काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

IoE BHU

First Circular

National Seminar

On

Indian Council of Social Science Research

GENDER-SPECIFIC LINGO, IDENTITY, AND INFORMAL COMMUNICATION IN UNIVERSITY SPACES: A NATIONAL, TRANSDISCIPLINARY INQUIRY

September 18 - 19, 2025



Organized By

Department Of German Studies
Faculty of Arts
Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi - 221005

www.bhu.ac.in

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Venue: Seminar Hall - Department of Physical Education, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi -221005

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Banaras Hindu University

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Department of German Studies
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ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Gender-specific lingo, Identity and Informal Communication in University Spaces: A National, Transdisciplinary Inquiry

This Seminar will centre on a timely yet often overlooked area of inquiry that is the informal, creative, and dynamic ways in which students communicate within as well as beyond the boundaries of university spaces. From Gender-specific lingo's and colloquial speeches to multilingual exchanges, internet memes, protest chants, and digital messaging, these everyday forms of expression are far from incidental, they are deeply embedded in the social fabric of campus life, shaping how students relate to one another and to the institutions they inhabit.

Our aim is to bring these linguistic practices into scholarly focus—not simply as linguistic curiosities, but also as meaningful acts through which young people negotiate identity, assert belonging, and respond to systems of power and exclusion. In doing so, we wish to better understand how factors such as caste, class, gender, and region have an influence not only on what students say, but how, when, and why they say.

In recent years, with the rise of social media, online activism, and AI-driven communication, the nature of student interaction has changed rapidly. Informal language is now circulated across digital platforms in ways that tend to blur the lines between the private and the public, the humorous and the political, the personal and the collective. By studying such shifts, the Seminar seeks to highlight how informal speech is not just reflective of youth culture, but is actively constitutive of it.

This academic gathering will serve as a space for transdisciplinary engagement, drawing participation from scholars across the fields of linguistics, cultural studies, digital humanities, education, media studies, gender theory, and migration research.

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In addition to keynote lectures and scholarly paper presentations, the programme will feature student-led panels, and hands-on workshops designed to encourage collaborative learning and mutual exchange.

Primarily important to us is the involvement of students—not merely as subjects of study, but as thinkers and contributors in their own right. Their voices and experiences will be placed at the centre of the Seminar through formats that value dialogue, reflection, and co-creation. This participatory approach aligns with the broader educational commitment to fostering democratic, inclusive, and socially responsive academic environments.

We strongly believe that this event will enrich BHU's research ecosystem and strengthen its public engagement initiatives. By examining the intersections of language, youth identity, and institutional culture, this Seminar aspires to create lasting academic and social impact—extending beyond the confines of any single discipline.

Seminar Objectives:

- To investigate the role of informal speech—including Gender-specific lingo and digital communication—in shaping youth identity, peer culture, and social belonging, while examining how factors such as gender, caste, region, and class influence these linguistic practices.
- To explore the engagement of students—especially those learning foreign languages like German—with informal registers and translation, and to reflect on how digital platforms, from messaging apps to AI, shape contemporary language use.
- To critically engage with the methodological and ethical challenges of researching informal speech, and to foster meaningful academic dialogue across disciplines and linguistic communities.

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FOCAL THEME

Gender-specific lingo, Identity, and Informal Communication in University Spaces: A National, Transdisciplinary Inquiry

SUB-THEMES

1. Youth Language and Gender Identity in multicultural context
2. From Slang to Literature: Youth Language in contemporary texts and films
3. Meme Talk and Digital Expression on Campus in India and in Germany
4. Multilingual Campuses: Everyday Code-Switching in Indian and foreign languages
5. Gender-specific lingo in the Classroom
6. Migrant Youth, Multilingualism, and German Intercultural Literature
7. Language of Protest and Student Movements around the world
8. Gendered language in German and Indian academic culture
9. Humour, Sarcasm, and Informal Power Dynamics
10. Caste and Class in Everyday Speech
11. Queer Voices and Linguistic Creativity globally
12. Chat Apps, AI, and Campus Conversations
13. Slang and the Challenges of Translation
14. Documenting the Unspoken: Ethics in Informal Language Research
15. Language, Emotion, and Coping in University Life
16. Regional Flavours: Mapping Youth language Across India and Germany
17. Echoes of Empire: Colonial Traces in Slang
18. Surveillance, Free Speech, and Digital Youth Spaces
19. Youth Language and Culture in the 21st Century
20. Language transition from Millennials to Gen Zs

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Call for papers

Original research papers are invited for oral presentation on various themes and sub-themes. Submissions may include thematic papers, empirical studies, working papers, research papers, review papers, policy papers, concept papers, and case studies.

Abstracts should be submitted in editable MS Word format, using Times New Roman font, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing, and should not exceed 300 words. Full papers should be between 5,000 and 7,000 words.

Research papers must adhere to a standard academic format and clearly include the following sections in order: Need for the Study, Objectives of the Study, Methodology, Data Analysis Techniques, Findings/Results, Conclusions, and References. This structure will ensure clarity and consistency in the presentation of research.

Interested participants must register for the conference using the Google Form provided, and submit the abstract (in case of paper presentation).

Once the abstract is accepted by the committee, the corresponding presenting author will be informed via email for the payment of the non-refundable registration fee.

Publication

Selected full papers will be published in a book with an ISBN by a national/ international publisher.

Who can participate

The national conference welcomes participation from research scholars and academicians across a wide range of multidimensional and multidisciplinary fields including Sociology, Geography, Psychology, Political Science, History, Economics, Anthropology, Mass Communication, Language and Culture, and Linguistics.

- Master's Students (Appearing/Final)
- Research Scholars / Post Doc Fellows
- Faculty Members

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Important Dates

Last date for submission of abstract	August 25, 2025
Intimation of acceptance of abstract	August 31, 2025
Payment of registration fee	September 15, 2025
E-mail address for abstract submission (In case there is any issue with the Google Form)	german.bhu@gmail.com

Registration Fee

Participants Category	**Without Accommodation**	**With Accommodation**
Master's Students	Rs. 700/-	1700/- (Shared Room)
Research Scholars / Post Doc Fellow	Rs. 1000/-	2000/- (Shared Room)
Faculty Members	Rs. 1500/-	3500/- (Single Room)

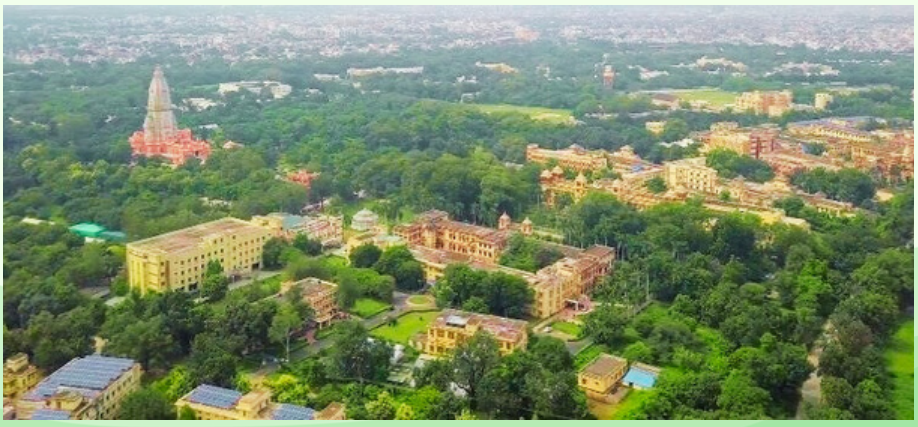
Google Form/ Registration Link: https://forms.gle/WY6RU7xqGiyzakjr9

*After selection of abstract, payment link will be provided through email.

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), situated in the holy city of Varanasi, is a prestigious institution of higher education renowned worldwide and recognized as one of the eight public institutions declared as an Institute of Eminence by the Government of India. Spread across 1,300 acres of lush green campus, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) holds the distinction of being the largest residential university in Asia, accommodating over 30,000 students, including 18,000 residing on campus. Founded in 1916 by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a prominent nationalist and visionary, the university has grown into a comprehensive institution with an impressive array of academic and research facilities. BHU comprises six Institutes, 14 Faculties, 144 Departments, four Interdisciplinary Centers, a Constituent College for Women, and three Constituent Schools, covering a vast range of subjects across all branches of humanities, social sciences, technology, medicine, science, fine arts, and performing arts. The university also boasts six Centers of Advanced Studies, ten Departments under the Special Assistance Program, and numerous specialized research centers, further cementing its reputation as a hub of academic excellence and innovation. Known for its sprawling campus and architectural beauty, BHU provides a serene and inspiring environment for learning and growth. The university's commitment to holistic education, coupled with state-of-the-art facilities and highly qualified faculty, continues to attract students and scholars from around the globe. BHU remains dedicated to upholding its legacy as a beacon of knowledge and excellence, making significant contributions to education and research on both national and international fronts (https://www.bhu.ac.in).



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About the Department of German Studies

The Department of German Studies of Faculty of Arts was established as a separate independent Department on 6th August 1982. It is today only one of such Department in the entire region of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Eastern and North-Eastern India, where one can study German from Beginners' Level through BA, MA and to Ph.D. in German Studies.

The teaching of German Language was however introduced in the 40s and thus it was one of oldest centre of German learning in India. Initially German was functioning as a section of Department of English and German was offered as part-time evening course. In the 4th Five Year Plan, the university d the Department of Foreign Languages and German was one of the constituent part of it. Full time BA in German was started.

In 1972, M.A. in German was introduced. Research programmes started in 1974. The Department joined in the promotion of Indo-German Cultural Exchange Programme. The German Academic Exchange Service [DAAD] deputed regularly a German language lecturer to the Department through HRD Ministry, Government of India. Besides DAAD and Germany, the Department also maintains a good level of co-operation with the other German Speaking countries, namely Austria & Switzerland. Regular visits of many distinguished scholars from German speaking establishments and institutions are arranged.

The Department of German Studies has a well established teaching and research programme. It has its own library and computers with internet for the use of students and visiting faculties. German is taught both as full-time and part-time courses covering language, literature & linguistics.



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HOW TO REACH VARANASI?

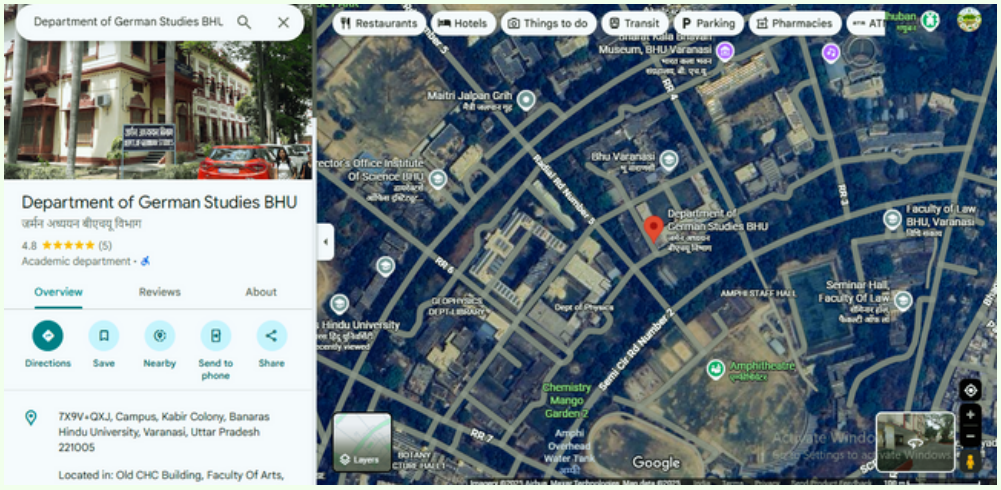
Banaras Hindu University is conveniently accessible by air and road from all parts of the country, including major cities of India such as Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai.

By Air: Fly to Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport (Varanasi Airport), which is approximately 30 kms from BHU. From the airport, taxis and car rentals are available for transportation to the university. (https://www.aai.aero/en/airports/varanasi)

By Road: Varanasi is well-connected by road networks to major cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai. You can reach BHU via national highways and state highways, with ample parking facilities available on campus.

By Rail: Varanasi is connected to major cities in India via rail as well. Varanasi Cantt. railway station (BSB) about 10 Kms from BHU; Banaras railway station (BSBS) about 5 Kms from BHU, are the two main railway stations to reach Varanasi. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction is another station about 20 kms from BHU campus.

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Uttar Pradesh, India

Contact Details

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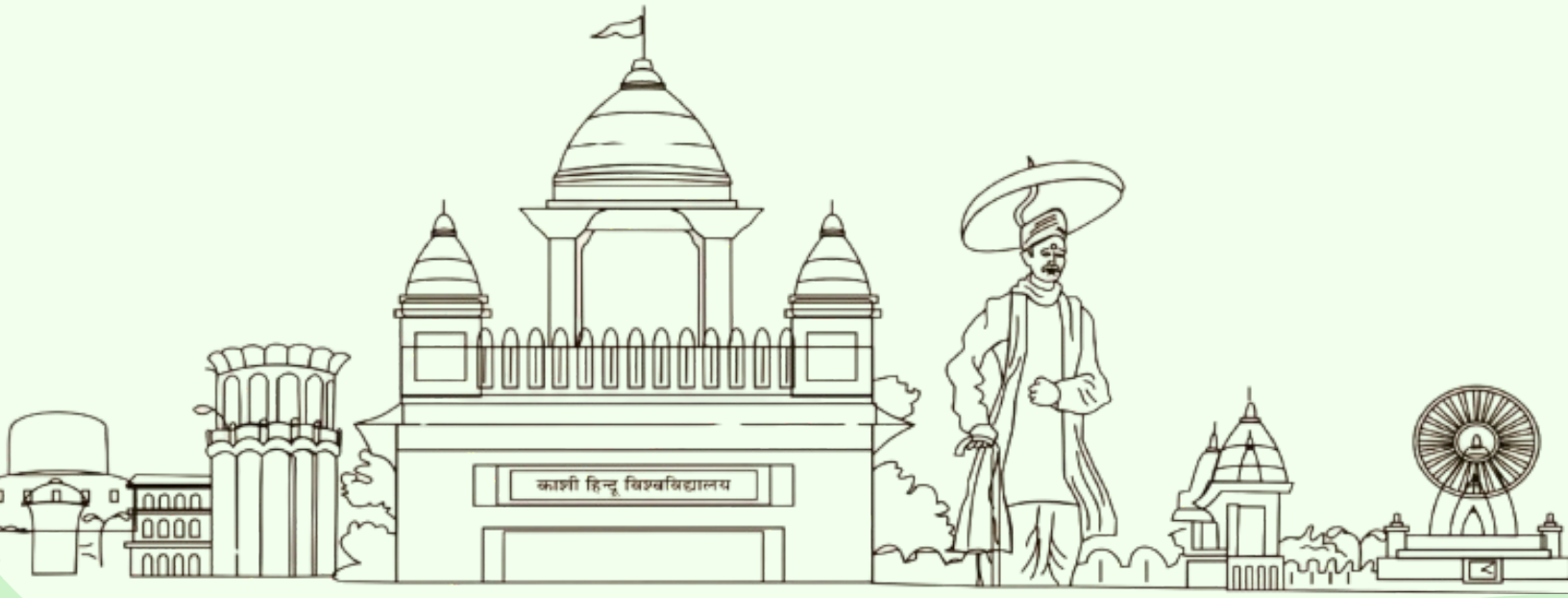
Seminar Official E-mail id: german.bhu@gmail.com

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Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya Ji

Founder - Banaras Hindu University



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