

Web Page Creation for Eminent Scholar's Contributions and their Citations: M B Emeneau - A Case Study

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Abstract

Prof. M B Emeneau's (MBE) contribution to the discipline of linguistics is immense and immeasurable. The present study is an attempt to design a webpage on his works and their citations and measure the impact of his works on linguistics.

1. Introduction

1.1. M.B.Emeneau

Prof. Murray Barnson Emeneau (MBE) a scholar in Anthropology, Indology and Linguistics was born in Canada on February 28, 1904. Prof. M.B.Emeneau is a living legend in Linguistics and its allied fields. During his birth centenary celebrations during the year 2004-05 all over the world the relevance of designing a webpage on his works and its citations was keenly felt. In India the Dravidian Linguistic Association, during its 32nd Annual conference at Warangal had a session on his contribution. Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore organized Prof. M.B.Emeneau *Centenary International Conference on South Asian Linguistics* from 1-4 January 2005. Similarly ICOSAL during 6-8 January 2005 Hyderabad too had a special session devoted to his contributions.

MBE is a renowned scholar in Dravidian Linguistics, Sanskrit and General Linguistics. He was made Professor Emeritus of Sanskrit and General Linguistics by the University of California, Berkeley. *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary* (with T Burrow) is a monumental work. He is one of the editors of the famous work *Current Trends in Linguistics*, vol. V: *Linguistics in South Asia*, The Hague: Mouton.

His variety of works includes foreword for different books for example:

1. *Comparative Dravidian Linguistics: Current Perspectives* By: Krishnamurti, Bhadriraju; Oxford, England: Oxford UP xxvi, 417 pp.
2. *The Life of Language* By: Hill, Jane H. (ed.); Berlin, Germany: Mouton de Gruyter xii, 509 pp.
3. *Sociolinguistic Attitudes in India: An Historical Reconstruction* By: Deshpande, Madhav M.; Ann Arbor: Karoma 162 pp.

He has reviewed more than 90 documents that have been included in the bibliography. His works also have been reviewed by others. For example:

1. Zvelebil, Kamil V. Reviews the book '*Dravidian Studies: Selected Papers*,' by M.B.

Emeneau. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Apr-Jun96, Vol. 116 Issue 2, p362, 4p.,

2. Annamalai, E. *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary: Supplement*. By T. Burrow and M.B. Emeneau. *Journal of Asian Studies*, 1969; 28: 875-76.

1.2. Citation Indexing

Bibliometrics is an established research tool to indicate the relationship that exists between the citing and the cited documents. A component of this "Citation Index" is an organized list of cited articles, each of which is accompanied by a list of citing articles identified by a source citation. Eugene Garfield is the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information and the visionary of *citation indexing* and searching for scholarly literature. The study helps to identify the impact of research quantitatively. Most of the studies in citation indexing are based on the readymade databases published by the ISI and available in the information market such as:

- a. Science Citation Index/ Web of Science (SCI)
- b. Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)
- c. Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)

The SCI covers major journals in the basic and applied sciences, the SSCI covers the same in social and behavioral sciences, management, law, economics, and the A&HCI covers journals in all areas of arts and humanities.

Unlike the citation studies done based on these databases, the present study limits to a single author Prof. **M.B.Emeneau**.

2. Objectives

Objectives of the study are:

- To create a webpage on his works and their citations.
- Analysis of the cited documents.
- Analysis of the citing documents.

3. Methodology

As a preliminary step a complete bibliography was compiled from many sources such as books, journals and internet and the data entered in index cards and later keyed into MS Access file. In the second phase, citing articles were identified both in books and journals manually and noted on the overleaf of each card prepared for the bibliography. The main bibliography file consists of entire contribution of MBE using MS Access at the backend. At the front end, cited articles are displayed on the webpage after ASP coding.

Each record in the bibliography was given a unique identification number preceded by the letter 'E' which helped as a primary key for creating relation code to the citing documents. Complete data was made to get the output in the web page: <http://www.ciil.org/emeneau/mainindex.htm>

As a by-product of the webpage on his works and its citations, the analysis was done taking into account each and every field in the database. Enumerative studies were undertaken on the following two aspects:

- a. Cited documents/Bibliography
- b. Citing documents

4. Analysis and Discussion

The analysis is done on the bibliography and citations.

4.1 Bibliography

- Document type
- Year wise breakup
- Reprint of MBEs works

The complete bibliography of M.B. Emeneau that is available in the web page has 324 entries.

4.1.1 Document type

MBE's contributions are in the following type of documents:

Table 1. Rank list of Document Type

Sl. No.	Document type	No. Publications	%	Rank
1.	Journals	222	68.94	1
2.	Books	81	25.15	2
3.	Cyclostyles / Mimeo	11	03.41	3
4.	Meetings	6	1.86	4
5.	Manuscripts	1	0.31	5(a)
6.	Ph.D / Dissertation	1	0.31	5(b)

According to table 1, in a span of approximately sixty years, MBE has contributed 222 journal articles. Out of 81 books, the Indian publications are 25 and Foreign Publications are 56 in the following pattern:

1. Independent books	30
2. Collection of only MBE's articles in a book	41
3. Articles in other books	10

4.1.2 Year wise breakup

Table 2 given below depicts that more than 70% of his contributions are during the first half of the eight decades starting from 1930s. Within that, the maximum is in the 1960s decade.

Table 2. Decade Wise Distribution

Sl. No.	Year	No. of articles	%	Rank
1	1930-39	38	11.80	5
2	1940-49	58	18.01	2
3	1950-59	52	16.14	3
4	1960-69	79	24.53	1
5	1970-79	39	12.11	4
6	1980-89	31	9.62	6
7	1990-99	21	6.52	7
8	2000-	4	1.24	8

4.1.3 Reprint of MBE's works

Most of his articles in books and journals have been reprinted. From books containing some of his collections, few chapters have been selected and reprinted in other books without editing and in some cases condensed. For example: "Brahui Vowels" pp.7-20 the second Chapter in the book '*Brahui and Dravidian Comparative Grammar*' 1962, has been condensed to four page article and reprinted in "*Language and Linguistic Area*", 1980, pp.329-32.

Out of 322 papers 71 papers are reprinted. Among 71 papers, 31 are reprinted in "*Dravidian Linguistics, Ethnology and Folktales*" 1967. And 14 are reprinted in "*Dravidian Studies*" 1994. 10 papers are reprinted in "*Language and Linguistic Area*" 1980.

4.2 Citation Indexing

The analysis is done in the following fields.

- Document type
- Rank list of Citing authors
- Year wise distribution
- Subject wise
- Concepts wise
- Source wise

4.2.1 Document type

Out of 1218 citing articles, 630 are books, 552 are journal articles and 36 are meeting/ conference proceedings.

4.2.2 Citing Authors

Based on the Times Cited column in Bibliography file, the rank list of citing authors is prepared. Table 3 is the rank list of authors who have cited MBE more than ten times.

Table 3. Rank List of Citing Authors

Sl. No.	Citing Authors	Citations	%	Rank
1.	Emeneau, M B	255	21.19	1
2.	Krishnamurti, Bh	119	9.89	2
3.	Subramanyam, P S	75	6.23	3
4.	Andronov, M S	44	3.65	4
5.	Schiffman, H F	33	2.74	5
6.	Ananthanarayana, H S	32	2.66	6
7.	Singh, Inder	24	1.99	7
8.	Gopinathan Nair, B	23	1.91	8
9.	Shapiro, M C	19	1.57	9(a)
10.	Steever, Stanford B	19	1.57	9(b)
11.	Zvelebil, Kamil V	19	1.57	9(c)
12.	Bright, William	14	1.66	10
13.	Balakrishnan, R	13	1.08	11(a)
14.	Masica, Colin P	13	1.08	12(b)
15.	Meenakshi, K	13	1.08	13(c)
16.	Sakthivel, S	13	1.08	14(d)
17.	Sambasiva Rao, G	12	0.99	15
18.	Burrow, Thomas	10	0.83	16(a)
19.	Shanmugham, S V	10	0.83	16(b)

Self citation rate is higher followed by Bh.Krishnamurti, an eminent scholar in *Dravidian Linguistics* and *Historical/comparative linguistics*. The acknowledgement to the referred author in MBE's case is such that they have not left even the discussion they had with MBE.

4.2.3 Decade wise distribution

Though MBE started his debut in the decade 1930s, the citations for his articles started only during 1940s numbering to just 3 and gradually increased to 287 in the 1970s. The amazing fact is that his papers are referred to even today which is evident from the above Table. Though only 4 years have passed during the present decade, the citations have exceeded 200. This refers to the publication year of the citing document.

Table 4. Decade Wise Distribution of Citing Articles

Sl. No.	Years	No. of articles	Rank
1	1970-79	287	1
2	1980-89	268	2
3	1990-99	259	3
4	2000-	215	4
5	1960-69	175	5

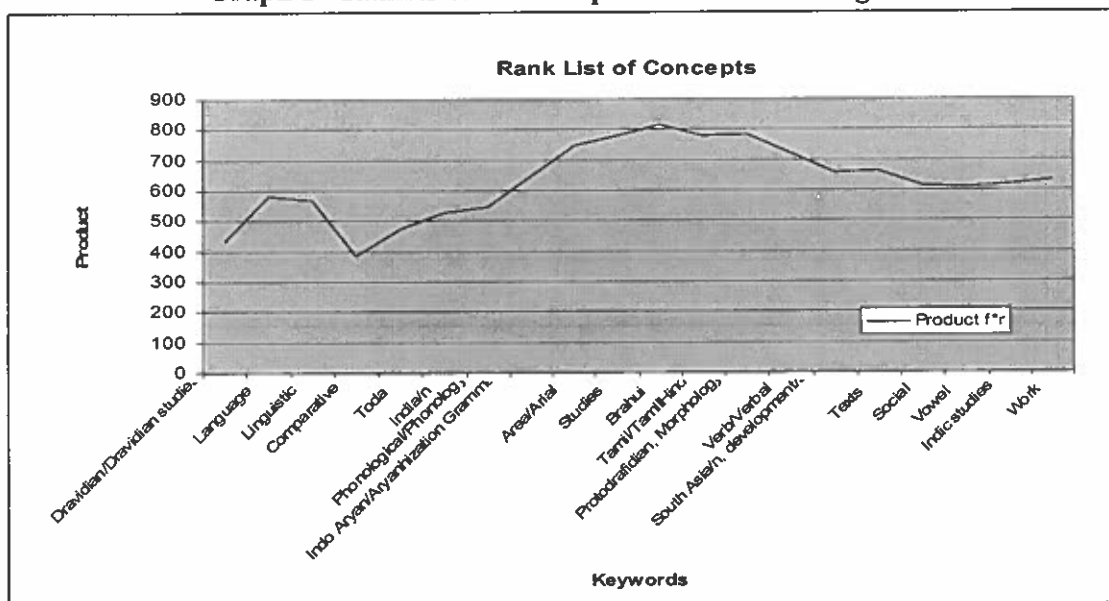
6	1950-59	010	6
7	1940-49	003	7

4.2.4 Concept

The regularity count related to words used in a document/text is the Zipf's law. The words used in the title of the citing documents were selected and sorted. The structure words were not taken into count. May be that is the reason that the constant of the product $r*f$ was achieved only to certain extent.

The graph related to the data is as follows.

Graph 1 - Rank List of Concepts Involved in Citing File



4.2.5 Source wise

Source data refers to the book, journal or conference proceeding where the citing articles are published. Out of 1281 citing articles 624 are from books, 548 are journal articles and 46 articles form proceedings.

The following Table 5 is the rank list of citing journals having more than 10 citations

Table 5. List of citing journals

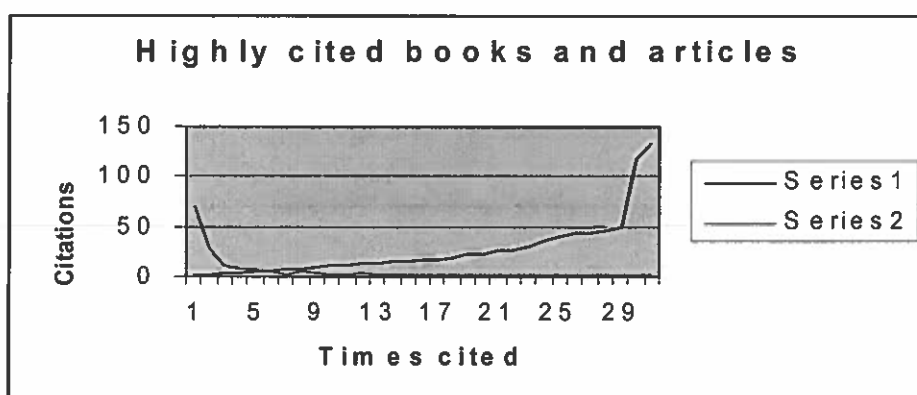
Sl. No.	Name of the journal	Citing articles	Rank
1	International journal of Dravidian Linguistics	121	1
2	Journal of the American Oriental Society	49	2
3	Indian linguistics	50	3
4	Praci Bhasha Vijnan	33	5
5	Bulletin of the School of oriental and African studies	31	6
6	Lingua	29	7(a)
7	Journal of Tamil studies	29	7(b)

8	Bulletin of the Deccan College Research Institute	26	8
9	Pondichery Journal of Dravidian Studies	22	9
10	Anthropological Linguistics	12	10
11	Bulletin of the anthropological survey of India	10	11

4.2.6 Highly cited books and articles

The citations range from 1 to 133. There are more than 70 citations cited only once, 29 two times, up to 117 and 133 times with one citation. The following graph illustrates the same.

Graph 2 - Highly Cited Books and Articles



Out of books, highly cited is the title *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary* published in 1961, supplement in 1968 and revised edition in 1984. This book is jointly authored by T.Burrow and M.B.Emeneau imprint being Oxford: Clarendon Press. This is the unique dictionary available on this topic and much referred to by all linguists and others referred to as DED. In the present study it has 133 citations. It could be considered as the master piece among his contributions.

Out of journal articles, the much referred to article is *India as a linguistic area* published in the journal *Language* 32, p. 3-16, in 1956, getting 117 citations. This most cited article is considered by linguists as a classic paper. This paper played an important role not only in shaping the field of areal study of the Indian languages but areal linguistics also in general.

5. Emeneau Webpage

Based on the objective the website on works and citations of Prof. M B Emeaune is made available in the site <http://www.ciiil.org/emeneau/mainindex.htm> . In this webpage, a check box is provided in the main file. A tick marks in the check box and **submit** shall give the entire list of citing items to that particular cited item. A specimen of Cited and Citing pages are as follows:

Cited

To view citing articles, mark checkboxes and click 'Submit'.

PageCount : 5 current Page : 1 Total number of records : 25

<input type="checkbox"/> E280	Demonstrative pronominal bases in the Indian linguistic Area. ; <i>International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics Vol.12. p.1-7.</i> ; 1983 ;Document Type:journal . Times Cited 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E287	The right hand is the “eating hand”. ; <i>Dimensions of Social life: Essays in Honor of David G. Mandelbaum. p. 263-73.</i> ; 1987 ;Document Type:book . Times Cited 3
<input type="checkbox"/> E270	Language and Linguistic Area. (LLA) ; <i>Stanford: Stanford University Press, California. Selected introduced by Anwar, S. Dil.</i> ; 1980 ;Document Type:book . Times Cited 27
<input type="checkbox"/> E130	Dialectology and Comparative Linguistics. ; <i>Romance Philology Lectures Series. Berkeley: University of California Press.</i> ; 1955 ;Document Type:book . Times Cited 0
<input type="checkbox"/> E120	Linguistic prehistory of India. ; <i>PAPS Vol. 98. p. 282-92.</i> ; 1954 ;Document Type:journal . Times Cited 26

Citing

E287 By: Emeneau, M. B. Linguistic and Indian Tribal Languages. Languages of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples of India (Abbi, Anvita., ed.). Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass. p. 25-36. 1997

E287 By: Emeneau, M. B. Joking relationship in India: A Linguistic note. Dimensions of Sociolinguistics in South Asia. Papers in memory of Gerold B Kelley (Dimock, E. C., et.al. eds.). New Delhi, Oxford & IBM. p. 73-83. 1992

E287 By: Krishnamurti, Bh The Dravidian Languages Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2003

7. Inference

The component fields of the database revealed interesting results. For example the year wise breakup of citing file reveals the dependence of researchers on MBE's work even in the present decade. From this we can infer that just as scientific theories are based on axioms propounded centuries ago, MBE's versatile and classic contribution *A Dravidian*