



Goa University

Directorate of Visiting Research Professor Programme

&

Discipline of Konkani,

Shenoi Goembab School of Languages & Literature

Report on Public Lecture

1. Title of the Event/Activity/program	Public lecture by Prof. Anvita Abbi (Padma Shree) on Topic: Why and How are Indian Languages So Similar to Each Other?
2. Date and Time	13 th January 2025 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
3. Mode of conduct (Physical/Online)	Physical
4. School/ Directorate/ Section	Directorate of Visiting Research Professor Programme & Discipline of Konkani, Shenoi Goembab School of Languages & Literature
6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	Enclosed
7. Number of Faculty attended/participated	12
8. Number of Student attended / participated	100

9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants	5
10. The objectives of the Program/activity/event	<p>The primary objective of this public lecture is to create awareness among students & researchers of language about the similarity between different languages of India though they belong to different language families.</p> <p>The focus of the lecture was to introduce the concept of Language contact that takes place in India resulting in borrowing of lexicons, Phonemes, semantic shift and other linguistics activities.</p>
11. Description of the Program/activity/event	<p>The event commenced with Welcome from Director, VRPP, Dr. Prakash Parienkar, followed by welcome by, Prof. Anuradha Wagle.</p> <p>Prof. Anvita Abbi commenced her public lecture and addressed the audience on the topic "Why and How are Indian Languages So Similar to Each Other? "</p> <p>The lecture highlighted the study of different Language families present in India including Great Andamanese.</p> <p>She discussed the concept of Language Contact in reference to India. She discussed borrowing lexicons, Phonemes, semantic shift and other linguistics activities like echo words, reduplication and expressives with examples from Hindi, Bangla, Konkani, Marathi, Tamil and other languages.</p> <p>This lecture was followed by a Q & A session which was thought provoking.</p> <p>Dr. Ramā Murkude, Assistant Professor from Discipline of Konkani, Coordinator of the Public lecture, proposed a Vote of Thanks.</p>

<p>12. Benefit/Key outcomes of the Program/activity/event</p>	<p>The faculty, students, research scholars and professionals working on the Vidyapati Project who attended the public lecture benefited from the lecture in several ways. Firstly, it highlighted the importance of Language Contact and how in today's globalization no language can survive in isolation. It also cleared misconceptions about purity of language and linguistic view on dialects. It also opened up discussion regarding several aspects from which Konkani as a language could be further studied.</p> <p>The discussion also opened about the influence of Indian languages on each other and it can be studied by young researchers in future.</p>
<p>13. Enclosures with report</p>	<p>Photos, Attendance of participants, Bio Data of resource person.</p>

Bio Data

Prof. Anvita Abbi

A Ph. D. from Cornell University, N.Y., USA, Anvita Abbi is a rigorous researcher, a highly respected teacher and guide, a successful administrator, and a distinguished academic from Jawaharlal Nehru University where she taught for four decades. Maintaining the noblest traditions of academia, she combines her scholarship with effortless humility and kindness. She is undoubtedly one of the world's most distinguished researchers on minority languages. In the case of the vast Indian sub-continent, she may be the only one who has conducted first-hand field research on all the six families of languages spoken here. She identified a new language family of India, i.e., the Great Andamanese. Her research was corroborated by population genetics. The Government of India recognized her pioneering work in the form of bestowing upon her the Padma Shri in 2013. Her *Manual of Linguistic Fieldwork and the Structures of Indian Languages* (Lincom Europa, Germany, 2001) is a prominent reference book consulted the world over by linguists working on the languages of South Asia.

She was awarded one of the most prestigious linguistics awards by the Linguistic Society of America USA the Kenneth Hale Award (2015) for her outstanding lifetime contributions to the documentation and description of languages of India, with a particular note of her extraordinary contributions to the documentation of the Great Andamanese language, a moribund language that is a key isolate in understanding the peopling of Asia and Oceania.

It is because of her undeniable stature in the field that she has been invited as a Visiting professor and researcher at prestigious institutes in the USA, Germany, UK, Canada, and Australia. She has immense experience in field linguistics, language documentation, and analysis of ethno-linguistic aspects of language use. Her wide experience of working on tribal languages of Jharkhand, Northeast, and Andaman and Nicobar makes her a truly rare linguist. Her experience of working with minorities and tribals has motivated her to write extensively on language and education policy. She served as the UNESCO expert on language issues. At present, she serves on the Expert Committee of the UNESCO World Atlas of Languages and is an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada in addition to holding the B. B. Borkar Chair for Comparative Literature in Goa University.

Poster



Directorate of Visiting Research Professors Programme

**KAVIVARYA BAKIBAB ALIAS B.B BORKAR CHAIR IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND
DISCIPLINE OF KONKANI
DISCIPLINE OF KONKANI
SHENNOI GOEMBAB SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**



PRESENTS



**MONDAY
13TH JANUARY
2025**

PUBLIC LECTURE BY

**11.00 AM TO
12:30 PM**



**PROF. ANVITA ABBI
(PADMA SHRI)**

VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSOR UNDER B.B.BORKAR CHAIR PROFESSOR IN
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE , GOA UNIVERSITY

**TOPIC : WHY AND HOW ARE INDIAN LANGUAGES SO
SIMILAR TO EACHOTHER ?**

LECTURE COORDINATOR :
DR. RAMA MURKUNDE ,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR , DISCIPLINE
OF KONKANI, SGSL

DR. HANUMANT CHOPDEKAR
PD , DISCIPLINE OF KONKANI,
SGSL

DR. PRAKASH S PARIENKAR,
DIRECTOR , VRPP

PROF. ANURADHA WAGALE,
DEAN, SGSL

Attendance Sheet

Directorate of Visiting Research Professors Programme Kanyanya Babubh Abbas B.B. Borkar chair in Comparative Literature and Discipline of Konkani Shree Greshaba School of Languages and Literature Presents Public Lecture by "Prof. Anita Abbi"				Date: 13 Jan 2025 Time: 11:00 AM Place: Seminar hall, faculty block B		
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Photos







