



2nd International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan
Institute of Languages, University of the Punjab, October 18—20, 2016
(ICLAP 2016)



Welcome Speech by Dr. Maria Isabel Maldonado Garcia **Incharge Institute of Languages and Convener of the Conference**

Dear honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen, assalam o alaikum and good morning. On behalf of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan and the Institute of Languages, University of the Punjab, I would like to declare that the 2nd international conference is now open.

As we open this conference, it gives us a great pleasure to welcome all of you. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude and warm welcome to our plenary and featured international and national speakers.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratefulness to the Dean of Oriental College, Dr. Fakh-ul Haq Noori and especially to the Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Dr. Mujahid Kamran for making this conference possible.

All of our speakers are very special and have been selected carefully so that all of you can have variety of topics and benefit from their knowledge. I would like to introduce them to you. I have to confess that there are two of them who I really admire and have a high level of respect for them due to their contributions towards the field of linguistics.

The first one is Prof. Dr. Francisco Marcos Marin, from University of Texas at San Antonio, whose books I used to read even before I met him and I was lucky to meet before my PhD thesis would start and who later became my PhD supervisor. He has more than 400 publications, made in Spain and other countries, and has held multiple posts of responsibility in many European and American institutions of higher education and he holds the position of Expert at the European Research Council. He has earned multiple awards including the Humboldt Award for research. Prof. Dr. Marcos Marin, thank you for the privilege of your company.

The other very special speaker who is present here today is Dr. Tariq Rahman who all of you know. Even though he is a Pakistani by nationality through his contributions towards his field has become a scholar of international caliber. He is the pioneer in regional languages research and he was given the title of National Distinguished Professor by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. In the same year, he



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was awarded the Pride of Performance for research. Just like Dr. Francisco Marcos Marin, he is a recipient of the Humboldt Award and the only linguist in Pakistan to have received such award.

I will share with you why these two people are so special for me. During my PhD thesis I had to work on the etymological composition of Spanish, English and Urdu. Dr. Francisco Marcos Marin guided me in so many ways during this process that led to amazing discoveries in the field of Urdu linguistics. When I completed it, my research continued with various aspects in the field of Urdu. For this work I had to look up to the pioneer work on local and regional languages by Dr. Tariq Rahman, from whom I learned new things and was able to develop further discoveries. I will be eternally grateful to both of them.

Dr. Lourdes Garcia-Macho from Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia is a renowned lexicographer who has many scientific publications to her credit which are fundamental in the area of Spanish lexicography of various centuries. Dr. Garcia-Macho has traveled the world presenting her work and has participated in many funded projects in the subject of linguistics.

Dr. Elena Bashir, another one of our international speakers is quite an amazing personality. Although she is an American citizen, she is highly attached to Pakistan. She has received multiple fellowships and has taught Urdu, Pashto and Hindi and developed materials for Urdu language to teach the language to children whose mother tongue was another regional language. She has a highly multilingual profile but the most interesting part for me is that she was a lecturer in Russian language at Oriental College, University of the Punjab way before I was even born. She is now a senior lecturer of Urdu language at University of Chicago.

Dr. Tikaram Poudel is an expert in the field of Manipuri and Nepali grammars. Currently works at School of Education, Kathmandu University. He was a Research Scientist and Lecturer at Konstanz University, Germany until 2010. He has to his credit multiple publications and has developed databases for Nepali, Sanskrit, Manipuri, Santhali, Newar (Tibeto-Burman). Thank you Dr. Poudel for being here.

We had invited another illustrious international expert in the field of Linguistics. Dr. Turki Bani Khalid. Due to unforeseen reasons he has been unable to travel from Jordan to be here with us. His presence will be missed.

It is a privilege to have all of you here as well as the rest of the national speakers. Our thanks and appreciation also go to all the national speakers specially Dr. Sajida Zaki, Dr. Anjum Saleemi, Dr. Nasir Abbas, Dr. Nasim Akhtar Raja, Dr. Saiqa Imtiaz, Dr. Samina Amin Qadir, Dr. Habibullah Pathan, Dr. Nadeem Bukhari and the presenters, especially those who have traveled long distances to join us in this conference. Their support and contribution are fundamental, not only on making this conference possible but also in helping the Linguistic



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Association of Pakistan and the Institute of Languages be a vehicle for positive change in the field of Linguistics.

I would like to thank Dr. Ghulam Raza, Ms. Ayesha Zafar, the staff of the Directorate of External Linkages, the faculty and staff of the Institute of Languages and the Confucius Institute.

Holding this conference is also an achievement within itself. The conference committee of the Linguistic Association, the faculty of the Institute of Languages and the staff of the Directorate of External Linkages have worked very hard for the last year to make this conference possible and uplift the status of linguistics in this country.

When Dr. Raza and I first thought of holding the Conference at the Institute of Languages, we thought that the Committee should make a great effort to bring you a vast array of topics related to **Aspects and Approaches in Contemporary Linguistic Studies** as the aim of this conference is to take stock of the scholarly work in linguistics in order to identify current research interests and point out possible future directions of the field in Pakistan.

We received approximately 300 abstracts out of which approximately 150 will be presented during the academic sessions. Furthermore, probably many of you do not know but in 2013 a group of linguists during a conference in Lahore College for Women signed the Lahore Declaration which vowed to improve the state of the Linguistics around the country. During this conference we will examine which points have been improved and which points still need improvement and we will present to you the Declaration of ICLAP 2016 for your signatures and suggestions.

University of the Punjab is the largest and oldest seat of higher learning in the country. The Institute of Languages is a fairly new institution. It was born in March of 2010. At the Institute of Languages the languages taught are Russian, Spanish, Turkish, German, Portuguese, Italian, Chinese, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Pashto and Sindhi. Furthermore, the faculty of the Institute of Languages has published six books, three book chapters, three book reviews, one article in a specialized magazine and twenty scientific articles in recognized national and international journals since the beginning of 2014. The Institute of languages can be credited as well for uncovering the etymological composition of Urdu language in 2015. This was a discovery that no language scientist in Pakistan or abroad had ever made.

The Institute is also the institution which employs the only PhD in Spanish Language in the country and in May 2017 inn shaa Allah the only Russian language PhD in the country will come back after finishing her studies.

I also have to announce to you that although it may seem that in Punjab University studies of Linguistics are not taking place, this is a mistaken notion. Research in the field of



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Linguistics has been happening since 2010 and Oriental College is now making efforts to rename the Institute of Languages as Institute of Languages and Linguistics. I hope the name change will be approved soon. Furthermore, the Institute of Languages has developed a Postgraduate Diploma in Linguistics which plans to convert to an MPhil program during the second year and also a Postgraduate Diploma in translation which will also be converted in shaa Allah. For these favors, we should be grateful to Dr. Fakhar ul Haq Noori and Dr. Mujahid Kamran who are working hard towards this goal.

Conferences server as platforms for sharing research, developing contacts and collaborations and opportunities within the field of a specific subject, this one will serve to increase the knowledge of the subject and to open the minds of the researchers towards specific topics or research directions.

A high amount of care has been put towards the selection of the Conference bag, book of abstracts, pens, pads, etc. However, this is absolutely not important, as the value of any conference does not lie on the material aspects offered to the participants. The importance should be placed on learning from other researchers and developing contacts. The Conference will also serve as an important feature to include in the CV's of our junior colleagues and the uplift of the subject in the country.

With a large number of participants, we are sure that this conference will be a memorable, highly educational, and “not-to-be-missed” event. We hope that this conference will help you better understand the subject of Linguistics and obtain the knowledge necessary to improve the state of the subject in our country. We truly value your participation and support for this conference. Thank you so much for coming and for your kind attention and participation. Thank you!