



National e-Conference on Naga Languages and Culture

Organized by: Centre for Naga Tribal Language Studies (CNTLS)
Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Meriema-797004, India

DATES: 8th-10th October, 2020



The Centre for Naga Tribal Language Studies (CNTLS), Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Meriema is organizing a **3-Day National E-Conference on various aspects of Naga Languages and Culture** from 8th-10th October, 2020.

Concept Note

*"Language is the road map of a culture.
It tells you where its people come from and where they are going."
Rita Mae Brown.*

Inarguably the most diversified group of languages in India, Naga languages, spoken by Naga tribes native to Nagaland and parts of Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh – all North East Indian States – and Myanmar country, constitute a unique and distinct class in itself. No other language has been found to subsume within itself a number and variety of fundamentally distinct languages/dialects as ours.

For example, Nagaland, a small state with a geographical area of 16, 579 sq km and a population of nearly 2 million as per 2011 census alone has 14 'officially' recognized indigenous Naga languages but a much larger, albeit officially unrecognized, number of constituent languages/dialects intertwined within those languages, making it a linguistically rich and diverse state. There are so many languages, dialects and sub-dialects among the speakers of a particular language community that it is almost as if every village has a dialect of its own. To illustrate further, the Konyak language itself has more than 20 dialects, the Pochury at least 8, the Phom at least 5, the Chakhesang 3, the Angami 4, the Ao 3 and so on.

Each dialect within the larger language bracket/classification is distinct and separate from other dialects of the same language classification in the same way as each language of a particular Naga community/tribe is unique and distinct from every other language of other language tribe/community. Any study of this numerically large and cognately distinct nature of Naga languages, intertwined with the complexity of global and local influences makes the study of language contingent on societal, cultural and historical processes. Culture provides the foundations on which a language grows, develops, transforms and moves. This intricate link between language and culture is even more tangibly felt in indigenous societies where words and terms embody cultural mores that are not shared with other groups. Culture, whether it is folklore, tradition or simply day-to-day cultural process, cannot be accessed without first delving into the language. In this sense, language works as an entry point to the culture, and are concomitant factors.

Indeed, when one studies a language, they are also studying the norms, customs and behavior of the particular language group.

With this multidisciplinary approach as a key component, the e-Conference is being organized to enable scholars and participants from across the country and the globe working on various aspects of Naga languages and culture to exchange insights, discuss and deliberate on current discourses in academia.

The 3-day conference is not designed to be a one-off event but to provide further impetus to continue future interest in and discourse on Naga languages and culture.

Themes for paper presentation:

Scholars, academicians, language planners and community members working on Naga languages and culture are invited to submit their original and previously unpublished research abstracts for consideration for online paper presentation in any of the following themes:

LANGUAGE & LINGUISTICS

Phonetics and Phonology
Morphology
Syntax

FOLK LITERATURE & CULTURE

Folk Literature & Oral Narratives
Folk Culture & Society
Social Folk Customs

Semantics
English Language Teaching (ELT)
Language Documentation
Language Revitalization
Writing system and typography
Historical Linguistics
Second Language Acquisition
Sociolinguistics
Lexicography
Translation

Folk Song/Dance and Performing Folk Arts
Theoretical Paradigms in Folkloristics
Challenges in the study of Culture
Cultural Anthropology
Relationship of Language & Culture
Foodways of Indigenous Societies
Folklore in 21st century
Indigenous Knowledge as Tradition
Folk Medicine & Folk Religion
Methods and Challenges of Folklife Study

Submissions

Abstracts of not more than 350 words, along with title and five keywords can be submitted to cntlsevents@gmail.com latest by 25thSeptember, 2020. Only one abstract per individual will be accepted (either single-author or co-authored). All abstracts will be anonymously peer reviewed and the selected participants notified latest by 30th September, 2020. Authors whose abstracts are accepted will have to submit their full paper by 5th October, 2020.

Selected papers from the corpus will be published in a volume at a later time.

About the Centre:

The **Centre for Naga Tribal Language Studies (CNTLS)**, Nagaland University, Kohima campus, Meriema was established in 2016 with a focus to work on language and culture conservation, preservation, documentation and development of Naga languages, literature and culture in particular. The Centre uses an interdisciplinary approach encompassing language, culture, folklore and literature in order to study the diversity of tribal communities and their cultural processes. The mission serves the following purposes.

- To document, study, preserve and disseminate materials of Naga languages and folklore. The Centre also has a vision to endeavor comparative study of the same with a view to map their similarities, diversity and cognate relationship. It also envisions promoting research collaboration with local, national and global institutions with the objective of invigorating and promoting aspects of Naga language and culture on a wider scale. Moreover, the Centre aims to be a nodal Centre for the study of Naga languages and cultures in the North-East India and its neighboring regions.
- To implement student programs that support and nurture personal development and academic success in higher education.
- To partner with tribes in programs that meet educational, professional development, and other mutually beneficial needs.
- To facilitate appropriate design and implementation of research and other projects on issues and concerns which impact the quality of life for tribal people.
- To facilitate symposia, conferences, and forums that present issues and topics relevant to tribal peoples.

Important Dates:

Conference Dates	: 8 th -10 th October, 2020
Deadline for submission of abstract	: 25 th September, 2020
Notification of selection of abstract	: 30 th September, 2020
Deadline for submission of papers	: 5 th October, 2020

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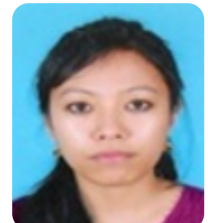
Conference Conveners:



Dr. Laishram Bijenkumar Singh
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