

CONFERENCE NEWS

The Department of Folkloristics and Tribal Studies, Central University of Karnataka, Kadaganchi, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India conducted an International Conference on “Transition and Transmission in Oral Tradition” from 20th to 22nd January 2022. Dr. David Delgado Shorter, Professor of World Arts and Cultures at the University of California delivered the Keynote address. Prof. Sukant Chaudhury, Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow and Editor, *The Eastern Anthropologist* and Prof. Romate John, Dean, School of Social and Behavioral Science, Central University of Karnataka joined the inaugural session as Guests of Honor. The resource persons included Dr. S. Raguram, Head and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Media Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, Srilanka, , Prof. Naduvattom Gopala Krishnan, Director- International School of Dravidian Linguistics and Dravidian Linguistics Association, Trivandrum , Kerala, Dr. Maheswaran, Former Director, Tribal Research Centre, The Nilgiris; Former Curator, Dept. of Museum, Govt. of Tamilnadu and Dr. Justin Selvaraj, Assistant Professor and Head, Dept. of Fine Arts and Aesthetics, Madurai Kamaraj University , Tamilnadu. 19 papers were presented by the Scholars from India and abroad besides the invited Speakers. Dr. Rajashree Coordinator of our Department welcomed the delegates and Dr. Longshibeni N. Kithan introduced the guests.

Prof. David Shorter Delgado spoke about the “Oral Tradition through the Decolonial Turn”. He took a step back to look at that era of Folklore research and articulate how Folkloristics were contributing to the birth of a new movement in scholarly research, that of decolonization. While cautious of the term’s misuse, Dr. Shorter’s own research demonstrated not only the power of the theoretical shift taking place, but its effects on our methods and modes of scholarly production. From the written page to films and then websites, the tools of transmission have affected not just how communities share oral traditions but also how scholars can study and share our research. And following the cue of critical folkloristics, scholars are now able to accentuate modes of production that further tribal longevity and collective wellness.

He did fieldwork from the 1990’s to around 2015, Dr. David Shorter’s training and research spanned the transition from critical ethnography to what some now see as an era of decolonizing the social sciences. Playing a central role in that transition was Folkloristics, a deep regard for listening closely and ethically to those often not included in, or often misrepresented by, professional histories. Folklorists heard oral traditions that sometimes-provided counter narratives to the inevitability of colonialisms. Dr. Shorter will revisit his research with the Yoeme tribal group in Mexico, particularly focusing on how

tribal mythology and prophecy provides us insight into Indigenous historical consciousness and into their narrative strategies.

His book, *We Will Dance Our Truth*, won the Chicago Prize for the Best Book in Folklore Studies, presented by the American Folklore Society. He worked for over twenty-three years with the Yoeme Indigenous Community in Mexico. He created the first ethnographic website in the Yoeme language and received the prestigious National Science Foundation grant to be the first to record their death ceremonies. Dr. Shorter created and now directs the Wiki for Indigenous Languages. Earlier this year, Dr. Shorter published the Archive of Healing, an online database of medicinal folklore from around the globe.

Prof. Sukant Chaudhury, Guest of Honour, spoke about the importance of Oral tradition and folk culture in the Indian context. He said that orality essentially involve communication in different patterns. Earlier communication was neither documented nor transmitted through wire. The anthropologist studied the communication of the simple societies and tried to document their languages. Levi- Strauss said that there were three types of communication earlier: communication of women for the purpose of the marriage, communication of goods and services and communication of messages. He also said that culture does not consist of only form of communication of its own but also rules stating how the game of communication should be played both on the natural and on the cultural level. Prof. M.V. Alagawadi, Vice Chancellor in-charge presided over the function and Dr. Rohinaksha gave the vote of thanks.

In the technical sessions, Dr. Justin Selvaraj spoke about the Folk ballads of Southern Tamilnadu- with reference to migration. The first session was chaired by Prof. Simon John, Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, in this session Pooja Negi, Assistant Professor in English, University of Delhi, presented the paper on the topic 'Tracing the roots of Kinnauri Folk Culture' R. Sulaxshana, Department of Fine Arts, Eastern University, Srilanka presented a paper on the topic 'Memory and Social History in Oral Performance -A Study on Folk Singer Kathiravelu Vimalanathan'. Prof. Jolly Puthussery and Sreerag.T.P spoke on 'Narratives and beliefs: the symbolic meanings in the Mudi and Mugathezhuthu of Theyyam' Dr. Alan Godfrey discuss in his paper Tribal Folklore: Value based learnings from selected four tribal communities in Western Ghats, in his paper some suggestions comes to study about the tribes as separate. Another paper 'The importance of 'Paththathi' rituals (local traditional rituals) and the reinforcement of it through Memory and Oral Tradition – A study based on Eastern part of Sri Lanka, presented by Pugalini, in this discussed about the pathathi rituals ,

On the second day of the conference Dr. Raguram presented his paper 'Memorialize the Impacts of War: A Documentation of Oral Stories of Srilankan

Tamils'. He discussed about the Sri Lankan Tamils, Oral Stories, War Impacts, Memorialization. The oral history tried to put forward the life, beliefs, objectives, thoughts, traditions and even the politics and emotions of the people belonging to the land in their voices and it should not be sidelined by considering the number of vibrations and the quantity. Geeti Karmakar presented paper on the topic 'Orality to Visuality: the transformation of Bengali Folk Rhymes in the Sphere of New Media' says about the verbal to printed , printed to visuals of folk rhymes in Bengali.

Dr. Moushumi in the paper 'Sing, Soothe and Sleep – Transition and transmission of lullabies' spoke about an exploration of the relationship between the moon and other subjects as a constant theme in the lyrics of a few lullabies collected from the various communities across the North-Eastern states.

The paper on 'Oral Narratives and Ritual Practices Associated with Ginger among the Apatani Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh' presented by Tailyang Nampi. She spoke about the place of ginger in the plays of Aptani's culture. The Lower Subansiri region and ginger plays a symbolic role in their traditional ritual observations and healing practices. Several oral narratives and taboos are also associated with ginger. Therefore, this paper attempts to analyze the socio-cultural significance of Ginger among the Apatani tribe and tries to understand the symbolic functions. Ritual Practices, Origin Myth, Symbolism, Belief System also discussed in this article. Prof. Naduvattom Gopala Krishnan discussed about the 'Oral tradition in Kerala', in this paper elaborates the proverbs, riddles, ballads and folk songs in Kerala. He added some words about the oral songs like Pulayappaattu, Panar paattu, Velar Paattu, Kuravar Pattu, Mannan Pattu, Pulluvan paattu, Thottam Paatu Kaniyan pattu it's still continues in oral tradition. The paper titled 'The Pagadi Veshాలు : A Languishing Folk art of Andhra Pradesh' was presented by Prof. Krishna Reddy and Bramananda Reddy. In this paper they discussed the origin of Pagadi Vasha,

On the third day of the conference Dr.C. Maheswaran spokes about the Ethno-history of the Malayali tribes in Tamilnadu, through his case study he restructured the alternative source of history. He collected folk tales from Malayali tribes in Pachamalai hills through field work. Following that Dr. Siva Moorthy chaired the technical session, in this session Ms. Girija and Viola Maria Noronha on the topic 'A study on the impact of Oral tradition on Child development' they discussed about the psychological thought process. . Forms of oral tradition passed by the older generations to a child has contributed not only in saving the culture and good practices of the indigenous population but also has an impact on the psychological thought process, perceptions, personality and behavior of a child in a long run through social learning and modeling in the early stages of development.

Meenakshi presented her paper on the topic Chithrakathi: An Oral Narrative traditions with visual support. Aiswaria presented the paper on the

topic 'the concept of oral tradition in Kattunayaka: Perspectives and Practices, in this paper she discussed about the , the researcher tries to give emphasis to the concept of oral tradition, a study based on the perspectives and practices of Kattunayaka community residing at Wayanad District of Kerala

Last technical session of the conference was chaired by Dr. Atungbou. In this session, Dr. Remya presented her paper on the topic 'Helavaru: the living tradition of oral History', in this paper she discussed about Gatha (narrative genealogy), Narashamsi (praise of human/eulogy), Akhyana (Historical narrative), ithihasa (thus it happened), Purana (ancient lore) in ancient India. Ruchi Rana presented her paper on the topic 'Migration From Uttarakhand And The Subsequent Modern Transformation Of Jagar Folklife' This paper discusses issue of migration of Uttarakhandi people from rural to urban area (primarily to Delhi-NCR region, North India) and studies impact of their relocation on *jagar*folklife. It analyses the spread of *jagar* in other performance spaces.

In the valedictory session Prof. Umadevi joined with us and gave the special address on the topic Future of Folklore in Academia, we have to concentrate more in the inter-disciplinary studies. She we can think in two ways one is some organization collect it is for commercialization. Tortoise and rabbit story had the seven versions. The folklore changes with the necessities in the part of Globalization and digital era. She discuss about the Folklore. Prof. Romate John gave the valedictory remarks regarding the conference. I am thankful to all the participants and those who supported this conference for successful completion. Finally I pay my gratitude and sincere thanks to Prof. Sukant Chaudhury, for his valuable suggestions.

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