

**First International Conference on Latest Trends In Foreign Language  
Teaching-Learning & Curriculum Designing – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

The International Conference was organised to invite discussions and deliberations on the unique and need-based pedagogical concept of teaching foreign languages. It aimed to examine the closeness between the academic problems and the general issues of cultural milieu. Further, this Conference, in response to the growing demand for foreign language teaching, has opened gates, through fruitful interactions, for a progressive expansion and exploration, aiming at a better didactical framework for the teaching of foreign languages. The Conference also aimed to bring together the views and beliefs widely held among the educators and practitioners about the current situation and position of foreign languages for a conception of didactics.

The conference was sponsored by **DUOLINGO**. Duolingo is a US-based company which offers free online courses through its mobile app and website to learn 24 different languages from different parts of the world including Indian languages like Hindi, Tamil, Telegu and Bengali.

This conference was organised for the first time in South India where experts from different foreign languages discussed different themes related to foreign language teaching. The conference was attended by participants from different parts of the world. They were from:

1. India
2. Spain
3. Italy
4. Japan
5. Colombia
6. Venezuela
7. Ecuador
8. France
9. French Guyana.

The conference started with the inaugural session at 9:30 am in Dr Ambedkar Auditorium. **The chief guest of the conference was Mr Pedro Serrano Navarro, Head of Studies Instituto Cervantes and representative of Spanish embassy.** During his speech, Mr Pedro emphasised on the rising number of foreign language learners in India. He also said how teaching a foreign language needs to be done keeping in mind the needs of the learners.

**The guest of honour was of the conference was Dr Nalini J Thampi, Dean and Professor School of Humanities, Pondicherry University.** She talked about the importance of learning a foreign language and how it creates a lot of opportunity to the students from Engineering, Commerce and IT background. She also told that machines could help learn any language, but machines cannot replace humans for learning any language.

The conference had three different round table discussions where experts discussed various aspects of teaching and curriculum designing for foreign languages. The conference got over at 6 pm with a valedictory session.

**The Chief Guest at the valedictory session was Dr Ootaka Hiromi, Professor, Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan.** He talked about how learning a foreign language has become very important in Japan now. He was delighted to see participants and experts coming from different languages in the conference.



