

**Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu Memorial College**  
**Sattur 626203, Tamilnadu, India**

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*Greetings from the Secretary Dr. T. R. Dhinakaran*



I note with great pleasure the efforts of the Department of English in exposing the students and the teaching fraternity of colleges in Tamilnadu and other Indian states to the latest developments and methods in the teaching and learning of English Language and Literature. They have proved again that they can conduct conferences and seminars which are on a par with the best in the literary and language teaching fields.

The Two-Day **National Conference on Teaching of English Language and Literature** provided the right platform for the academic circle and the researchers to share their ideas and views on teaching of English Language and Literature. The conference attracted scholars from the fields of education and teaching English from all over India. This has enabled the students from a remote region down South to feast on the deliberations of intellectuals in the field.

Any work of literature, if unrecorded, would be of no use for the future generation. Thus the effort of the faculty to publish select papers, from the conference, as a volume in the International Online Journal *Language in India* is commendable. I congratulate the members of the Department of English for their venture and wish them success in all future efforts. I assure my support to them in all prospective meaningful and socially relevant projects.

**Dr. T. R. Dhinakaran**  
Secretary

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English language today has become essential for branding oneself in the global setting. It accentuates one's persona to the outer world and serves in establishing an identity for oneself. The Department of English has achieved yet another milestone through this Two-day **National Conference on Teaching of English Language and Literature**. The joint venture with the *English Language Teachers' Interaction Forum (ELTIF)* began in February 2017 and the department of English hopes to establish a long term relationship with the organization to guide the teacher fraternity to utilize their potential to the utmost for the benefit of the society.

The theme of the Conference and the ensuing activities conform to the ideals of the Patrons of this college, who designed this institution to bring the best to the rural masses. The conference provided a platform for the academics to have a discussion and arrive at a consensus on a perfect and viable method to reach the young minds and provide them with ample knowledge to begin their maiden flight.

Select scholastic papers presented in the conference are now published in the Online International Journal *Language in India* [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com). My best wishes to the Members of the Department of English and the staff of *Language in India*. I am sure that the Department of English will continue with their tireless efforts to offer effective English learning experience and practice to our students from the southern districts of Tamilnadu and elsewhere.

**Dr. S. Ganeshram**

**PRINCIPAL**

## Editor's Note



Conferences and seminars have become part of the academic timetable of the higher education sector. Then, what is so much special about the **Two-day National Conference on Teaching of English Language and Literature** hosted by Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu Memorial College? The answer can be ‘something is special’, because here we have many things which reach the grassroots such as Communicative English courses (though short) for students of all disciplines which are meant exclusively to show students and demonstrate to novice teachers that there are many other non-conventional ways of learning and teaching English. Such programs are basically meant for helping learners to get rid of the fear towards English, which got instilled in their mind.

Secondly, something special about the college: The majority of the students of this college have a first language other than their mother tongue. Students speak their mother tongue Telugu at home and in close circles, and Tamil outside as the native language—both fluently. But, when it comes to their ‘academic language’ namely, English, they fail to approximate their proficiency they have in the other two languages—Telugu and Tamil. These rural students really ‘fail’ in achieving their ambition of mastering English. Why? Who is at fault? If they are the ‘perfect masters’ of two languages from infancy, why can’t they have a grip on, if not mastery of, a third language (English) after struggling through fifteen or even twenty years? Who is the real villain in this tragedy? Can students be blamed for their inadequate proficiency in English? We firmly believe and answer: “Never”. Therefore, young and novice college faculty, school

teachers, teacher trainees of B.Ed. and D.Ed. programs also must be given orientation on classroom communication, second language pedagogy and language socialization.

Thirdly, it is high time we demolished the wall between language and literature within the departments of English across the country. The higher the level we go up in the hierarchy to the university departments, the stronger this divide is felt. Thus the need of the day is to understand that Language and Literature have to be studied and understood in unison. Conferences in English have to declare aloud that you can't teach the literature of a foreign language to learners who don't have the adequate level of mastery over that language.

Finally, as Dr. P. Bhaskaran Nair, the Secretary, *English Language Teachers' Interaction Forum* and Chief Advisor of the Conference said, the ELTIF-assisted Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu Memorial College Conference empowers rural India through English language education. "India lives in her villages", said Mahatma Gandhi. Within this broad strong framework, let me place the reference to English as 'a language of opportunity' (a cliché, still no better substitute). Here is English language education as tool for providing better living conditions and opportunities for the villages. Those who are willing to work for rural India, we hope, would have acquired some insights, orientation and guidelines by being a part of this conference-cum series of workshops and orientation programs.

A large number of college teachers and students attended the conference and many scholars presented papers on the various issues concerning the teaching and learning of English language and literature. We thank the *Language in India* team for help in editing the papers efficiently for publication. We wholeheartedly thank the Secretary of the college and the Principal who have always encouraged us in all our efforts towards the enhancement of the calibre of the students.

**Dr. S. Jayanthi**

**Editor**