



# National Conference on the Indigenous and Lesser Studied Languages (ILSL) of the North East India 29th –31st October, 2019

## Organized by

**Centre for  
Endangered  
Languages, Tezpur  
University  
Department of  
English and  
Foreign Languages,  
Tezpur University**

We are pleased to announce that a three-day national conference on the Indigenous and lesser studied languages (ILSL) of the North East India will be held from October 29th – 31st, 2019 at Tezpur University, Assam, India. The Conference is organized by the Centre for Endangered Languages at the University to commemorate the year of Indigenous Languages announced by UNESCO.


As you are aware, more than 200 languages of various language families are spoken in North East India, perhaps the richest, most diverse, linguistic area in the whole of the Asian continent. As a matter fact, it is one of the few most significant linguistic areas of the entire world. Unfortunately, however, the majority of the languages of North East remain to this day almost completely undescribed such that the region contains one of the highest concentrations of undescribed languages in the world. At the same time, most of these languages, which are rather small with just 1000 to 10,000 speakers, are increasingly under the threat of becoming extinct forever as a result of the new generations of these communities sharply shifting to dominant languages in order to ensure jobs for themselves and related advantages and prestige.

Revitalizing or saving the endangered languages from the hegemony of the dominant languages of the Market today may appear to be rather a utopian idea, but linguists have to play their own role here. The fact remains that it is because of the hard but dedicated work of a group of linguists committed to the cause of endangered languages the world is becoming increasingly aware of the danger of

linguistic hegemony, a real threat to cultural diversity and cultural heritage of humanity.

The Centre for Endangered Languages at Tezpur University, which was established in 2014 by the UGC as the nodal centre for two more such Centres at Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim University, Gangtok, is currently studying seven languages of North East, all previously undescribed and endangered to varying degrees. It has in the meantime published 6 (six) *Learner's Books* in each of these languages, which record their sound systems, the core aspects of their grammar, their basic vocabulary, basic conversations, rituals, short stories, folklores/folktales, lullabies, proverbs and also pictorial glossaries of their traditional artefacts. The Centre is also preparing three separate volumes on the phonology, morphology and syntax of these languages, which are expected to be completed by the end of the current year.

The Centre hopes that the current seminar can make us all more aware of the unparalleled linguistic richness of North East India, leading us to the realization that we must join hands in order to protect and preserve this great storehouse of cognitive and cultural diversity. The conference expects to accommodate all the linguistic aspects of the languages of Northeast India.

We invite papers in all areas of research on various linguistic themes including but not limited to syntax, morphology, phonetics and phonology, cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, computational linguistics, semantics, language education, language acquisition and learning, bi/multilingualism, discourse analysis, pluriliteracy, inter-cultural and globalisation, language endangerment, capacity building, revitalization etc. Abstracts are invited from students/scholars/researchers and teachers who have been working on lesser studied languages of Northeast including the state of Sikkim for 15 mins presentation and 5 mins discussion. Abstracts should not be more than 500 words including references. The general text should be typed in 'Times New Roman' 12 font size and data must be represented by using IPA fonts in Unicode. The abstracts should be sent to:  [cfeltezu@gmail.com](mailto:cfeltezu@gmail.com)

## **Important Dates and Information:**

Last date for abstract submission: 15 September, 2019

Acceptance Notification: 30 September, 2019

Online Submission of Registration Fee: 15 - 23 October, 2019

Bank Account Details:

Account Name- **Linguistics Conference**

Account No- **36159519304**

CIF No- **89344072687**

IFSC- **SBIN0014259**

After depositing the fee, please send us a scan copy of your transaction detail in the following email:

 [cfeltezu@gmail.com](mailto:cfeltezu@gmail.com)

Registration Fee:

Students:	Free
PhD/Research Scholars/Project Fellow:	INR 500/-
Teacher/Faculty members:	INR 1000/-
Foreign Delegates:	INR 2000/-

Venue of the Conference: Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University  
Accommodation: University Guest House can be booked on payment basis.  
For detailed information please log on to:  
<http://www.tezu.ernet.in/guesthouse/guesth.html>.

Student participants will be provided hostel accommodation subject to the availability of hostel seats.

## **Organizing Committee:**

Chief Patron: Prof. V.K. Jain, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University

Advisors: Prof. Madhumita Barbora, Coordinator Centre for Endangered Languages, TU

Prof. Gautam K Bora, Dept of EFL

Prof. B. K. Danta, HoD, EFL

Conference Coordinator: Dr Arup Kumar Nath, EFL

Joint Coordinator: Ms Bipasha Patgiri, EFL

Members: Dr Amalesh Gope, Dr Monali Longmailai, Dr Dhanapati Shougrakpam, Dr Bobita Sarangthem.

Centre's webpage: <http://www.tezu.ernet.in/wmcfel/>