

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore

NIAS Consciousness Studies Programme
on behalf of the NIAS Discussion Forum for Consciousness

cordially invites you to a

Public Lecture

on

"The Cognitive turn in Language studies – Back to the future"

By

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Chairperson: Dr. R Shankar

Date: **Friday, 25th July, 2014**

Time: **3.30 p.m.**

Venue: **Lecture Hall**, National Institute of Advanced Studies,
Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore 560012

Abstract: Cognitive Linguistics is a relatively young discipline that engages with language as embodied in its use, and as being not just a product, but as a determinant of concepts and categories in the minds of speakers.

The discipline subscribes to a weak version of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, wherein the commonalities and differences in the way humans experience and perceive the world, is reflected in the way they formulate their conceptual and linguistic account of these experiences. Thus language not just reflects conceptual structure, but also gives rise to conceptualisation.

Cognitive Linguistics is informed by the theory of situated or embodied cognition, wherein semantic relations are seen to reflect conceptual networks, and meaning change is not merely a phenomenon in the lexicon, but has an experiential as well as social basis. Hence, polysemy or the prevalence of multiple meanings is of great interest to the Cognitivist. It is seen as representing the life cycle of conceptual change associated with each word.

Meaning extension and meaning change are often explained on the basis of conceptual devices such as the metaphor and the metonym.; the claim being that there is an experiential ground for the metaphorical mapping that abide in language.

After a general discussion of the field, we can take up the Cognitive Linguistics approach to meaning and polysemy; and evaluate some of the prevalent attitudes.

About the Speaker: Naresh Keerthi is a doctoral student in the School of Humanities at the National Institute of Advanced Studies. His research is in the area of cognitive linguistics. Naresh studies the semantics of our sensory apparatus, by looking at adjectives in Sanskrit and English.

He has an abiding interest in Indian Bhasha literatures, their relationships with each other, as well as with the classical literary traditions. He is also a keen student of Indian Classical music, and has written articles and reviews besides performing occasionally.

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All are welcome

For further details, please contact Prof. Sangeetha Menon prajnanata@gmail.com