

MESSAGE

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Professor P. Perumalsamy, now retiring as Professor-cum-Deputy Director at the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Govt. of India, Mysore-570 006, Karnataka has been my dear friend and colleague in the fields of linguistics, sociolinguistics and anthropological linguistics. He was a very active and insightful student and Research Scholar at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu. I enjoyed listening to the presentation of his articles in many seminars, and later on enjoyed reading his publications in well-known journals.

What is most interesting to me is that like me he also began his full-time academic career in the Language Division of Census of India, Ministry of Home Affairs in Kolkata. While all the major divisions of the Census Organization (Registrar-General India – Census Commissioner) were in the capital of India, Language Division was intentionally located in Calcutta with the commencement and analysis of language data for Census of India 1961. Asiatic Society Library and University of Calcutta Library, Anthropological Survey of India head office, and leading linguists such as my teacher Professor Sukumar Sen were usually cited as the reason for this choice location.

Professor Perumalsamy's contribution to Census data analysis in later decennial census reports is significant and noteworthy. In addition, his contribution to anthropological and sociological linguistic studies through his study of several tribal communities will always be considered valuable.

His life in Calcutta was not restricted to academic work alone; he was an active leader of one of the oldest Tamil Sangams outside Tamilnadu –Bharathi Tamil Sangam. Professor Perumalsamy's leadership changed Bharathi Tamil Sangam truly representing all Tamil communities, with no preference or prejudice to any religious and caste groups.

I am really very glad that like me Professor Perumalsamy also chose to come to work in the Central Institute of Indian Languages! I was blessed to be a co-worker of many young and senior scholars in CIIL. I enjoyed working with all the administrative staff of various categories and was, by God's grace, instrumental in bringing out the publication of many scholars – linguistics, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, and many language-teaching textbooks for non-Hindi and non-Sanskrit languages.

Professor Perumalsamy's resume clearly shows the variety of works he did in CIIL. He continues to be a great blessing to CIIL scholars. I am sure that his life in retirement is going to be as bright and useful like his time with the CIIL in service. I wish him and his family good and healthy life every day even as Professor Perumalsamy continues to contribute to Indian linguistics.