My gratitude towards the Department of Linguistics

When I joined linguistics department I was fifty plus and I already had PhD in Sociology along with master's in Sanskrit. I also started my work in the field of support groups for terminal illness with the background of Sociology. I was hoping linguistics will allow me to reach to micro level with language as a tool which will help my work in the field of De-addiction and Yoga. I was expecting lots of ideological differences due to my stand against dominant philosophies in academia. For example, I did not want to work with Marxian theories in Sociology because I had different ideological stand related to my research. Similarly, I was not ready to work on Chomskian Linguistics because my meta-theoretical stand is towards sociolinguistics.

Surprisingly, this department not only allowed me to continue working in my field of De-addiction but also supported me to explore how sociolinguistics can help me to reach my research to micro level. Today I am exploring different possibilities in linguistics to continue my research and this feeling gives me immense satisfaction.

The professors in the department have mastery in their subjects but more than that they have a great way of imparting knowledge which makes this (sometimes) technical subject extremely interesting. Besides intense two years MA program, Department's yearly schedule is full of different activities including workshops, seminars, guest lectures, field trip etc. And this difficult task is carried successfully every year by just three professors which itself is a herculean task.

This department expects only one thing from their students and that is "Sincerity". I don't know how much I satisfied this department in terms of sincerity but I can say without any doubt that joining this department for master's program was one of the best decisions of my life.

With regards

Atul Thakur

(MA Linguistics 2018-2020) Department of linguistics, University of Mumbai (Dt.29/04/2021)