

International seminar on

Endangered languages of Central and Western Himalaya

In the recently held international HLS 24 (Himalayan Language Symposium 24) meet in Lucknow (June 8-10, 2018), it was brought to the notice of scholars that Himalayan languages are gradually heading towards different stages of endangerment. It can be corroborated by the UNESCO online Atlas of Endangered Languages (<http://www.unesco.org/languages-atlas/index.php>). According to this Atlas, Central and Western Himalayan languages are in different stages of endangerment. Thus, in the '**Vulnerable**' category there are four major languages of Jammu and Kashmir, two of Himachal Pradesh, three of Uttarakhand and two of Nepal. In the '**Definitely**' endangered category, five in Jammu and Kashmir, 13 in Himachal Pradesh, and four each in Uttarakhand and Nepal. In the '**Severely**' endangered category, there is one in Uttarakhand and twelve in Nepal. In '**Critically**' endangered category Jammu and Kashmir has one, Himachal Pradesh three, Uttarakhand one, and Nepal seven. In the '**Extinct**' category, Uttarakhand and Nepal have one each.

Alarmed by inclusion of Uttarakhand's three major languages, namely, Rongpa, Garhwali and Kumaoni, in the list of '**Vulnerable**' languages; Byangshi, Darma, Jad, and Jaunsari in '**Definitely**' endangered languages; Raji in '**Severely**' endangered languages; Bangani in '**Critically**' endangered languages; and Tolcha in the '**Extinct**' languages, the DLRC (Doon Library and Research Centre), Dehradun (www.doonlibrary.org), has decided to undertake remedial steps forward for preservation of these languages. To begin with, the DLRC is inviting like-minded institutions and scholars to organize an international seminar on '**Endangered languages of Central and Western Himalaya**'. In consultation with Nepali, Russian, Polish, German, French and Indian scholars, it was decided that the seminar should be held in Almora from October 12 to 14, 2018, to highlight the socio-cultural importance of Central and Western Himalayan languages. Hopefully, this event will be instrumental in creating awareness of the impending danger in the masses and serve as a confidence building measure towards use of mother tongue.

The DLRC invokes interested persons and stakeholders to join this socio-cultural and academic venture. Scholars willing to participate in the seminar are requested to send summary of their papers in keeping with the aim of the seminar within 500 words by August 25, 2018, and complete papers by October 2, 2018. Please note that considering the limited resources of the host institution, only those delegates who register themselves on first-come-first basis would be provided with free board and lodging. Depending on availability of funds, needy scholars will be awarded travel subsidy. Please fill in the registration form and submit it by August 25, 2018, to enable DLRC to apply for funds to meet boarding, lodging and travel expenses of scholars.

Please remember, your cooperation will be recorded in history and posterity will always remember you as the **PIONEER CUSTODIANS** of their respective **MOTHER TONGUES**.

Initiators

Dr. Anastasia Krylova, Linguist, Russian Academy of Sciences Moscow;
Prof. Dr. Anvita Abbi, Linguist, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada;
Prof. Dr. B.K. Joshi, Social Scientist, Hon. Director DLRC;
Prof. Dr. Chura Mani Bandhu, Linguist, Tribhuwan University, Kathmandu;
Prof. Dr. Claus Peter Zoller, Linguist, University of Oslo, Norway;
Dr. Ekaterina Komissaruk, Linguist, National Research University, Moscow;
Dr. Evgeniya Renkovskaya, Linguist, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow;
Dr. Franck Bernède, Ethnomusicologist, CNRS (UPR 299), Villejuif, France.
Dr. Frédéric Moronval, Linguist, Normandie Université, France.
Prof. Dr. Kavita Rastogi, Linguist, University of Lucknow;
Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Stroński, Linguist, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland;
Prof. Dr. Madhav Pokharel, Linguist, Tribhuwan University, Kathmandu;
Prof. Dr. Maheshwar P. Joshi, Archaeologist and Historian, Hon. Fellow, DLRC;
Prof. Dr. Shiv Prasad Paudel, Linguist, Tribhuwan University/Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Language: Preferably Hindi/Nepali/any other vernacular language/otherwise English

Type style: Preferably 'Devanagari unicode' or else attach fonts used in your presentation.

Formats: Both Word and PDF.

Registration form (no registration fee)

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Designation:

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