

DARSANA MANAYATHU SASI

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Malayalam Literature, Thiruvananthapuram, University of Kerala, India	2013
Title: The History and Creative freedom in Malayalam Novels - A study on the basis of <i>Theekkadalkadanju Thirumadhuram</i> , <i>Daivaguruvinte Ozhivukaalam</i> , and <i>Guru</i> .	
Advisor: Dr. M. G. Sasibhooshan	
M.Phil., Malayalam Literature, University of Kerala, India	2007
Title: <i>Padayani</i> – A Study.	
M.A., Malayalam Language & literature, Mahatma Gandhi University, India	2004
B.Ed., Malayalam, Mahatma Gandhi University, India	2001
B.A., Malayalam Language & literature, Mahatma Gandhi University, India	2000

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Instruction Department of Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin	2023 - present
Assistant Professor of Instruction Department of Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin	2014 – 2023
Lecturer (Malayalam Literature) Cosmos College, Trivandrum, Kerala, India	2010 - 2013
Program Coordinator and Teacher Malayalam Mission, Government of Kerala	2012 - 2013
Television Announcer Doordarshan Television Channel (Broadcasting Corporation of India)	2008 - 2011
Radio Announcer All India Radio (Broadcasting Corporation of India)	2007 - 2014
Guest Lecturer Karamana NSS College for Women, Trivandrum, Kerala, India	2006 - 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

1. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. പടയണി - ഒരു ഫോക്ലോർ പഠനം (*Padayani - oru folklore padanam*). Paridhi Publications, Kerala. January 2014. 72 pages. [This book is a study of ritual temple practices and *Kāvū* Images]

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article

2. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. അമേരിക്കയിൽ മുഴങ്ങുന്ന മലയാളം (*Americayil Muzhangunna Malayalam*). *Samakalika Janapatham* (Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Kerala), Vol.9, No.3, October 2022. [This article is about the Malayalam Language Program at UT-Austin]
3. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. ജീവചരിത്ര നോവലുകളിലെ സർഗാത്മകത (*Jeevacharithra Novalukalile Sargathmakatha*). *FOKANA (Federation Of Kerala Associations in North America) 18th International Convention Souvenir*, 2018, 87-90. [This article is a study on Creativity in Biographical Novels.]
4. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. ആധുനികതയുമായി ഒരു മുഖാമുഖം (*Aadhunikathayumayi oru Mukhamukham*). *Ullezhuthu*, Vol.8, No. 84, March 2009. 51-53. [This article is a study of the short stories of Malayalam writer John Samuel.]
5. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. ഗോദോയെ കാത്തിരിക്കുന്ന മലയാള നാടകം (*GODOTine Kaathirikkunna Malayala Nadakam*). *Ullezhuthu*, Vol.7, No. 61, January 2007. 40-41. [A detailed study on the English drama *Waiting for Godot*.]
6. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. പെണ്ണുഴുത്തു കടവിലെ മാറ്റാത്തി (*Pennezhuthu Kadavile Mattathy*). *Ullezhuthu*, Vol. 7, No.57. September 2006. 23-26. [A feminist view on Malayalam Novel *Mattathy* written by Sarah Joseph.]
7. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. തിന്ന സങ്കല്പം 'ലീല' കാവ്യത്തിൽ (*Thinasankalpam 'Leela' kaavyathil*). *Vijnanakairali*, Vol 7, No.7. July 2006. 57-60. [A comparative study of style in ancient Tamil poetry and modern Malayalam poetry *Leela* written by N. Kumaran Asan.]

Non-Peer-Reviewed Articles

8. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. പരദേശി മലയാളം....? (*Paradesi Malayalam....?*). *Kairali Magazine*, May 2020 Edition. [This article is a discussion on a thought *Is Malayalam alien...?*]
9. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. എന്റെ സാഷ്ടാംഗ പ്രണാമം (*Ente Sashtamga Pranamam*). *Janani Magazine*, November 2019 edition, 70-73. [A short story based on one of my life experiences.]
10. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. സൈബർ ലോകം മായാ ലോകം (*Cyber Lokam Maaya Lokam*). U.S. based Malayalam Newspaper *Azchavattom*. Issues: - April 9, 2016; April 16, 2016; April 23, 2016. [This was an essay series about ‘Cyber world Fantasy world’]
11. Darsana Manayathu Sasi. സ്ത്രീ ബിംബങ്ങളുടെ സാംസ്കാരികത കഥകളിൽ (*Sthree Bimbangalude Samskarikatha Kadhakalil*). GAMA winter edition newsletter. January 13, 2016. [An essay on cultural aspects of women’s representation in Malayalam short stories in general.]

Translation

12. Darsana Manayathu Sasi (trans.). *ബീക്കമിങ്* (*Becoming*) by Michelle Obama. D.C. Books, Kerala, India. June 2022. 672 pages. [Malayalam translation of *Becoming*, title is the same as English but in the Malayalam script]

Open Educational Resources

Open Education Resources created for Department of Education International & Research Studies Grant (P017A200040)—all OER available at malayalam.la.utexas.edu:

13. “[Festivals and Events](#),” 2021
14. “[Malayalam Pronunciation: The Basics](#)” (Co-author), 2021
15. “[Malayalam Pronunciation: Beyond and Basics](#)” (Co-author), 2021
16. “[Dialogues](#)” (Co-author), 2021
17. “[Malayalam Tongue twisters](#)” (Co-author), 2021
18. Lesson Plan “[A conversation at the bus stop](#)”, April 2018

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023 Nominated for the 2023 Texas Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Award.

2022 Received an Appreciation Memento from Honorable Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Mr. M. B. Rajesh, in recognition of my instruction and propagation of Liberal Arts specifically in the language of Malayalam.

2021 Award name *Aksharasree* from *Dallas Sauhruda Vedhi*, one of the prominent literary associations in Texas, for outstanding contributions & leadership to Malayalam Language & Literature in Texas.

2020 Awarded the Faculty Innovation Center (FIC) grant as Co-PI for “Inclusive Pedagogy in Less Commonly Taught Language Classrooms” project.

2019 Nominated for Texas Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Award.

2017 Nominated for Texas Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Award.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Presented a paper on the ‘Malayalam Program and it’s importance at UT-Austin’ at the ‘Loka Kerala Sabha’(World Kerala Assembly) organized in New York by the Kerala Government, India. I was co-panelist with Prof. Donald Davis. June 2023.

Inaugural Speech on Sree Narayana guru’s Contribution to the Society at the Tw-Day International Literary Seminar on ‘ Sree Narayana Guru: In Kerala Renaissance History and Diverse Literature’ organized by Department of Malayalam, Newman College, Thodupuzha, in association with Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India, December 2022.

Kumaranasan’s Poetic Ways, to be presented at the Two-Day International Seminar on ‘Asan @ 150’ organized by Department of Malayalam, Mar Ivanious College in association with The Kumaran Asan National Institute of Culture, Kerala, India, December 2022.

Distinct debates and viewers of modern Malayalam Movie, to be presented at the Three Day International Seminar on ‘Film Literature Culture’ organized by Department of Malayalam & Kerala Studies, University of Calicut in association with Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, Kerala , India, December 2022.

Malayalam Language and Literature in Foreign Universities, to be presented at the International Seminar on 'Revising Modernist Paradigms and Epistemological Shifts' organized by Mahatma Gandhi University, School of Letters, Kottayam, Kerala, India, October 2022.

The Creative world of Translation, to be presented at the Three-day International Seminar organized by Baselius College, Kottayam, Kerala, India, November 2022.

Keynote Speaker for the webinar event conducted by Catholice College Pathanamthitta, Kerala, as the part of the celebration of the World Language Day, February 2022.

Malayalam as an International Language: Prospects and Challenges, to be presented at the International Webinar organized by PG Department of Malayalam, Karamana NSS College for Women, Trivandrum, Kerala, India, December 2020.

The feminist Study of the novel 'Mattathy' written by Sarah Joseph, Guest lecturer speech at Dr Virginia Brown's (College of Liberal Arts, Sociology, UT Austin) 'Nature of Inquiry' Class, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, September 2020.

The Saga of Survival, to be presented in a 4 days Multidisciplinary International Webinar Series on 'Covid-19: Changing World Order', conducted by St. Xavier's College Thumba (Kerala, India), in collaboration with the State Institute of Encyclopedia, Department of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Kerala, India, September 2020.

Malayalam Language study and research in American Universities, to be presented at a memorial speech of the part of 'Prof. S Guptan Nair Birth Century Celebration' conducted by Mahatma Gandhi College Trivandrum, & Prof. S Guptan Nair Foundation, Kerala, India, January 2020.

Language, Literature and Me, to be presented as part of the panel presentation at LANA (Literary Association of North America) 11th Convention, Dallas, TX, November 2019.

Implications, Opportunities and Challenges of Inclusive Pedagogy, to be presented in a panel presentation at South Asian Language Teachers Association (SALTA) Conference at The University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, May 2019.

Building UT's Popular and Pulp Fiction Collection, to be presented as part of the panel presentation for the Fall 2018 South Asia Seminar Series at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, September 2018.

When History is Experienced through Imaginative Novels, to be presented as part of the Two-day National Seminar on 125 Years of Malayalam Novel, organized by Department of Malayalam, University College Thiruvananthapuram, sponsored by Government of Kerala. January 2014.

Identity politics in Malayalam Literature, presented at National Seminar, Sri Narayana College, Kollam, Kerala, India, 2013.

Pratheethiydharthyam Cyber Idangalilum Madhyamangalilum (Reality impact in Cyber spaces and in Medias), presented at the National Seminar on “Making Cyber Culture and Aesthetics”, University of Madras, India, March 2012.

Cultural Criticism: changing perspectives, presented at the International one day bi-lingual seminar conducted by The Kerala State Institute of Languages and Asan Memorial Association Kerala, Kerala, India, 2012.

Journal/Newspaper Interviews

Interviewed by Fr. Binoy Pichalakkattu, the Managing Editor of the Ezhuthu Magazine, article title *Malayali Marakkunna Malayalam* (The Malayalam that forgetting by the Malayali), September 2022

Interviewed by the writer Jane Joseph for *Mathrubhumi* News Paper, article title is *America, Malayalam*, October 2021.

Interviewed by *Kerala Calling* Magazine (Govt. of Kerala official Magazine), article title is *Teaching the Honey-sweet Tongue Beyond the Seas*, November 2019.

Interviewed by Dr. S. Rajendu for *Kalakaumudi* Magazine, article title is *Texasile Malayalam Professor* (Malayalam Professor at Texas), October 2019.

Interviewed by freelance reporter Sree Parvathi for *Manorama Online* News Paper, April 2018.

ADVISING AND STUDENT-RELATED SERVICE

Language advisor to Michael Fiden, PhD candidate, UT-Austin, present.

Language advisor to Aaron Sherraden, PhD dissertation, UT-Austin, 2020.

Language advisor to Emily Beissner, MA thesis, UT-Austin 2020.

Conference Course ANS 180C (Methods and Theory in Kerala Studies) Fall 2019, co-taught with Dr. Donald R Davis.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Emily Beissner, “Sri Narayana Guru and His Significance in the Temple Entry Movement in Kerala,” 2018. (Second Reader).

Language advisor to M. Keely Sutton, PhD dissertation, UT-Austin 2014. (currently associate professor at Birmingham Southern College)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental Service

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Committee, South Asia Institute, 2023.

Language Instruction Committee, Department of Asian Studies, 2022-2023.

Worked as service to raise \$36,000+ for the Malayalam program with the wonderful support from 230+ donors, on the 40 for Forty campaign event UT-Austin conducted on April 6 & 7, 2022.

Organized an invited guest talk of Mr. Prakash Bare, an award winning and critically acclaimed Malayalam movie actor, and a film screening, South Asia Institute, March 2022.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Committee, South Asia Institute, 2021.

Conducted 'Onam' Kerala's biggest cultural festival, South Asia Institute sponsored the event, UT Austin, September 2016, 2019, 2021.

Organized Dr. M. Keely Sutton's talk on 'Saints and Martyrs on the Malabar Coast', Department of Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, April 2019.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Committee, South Asia Institute, 2018.

Organized a talk by Mr. Antony Thekkek (Filmmaker and writer) on "Film and Literature" and a film screening, South Asia Institute, April 2018.

University Service

Conducted *Kolam*, one of the great cultural events in South India, UT Libraries, September 2022.

Volunteered with the COVID vaccination center at the UT hub, April 2021.

Video about UT Austin's Libraries South Asian Popular and Pulp Fiction Collection. 2021

Database in Malayalam Script for Malayalam novels in Pulp Fiction category for UT Libraries, April 2018.

MALAYALAM-A-Hand-written Students' Journal 2018 (Collection of hand-written Malayalam articles by students, scholars and professors), Department of Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin. May 2016, August 2017, May 2018.

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Blog, the International Voices Blogger column (University Blog Service-The University of Texas at Austin); *My thoughts on the Election: India vs America*, November 2016.

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Blog, the International Voices Blogger column (University Blog Service-The University of Texas at Austin); *Adventure in Food*, October 2016.

Conducted *Kolam*, one of the great cultural events in South India, UT Libraries, September 2016.

Professional Service

Through UT South Asia Institute, conducted a 2-day Workshop for Malayali Community volunteer teachers nationwide. We awarded certificates for 6 professional credits for all participants. July 2022.

8 exams, study guides, and answer keys created (2 question sets for each high-school language level 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B) for UT High School's Credit-by-Exam Program. 2020-22. Funded by the Department of Education International & Research Studies Grant (P017A200040)

Through UT South Asia Institute, conducted a 2-day Workshop for Malayali Community volunteer teachers nationwide. We awarded certificates for 6 professional credits for all participants. October & November 2020.

Attended three days' summer workshop conducted by Texas Foreign Language Association (TFLA) Summer Institute in Corpus Christi from July 18 till 20, 2017.

Peer Reviewer

Article for *South Asian Review*, King's College, PA. Title: *Who Read Vidyasamgraham: The Story of a Bilingual College Magazine from Nineteenth-Century Kerala*. February 2023.

Article for RoSA (Religions of South Asia - <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/ROSA>), Title: *Religious Syncretism among Indian Muslims and its Manifestation in Darga Practices: Case Studies of Three Dargas in Kerala*. November 2018.

Article for RoSA, Title: *'She doesn't need muṭiyēttu there': The interplay of divine mood, taste and dramatic offerings in South Indian Folk Hinduism*. June 2017.

Fact checking an article for The New York Times Magazine. February 2017.

Language Evaluator

A student from the State University of New York Empire State College. September 2014.

Students from Loyola University Chicago. January 2015.

Students from University of Miami College of Arts & Science. April 2020.

A student from Florida State University. November 2022.

Local & Community Service

In coordination of Department of Asian Studies & South Asia Institute, I organized 12th Regional Convention of LANA (September 30, October 1 & 2, 2022) at UT-Austin, TX. I served as a General Convener of the event. Austin, September 2022.

Principal of Malayalam School of GAMA (Greater Austin Malayali Association), Austin, 2021-2022.

Conducted Malayalam Placement Exam for G.O.D.S. Kids Malayalam Class, Dallas, May 2021.

Conducted Malayalam Placement Exam for students from GAMA (Greater Austin Malayali Association), Austin, April 2021.

Conducted Malayalam Placement Exam for students from Kerala Association, Dallas, January 2021.

Wrote a complete report of LANA 3 day convection conducted on 2019 November 1, 2 & 3 in Dallas and published for *Janani* Magazine's Christmas Special edition, December 2019.

Chief guest and keynote speaker at the Onam Event of *Dallas Sauhruta Vedhi*, Dallas, September 2019.

Inaugural Guest & Speaker, *Amma Malayalam* Malayalam class, conducted by Houston Media House, Houston, September 2019.

One day workshop on *Best Practice to Teach Malayalam Language* for the volunteer teachers of G.O.D. Kids Malayalam class conducted by Sri Guruvayurappan Temple of Dallas, Dallas, September 2019.

An Introductory talk for the teachers and volunteers on *Opportunities to learn Malayalam, making Curriculum and Placement Exam* at the Malayalam School of Greater Austin Malayali Association, Austin, April 2019.

Malayalam Advisor of KHSF (Kerala Hindus of South Florida), Florida, June 2018.

Conducted Malayalam Placement Exam for high school students of GAMA (Greater Austin Malayali Association), Austin, May 2018.

Judge of SaReGAMA-2017 Literary Event conducted by Greater Austin Malayali Association, Austin, April 2018.

Keynote Speaker at Sri Guruvayurappan Temple Houston, *Onam* Celebrations 2017, Houston, October 2017.

Keynote Speaker at Kerala Association of Dallas, Onam Celebrations 2017, Dallas, September 2017.

Chief Guest & Keynote speaker at the closing ceremony of 8th Malayalam Summer Class conducted by Houston Gregorian Study Circle, Houston, August 2016.

Judge of SaReGAMA-2016 Literary events conducted by Greater Austin Malayalee Association, Austin, April 2016.

Chief Guest in 'Kaavyasandhya' program hosted by Malayali Association of Greater Houston on the part of Kerala Festivals-2016, Houston, March 2016.

LANGUAGES

English (excellent)
Malayalam (native)
Sanskrit (good)
Hindi (fair)