

SANTALI SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, MEDICAL  
AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE TERMINOLOGY

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## INTRODUCTION

India is a multilingual nation and Indians communicate in over 2500 languages from region to region and state to state. Many of these languages do not even have their own scripts. According to Census of India 2001, 29 languages are spoken by more than a million native speakers, 100 languages by at least 10,000 people and 263 languages by lesser number. 22 of these including SANTALI are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. SANTALI was added in 2003. This diversity of languages contributes to the richness of ancient and modern Indian cultures.

Some of the minor languages, especially of some tribal people of India are at the verge of extinction and need urgent help and support for their survival.

## BACKGROUND

According to Census of 2001, speakers of Santali language are 6.5 millions although the population of Santals are estimated by various sources to be near 9 millions. They are one of the largest tribal groups in India spread along the long corridor of central and Eastern states. They live mostly in the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, west Bengal, Assam, Chattisgarh, Tripura and Orissa and beyond the Indian borders in Bhutan, Bangla Desh and Nepal.

Although, they had no written history of their own for centuries, they had managed to preserve their rich customs, traditions, cultures and LANGUAGE. This they have done by oral tradition in the form of story telling, religious rituals, songs, dances and legends.

In the late 1880s, the European missionaries and some of the Civil Servants of the colonial Empire took keen interest in Santals and their language Santali and started documenting and writing folk tales, customs and traditions in Santali including Grammar and Dictionary in Roman script. That was the beginning of the modern written Santali language and literature

and that was their great contribution. Before that Santali used to be written in Bengali script in the greater Bengal which used to include the present day states of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand.

## PROGRESS

Since Independence some Santals have taken on themselves to write books and publish some journals and magazines and they used the scripts of the states where they lived. During the British Raj Roman was used. After Independence each state promoted the regional scripts for the minority languages and Devnagri, Bengali and Oriya were used in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa respectively. Then OLCHIKI script was invented and developed by Late Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1940s and came in to prominence and appears to be gaining grounds in all Santali speaking areas. The Santali was at long last accorded the rightful place in the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule of the constitution of India in 2003. But it is only the beginning of the long path to the peak and glory of an ancient language SANTALI.

## WHY DO WE NEED SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND MEDICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TERMINOLOGY IN SANTALI LANGUAGE?

- In a multilingual country like India, there is a great need for translating and evolving technical, scientific and administrative words to be used in all major languages.
- Santali language has been accepted as one of them.
- To enrich the existing rich Santali language there is a need for developing and enlarging technical, scientific and administrative vocabularies.
- To make communication and understanding easier with the people of other regions who speak Santali and other languages.
- Availability and access to such terminology in Santali language from the early stage will make higher education easier.
- Will be a positive step towards acceptance of Santali as 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> state language.
- Will make the Santali language acceptable and more attractive to the future generation of Santals.
- Job opportunities will increase if included in the various competitive examinations.

## GUIDELINES

- All linguists, educationists and scholars agree for the need of maximum uniformity to facilitate inter-lingual communication and exchange of scientific, technical and administrative information.
- To make them easily apprehensible and easy to remember and use.
- To accept and retain the technical, scientific and administrative terminology already in common use.
- It should be clear, concise and easy to speak and understand.
- To encourage publication of books in Santali for popularization and usage of standard terminology.
- To evolve technical terms in Santali and update them in intervals.
- To publish comprehensive glossaries and definitional dictionary.

## WHO WILL DO THIS?

It is the responsibility of the COMMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGY which was set up on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1960 by the Govt. of India with the following objectives-

- To evolve and define scientific and technical terms in all major Indian languages and publish glossaries, definitional dictionaries and encyclopedia.
- To see that the evolved terms and their definitions reach the students, teachers, scholars, scientists and officers
- To ensure proper usage/ necessary updating/ correction/ improvement on the work done.
- To coordinate with all states and regions to ensure uniformity of terminology in all major Indian languages (PAN INDIAN TERMS).
- To publish/encourage publication of books in all major Indian languages for popularization and usage of standard terminology.

## HOW WILL IT BE DONE?

A CENTRAL SANTALI DIRECTORATE needs to be created to achieve the objectives by implementing certain schemes. An expert committee of Santali authors, writers, teachers, scientists and other professionals will be needed to help and advise the directorate and monitor its progress.

The following schemes will help achieve the objectives and popularize the usage of new Sanatali terminology;

- Terminology development in Santali language.
- Teaching new Santali terminology through correspondence.
- Using Cassette, CD and video cassette and the modern means of Internet and websites in teaching the new terminology.
- Offer financial assistance to Santali organizations and publishers.
- Awards for Santali authors, writers and other professionals for their contributions.
- Development and Approval of Departmental Glossaries.
- Facilitate terminology training/orientation/propagation and critical review.
- Encourage translation and publication of new terminology
- Establishment of National Terminology centre/library with availability and access of terminology in all major Indian languages including SANTALI.

WHAT WILL BE THE ROLE OF SANATALI SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THIS?

- First and foremost they should keep speaking their mother tongue Santali and not fall prey to the progress and modernization.
- Be proud of the language and identity and speak up loud and clear in front of non Santal peers.
- Endeavour to help and support the authorities and people who are involved in the preservation and promotion of Santali language and not be an obstacle and hindrance.
- SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, MEDICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TERMINOLOGY IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND RICHNESS OF THE LANGUAGE IN THE MODERN AGE OF TECHNOLOGY.

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JOHAR

REFERENCE; Working group on language development and book promotion, Planning Commission, Govt. of India.

