

Dr. Thomas Lehmann

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Research

Classical Tamil Language, Literature and Poetics; Tamil Grammar and Tamil Linguistics in general.

Research Projects

Critical edition and annotated translation of the classic Tamil text *Aiṅkurunūru*. This project is being carried out as part of the major project "Re-edition and Annotated Translation of the Caṅkam Literature of Classical Tamil" at the École Française d'Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry, India.

Curriculum Vitae

Employment

Since 2000

Lecturer for Tamil at the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures.

1992-2000

Research Associate at the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, Department of Classical Indology.

Publications

Monographs

- *Grammatik des Alttamil unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Cankam-Texte des Dichters Kapilar*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1994. 187. S. (Dissertation Heidelberg 1992)
- (with Thomas Malten) *A Word Index of Old Tamil Cankam Literature*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1992.
- *A Grammar of Modern Tamil*. Pondicherry: Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture, 1989. 387. pp.

Monographs ready for publication

- *Lehrbuch des Sanskrit: Band 1: Grammatik, Band 2: Texte, Übungen und Vokabular*. 600 S.
- (zusammen mit A. Dhamotharan) *Lehrbuch des Tamil*. 300 S.

N.B. All the Tamil language teaching material is available at <https://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/tamil/>

Articles and Book Chapters

- "The Old, Anonymous Commentary of the *Aiṅkurunūru*". In: Suganya Anandakichenun & Victor D'Avella (eds), *The Commentary Idioms of the Tamil Learned Traditions*. Pondicherry: Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient; Institut français de Pondichéry, 2019, Indologie 141, NETamil Series 5, pp. 209-249.
- "A Survey of Classical Tamil Commentary Literature". In: Wilden (ed.), *Between Preservation and Recreation: Tamil Traditions of Commentary. Proceedings of a Workshop*

in Honour of T. V. Gopal Iyer. Pondicherry: IFP-EFEO, Collection Indologie 109, 2009a, pp. 55-70.

- "Pronoun Incorporation in Old Tamil" In: J.-L. Chevillard & E. Wilden (eds), *South Indian Horizons: Felicitation Volume for François Gros on the occasion of his 70th birthday*, Institut Français de Pondichéry / École française d'Extrême-Orient (Publication du département d'Indologie 94), Pondichéry, 2004, pp. 307- 322.
- "Commentary Tradition" (Lecture given on the 25. Deutscher Orientalistentag September 2004 in Halle).
- "Old Tamil". In: Sanford B. Steever (ed.), *The Dravidian Languages*. London, New York: Routledge, 1998, pp. 75-99.

Book Reviews

- "A Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian Languages by Michail S. Andronov". *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* , Vol. 157, No. 1 (2007), Harrassowitz Verlag, pp. 238-242.
- "Literarische Paradigmen in den Kurzgeschichten des tamilischen Autors Maṇi (Es. Maṇi) (1907-1985). Eine kritische Analyse der Handlungsaspekte und Themen, der Figurentypen, der Erzählstruktur sowie des literarischen Stils by Andreas Schüttler". *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* , Vol. 156, No. 1 (2006), Harrassowitz Verlag, pp. 248-249.
- "The Oxford India Ramanujan by Molly Daniels-Ramanujan". *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 64, No. 1 (Feb., 2005), Association for Asian Studies, pp. 235-236
- "Reduplizierte Verbstämme im Tamil. (Beiträge zur Südasienforschung Südasien-Institut der Universität Heidelberg, Bd 127) by Thomas Malten". *Indo-Iranian Journal*, January 1993, Vol. 36, No. 1 (January 1993), Brill, pp. 72- 75.

University Studies and Academic Activities:

1992	PhD in Indology with the dissertation 'Grammar of Old Tamil - Morphological and Syntactic Analysis of the Cankam Texts of the Poet Kapilar'.
1988	One Year Diploma Course in Computer Science at the Central University of Pondicherry, India.
1987-1989	Research Grant from the Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture, Pondicherry, India.
1984	Research grant from the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Pondicherry, India.
1980	Passed the state examination in English. Start of Studies in Modern Indology, Classical Indology, Indian Religious History at the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University.
1975-1980	Studied English at the University of Freiburg

Content of the teaching hours as Visiting Professor:

- Analysis and translation of selected verses from நளவெண்பா (*Naḷaveṇṇpā*, ‘Story of king Naḷa’), written in 12th-13th century by Pukaḷēnti Pulavar (10 hours).

Notes on the author and on the text: Pukaḷēnti Pulavar is one of the most important Tamil poets of the Medieval times, as he was the one who provided the *veṇṇpā* metre with a more definite style, rhythm and flow. He was a court poet in Madurai during the Pāṇṭiyar dynasty, around 12th or 13th century. During a period (1100-1400 A.D.) when the Tamil literary production was highly influenced by Sanskrit literature and language, *Naḷaveṇṇpā*, which is didactic in nature, is purely Dravidian as per its vocabulary and setting.

- Lecture on Tamil Literature (2 hours): *The colonial transformation of Tamil literature in the 19th century: the beginning of Tamil prose literature*