6th NETamil Workshop

From *Tolkāppiyam* to *Naṉṉūl*

EFEO Pondicherry , 22nd -26th August 2016

The Tamil grammatical tradition begins with the famous *Tolkāppiyam.* This text eventually gave rise to a number of commentaries throughout the second millennium. In addition, several other grammars were composed during this time period, such as the popular *Naṉṉūl* and the *Vīracōḻiyam.* Although the main text of the *Tolkāppiyam* continues to receive much attention in the form of translations and selected studies, the development of specific linguistic ideas within the commentarial literature and the other grammars (and the commentaries thereon) has not been often studied, and there remains much room for further investigation.

Our workshop will attempt to partially fulfill this desideratum by focusing on a few select topics and tracing their evolution from the *Tolkāppiyam* into its commentaries and other later grammars. Since the *Tolkāppiyam* covers such a wide range of subjects, we will have participants turn their attention toward either the *eḻuttatikāram* "chapter on letters" of the *collatikāram* "chapter on words", the two sections of the Tamil grammar that have less frequently been the subject of scholarly research. Furthermore, we hope that through this diachronic study less well researched texts will be gain more currency in academic engagements.

Finally, participants are encouraged to look beyond Tamil to see how comparable topics in other Indian languages have been treated and what dialogs may have existed between the grammatical literatures of South India. In addition to Sanskrit, the most common language for comparison, we anticipate fruitful conversations with those who have knowledge of grammars about Telugu, Kannada, Pali, etc.

In addition to presentations about specific topics, participants will lead reading sections translating and commenting upon the text they have selected. This will allow for a broad exposure to a number of texts within a single week.