

Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (SEL)

Annual Report 2023-2024

Message from the Secretary

On behalf of the Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages, I am pleased to place before you the Annual Report for the year **2023-2024**. This report presents a comprehensive account of the academic, training, and outreach activities undertaken by the Society during the year. SEL has continued its tradition of organizing conferences, workshops, lecture series, and collaborative projects aimed at strengthening language documentation skills and promoting awareness about language endangerment.

I gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of our members, scholars, trainers, and partner institutions whose enthusiastic involvement has made these activities successful. I also extend my sincere thanks to the Executive Committee and our patrons for their guidance and support. I look forward to continued collective efforts in the coming years to further the objectives of the Society.

Dr. Vishnu Kumar Singh

Honorary Secretary, SEL

Introduction

The Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (SEL), established in 2011 and formally registered in 2015, is dedicated to the documentation, preservation, and revitalization of endangered and lesser-known languages, particularly in India. The Society functions as a vibrant platform bringing together linguists, researchers, educators, and language community members to address issues of language endangerment through research, training, publications, and community-oriented initiatives.

The year 2023–2024 was marked by sustained academic engagement, capacity-building programmes, international collaboration, and strong outreach to young researchers and speech communities.

Objectives of SEL

SEL continued to work towards the following objectives during the reporting period:

- Maintenance and revitalization of endangered and lesser-known language varieties
- Preparation of grammars and dictionaries of threatened and poorly documented languages
- Development of pedagogical materials for at-risk language communities

- Preservation of knowledge system of indigenous communities
- Awareness creation among language communities regarding their linguistic heritage
- Social, cultural, and economic development of language communities
- Strengthening language documentation and preservation skills through trainings, workshops, and lectures
- Providing scholarly platforms through seminars, conferences, and the Society's journal

3. Office Bearers (2023–2024)

- **Honorary President:** Prof. Kavita Rastogi
- **Honorary Vice President:** Dr. Madri Kakoti
- **Honorary Secretary:** Dr. Vishnu Kumar Singh
- **Joint Secretary:** Devanshi Kumar
- **Treasurer:** Hemant Kumar
- **Financial Consultant:** Apurva Kumar
- **Legal Consultant:** Aakriti Agarwal
- **Consultant:** Gaurav Mehrotra
- **Media Consultant:** Nishant Rastogi
- **Social Worker:** Richa Bhardwaj

Patrons: Padma Shri Prof. Anvita Abbi and Prof. Panchanan Mohanty

Membership Status

- **Total Members:** 200
- **New Members enrolled in 2023-2024:** 17

The steady growth in membership reflects increasing interest among scholars and students in the field of language documentation and revitalization.

Academic and Outreach Activities 2023-2024

ELKL–11 (9–11 March 2023)

The 11th International Conference on Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (ELKL–11) was hosted by the P.G. Department of Linguistics, Berhampur University, Odisha, in collaboration with the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru. Renowned scholars

participated both physically and virtually, and young researchers presented their ongoing doctoral research.

Raji Youth Training Programme



Under the Raji Revitalization Programme (Phase III), SEL organized a jewellery-making training programme for Raji youth in April 2023. Six youngsters were trained in traditional jewellery-making techniques, contributing to both cultural continuity and livelihood skills.

Language Documentation Lecture Series (2023-2024)

SEL launched its Language Documentation Lecture Series with three lectures:

- **Lecture 1:** Prof. Lenore Grenoble on the impact of urbanization on indigenous languages
- **Lecture 2:** Prof. Renuga Devi on the languages and cultures of tribal communities of the Blue Mountain region
- **Lecture 3:** Dr. Mark Post on collaborative linguistics and language documentation

FOR SEL BY SEL-4

The fourth edition of *For SEL By SEL* witnessed six scholarly presentations by SEL members on diverse linguistic themes. Senior scholars provided detailed feedback, fostering academic mentoring and research refinement.

PRAAT Workshop

SEL organized its second beginners-level PRAAT workshop conducted by Dr. Leena Dihingia. The two-day workshop equipped participants with practical phonetic analysis skills through hands-on activities.

Publications (2023-2024)

Vaak Manthan, Vol. 8, Issue I (2023) Editors: Prof. K. Sri Kumar & Dr Bishakha

Vaak Manthan, Vol. 8, Issue II (2023)



Raji Poem Book (राजी कविताएँ) published

Financial Overview

The audited statement of accounts for the year **2023-2024** has been prepared and audited separately. The Society maintained transparency and financial discipline while supporting training programmes, academic events, and collaborative projects.

Conclusion and Future Outlook

The year **2023-2024** was a productive and impactful period for SEL, marked by strong academic engagement, collaborative training initiatives, and community-oriented documentation efforts. Moving forward, SEL aims to expand its documentation projects, strengthen researcher training, and deepen partnerships with academic institutions and language communities across India.

Prepared by the Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (SEL)