

Detailed Report of the programmes

Workshops:

1. Three-Day Workshop on Data Elicitation (18 - 20 March 2016)

Resource person(s): i. Prof. K.V.Subbarao, Former faculty, University of Delhi, New Delhi.

ii. Dr. Vanlal Tluonga Bapui, President, Hmar Literature Society, (Hmar Sahitya Sabha), Assam

2. Second Regional Workshop of Centre for Endangered Languages (6 - 8 April 2016)

Resource person(s): i. Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Viswa Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal.

3. Three Day Workshop on Computational Linguistics (27 - 29 July 2016)

Resource person(s): i. Dr. Niladri Sekhar Dash, Linguistic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

4. Workshop on Cognitive Linguistics and Languages of Northeast India (4 - 5 February 2017)

Resource person(s): i. Prof. Klaus Uwe Panther, Professor Emeritus, Hamburg University, Germany.

ii. Dr.Linda L.Thornburg, Hamburg University, Germany

About the workshop: A two-day national workshop on Cognitive Linguistics and Languages of the Northeast is being organized by the Centre for Endangered Languages, Tezpur University, on 4 and 5 February 2017. Eminent Cognitive Linguists Prof K W Panther (Germany) and Dr Linda Thornburg (UK), will conduct the workshop. Interested research scholars/research associates and faculty members (from within and the outside Tezpur University) may apply to attend the workshop by filling out the application form attached herewith. The filled out application has to reach us via e-mail by 5 pm of 3 January 2017. Selection will be confirmed to the selected applicants on 10 January via e-mail. Selected applicants will confirm their participation by 12 January by writing an email to the Coordinator of the programme (below is his address). Participants from outside the University will be provided with free accommodation at the University Guest House; food also will be served free of cost on the workshop days, i.e. 4 and 5 February 2017. As for travel, participants will make it at their own expense. The registration fee for research scholars/associates is Rs 500 (rupees five hundred); for teachers the fee is Rs 1000 (rupees one thousand). Participants will register on spot on the 4th February morning. The filled out application has to be e-mailed to the Co-ordinator (Prof Gautam K Borah) of the Workshop at the following e-mail id: gkb@tezu.ernet.in Contact address for any query: Dr Gautam K Borah at gkb@tezu.ernet.in Dr A K Nath at akn@tezu.ernet.in

5. Four-Day Workshop on Field Linguistics (2 - 5 February 2018)

Resource persons: i. Padmashree, Prof. Anvita Abbi, Former Director, Centre for Oral and Tribal Literature, Sahitya Akademi and Retired Professor of Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

ii. Prof. Shyam Sundar Bhattacharyya, Former Director, Language Development Cell, Government of India

About the Workshop: Field Linguistics is primarily a means to understand structure of languages. By using this method a linguist can obtain primary data and try to understand various phenomena of a language. It is a systematic process which requires the knowledge of basic linguistics. The scientific and descriptive method adopted in Field Linguistics facilitates better understanding of a language. It can be done for any language. As Samarin (1967) remarked, 'Field linguistics is generally thought of as work done on languages which has either never been studied before or only poorly, but field work can be done on any language for any purpose.' Linguists do field work to describe and document a language, which leads to the creation of grammars, dictionaries and other such linguistic accounts of languages for the community members and researchers as well. The Centre for Endangered Languages of Tezpur University is going to host a four-day workshop on 'Field Linguistics' for the staff of all the three Centres of Endangered Languages of Northeast India and other students, research scholars and teachers of Linguistics during 2-5 February 2018. Eminent linguist Prof. Anvita Abbi, retired Professor of Linguistics, JNU will conduct the workshop as the lead resource person. The participants would be taught various aspects of field linguistics such as methods, data elicitation, glossing rules, annotation, dictionary making techniques, ethics of field work, data management and other related issues of field linguistics with special reference to Indian languages. The workshop would be followed by a one-day hands-on field training in a nearby area where the resource persons will take part and demonstrate how to collect data.

Organizing Committee:

Patron: Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University

Prof. Madhumita Barbor, Coordinator, Centre for Endangered Languages

Prof. Gautam K Borah, Coordinator of the Workshop

Dr Arup Kumar Nath, Deputy Coordinator of the Workshop

Members: Ms Bipasha Patgiri, Dr Amalesh Gope, Dr Dhanapati Shougrakpam, Dr Monali Longmailai, Dr Bobita Sarangthem

6. Two-day National Workshop on Lexicography (25 - 26 October 2018)

Resource persons: i. Dr. Devabrata Sharma, Principal, Jorhat College, Jorhat and a renowned Lexicographer in Assamese.

ii. Mr. Mayank Jain, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

About the Workshop: The workshop focus on dictionary making by using software tools such as FLEX and LEXIQUE PRO.

Day 1

Morning (10.30am—1pm) Mayank Jain: Software tools and Lexicography (Flex, Lexique Pro etc.)

Afternoon (2.30pm—5pm) Dr Devabrata Sharma: The History and Evolution of Dictionaries in Assamese

Day 2

Morning (10.30am—1pm) Dr Devabrata Sharma: Issues and Challenges of Dictionary Making in Vernacular Languages

Afternoon (2.30pm—5pm) Mayank Jain: Hands on Training of various tools.

7. Two-Day National Workshop on Grammar Writing for Lesser Researched Languages (22 - 23 November 2019)

Resource persons: i. Prof. Pramod K Pandey, Professor, Centre for Linguistics, School of Languages, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

About the Workshop:

Grammar writing for any language is an arduous and mammoth task. It requires linguistic training, skill and a dedicated mind to observe various dimensions of a language at all linguistic levels such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and so on. Starting with the phonetic inventory, a field worker has to explore all the possibilities of collecting data and elicit, analyze and finally formalize them. If a language is unknown, unfamiliar, unclassified and lacks any documentation, the effort and pain would be double. Christian Missionaries in many parts of the world have undertaken the task of Grammar Writing along with their evangelical mission. But, unfortunately, most of them were neither trained linguists nor they had the resources to document a grammar of a language properly; which is why, we have many 'first of its kind grammar' in many languages which are not up to the mark. But, with the latest and recent resurgence of group, ethnic and tribal identities and also a warning bell from the UNESCO regarding the depletion of so many languages around the globe, there has been a new-found enthusiasm and consequently various linguistic activities from the concerned people and also from the community members of these lesser researched languages are to be seen. In this context, the Centre for Endangered Languages and the Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University feel it necessary to train the budding linguists, language enthusiasts and willing community members the skills, techniques and challenges of Grammar Writing.

This two-day workshop will deal with various aspects of grammar writing such as collecting linguistic data, formulating and describing rules of the grammar etc. This national workshop will invite a few bright linguists of the country as Resource Persons along with in-house resource persons of the University. The workshop mainly intends to accommodate applications of, but not restricted to, the young research scholars of linguistics/languages, language activists, linguistic right activists, native speakers of lesser known languages, MA students of linguistics and languages. There will be only a limited number of seats. The organizing committee will finalize the list.

Those who are interested to attend the workshop may kindly send your details in the following prescribed format latest by 20th October, 2019.

Organizing Committee:

Chief Patron: Prof. V.K. Jain, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University

Advisors: Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Coordinator, Centre for Endangered Languages, TU
Prof. Gautam K Bora, Dept of EFL

Prof. B. K. Danta, HoD, EFL

Coordinator: Dr Arup Kumar Nath, EFL

Assistant Coordinator: Dr Dhanapati Shougrakpam

Members: Ms Bipasha Patgiri, Dr Amalesh Gope, Dr Monali Longmailai, Dr Bobita Sarangthem.

8. Four-Day Workshop on Kuki-Chin Languages of North East India (10 - 13 February 2020)

Resource person: i. Prof. Scot Delancey, Department of Linguistics, University of Oregon, USA.

Seminars and conferences:

1. IX International Conference on North East Indian Linguistics Society (NEILS 9) (5 -8 February 2016)

About the conference:

North East Indian Linguistics Society 9 th Annual Conference, Tezpur University The 9th annual conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society (NEILS 9), will be held from February 5-8, 2016, in Tezpur, Assam, India and will be hosted by the Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University. The conference venue will be the campus of Tezpur University, Napaam, Tezpur, Sonitpur, Assam. NEILS was set up in 2005 by Prof. Jyotiprakash Tamuli (Gauhati University), Dr. Stephen Morey (La Trobe University) and Dr. Mark Post (now University of New England) to provide a forum for those who are working on the languages of the North East, both faculty members and students. From the beginning a key aim of NEILS has been cooperation between local and foreign scholars, with an emphasis on high quality work, on capacity building leading to excellent linguistic research. As the primary focus of NEILS is description of the rich cultural-linguistic diversity that exists in North East India, we are interested in work that is grounded in data, new data collected from the large number of languages and dialects spoken in the North East, leading to important new research on the classification and grouping of languages, on their sound systems, word and phrase structures, literature and social use. Apart from the eight conferences already held (annually from 2006 to 2012, then 2014 and henceforth biennially), we have also seen 6 volumes of conference papers, the first five published by Cambridge University Press India, and the most recent an online publication by Asia-Pacific Linguistics (Australian National University). The seventh issue will be launched at the conference. These publications have a high academic standard, are peer-reviewed and carefully edited, and have brought the important research work by scholars from North East India to the attention of an international audience. NEILS 9, to be held at Tezpur University, will present 80 papers from scholars across the North East, from other parts of India, and from a range of international locations: Australia, Finland, Israel, Switzerland, and the USA. NEILS presents a unique opportunity for younger scholars, often PhD students and those who are engaged in study at different levels, to interact with some of the most experienced and knowledgeable scholars in the field of linguistics. We receive many more abstracts that we are able to accept, but welcome all those who wish to come and listen to the conference proceedings. Presentations at NEILS are either 15 or 20 minutes in duration, in each case followed by adequate time for questions and interaction. And important feature of our mission of capacity building is to give a chance for younger scholars to have their work assessed and discussed, and for them to question and engage with more experienced scholars. NEILS is not

independently funded, and we do not provide travel grants for those attending the conference, but we do want to subsidise the registration fees, accommodation and food costs of students from across the North East and other parts of India who are making the effort to attend the conference. Hence we seek some funds to make this important conference available to the widest number of people.

Organizers: Scott DeLancey (University of Oregon); Stephen Morey (La Trobe University); Jyotiprakash Tamuli (Gauhati University)

Local Coordinator: Prof. Madhumita Barbora of EFL, Tezpur University

2. International Conference on 23rd Himalayan Languages Symposium (HLS 23) (5 - 7 July 2017)

Keynote Speaker: i.Prof. George Van Driem, University of Bern, Switzerland

Chief Guest: Prof. K.V.Subbarao, Retired Professor, University of Delhi New Delhi

About the conference: The Himalayan languages broadly refer to the languages of north-western and north-eastern India, where languages of Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Tibeto-Burman, Austro-Asiatic, and TaiKadai linguistic stocks are spoken; the languages of Nepal, Bhutan and the Tibetan Plateau; the languages of northern Burma and Sichuan; and the languages of Nuristan, Baltistan and the Burushaski speaking area in the west. This area is known for its large scale of linguistic diversity where being multilingual is a need rather than an urge. Considering the huge diversity of ethno-linguistic peoples of this region and the 'contact' linguistic situation, it could be well assumed that different research insights may have emerged in the works of various scholars. The Himalayan Languages Symposium would provide a platform to discuss and share these linguistic aspects of Himalayan languages. The Himalayan Languages Symposium is a multidisciplinary conference that covers a broad range of topics of the Himalayan languages. As mentioned in the official website of Himalayan Languages Symposium (<http://www.himalayansymposium.org/>), contributions are welcome on any language of the greater Himalayan region, e.g. Burushaski, Kusunda, Tibeto-Burman, Indolranian, Austroasiatic, Kradai, Andamanese, Nihali, Dravidian etc. Contributions are also invited from related disciplines such as history, anthropology, archaeology and prehistory focusing on the greater Himalayan region. We are delighted to inform you that the 23rd Himalayan Languages Symposium will be held at the sprawling Tezpur University Campus, Tezpur, Assam, India from July 5th--7th, 2017, hosted by the Linguistics wing of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). This year at Tezpur University, we will pay special attention to the following areas of research in the Himalayan Languages:

- 1) Phonetics and Phonology
- 2) Cognitive Linguistics
- 3) Syntax
- 4) Semantics
- 5) Morphology
- 6) Language Technology Development
- 7) Natural Language Processing
- 8) Writing systems and typography
- 9) Language and Politics
- 10) Migration pattern of the greater Himalayan region

- 11) History of linguistic research in the Himalayan region
- 12) Speech Technology
- 13) Second Language Acquisition
- 14) Language Documentation
- 15) Sociolinguistics
- 16) Pragmatics
- 17) Psycho-linguistics / Neuro-linguistics

3. Three-Day National Conference on the Indigenous and Lesser Studied Languages (ILSL) of the North East India (29 - 31 October 2019)

Keynote Speakers: i. Prof. Conchur O Giollagain, University of Highlands and Islands, Scotland
 ii. Prof. Kavita Rastogi, Department of Linguistics, University of Lucknow, Lucknow
 iii. Prof. Shailendra Kumar Singh, Department of Linguistics, NEHU, Shillong

a three-day national conference on the Indigenous and lesser studied languages (ILSL) of the North East India will be held from October 29th ? 31st, 2019 at Tezpur University, Assam, India. The Conference is organized by the Centre for Endangered Languages at the University to commemorate the year of Indigenous Languages announced by UNESCO. As you are aware, more than 200 languages of various language families are spoken in North East India, perhaps the richest, most diverse, linguistic area in the whole of the Asian continent. As a matter fact, it is one of the few most significant linguistic areas of the entire world. Unfortunately, however, the majority of the languages of North East remain to this day almost completely undescribed such that the region contains one of the highest concentrations of undescribed languages in the world. At the same time, most of these languages, which are rather small with just 1000 to 10,000 speakers, are increasingly under the threat of becoming extinct forever as a result of the new generations of these communities sharply shifting to dominant languages in order to ensure jobs for themselves and related advantages and prestige. Revitalizing or saving the endangered languages from the hegemony of the dominant languages of the Market today may appear to be rather a utopian idea, but linguists have to play their own role here. The fact remains that it is because of the hard but dedicated work of a group of linguists committed to the cause of endangered languages the world is becoming increasingly aware of the danger of Centre for Endangered Languages, Tezpur University Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University Organized by linguistic hegemony, a real threat to cultural diversity and cultural heritage of humanity. The Centre for Endangered Languages at Tezpur University, which was established in 2014 by the UGC as the nodal centre for two more such Centres at Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim University, Gangtok, is currently studying seven languages of North East, all previously undescribed and endangered to varying degrees. It has in the meantime published 6 (six) Learner's Books in each of these languages, which record their sound systems, the core aspects of their grammar, their basic vocabulary, basic conversations, rituals, short stories, folklores/folktales, lullabies, proverbs and also pictorial glossaries of their traditional artefacts. The Centre is also preparing three separate volumes on the phonology, morphology and syntax of these languages, which are expected to be completed by the end of the current year. The Centre hopes that the current seminar can make us all more aware of the unparalleled linguistic richness of North East India, leading us to the realization that we must join hands in order to protect and preserve this great storehouse

of cognitive and cultural diversity. The conference expects to accommodate all the linguistic aspects of the languages of Northeast India.

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Gautam K Bora, Dept of EFL Prof. B. K. Danta, HoD, EFL

Conference Coordinator: Dr Arup Kumar Nath, EFL

Joint Coordinator: Ms Bipasha Patgiri, EFL

Members: Dr Amalesh Gope, Dr Monali Longmailai, Dr Dhanapati Shougrakpam, Dr Bobita Sarangthem.