

## Report of the One day Workshop on “An Introduction to French Language Acquisition”

The one day workshop on “An Introduction to French Language Acquisition” on 19.12.18 started with a brief inaugural session. The invocation was sung by Jayadharshini from I B.E ‘A’ Section. Gokulapreetha, I B.E. ‘A’ Section welcomed the gathering.



Invocation



Welcome Address

The chief Resource Person Dr.Abarna Roy, Head, Department of Foreign Languages, Loyola College, Chennai, gave a keynote address on the vital role played by foreign languages in general and French in particular in career growth and in higher studies. Dr.G.Jeevaratnam, Department of French, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women highlighted the opportunities and challenges in learning French. Mr.P.V.Ramalingam, Administrative Officer, School of Engineering and Dr.S.Malarvizhi, Head, Department of Science and Humanities presented the memento to the Resource Persons.



Master of Ceremonies



Memento Presentation



Vote of Thanks

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by V.Priyadarshini from I B.E. 'B' Section.

The first session of the workshop on the topic "Exchanging Basic Pleasantries in French" commenced with an introduction to French culture and historical heritage by Dr.Jeevaratnam. She emphasized that the country France and its capital Paris are the fashion landmarks of the world. She enumerated the rich and much-copied tradition of France and its aristocratic system. She pointed out that France was the pioneer in democratic system by initiating the French Revolution and the bloody assassination of the aristocrats. Then the presentation progressed to the usage of French in day to day life and how French language has contributed to the evolution of English too. Dr.Jeevaratnam gave an introduction to how basic pleasantries can be exchanged in French and gave training in a practical session.



Dr.G.Jeevaratnam on  
'Exchanging Basic Pleasantries'



'Understanding French – English  
Faux-Amis' by Dr.Abarna Roy

Dr.Abarna Roy, started the pre-lunch session on the topic 'Understanding French – English Faux-Amis' tracing the origin of communication among homosapiens and gradually proceeded to the similarities and differences between English and French. She emphasized how some French words that look and sound similar to English but have completely different meanings in French. She made the participants pronounce the French words. Dr.

Abarna Roy gave a hands on session on the dos and don'ts to be followed when you are in the company of the French people. She narrated her personal experiences and the faux pas she committed when she was in France. She shared some humorous incidents she experienced in France.

A quiz was conducted to the participants on words that are similar in meanings in English and French. Another exercise on words that are different from English was also given to the students. The whole session was very interactive and participatory.

In the post lunch session, 'Technology enabled Language Learning' the participants were divided into groups of 10 students each. They were asked to sit in a circle and handouts were given to students. They were asked to speak simple sentences to their group and the others had to respond in French. Sample sentences were given in the handouts. The students were asked to come out with their own sentences in French. They were encouraged to speak up even if they made mistakes. The participants recorded the words and sentences on their phones. They spoke and listened to them. This exercise helped them to correct themselves. At the end they were asked to rate their performances in speaking on a four point scale like 'Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory'. This session was handled by Dr.Kala Chandrasekaran.



Interactive session –  
sharing ideas and meanings

In the final session of the workshop, Dr.Kala Chandrasekaran on the topic 'Handson Training in Understanding French – A Preview of French Videos and Interpreting the Meaning' showed a few clippings of advertisements and short films in French to participants. Volunteers were invited to the stage to explain the meanings they inferred and understood. Other students who had their own understanding of the advertisements and films shared their inferences. This session made everyone participate actively.

The students were given feedback forms about their opinions of their workshop and how useful they found it. They were also asked to give their suggestions about their requirements in future in such workshops.

In her concluding remark, Dr.Kala Chandrasekaran reiterated how necessary it is for students to enhance their skillsets both technically and non-technically. Knowledge of additional foreign languages will increase their chances of getting a coveted job. Students will get stipend/assistantship if they have working knowledge of a foreign language when they go for higher studies. She pointed out about the foreign language courses available in educational institutions and also the language learning opportunities available online. The approximate fees that are charged for online courses were also discussed.