

CIIL Occasional Monographs Series - 40

SILENT TALK

NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

M. S. THIRUMALAI



CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES
MANASAGANGOTRI, MYSORE 570 006

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OCCASIONAL MONOGRAPHS SERIES

40

General Editor
D. P. PATTANAYAK

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H. L. N. BHARATI

Dedicated with Gratitude and Admiration

To My Teacher

Professor Stanley Starosta

Department of Linguistics

University of Hawaii

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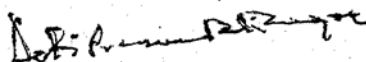
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FOREWORD

The Central Institute of Indian Languages was set up on the 17th July, 1969 with a view to assisting and coordinating the development of Indian languages. The Institute was charged with the responsibility of serving as a nucleus to bring together all the research and literary output from the various linguistic streams to a commonhead and narrowing the gap between basic research and developmental research in the fields of languages and linguistics in India.

The Institute and its six Regional Language Centres are thus engaged in research and teaching which leads to the publication of a wide ranging variety of materials. Materials designed for teaching/learning at different levels and suited to specific needs is one of the major areas of interest in its series of publications. Basic research relating to the acquisition of language and study of language in its manifold psycho-social relations constitutes another broad range of its interest. This book, **Silent Talk : Nonverbal Communication**, by Dr.M. S. Thirumalai, Professor-cum-Deputy Director, CIIL, discusses the aspects of nonverbal communication and links the same with social and psychological factors as well as verbal communication. The study of nonverbal communication always formed part of Indian traditional grammars. Grammar, then, was seen as a study of the comprehensive phenomenon involving both verbal and nonverbal elements. Modern linguistics courses, however, have not adequately focussed upon aspects of nonverbal communication and the inter-relationship between verbal and nonverbal communication processes. Study of nonverbal communication will be found highly useful for culture analysis and description, sociological analysis, for language

teaching and learning, for therapy purposes and for literary analysis, among others. I do hope and wish that, with the publication of this book, the students of linguistics and related disciplines will show a greater interest in the study of aspects of nonverbal communication.



(D. P. PATTANAYAK)
Director

PREFACE

This book, **Silent Talk : Nonverbal Communication**, is intended for the benefit of students of linguistics and adjacent sciences, such as psychology, sociology, anthropology and speech pathology, who would like to know something more about the aspects of nonverbal communication than provided in their respective courses. Throughout the book, I have made attempts to relate these aspects to Indian contexts. The book is divided into six chapters, focusing on definition and scope of nonverbal communication, proxemics and nonverbal communication, use and function of eye and face in nonverbal communication, use and function of language and silence in nonverbal communication, gesture, and the use and function of nonverbal communication in the abnormal individuals.

Parts of this book have been presented in lectures which I delivered at the Department of Linguistics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Department of Linguistics and Department of Tamil, Bharathiar University, and the Department of Tamil, University of Madras. I am grateful to all those who attended these lectures and who, by their insightful questions, helped me revise the earlier drafts. In particular, I must express my gratitude to Dr. M. Israel, Professor and Head, Department of Linguistics, Madurai Kamaraj; Dr. K. Karunakaran, Professor and Head, Department of Linguistics and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Bharathiar University, Dr. N. Jeyaraman, Professor and Head, Department of Tamil, Bharathiar University, and Dr. N. Sanjeevi, Professor and Head, Department of Tamil, University of Madras. Their gesture, at a time when I badly needed personal reassurance and academic encouragement,

helped me to complete this book soon.

I had many useful discussions with my colleagues – B. Mallikarjun, Sam Mohanlal, N. Nadaraja Pillai, Vimala Nadaraja Pillai, B. Syamalakumari, Sambamurthi and H.L.N. Bharati on the design, content, scope, and coverage of this book. They were kind to read the manuscript in several stages of its completion and offered critical comments which helped me to improve the quality of the contents and their presentation in this book.

Mrs. C. R. Sulochana, Miss Suman Kumari, Mrs. Sharada Mallikarjun, the Librarians of the CIIL Library, and the Library Staff Sri Nissar Hussain and Sri Anwar Pasha helped me in locating and obtaining necessary reference materials. Dr. D. P. Pattanayak, Director, CIIL, Sri H. L. N, Bharati, Assistant Editor, Sri V. Gopal, Stenographer (Technical), who set the type for the entire book, Sri Sambamurthi, who typed the numerous drafts of the manuscript, Sri S. B. Biswas, Manager, CIIL Printing Press and my other colleagues at the CIIL Printing Press deserve special mention. I am grateful to all of them.

My wife Swarna read the entire manuscript and helped me write and rewrite several times. But for her personal care and understanding I would never have completed writing this book.

With gratitude and admiration, I dedicate this book to my teacher Professor Stanley Starosta, Department of Linguistics, University of Hawaii, an insightful theoretician and a delightful teacher of Linguistics, whose insistence on the deeper analysis of linguistic structures is matched equally by his awareness of the need for supplementing this analysis with findings from other sciences as well.

M. S. Thirumalai