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**Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the  
Linguistic Society of India held on the  
20th and 22nd of November,  
1928, at the Hailey Hall,  
Punjab University,  
Lahore.**

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**Present.**

1. I. J. S. Taraporewala, Esq., M.A., Ph. D., Calcutta (in the chair)
2. A. C. Woolner, Esq., M. A., C. I. E., Vice-Chancellor Punjab University.
3. S. K. Chatterjee, Esq., M. A., D. Litt., Calcutta.
4. Siddheshwar Varma Esq., M. A., D. Litt. Jammu.
5. Banarsi Dass Esq., M. A., Ph. D., Lahore.
6. Duni Chand Esq., M. A., Lyallpur.
7. R. Zimmermann Esq., M. A., St. Xavier's College Bombay.
8. W. Norman Brown, Esq., M.A., Pennsylvania (U.S.A.)
9. K. Chattopadhyaya, Esq., M. A., Allahabad.
10. H. C. Sahgal, Esq., M. A., Lahore.
11. A. D. Azhar, Esq., M. A., Lahore.
12. Vishwa Nath Shastri Dravida, Esq. Gwalior.
13. Lachhmi Dhar, Esq., M. A., Delhi.
14. Ram Sarup Shastri, Esq., Aligarh.
15. Bhupal Singh, Esq., M. A., Lahore.
16. Ganpat Rai, Esq., M. A., Multan.
17. Ram Chandra Esq., Shastri, Lahore.
18. Shri Nivas Chaturvedi, Esq., M. A., Indore.
19. Gauri Shankar, Esq., M. A., Lahore (*Honorary Secretary*).

The working committee of the Fifth All-India Oriental Conference held at Lahore had very kindly allotted some time

in its general programme to the Annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of India. Accordingly at the conclusion of the Presidential address in the Philology Section by Dr. S. K. Chatterjee on the 20th of November, 1928, at 2-30 p. m. the work of the Linguistic Society of India was begun in the Hailey Hall.

Dr. Taraporewala before he delivered his address moved the resolution congratulating Sir George A. Grierson on the conferment on him of the title of O. M. and the completion of the monumental work, *The Linguistic Survey of India*. Dr. Taraporewala remarked :—

“It was by some miraculous chance that the inauguration of the Linguistic Society of India coincided with the bestowal of the Order of Merit on the one man of all who had done the highest service to Indian Linguistics, the greatest living authority on the languages of India, Sir George Abraham Grierson. When it is remembered that the Order of Merit is the highest possible distinction the British Empire can bestow, and that it is bestowed not for any political nor for any military nor for any party service, but for *sheer merit*, our pleasure and gratification are all the greater. Quite apart from the honour done to a great scholar, who unites to great learning a modesty equally great, I look upon this Order of Merit as a recognition of Indian Languages and of their importance in the life and progress of the British Empire. This very gratifying coincidence I would look upon as a most happy augury for our future. We could not have begun any better.”

Dr. Taraporewala then delivered his Presidential address full of valuable suggestions for the guidance of the Society. The chief points to which he drew attention of the Linguisticists are :—

1. One important part of our work should be what may be termed ‘popularising’ our work. A regular set of lectures by some of our members, each in his own province to explain what the principles of modern Linguistics are would be very useful and necessary propaganda. Articles on the subject may be contributed to different periodicals. We must humanize Linguistics.

2. There is a need of specialists for each Language and Dialect of India. *The Linguistic Survey of India* shall be a land mark—a beacon-light to us in all our future work. But what we should try to do now is to expand it. Grierson has blazed a trail for us through what appeared before us a path-

less forest. It is for us to make *pucca* roads through it and pleasant paths for future generations of students.

3. If Linguistic studies in India are to be of any value at all for the future they ought to be co-ordinated. India today stands not for Indian (*i.e.*, Hindu) culture alone, but for Aryan or Indo-Iranian (*i.e.*, Hindu-Moslem) culture. We must bear in mind that though we may speak Hindi or Urdu, or Bengali or Gujrati, or Panjabi or any other language, we are all parts of the one great entity India.

4. The older *Prātishākhya*s may be carefully studied with regard to the ancient pronunciation of Sanskrit and that should be standard, at any rate as regards to Sanskrit Phonology. In Phonetics if we adopt completely the International Script, and, if need be, suggest some other symbols that may be needed, we would certainly get a very desirable uniformity in our work.

Moreover, the terminology in Sanskrit Grammar as used by *Pāṇini* and early European writers on the subject requires overhauling while applying the same terms to modern Indian Languages and Dialects. The modern notions of Grammar and Grammatical terminology are in many respects fundamentally different from those that prevailed even so late as a generation back.

5. We have to begin at the beginning with regard to our Vernacular Grammars if we wish them to be in a line with modern ideas of Linguistic Science. The chief value of our new style of Grammar should lie in the fact that it is a Grammar of Function. We should, first of all, settle the basic terminology, taking half a dozen of important Aryan Languages of India: Hindi (including Urdu), Bengali, Marathi, Gujrati, Panjabi and Maithili.

The basic terminology should be such as would be as near as possible international. Along these lines the detailed grammars should be prepared and some latitude should be left for individual differences. There should be also a central committee to co-ordinate the results and to see that uniformity is observed. It is a task which requires several years but we may be able if we set about it earnestly to present a comparative grammar of the six languages mentioned incorporating the basic terminology by the time the next Oriental Conference meets.

6. I may also suggest that similar grammars be prepared

for Sanskrit and Persian. The Dravidian and other Non-Aryan languages would have also to be considered and in their case I would suggest separate committees for each separate group. And all these different committees should work in full cognisance of each other's labours.

7. We are just at the beginning and it is quite essential that from now we should be strictly scientific and accurate.

When the address was over the resolution regarding Sir George A. Grierson was seconded by Dr. Chatterjee and Principal Woolner who spoke in terms of appreciation of the great work achieved by Sir George A. Grierson. Then the resolution was put to vote and was unanimously carried.

It was resolved that a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to Sir George A. Grierson. The resolution runs thus:—"The Linguistic Society of India, congratulates Sir George A. Grierson most heartily both upon the completion of his colossal task—*The Linguistic Survey of India*—and upon the Order of Merit bestowed upon him by the King-Emperor. The Linguistic Survey of India is an achievement gigantic as well as unique. It is a work which is the first of its kind in the linguistic history of India and as regards the scale of undertaking probably unequalled in the world. It shall always be an authority as far as regards its broad and comprehensive grasp of the whole field and it shall remain authoritative for many a year to come as far as regards the individual languages. It is the most important achievement in the linguistic history of India and marks the beginning of a new epoch of scientific study of the Languages of this country.

"The honour done to Sir George A. Grierson is unique in as much as this is the first time that a great work done by a lover of this land and its people has found Imperial recognition. It is also unique in as much as it is the first time that the importance of Indian Languages has been recognised. The Linguistic Society of India feels it as a specially happy augury that so soon after they had started their work, this great honour should have been bestowed on the greatest student of Indian Languages.

"In addition to his great learning Sir George A. Grierson possesses the true marks of greatness, simplicity and perfect modesty which have won for him the admiration and affection of all who have had the happiness of coming into contact with him. The members of the Linguistic Society of

India wish him many years of happiness and usefulness and desire to convey to him their hope that he may continue for a long time to guide and inspire the students of the Languages of India."

Dr. Varma moved another resolution to the effect that the Linguistic Society of India do undertake to publish "Grierson Commemoration Volume". It was seconded by Dr. Chatterjee and unanimously carried.

The meeting then adjourned for the next day.

SECOND DAY.

At 10 a.m. on the 22nd of November the Founders of the Society were photographed.

The second sitting of the Linguistic Society of India came in the afternoon in the Philology Section.

1. The Hon. Secretary read the Annual Report as contained in circular No. 7 of the Society and it was confirmed by the President. Extract from the report :

"The Society was started on the 1st of April, 1928 when its first meeting was held at Lahore under the Presidentship of Principal A. C. Woolner, M.A., C.I.E. Opinions of eminent scholars had been invited by issuing a circular with regard to the advisability of founding such a Society and scholars of Linguistics in India and outside hailed the inauguration of such a Society. Dr. I.J.S. Taraporewala was elected President of the Society for the year and Pt. Gauri Shankar was asked to act as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for the year.

"The Society has so far been able to publish six Circulars, Proceedings of a Meeting and Fundamental Rules. These publications comprise about a hundred foolscap sheets of paper. In these Circulars the following Languages and Dialects of India have been scientifically dealt with in their various aspects :—*Bengali, Malayalam, Tibetan, Kashmiri, Bhadarwahi, Gujri, Punjabi, and Dogri.* There were five phonetic transcriptions of *The North Wind and the Sun* in *Bhadarwahi, Punjabi, Dogri, Kashmiri and Tibetan.*"

2. The Fundamental Rules of the Society as recommended by the sub-committee came up for consideration. All members present took a keen interest in the discussion of the Rules and with many important alterations they were finally adopted. Dr. Brown of the Pennsylvania University (U.S.A.) took an active part in all the discussions regarding the co-

dification of Rules. The Rules were finally passed and codified.

3. Sir George A. Grierson, Kt., K.C.I.E., O.M., was nominated by the Executive Committee to be the first Honorary Member of the Society, vide Fundamental Rule No. 10. The Secretary was asked to convey the information to Sir George A. Grierson.

4. The following office holders for the session 1928-1930 were elected :—

President	Dr. I.J.S. Taraporewala, M.A., Ph. D.
Vice-President	Dr. Siddheshwar Varma, M.A., D. Litt.
Honorary Secretary	Pt. Gauri Shankar, M. A.
„ Treasurer	Dr. Banarsi Das Jain M.A., Ph.D.
Nominated Members	1. Dr. S. K. Chatterjee, M A., D. Litt.
	2. Mr. Babu Ram Saksena, M.A.

5. The following were elected to act on the Board of Editors for "Grierson Commemoration Volume" :—

Dr. S. K. Chatterjee, Dr. S. Varma and Pt. Gauri Shankar.

6. With a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting dispersed.

GAURI SHANKAR,  
*Hon. Secretary,*  
 LAHORE.

