

IKN: 164

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore  
KANNADA SANGHA  
Special Guest Lecture-1

General Information

Type of Activity	Kannada Sangha Golden Jubilee Celebration
Title of the Activity	Special Guest Lecture -1
Date/s	28 July 2022
Time	4.30- 6 .30 pm
Venue	802, Syndicate Room, Central Campus, Bangalore
Collaboration/Sponsor (if any)	Sangama – Faculty Forum, School of Arts and Humanities

Speaker Details

Name	Prof. S N Sridhar
Title/Position	Professor of linguistics and India Studies
Organization	Stony Brook University New York
Title of Presentation	Special Guest Lecture on Linguistics and Literature: Kannada and English

(Add/repeat above rows if there is more than one Speaker)

Participants profile

Type of Participants	Academics, Faculty, UG,PG, Research students, & Invitees, General Public
No. of Participants	120

Synopsis of the Activity (Description)

Highlights of the Activity	Kannada Sangha had started in the year 1972. Since then it has encouraged and provided an opportunity to hundreds of writers to publish their works and spread a sense of cultural sensitivity across the Karnataka state. This year Christ University Kannada Sangha celebrates its golden Jubilee by conducting series of Special guest lectures on various literary fields.
Key Takeaways	How recent developments in linguistic theory, description, sociolinguistics, and multilingualism illuminate literature and how this understanding illuminates the understanding of Indian languages, especially Kannada and Indian English, and <i>leit motifs</i> of Indian civilization.
Summary of the Activity	It was a two hour programme. Dr. Abhaya N B introduced the guest. Prof. S N Sridhar gave an elaborate lecture on the recent developments in linguistic theory, description, sociolinguistics, and how multilingualism illuminates literature. Dr. John Joseph Kennedy, Dean, Arts & Humanities honoured the guest. The Programme got over with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Rathi M T. Dr. Shivaprasad was the MC for the event.

## Rapporteur

Name of the Rapporteur	Dr. Rathi M T, Coordinator, Kannada Sangha.
Email and Contact No	<a href="mailto:rathi.mt@christuniversity.in">rathi.mt@christuniversity.in</a> 9880495712

## Descriptive Report

Prof Sridhar spoke about the impact of linguistics on literature. Initially, Prof Sridhar introduced the trajectories of linguistics both in the Western and Indian context historically. He emphasised the contribution of Sanskrit grammarians like Panini, Bhrtrhari, Abhinava Gupta in establishing a distinct Indian linguistic tradition. He explained the connection between literary studies and linguistics in Euro-American academia, which has resulted in the emergence of different critical reading schools in literary studies.

Colonisation has not only brought English to the colonial world but has also become appropriated by the colonised resulting in World Englishes. Prof Sridhar described the process of language acquisition and its impact on the coloniser's language, specifically English.

In the later part of his lecture Prof Sridhar focused on Kumaravyasa, a fifteenth century Kannada poet, and his work *Kumaravyasa Bharatha*. Prof Sridhar demonstrated a possible reading practice to understand the rich literary quality of the epic by identifying the linguistic patterns. Specific examples taken from the epic made it possible for the audience to understand the reading technique with immediacy.

## Speaker profile

Professor S.N. Sridhar is SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Professor of Linguistics and India Studies, and Director of the Mattoo Centre for India Studies. He received the B.A. (Honours) and M.A. degrees in English and Linguistics from Bangalore University, India, and Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He did his graduate work under Professors Braj B. Kachru, Yamuna Kachru, and Charles Osgood. He has been a member of the faculty at Stony Brook University since 1980.

Professor Sridhar has conducted extensive research in many areas of linguistics. They include bilingualism (language contact and convergence, code-switching and code-mixing), sociolinguistics (language use, modernization, language spread), second language acquisition (contrastive analysis, implications of language acquisition in non-native settings for second language acquisition theory), World Englishes (structure and functions of Indian English and other non-native varieties of English), methods and materials for teaching English as a second language in India, descriptive linguistics (reference grammar of Kannada), theoretical linguistics (syntax of dative subjects, morphology of agglutination, level ordering, productivity), psycholinguistics (cross-linguistic experimental study of cognitive universals of sentence production,

bilingual language processing), applied linguistics (scope and relation to linguistic theory), historical linguistics (acquisition of subjecthood, lexical and structural borrowing, convergence), and history of linguistics (contributions of the Indian grammatical tradition). Currently, he is leading an international consortium of senior scholars translating the 15<sup>th</sup> century classic of Kannada literature, the Kumaravyasa Bharata, to be published in a bilingual edition of three volumes by Harvard University Press in the Classical Library of India series. He is also working on Indian English as a paradigm of bilingual competence and on a stylistic analysis of the classic Kannada poet Kumara Vyasa.

Professor Sridhar is author of three books: *Kannada: Descriptive Grammar* (Routledge, 1990 and Manohar (2011), *Cognition and Sentence Production: A Cross-Linguistic Study* (Springer Verlag, 1986), and *Indina Kannada* (“Contemporary Kannada: Structure and Function,” Kannada University, 1995 and Abhinava, 2009); co-editor of two reference volumes, *Ananya: A Portrait of India* (AIA, 1997), and *Language in South Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), and seven special issues of journals. He has published over 60 journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopaedia entries.

Professor Sridhar’s research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and Senior Faculty Research Fellowships of the American Institute of Indian Studies. He has been designated Senior/Superior Scholar in the Humanities by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Among the many graduate and undergraduate courses Professor Sridhar has taught are Bilingualism, and Second Language Acquisition, Introduction to Indian Civilization, Language and Society in South Asia, Indian Literatures, and Great Books of India, as well as topics courses on Gandhi and Krishna.

Professor Sridhar is a co-founder of South Asian Languages Analysis (SALA) and organized its international conferences at Stony Brook in 1983 and 2004. He has also organized or co-organized conferences on Dravidian Linguistics, India Studies, the Teaching of Linguistics, and Teaching of Asian Languages. He has been a plenary or keynote speaker at many international conferences, including the Linguistic Society of India and the International Association of World Englishes, member of editorial board of journals, and evaluator of Linguistics and Asian Studies programs for funding agencies.

With the help of his colleagues, administration, and the Indian American community he and his wife and colleague Professor Kamal K. (“Meena”) Sridhar established the centre for India Studies at Stony Brook in 1997, and served as its founding Director (1997-2002) and is serving again as Director since 2008. Starting from the ground up, the center has grown into a respected international academic resource, a proud community asset, and a major intellectual force on campus. It facilitates the teaching of some 30 courses annually on India and has exposed over 20,000 students to India studies. It has brought the finest scholars and artists to campus under its Distinguished Lecture Series and Distinguishes Performance Series. He also led the establishment of a permanent endowment for the center, including the Nirmal and Augustina Mattoo Chair in Classical Indic Humanities. He also directed Stony Brook's four summer Study Abroad programs in Bangalore, from 2004-2009.

Professor Sridhar spearheaded the faculty committee for a Department of Asian studies in the 1990s and served as the founding Chair of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies from 2002-2008. He co-directed the Winter Institute in Kannada Linguistics at Kannada University, Hampi, in 1995.

Professor Sridhar is also active in the community. He founded the India Society of Stony Brook in 1989 and served as its first President until 1994. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Indians in America, the American Institute of Indian Studies, and the Indo-American Arts Council.

Professor Sridhar is currently President of the International Association of World Englishes.

