DELHI SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE RESEARCH

(Organized by the Linguistic Circle of Delhi, Regd.)

Honorary Director:
Dr. Siddheshwar Varma, M.A., D.Litt. (London)

Deputy Director:
Dr. A. Chandra Sekhar, M.S., Ph.D.
17-A/29, W. E. A., Karol Bagh,
NEW DELHI-5

All correspondence should be addressed to the Deputy Director.

20 FEB 1959

February 20, 1959

Dear Dr. Krishnan:

Some time back I wrote to you about the intention of the Linguistic Circle of Delhi to start a School of Language Research. I am very glad to inform you that the School has now been started with the objects mentioned in the Secretary's Report enclosed herewith.

Among the facilities that the School of Language Research needs immediately are 1) Office Space; and 2) a library. Any assistance you could kindly give in this regard will be deeply appreciated.

I shall take an early opportunity of meeting you to explain to you what the School is trying to achieve. Kindly let me know when I could see you in the next few days.

With namaskars,

Yours sincerely,

A. Chandrasekhar

Dr. K. S. Krishnan
Director, National Physical Laboratory
New Delhi

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE RESEARCH, New Delhi

A special meeting of the Linguistic Circle of Delhi was held on January 10, 1959, at which the proposal to start a School of Language Research under the auspices of the Linguistic Circle of Delhi was thoroughly discussed. It was unanimously decided that the School be started immediately with the objects mentioned in the Secretary's report read at the public meeting held on January 5, 1959 (copy enclosed). It was also decided that the following projects already taken up by the members of the Linguistic Circle of Delhi be now carried out under the auspices of the School of Language Research:

1. A Study of the Dravidian Tribal Languages of India by (Dr. A. Chandra Sekhar)

2. The preparation of a Grammar of Dogri (by Mr. B.L. Gupta)

3. A Comparative Study of the Grammatical Categories of the languages of India (a symposium study with the participation of all the members of the Linguistic Circle of Delhi and the staff and students of the School of Language Research).

The School will hold a series of symposia (beginning in March 1959) in connection with the comparative study of the Grammatical Categories of the Languages of India. Those who wish to participate in it may send in their papers by the end of February. The subject for the March symposia is Case Formations.

Dr. Siddheshwar Varma has kindly agreed to be the Honorary Director of the School of Language Research.

A. Chandra Sekhar

Secretary, LCD.

LINGUISTIC CIRCLE OF DELHI (Regd.)

Report Read at the public meeting on 5-1-1959

OBJECTS & METHODS OF L.C.D.

The Linguistic Circle of Delhi was founded on Jan.2 1954 with the aim of promoting and popularizing the scientific study of languages in the following ways:-

(1) By holding monthly meetings at which papers on linguistic problems will be read and discussed.

(2) By holding special meetings and Conferences

(3) By publishing periodical reports of the Circle; and

(4) By engaging in any other kind of activity which may help in the attainment of the objectives of the Circle.

In pursuance of its primary objective, the Circle has been meeting regularly once a month. Scholarly papers on various linguistic subjects of research interest are presented at these meetings. One distinguishing feature of the Linguistic Circle's meetings is their informal character. Every paper is thoroughly discussed with a view to getting the maximum benefit out of it. For a paper of special interest more than one meeting is devoted. The meetings of the Circle are open to Non-members who can also participate in discussions, but only members are permitted to present papers.

In the last five years of its existence, the Linguistic Circle of Delhi has discussed a wide variety of subjects. We have had papers on most of the major Indian languages, and also some of the minor languages like Dogri and tribal languages like Kui. Papers on some foreign languages like Italian and Mordovian of Russia have also been presented at our meetings so far.

MEMBERSHIP:-

The membership of the Linguistic Circle of Delhi is open to all bonafide students of languages who are engaged or interested in original work on linguistic or allied problems. There are three classes of members:- (1) Life members, (2) Ordinary members, and (3) Associate members

With a membership of only 6 to begin with, the Linguistic Circle of Delhi has now on its rolls over 100 members. Nearly 50% of these members are from places outside Delhi including some foreign countries. The circle is thus not a local body but an All India Society with international recognition.

PUBLICATIONS:-

Some of the papers presented at the meetings of the Linguistic Circle of Delhi are published in the Annual Report of the Circle entitled TRANSACTIONS OF THE LINGUISTIC CIRCLE OF DELHI. The publication of the TRANSACTIONS was started in 1955. Two issues have been published so far; the third and fourth issues are now in press. Appreciative reviews of these publications have appeared in the press. We have had requests for copies of the TRANSACTIONS from several foreign countries.

Very shortly the Linguistic Circle is hoping to be able to undertake the printing of monographs embodying the results of the researches done by some of its members.

(MORE)

FINANCES:- With its small annual membership subscription of Rs.5/-, the Linguistic Circle of Delhi has not, naturally enough, much funds. Some of our members have been contributing liberally for meeting the expenses of printing the TRANSACTIONS and in connection with our special meetings. In recognition of the excellent work that the Linguistic Circle of Delhi has done so far, the Delhi State Administration gave us a token grant of Rs.1000/- for which we are deeply grateful to Mr. A.D.Pandit, Chief Commissioner of Delhi. We are hoping that the Govt. would give further and more generous grants in the future.

SPECIAL MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING CLASSES:- The Linguistic Circle of Delhi has not been confining its attention only to scholarly research on abstruse problems. We have been trying to take active interest in the practical applications of languages. The Circle has held symposia on the language of Text-books as well as on the techniques of teaching languages. I am glad to report that our activities contributed a great deal to the appointment of a special committee by the Delhi State Government to look into the problem of re-writing Text-books in a style suited to the level of understanding of the various age-groups.

Since October last year the Linguistic Circle of Delhi is conducting classes for the benefit of students who wish to do linguistic research. The classes are under the direction of Dr. Siddheshwar Varma.

FUTURE PLANS:- Now that the Linguistic Circle has struck firm roots and has become a recognized body in the intellectual life of Delhi, we are expanding our activities by starting a School of Language Research. The objects of this School will be as follows:-

(1) Planning and Promoting research in languages. (2) Undertaking specific Research Schemes for the study of the history, structure and inter-relations of languages. (3) Developing methods for the application of the results of linguistic investigations to the practical problems in the fields of Education, Text-book preparation, translation etc.. (4) Conducting a training course in language research.

This institution is not, of course, designed to be a competitor in any sense of the term to any plans that the Delhi University may have for introducing the much-needed Linguistic Department in the University. Since the facilities that a University can offer will, naturally, be available only to its members, there is always ample scope for what may be called private enterprise in this field. In all the work that the Linguistic Circle of Delhi will do, it will continue to work in close co-operation with the members of the Delhi University and other bodies doing similar work in the country.

India can justifiably be proud of being the pioneer in the field of scientific study of languages which started in this country at the time of the Vedic grammarians of yore. But as in the case of the other sciences which flourished in ancient India, linguistics fell into evil days in historic times. With the advent of independence from foreign rule, we have been taking great interest in developing the various sciences in our country. Unfortunately, however, the Linguistic Science is yet to come into its own in the the land of its own birth. The Linguistic Circle of Delhi can justifiably claim to be contributing a great deal to the revival of interest in the scientific study of languages in our country.

17-A/29, W.E.A.,
Karol Bagh, New Delhi.

A. CHANDRA SEKHAR
Secretary, L.C.D.