



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA

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*A two-day International
Virtual Conference*

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE : **Contemporary Perspectives**

**Organised by
School of Humanities and
Languages
Department of Foreign
Languages Studies**



9th & 10th November 2021

Concept Note:

Despite the growing anxiety about perils of a globalised world where not only information and wealth but also contagious and potentially life-threatening viruses can also travel faster than expected, the fact remains that the world we live in and the world we will live in the foreseeable future will only be more and not less globalised. It goes without saying and can hardly be stressed more that knowledge of languages spoken in various parts of the world remains and will remain a very important aspect, if not prerequisite, for individuals, communities and countries alike to gain substantially from the opportunities of knowledge, ideas, innovations and resources (human, financial etc.) offered by this globalised world.

Perhaps, sensing this emerging scenario, individuals, organizations, corporate houses and governments alike have shown renewed interest in foreign languages. A very positive outcome of this turn of events has been establishment of new centre of teaching and learning of foreign languages across the country. Over the last ten-fifteen years institutions such as Doon University, Dehradun; Aligarh Muslim University; Central University of Gujrat; Central University of Jharkhand and Central University of Karnataka, to name but a few, have initiated new centres and departments to meet the renewed interest and expectations in this context. This is not to mention new UG programmes in foreign languages which are being introduced from this year at institutions of renown such as Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Coming as they do in today's times of restricted travel and online teaching, the expanding avenues of foreign language in recent times have opened streams of opportunities as well as challenges for both prospective students and teachers.

Probably, the most pressing of these challenges is how to optimally use the new normal of online mode of teaching and learning, a situation looming as something which is going to stay for the foreseeable future. No doubt, it must be acknowledged

that the online mode has allowed teachers and students alike to join courses they had always wanted to attend but would otherwise not have been able to due to distance, procedural requirements among others. It has also allowed teachers to occasionally rope in academics and experts in their field for discussions, talks, workshops etc. which otherwise would not have been that frequent or feasible in the offline mode.

While these advantages afforded, rather unexpectedly, by the new normal are welcome, they do not take away some of the new difficulties and challenges thrown by this new normal. Foreign language teaching and learning find some of these as particularly daunting.

The one-to-one interaction with students as each of them bring to class their own cultural training and expectation from the course has been severely restricted in the online mode of teaching as the purposeful outside-the-classes-learning is not feasible with online classes having fixed frequencies and fixed timings. Another major miss which the foreign language classes in particular have bemoaned recently is complete exclusion of teaching through hand gestures, facial expressions as every language carries with itself a set of all these extra-linguistic tools particular to the region and culture it is coming from and training students in these conversational skills have always been important. As the classes shift to limited screens of laptops and mobiles, it is not always possible for teachers and students to indulge in use of such hand gestures and facial expressions. This has the potential of depriving new learners of opportunities of developing a more personal, interactive and intimate connect with the language they have chosen to learn. At the same time, the online mode of teaching also makes it difficult for teachers to effectively impart pronunciation patterns standardized in the given languages as the avenues of one-to-one interactions is limited in the new teaching-learning environment.

Navigating through these challenges, teachers and learners of foreign languages prepare to explore opportunities of further research and learning available and emerging in their field of knowledge. Some of these opportunities include research stay; visiting faculty programme; students exchange; language learning exchange; summer scholarships; scholarships for PG and PhD programmes in related fields such

as Literary Studies, Culture Studies, Cultural Studies, Comparative Literature, Translation Studies etc and Post-Doc fellowships among others.

These opportunities have been adversely impacted by travel restrictions and shrinking economies of countries which generally offer or sponsor them but will see revival in coming days as these two limiting factors are gradually easing.



Selected papers shall be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Authors will be intimated about the last date for full paper submission.

This virtual conference seeks to engage teachers and learners in foreign languages for thought-provoking discussions on this contemporary scenario some of which aspects are outlined above. These discussions will pave way for new thinking and viewpoints on how to explore and facilitate the opportunities which are coming our way for the benefit of the ever growing community of these teachers and learners. The conference sincerely aspires to ignite fruitful discussions in this direction.

NO REGISTRATION FEE

Abstracts of no more than 300 words are invited on, but not limited to, the following sub-themes. The language of sending abstract will be English.

1. The relevance and importance of foreign languages for the economy in India
2. Foreign languages and their place in policies on education in India
3. Overhauling of teaching pedagogies in the age of online teaching
4. Role of foreign language teaching in the context of NEP
5. Career opportunities through foreign languages
6. Foreign language and prospects of higher studies and research
7. Foreign language and intercultural dialogue
8. Creative teaching methods in FLT
9. Alternate pedagogy of FLT for virtual teaching
10. Integration of new technologies in FLT
11. The interplay of emerging media technologies/platforms and foreign language teaching and learning
12. Translation studies and foreign language teaching and learning
13. Construction of languages in media

**Abstract, Typed in Times New Roman, Font 12 in 1.5 space is to be sent by October 10th, 2021 to hodfls@cuk.ac.in
Please mention your Name and Institutional Affiliation at the beginning of your abstract.**



Presided Over By

Prof. Battu Satyanarayana

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Central University of Karnataka,
Kalaburagi

Special Guest

Prof. Basavaraj P. Donur

Registrar (i/c)
Dean, School of Humanities and Languages
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