A Corollary of Complex Factors by *K. Rajyarama*
3. A Typological Study of Symmetricity in the Negation of Standard Odia and Sambalpuri by *Dibya Prakash Panda & Thapasya J*
4. Perspective Marking in Contact: The Case of Agartala Bangla by *Sayantani Banerjee & Gargi Roy*

5. Does English Medium Schooling Improve EAP Writing in Higher Education: A Survey-based Study by *Monalisha*
6. A Realistic Framework towards New Language Teaching and Learning by *Shalu Kumari, Bidhisha Som & Sukumar Nandi*
7. Challenges of Writing Thesis among Yemeni Ph.D Candidates in Indian Universities by *Yasir Hassan Ahmed Al-Qudimi, Shabana Hameed & Amran Mansour Abubakr Mahmoud*

Session 4: Comparative Linguistics & Language Shift

The session, chaired by Dr. Sudheer R. Bhan, focused on comparative linguistics and language shift, exploring the relationships between different languages and the implications of language change in multilingual contexts. The presentations examined specific linguistic features across languages, as well as cognitive perspectives on language conceptualization. The session included the following presentations:

1. An Analysis of PRO in Kannauji, Hindi and Odia by *Nihal Kumar Dubey, Soumyatarini Mishra*
2. What does your Favourite Curse Word say about You: An Analysis of Curse words in Bhojpuri and Odia by *Soumyatarini Mishr & Nihal Kumar Dubey*
3. Conceptualization of Time in Hindi and English in perspective of Cognitive Theory of Metaphor by*Adwitee Verma*
4. Cognitive way of Understanding using Classifiers in Dimasa and Garo by *Pratiksha Goswami*
5. The Language Usage and Attitude by thr Native Sylheti Speaking Students of Silchar Town by *Rajib Dey*
6. A Comparative Analysis of Person, Number and Gender in Maram and Liangmai by *Koila Victoria*
7. A Comparative Study of Address Forms in Assamese and Bengali by *Sohinee Sarkar*

The session was followed by the final plenary lecture of the conference, titled *'Debates in Critical Discourse Analysis: Deconstructing the Controversy'. The session was* chaired by Prof. R.C. Sharma. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Rajneesh Arora, an expert in phonetics, phonology, and discourse analysis. The focus of the lecture was the long-standing debate between Norman Fairclough (F) and Henry Widdowson (W) regarding the validity and application of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).

Prof. Arora began by highlighting the core issue of the debate between Widdowson and Fairclough. Widdowson, a critic of CDA, argued that CDA is selective, interpretative, and partial, often ignoring the broader context of texts. He questioned whether being *critical* in CDA means arbitrarily attacking ideas, attitudes, or values that we don't agree with. Widdowson contended that critical approaches can exist outside of CDA,

and simply analysing texts through a CDA lens may lead to a preferred or biased interpretation rather than a true analysis.

Prof. Arora pointed out that the choice of methodology in CDA is also a point of contention. Is there a "best" method for discourse analysis? Widdowson criticized CDA for not paying enough attention to how texts are produced and for focusing mainly on qualitative analysis. He also raised concerns about the materials chosen for analysis, questioning whether CDA cherry-picks texts that fit its framework.

Fairclough, however, defended the flexibility of CDA, stating that anything can be subject to critical analysis, from advertisements to political speeches. The key, according to Fairclough, is to maintain a critical view, as described by Paulo Freire (1985), where one must question, doubt, and investigate the very life we live.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The valedictory session marked the conclusion of ICOLSI-46 at the University of Kashmir. The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Chief Guest Prof. Mohammad Mobin, Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University, Srinagar, and Guest of Honor Prof. Sharifuddin Pirzada, Dean of Academic Affairs. Prof. G Panikker, Prof. R C Sharma and Prof. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh were also present on the occasion.

On this occasion, Dr. P.N. Kamala presented her books to the dignitaries on the dais and Dr. Suman Preet Virk donated 12 books to the library of the Department of Linguistics.

Several participants shared their reflections on the conference, highlighting its academic value, hospitality, and organization.

In his remarks, Prof. Aejaz formally welcomed the guests and expressed his honour at hosting the event. He reflected on the initial scepticism of hosting ICOLSI-46 but thanked his scholars, colleagues and the university administration for their unwavering support.

Prof. R.C. Sharma, with 52 years of membership in LSI, called the conference one of the greatest successes, praising the high level of scholarship and the emotional bond he has with the University of Kashmir.

Prof. M.J. Warsi praised the efforts of the entire ICOLSI-46 team, acknowledging the scepticism around hosting the conference but lauding the department for proving itself. He emphasized the importance of introducing linguistics at the undergraduate level in line with NEP 2020 and encouraged documentation to advocate for the inclusion of linguistics in the UPSC syllabus.

Prof. Shareef ud din Pirzada, the Dean of Academic Affairs, expressed his appreciation for the event, emphasizing the beauty of Kashmir not just in its landscape but also in its academics and spirituality. He praised Prof. Aejaz for his hard work and mentioned future collaborations and projects in linguistics.

Prof. Mohammad Mobin, the Chief Guest, and the Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University, shared personal experiences regarding the role of language in education. He emphasized the importance of translating educational materials into regional languages, such as Kashmiri, and supported the proposal for introducing a postgraduate linguistics program at Cluster University.

At the end, Prof. Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh delivered the vote of thanks, expressing his gratitude to all the dignitaries, linguists, committee members, teaching and non-teaching staff, media, transport services, and scholars. He officially declared the conference closed, and Prof. M.J. Warsi offered his closing remarks, bringing the ICOLSI-46 to a memorable and successful conclusion.