



'NTS should be an Independent Entity' *opines Prof. E.Balagurusamy*

14th November 2009



The Head, NTS briefing the Guest about NTS activities

Prof. E. Balagurusamy, Hon'ble Member, Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi visited NTS H.Qrs at CIIL, Mysore on 14th November 2009. He was here as a special invitee for the purpose of extending consultancy and to have an academic interaction with the staff of the NTS-India. As the former Vice Chancellor of Anna University, Chennai, Prof. Balagurusamy recalled the age old issues associated with the system of evaluation and shared his experiences. He lauded the NTS for having initiated this massive task of evolving norms and establishing standards for every level of education. He said that it was very much needed for the country and appreciated the NTS team for taking up this challenging task, formulated by its Head after working continuously in this field for two and a half decade.

He expressed his opinion that the NTS should become an autonomous body so that it could function independently in this specialized field of testing and evaluation. He further added that this kind of organisation cannot function as a government department with a number of administrative constraints.

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While addressing the gathering, Prof. Balagurusamy observed that the application software developed by NTS facilitating instant construction of tests was a very good attempt. While appreciating the item bank developed for language & literature, he made a suggestion to the technical team that 'difficulty level' could also be considered as one of the parameters in the retrieval system. He further added that all the teachers, intelligentsia, and examination bodies of the country should know about these activities. He felt that a proper marketing of the outcome of NTS would make everyone aware of this stupendous task.

He was of the view that the inadequacy in research resulted in the lack of quality in higher education. Citing the four pillars of education viz., skill development, knowledge, attitude and values, he advised the NTS to play a key role in changing the 'mind set' of teachers. Teaching and learning should be a two way process and it should not become one way traffic. He advised the teachers to come out of classrooms and equip themselves with the tools and techniques of a proper evaluation system. He expressed his concern about the dishonesty prevailing in the field of education which, he felt, was responsible for the deterioration of 'quality' and 'standard' in the country.

During the interactive session that held subsequently, Prof. Balagurusamy answered all the queries raised by the participants. While responding to certain queries, he said that the proficiency tests developed by NTS could be used to measure a candidate's attitude and decision making abilities for the purpose of recruiting personnel to various services. After the interactive session, the Head NTS, in his brief remarks, thanked Prof. Balagurusamy for offering consultancy, guidance, and academic support.

Earlier, the activities undertaken by the NTS under the broad headings of R&D, S&D, C&T, and RFUs were explained by Prof. Pon Subbiah. The centre's website www.ciil-miles.net and the application software developed (for instant construction of tests) and the steps taken by NTS for creating a comprehensive basis for developing tools of evaluation, were also explained to the visiting dignitary.

Besides the NTS staff, the fellowship awardees (both doctoral & post doctoral), resource persons of the short term workshop and MILES project also participated in this programme. Dr. M.Balakumar (RRO and Coordinator, NTS Programmes) welcomed the guest and Shri. M.Saravana (SRP, NTS) proposed vote of thanks.



Prof. E. Balagurusamy

A view of audience at the conference hall

Research and Development (R&D)

- To undertake in-depth analysis of the concepts of measurement & evaluation in the context of education
- To identify the content inputs & consequential effects of teaching, and learning
- To interrelate the outcome with the objectives of education and the actual needs of the country
- To develop appropriate methodology to meet all the evaluation needs.

Current Activities

Follow up Workshop on Graded Tests

25th to 30th November 2009

A six day programme on Graded Tests was organized at the NTS H.Qrs, CIIL, Mysore. The purpose of this programme was to crosscheck the four sets of Graded Tests in Tamil prepared years back, both in language and literature, in each of the seven levels of general education. It was further intended to find out the feasibility of using

these items to enrich the NTS database in future. The graded tests would help resolve the issues arising out of the overlapping of content inputs across the levels of education. Prof. M. Gnanam (Regional Director, Central Hindi Institute, Mysore), Prof. R. Panneer Selvam (Retd. from Karnatak University, Dharwad) and Dr. N. Nadaraja Pillai (Reader Retd., from CIIL, Mysore) participated in this workshop.

Follow up workshop on Dimensional factors of CCGS

25th to 30th November 2009

Simultaneously, a followup workshop on CCGS was also held for the purpose of preparing Tamil equivalents for the English terms representing the dimensional factors of language. They were to be included in the Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) developed in Tamil for various levels. Prof. C.Shunmugom (Retd. from Dept. of Linguistics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, TN.), Prof. K.Anban (Retd. from Dept. of Linguistics, Karnatak University, Dharwad, KA) and Prof. M.Suseela (Retd. from Dept. of Linguistics, Tamil University, Thanjavur, TN) participated in this workshop.



A View of scholars participated in the workshop

Both the programmes were coordinated by Dr. M. Balakumar (RRO and Coordinator, NTS programmes). Prior to the commencement of these programmes, Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) gave a briefing about the rationale of the whole approach. A general session was also held at the end of the workshop in order to have an overview of the task accomplished.

Survey and Documentation (S&D)

- Collecting, consolidating, and creating a grid of resources pertaining to : Contents, methods, and purposes of evaluation
- Contact particulars of individuals and institutions involved in preparing and using different types of tests
- Syllabi of various courses and corresponding question papers at different levels of education.

Current Activities

The process of collecting the details of scholars and educational institutions for documenting them in the database of NTS has been going on. Broad details regarding central and state universities, professional institutions and autonomous academic institutions have already been documented.

It is worth mentioning here that NTS-India is evolving a common format for developing a national level language tests in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu which could be used for standardisation and towards norm fixing, at the Higher Secondary and Graduate levels. For this purpose, the task group on S & D has procured several test formats, model question papers, and their designs, objectives, item types, weightages, etc., of different boards of examinations covering central and state boards as well as universities as indicated below:

1. Bihar School Examination Board, Patna, Bihar
2. Board of Secondary Education, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
3. Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer, Rajasthan
4. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Delhi
5. Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), Delhi
6. Tamil Nadu Board of Secondary Education, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
7. Tamil Nadu Board of Higher Secondary Education, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
8. Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
9. Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
10. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
11. Nalanda Open University, Patna, Bihar
12. North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, Maharashtra
13. Swami Ramanand Theerth Marathwada University, Nanded, Maharashtra
14. University of Bombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra
15. University of Delhi, Delhi
16. University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
17. University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka

Consultancy and Training (C&T)

- Evolving a mechanism for periodical training
- Preparing teaching cum training modules
- Producing documentary films
- Creating trained manpower in various branches of evaluation
- Extending consultancy on matters related to testing and evaluation.

Current Activities

Training for young scholars:

The twenty scholars inducted for short term project cum training programme during October 2009 were given on-the-job training in item writing. Before involving them in item writing, the Head NTS explained the underlying principles of evaluation, the features of the IFC format, and the parameters used for preparing and storing the question items. Then the scholars practised item writing in the areas of their specialization under the supervision and guidance of the academic staff of NTS.

Regional Field Units (RFUs)

- To disseminate the R & D outcome at the grass root levels
- To ensure wider participation for building up national consensus on materials and methodologies
- To identify scholars and undertake the process of item preparation, test construction, field administration, data collection, and standardisation (of tests) for establishing norms.

Current Activities

Orientation programme at Z.P. Urdu School, Khazipet, V.Kota, Chittoor (A.P)

4th November 2009



NTS team and RFU team at Z.P. Urdu School, V Kota

The Head, NTS addressing the RFU team

The NTS team led by Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) visited the RFU [No. U-9A] of the Urdu speaking areas meant for school education located in the premises of the Z.P. Urdu School. As a part of the preliminary orientation he gave a briefing about the aims and objectives of NTS and explained the duties to be discharged by the RFUs, to the teaching staff of the school. Later, the queries raised by the participants and media persons were clarified during the

From visitor's diary

"I enjoyed meeting with motivated and committed young researchers and faculty of NTS who are engaged in a critical role of establishing standards in evaluation that is very important in a country like India. A national standard is imperative for producing competitive young people with mobility across the country. We need to involve, in the process, all stake-holders in order to implement the standards effectively.

Wish NTS and the staff all success in their noble act."

-Prof. E. Balagurusamy

interactive session. The materials of the Centre for Testing & Evaluation such as Information Brochure, NTS Newsletters, Write-ups on NTS and RFUs were provided to them. Mr. Raman Prasad (Mandal Praja Parisad Development Officer, V. Kota), Mr. Mohboob Basha (Mandal Education Officer), Mr. R. Ramesh (Head Master), Mr. Azmathuallah (Former-HM) were also present during this programme. The NTS team included Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRP-Acad) and Mr. V. K. Dheerajj (JRP-Tech). This RFU has the jurisdiction of the whole state of Andhra Pradesh for school education.

Grant-in-Aid

Interactive meeting for GIA (Shortlisted) Applicants

6th & 7th November 2009

This two-day interactive meeting was held on 6th and 7th November, 2009 at NTS H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore. Out of the 16 individuals (whose proposals were shortlisted), 15 attended this meeting. The Head NTS gave the necessary details about NTS-GIA and the main purpose of extending financial assistance. Then the participants were asked to make a brief presentation of their proposals for financial assistance under this sub scheme, in the presence of the committee constituted for this purpose. The committee suggested certain modifications in the proposals submitted by the individuals. The applicants were asked to submit revised version of their proposals by incorporating the suggestions given by the committee.

Prof. P.T. Abraham (formerly in the Center for Tribal Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh), Prof. Thippeswamy (formerly in the DOS in Hindi, University of Mysore), Prof. M. Suseela (formerly in the Dept of Linguistics, Tamil University, Thanjavur), Dr. M. Balakumar (RRO, CIIL and Coordinator, NTS Programmes) were in the committee. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP), Dr. Sandhya Nayak (JRP-Acad.) and Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRP-Acad) representing Hindi, Tamil and Urdu respectively. Mr. P. Harsha (PRO) and Ms. Lepakshi (Asst.-G) of NTS assisted them.

Out of 15 participants, 12 (Hindi/Tamil/Urdu Regions 10 + NER 2) were provisionally selected. Names and addresses of those who were provisionally selected are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Participants	Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Participants	Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Participants
1.	Dr. Ganesan Ambedkar Dravidian University Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh	5.	Dr. P. Ratnasabapathy TIERA Chennai, Tamil Nadu	9.	Dr. V. Renuga Devi Madurai Kamraj University Madurai, Tamil Nadu
2.	Dr. Nagaraj Sitaram Jain University Ramanagara, Karnataka	6.	Dr. V. Radhakrishnan Bharatidasan University Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu	10.	Dr. Malathi NKT National College of Edn. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
3.	Dr. S. Rasul Mohaideen VOC College Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu	7.	Dr. V. Prabhakaran Tamil University Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	11.	Mr. Noziruddin Ahmad (NER) North-East Council for Educational Promotion, Goalpara, Assam
4.	Dr. T. Parasuraman Pondicherry Science Forum Pondicherry, UT	8.	Ms. D. Sabitha Dietician Erode, Tamil Nadu	12.	Mr. Dhurabjyoti Baruah (NER) Jorhat Engineering College Jorhat, Assam



Prof. Pon Subbiah, Prof. P.T. Abraham, Prof. Thippeswamy, Prof. M. Suseela, Dr. M. Balakumar and others interacting with the participants of GIA meeting

Fellowships

In order to promote advanced studies in the inter disciplinary areas of testing and evaluation, the National Testing Service-India has instituted 30 Doctoral and 15 Post Doctoral fellowships per year for the young researchers from various disciplines of study. The details of fellowships released during the month of November 2009 are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of the candidate and University	For the Month of	Amount Released	Sl. No.	Name of the Candidate and University	For the Month of	Amount Released
Post Doctoral Fellowships for 2007-08 Batch				Doctoral Fellowships for 2008-09 Batch			
1.	Dr. Ganeshmoorthy. P.S Sri Venkateswara University Tirupathi-517502, AP	Sep. & Oct.	Rs.24,000/-	1.	Mr. Amoudhan. E Pondicherry Institute of Ling. & Culture, Pondicherry-8	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
Doctoral Fellowships for 2007-08 Batch				2.	Mr. Arish. D Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli – 12, TN	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
1.	Mr. Abdul Quddus Maulana Azad National Urdu University Hyderabad-500032, AP	Sep. & Oct.	Rs.20,000/-	3.	Ms. Husna Anjum Ranchi University Jharkhand	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
2.	Ms. Chandrika. J University of Madras Chennai-600034, TN	July to Oct.	Rs.40,000/-	4.	Mr. Kishore Kumar. L.B Madurai Kamaraj University Madurai-625021, TN	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
3.	Mr. Kamaraj. K Bharathiar University Coimbatore, TN	Sep. & Oct.	Rs.20,000/-	5.	Mr. Manoharan. A Tamil University Thanjavur-613010, TN	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
4.	Mr. Manikandan. M Alagappa University Karaikudi-630003, TN	Sep. & Oct.	Rs.20,000/-	6.	Mr. Md. Sohel Rana Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh-202002, U.P.	Aug. to Oct.	Rs.30,000/-
5.	Mr. Prem Kumar. L.R Madurai Kamaraj University Madurai-625021, TN	Sep. & Oct.	Rs.20,000/-	7.	Ms. Nidhi Mishra Bansthali Vidyapith Banasthali-304022, U.P.	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
6.	Mr. Ravi Kumar. R University of Madras Chennai-600034, TN	Aug. to Oct.	Rs.30,000/-	8.	Mr. Praduman CCSH Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana-125004	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
7.	Mr. Sankar. M Gandhigram Rural University Dindigul-624302, TN	Sep. & Oct.	Rs.20,000/-	9.	Ms. Revathi. S Queen Mary's College (Auto.) Chennai-600004, TN	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
Contingent Grants				10.	Ms. Sabiha Bano Patna University Patna-800005	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
1.	Mr. Sankar. M Gandhigram Rural University Dindigul-624302, TN		Rs. 3,982/-	11.	Ms. Saranya Devi. N Madurai Kamaraj University Madurai-625021, TN	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
2.	Mr. Manikandan. M Alagappa University Karaikudi-630003, TN		Rs. 1,409/-	12.	Mr. Srinivasan. S Presidency College Chennai-600005, TN	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
3.	Mr. Prem Kumar. L.R Madurai Kamaraj University Madurai-625021, TN		Rs. 4,020/-	13.	Mr. Sundarajan. S Tamil University Thanjavur-613010, TN	Oct.	Rs.10,000/-
Post Doctoral Fellowships for 2008-09 Batch				14.	Ms. Zarnigar Yasmeen Patna University, Patna-800005	July, 2009	Rs.10,000/-
1.	Dr. Vetrivel. K Dravidian University Kuppam-517425, AP	Oct.	Rs.12,000/-				

News & Events

Engagement of Data Entry Operators:

To identify suitable candidates to work as Data Entry Operator in Urdu, a technical test was conducted on 26th November, 2009 at the NTS Head Quarters, CIIL, Mysore. Out of the five applicants who were invited, only three appeared for the test. They were ranked according to their performance by a group of technical experts and a panel of names was prepared for future engagement.

Announcement

Preparation of Training Modules :

Synopses are invited for preparation of training modules on different topics related to testing & evaluation in education across the country. A list of 82 topics covering various branches of testing & evaluation was released through the centre's website. 39 modules are in the process of preparation by different scholars. 43 modules are still open for allotment. Those who have interest to work on these topics may send their synopsis on any one of the topics displayed in black colour. The synopsis should have the following specifications.

Language of the module : English (with an option of translating the module into one of the three languages viz., Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu). Size of the synopsis: About 700 words (as per specification). Size of the full module: maximum 15 to 16 pages including exercises (as per specification). Remuneration/Honorarium: For each module with translation in one of the above 3 languages Rs. 40,000/- (Rs. 30,000/- for main English version, and Rs.10,000/- for translated version).

For details such as application proforma, list of topics specification, etc. please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The proforma may be downloaded from the website. The duly filled in prescribed application (with synopsis) should reach the Head, NTS-India, CIIL, Mysore-570006.

NTS Grant-in-Aid (Financial Assistance) :

The last date for receipt of proposals to NTS has been extended to 30th November 2009 for North-Eastern Region only. For further details, please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW).

Award of NTS Research Fellowships :

The last date for receipt of applications for Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships has also been extended to 30th November 2009 for North-Eastern Region only. For further details, please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW).

Programmes for December

- Workshops to identify suitable applicants for the award of NTS Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships for Tamil, Hindi, and Urdu are scheduled for 1st & 2nd, 4th & 5th and 10th & 11th December 2009 respectively at CIIL, Mysore.
- Visit of Shri L. K. Atheeq, IAS (Former Director, Saravashiksha Abhiyan, Karnataka and currently on the Central Govt. assignment) is scheduled for 7th December 2009 at CIIL, Mysore.
- A workshop on the preparation of Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu parallels and illustrative examples of the identified dimensional factors for CCGS is scheduled for 8th to 19th December 2009, at CIIL, Mysore.
- A two day workshop on the production of documentary films is scheduled for 15th to 16th December 2009 at CIIL, Mysore.
- Preliminary orientation programme is scheduled for 26th December 2009 at RFU (Tamil), National Academy Montessori Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Pattinamkathan, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu.

What does it mean?

Average Deviation is one of the statistical measures used in the area of evaluation. It may be defined as the average of the deviations of the group measured from an average (mean*). Usually, some of the deviations may be found positive and some negative. For the purpose of calculation of an *average deviation*, all of them are to be taken as positive. For example, in the sample of 4, 6, 10, 18, 12, the *average* is $\frac{4+6+10+18+12}{5} = 10$ and *average deviation* is calculated as : $\frac{[6+4+0+8+2]}{5} = 4$.

* *Mean*, a mathematical term, refers to *average*.

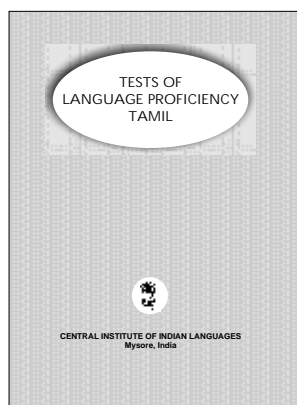
Source : *An Introduction to Evaluation Terminology*, CIIL, Mysore, 2008

What do they contain?

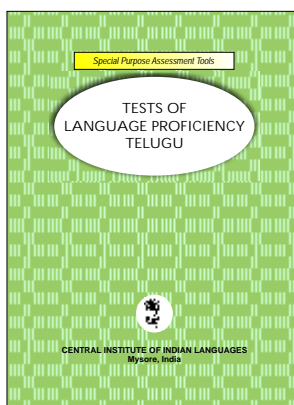
Tests of Language Proficiency

Secondary (Std. X) Level

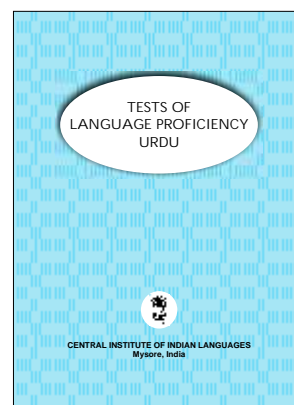
These volumes focus on the concept of Tests of Language Proficiency and are available in 14 major Indian Languages including Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. They consist of innovatively cultivated item resources on a variety of content areas applicable for secondary (Std. X) level of general education. They are presented under seven broad categories of which the following five have been provided with examples: *Reading Comprehension* (main idea, direct information, sequence, cause and effect, inference, and vocabulary), *Lexical Skills* (lexical meaning, contextual meaning, synonyms, and antonyms), *Structure* (sequence completion, error detection, sentence comprehension, transformation, and formal grammar), *Writing and Composition* (spelling, idioms and proverbs, precis writing, text organization, letter writing and composition), *Listening Comprehension* (passages). Specifications needed for the remaining categories viz., *Speaking* and *General (language related) Information*, have been left to the decision of item writers in view of their familiarity with those categories. Tests of required length and time can be constructed from these resources to *assess language proficiency* for such purposes as *job selection*, and *training. Teachers, learners, and evaluators* of language education will find these works very useful. These books can be procured by placing orders to the Officer incharge of Publications, CIIL, Mysore-570006, Karnataka, e-mail : srinivasacharya@ciil.stpmv.soft.net Ph: 0821-2345100.



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Reader's View

The activities of NTS...

I receive your Monthly Newsletters regularly. It is nice to see, nice to read, and nice to get information about all the activities of NTS. I congratulate you people for your nice work by organizing fruitful conventions, conferences, and other meetings for the sake of development of curriculum and testing tools and methods. I am a Professor of Mathematics. May I request* you to get some portion of Mathematics to write through your organization so that children may be benefitted? If so, I shall be happy.

Prof. Naseem Ahmad,

Dept. of Mathematics, Jamia Millia Islamia, NewDelhi

*The request of Prof. Naseem Ahmad is being attended to separately - editor.

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