

**NEW LITERARIA- An International Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies
in Humanities in collaboration with the Department of English, Central
University of Rajasthan (CURaj), India Presents 4th International e-
Conference**

on

Exploring Crisis in Literary and Cultural Studies

Date: 19.10.2023 - 20.10.2023

Time: 11.30 AM (IST)

ABSTRACT VOLUME

**A Study of Durational Flux and Narrative Techniques in the Select Work
of Virginia Woolf and James Joyce**

Aliya Saba Mirza

Abstract:

After the First World War, the world descended into a state of crisis and disorder. Disciplines such as philosophy, literature, psychology, and physics were outstripped by phenomenology and solipsism. The war had shaken faith in morality, coherence, and durability. After the war, a sense of disillusionment contributed to the emergence of modernism. Modernism is an aesthetic movement that produces a body of experimental work to represent contemporary disorder. It broke away from traditional ways of writing and romantic views of nature and does not believe in things being steady and whole. The modernist writings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries represent a new sensibility of time and consciousness against Newton's absolute time and absolute space. It is notable for new techniques and an altered conception of temporality. George Luckas, for one, laments the loss of humanity in *The Theory of the Novel* (1916), which uses the term avant-garde for this non-traditional practice of literature. He believes that great novels do not impose meaning on a meaningless world. Modernism brings into center the concept of fluidity of time and consciousness and studies the interior world of the character, which is the focus of Bergson's theory of time and free will. This article proposes to study Bergson's theory of time and free will and how it is applied to the narrative techniques of modernist writers such as Virginia Woolf and James Joyce. The article seeks to capture the difference between psychological time and chronological time as reflected through narrative techniques such as stream of consciousness and internal monologues in *Orlando: A Biography* and *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*.

Keywords: Modernism, Time, Space, Fluidity, Consciousness.

Bio-note:

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Aliya Saba Mirza is a Ph.D. Scholar at the Department of English at Aligarh Muslim University. She has qualified for the Net in 2019 and was awarded the Maulana Azad National Fellowship in 2020–21. She has presented papers in national and international conferences and presented her translation in the workshop cum seminar of UGC SAP DRS-II held on March 12, 2022, by Aligarh Muslim University. She has done a GIAN course on “Electronic Literature and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Theory and Practice of Digital Storytelling” and "Subtitling Screened Dialogue: The Pragmatics of Audio-Visual Translation organised by the Department of English, AM.U. She has been a volunteer for IACLALS 2022.

An Ecocritical reading of Irwin Allan Sealy’s *The Everest Hotel*

Shabana Nasreen

Abstract:

Irwin Allan Sealy, in his novel *The Everest Hotel: A Calendar* explores manifold issues that Indian mountainous regions are facing. While throwing light upon them, Sealy paints a picture of the “crisis” in multiple layers. He delves deep into the ecological as well as personal crisis with sheer brilliance and craftsmanship. Against the backdrop of Drummondganj, a fictitious Himalayan town, Sealy weaves the tale of the residents of “The Everest Hotel” and its outsiders and the way they deal with the ongoing socio-political turmoil and ecological degradation. In Ecocriticism, the main focus is on “the intricate relationship between human culture and the natural world and foster greater environmental consciousness.” By employing Ecocriticism as a theoretical framework, the paper aims to conduct a reading of the novel by focusing on the character of Ritu and her resilience in fighting against the agents of environmental degradation. Apart from Ritu, the paper intends to study the complex characters in the novel whose way of handling issues like politics, ecology and memory differ from each other.

In *The Everest Hotel*, memory and nostalgia plays a very significant part. Using Environmental Memory as a powerful tool, the paper attempts to highlight the way memory helps in shaping a society, its people and their responses towards environmental crisis.

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Keywords: Ecocriticism, Ecological Crisis, Environmental Degradation, Memory.

Bio-note:

Shabana Nasreen is a research scholar in the department of English, Diamond Harbour Women's University. She has pursued her Master's degree from Diamond Harbour Women's University and completed her Bachelor's degree from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Her interest lies in Postcolonialism, Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism, Gender Studies and Cultural Studies.

Immigration in Francophone Littérature

Jayita Basak

Abstract :

We all know that literature is a reflection of the society. Historical, political, economic, social conditions of a place or a country reflect in contemporary literature. Today I am talking about francophone literature. When literature written in French language by citizens of other nations like Senegal, Morocco, Canada, Algeria etc. whose official language is French which is called francophone literature. The politics of identity, immigration, exile, intersexuality, gender, women writers etc. – these are the main themes of francophone literature.

In the last half-century, many immigrants from France's former colonies have made the hexagon their home and have contributed to the country's literary output. However, these immigrants and their offspring are often deemed as "Others". This kind of "othering" is made manifest in the literary sphere through the labelling of their works as 'francophone', rather than French, by the publishing industry.

In the 20th century, when thousands upon thousands of "Orientals" populate the immigrant neighbourhoods of European cities, official European discourse cannot take recourse to an inscrutable "elsewhere". The imagined Orient no longer figures as a barbarous external realm to be dominated and civilized.

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« Les écrivains francophones souvent eux-mêmes des migrants ou des refuges, interviennent dans le débat controversé sur l'identité nationale et sur la place de l'Islam en France. (self-translation: the francophone authors often they are migrant or refuge or a part of a debate or a controversy of the national identity and in the place of Islam in France).

Keywords: Immigration, Francophone Literature, Others, Identity, Exile.

Bio-note:

Jayita Basak is a Translator and working as a SACT in the department of French in Chandernagore College since 2009. Having experience of different teaching method from University of Nantes, in France. Published many literary articles in different university journals.

Anthropocentric Speciesism in *The Charlotte's Web*

Rubaiya Nasrin

Abstract:

This paper will explore the complicated relationship between speciesism and the oppression of women in *The Charlotte's Web* by Elwyn Brooks White. Through a close reading of this novel, this study will demonstrate how women characters are portrayed as being similarly oppressed and marginalized as non-human animals in these texts. In *The Charlotte's Web*, a female spider Charlotte is portrayed as being compassionate and caring which reflects traditional gender roles. This paper will also enquire how ethical justification for vegetarian habits in these novels can be used to promote a more conscious and compassionate approach towards animal welfare and consumption habits. The analysis of this paper will also reveal the conflict between vegetarian traditions and meat eating. In order to find the solution to these issues, Tom Regan, Peter Singer and Carol J Adam's theories will be referred. Drawing on Regan's theory of animal rights and Singer's utilitarian approach to animal ethics this paper questions various techniques of speciesism. Moreover, these theories will be applied to illustrate the conflict between vegetarian practices and meat eating. In addition to this, Carol J Adam's theory will be utilized to challenge traditional gender roles and their intersectionality with animal exploitation.

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Furthermore, recognizing the harm caused by speciesism and sexism this paper will advocate for a more equitable society for all beings.

Keywords: Speciesism, Vegetarian, Patriarchy, Animal Rights, Animal Welfare.

Bio-note:

Rubaiya Nasrin is a PhD Scholar in English Literature at Jadavpur University specializing in the study of anthropocentrism in Margaret Atwood's novels. Her research focuses on exploring the socio-political implications of anthropocentric narratives and their impact on human relationships with nature.

**Mad Girl's Love Song: An Intertextual Acculturation of Madness, Trauma
and Trauma-Induced Schizophrenia**

Aniva Sukul & Dr. Gyanabati Khuraijam

Abstract:

The study of trauma has dominated the cultural and literary sphere since 1990s, and it has now become an embedded umbrella term that pervades apathy, frustration, boredom, contempt, pain, agony, cruelty, horror and many more kinds of emotional distresses altogether. Indian novelist, linguist and poet Rukmini Bhaya Nair, in her publication, *Mad Girl's Love Song* (2013), which had been long-listed for the prestigious DSC award, deals with the psychic disorder and cultural impact of her central character Pari, who is traumatised as she witnessed the suicide of her mother and soon after that, was alienated from her father as well at the age of seven to put in a convent- is in a way negotiation of individual and cultural trauma which ultimately leads to her madness and schizophrenia. Besides being a detective story, a story of literary history and romance, the novel primarily deals with the tale of a paranoid schizophrenic woman-child who is seduced like many 'others'- others by a language and culture that is not 'ours'. With its intricately weaving plot, Rukmini Bhaya Nair is focussing on her character-narrator Pari, also known as Ariel, Pariel and Parineeta, a schizophrenic young-Indian girl born and brought up in West Bengal. Pari flies with the help of her imaginary angel wings across

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the territories of her rich fascination, where she interacts with Sylvia Plath, William Blake and D.H. Lawrence, to whom she fondly called 'David'. She believes herself to be an angel and her schizoid self, looks for answers to a future where she cannot find her 'real' life. Her choice of 'self' from an insane first-person narrator, in the words of Rukmini Bhaya Nair, reflects madness, trauma and collective schizophrenia all at the same time.

Keywords: Trauma, Madness, Schizophrenia, Paranoid, Alienation.

Bio-note:

Aniva Sukul is a dedicated and passionate research scholar currently pursuing her academic journey at the prestigious National Institute of Technology (NIT), Agartala. She has a relentless pursuit of knowledge and a commitment of making a positive impact in the field of research. She has worked as a lecturer at Bishnupur Public Institute of Engineering (BPIE), West Bengal. Her areas of interest include trauma studies, feminism and post-colonial literature.

Dr. Gyanabati Khuraijam is an Assistant Professor & HOD, Department of Management, Humanities and Social Science, National Institute of Technology, Agartala.

**Carceral Crisis and the Narratives of Resistance in Contemporary Female
Prison Writings**

Moniba Fazal

Abstract:

This paper attempts to analyse the prison writings by women as a medium of articulating and resisting the carceral crisis. It also seeks to examine how the prison writings by women reconstruct the notion of identity by defying the prisoner identity attributed to them by the socio-political apparatus. It also incorporates the representation of the carceral space as a site

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of the intersection of social crisis and political subjugation in prison writings by women. The paper aims to highlight these aspects of narrative resistance, intersectionality, and political consciousness in women's prison narratives by critically analysing Marina Nemat's *Prisoner of Tehran* (2007). The paper seeks to contextualise prison writings by women as literature of resistance by utilizing the theories of narrative identity, carceral space, and postmodern feminism to explore the themes of identity, crisis and resistance in the mentioned text.

Keywords: Prison Writings, Carceral Crisis, Carceral Space, Narrative Identity, Intersectionality, Political Consciousness, Postmodern Feminism, Resistance.

Bio-note:

Moniba Fazal completed her M.A. in English in 2022 from Aligarh Muslim University with distinction. She was the University Gold Medallist in B.A. (Hons.) English from the same institution. She is an upcoming Ph.D. candidate and is currently working as an independent researcher on prison writing. Her areas of academic interest are Postmodern and Contemporary Prose and Fiction, Prison Literature, Comparative Literature, Life Writing, Women's Writing, Resistance Literature, and feminism. She qualified the National Eligibility Test for Assistant Professor in 2022.

**Keats' Poetic Response to Crisis: Beauty, Nature, and Resilience in
Romantic Verse**

Anushikha Massey

Abstract:

John Keats, one of the gems of Romantic poetry, left an indelible mark on the literary world through his captivating writing and love for aesthetics. He is known for his evocative poetry that explores the themes of beauty, nature, love, and more. The paper discusses the influence of personal crises, particularly his battle with tuberculosis, on the content, themes, imagery, and intensity of his poetry. Keats' confrontation with mortality is achingly captured in poems

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like “Ode to the Nightingale” and “To Autumn”, where the fragility of human existence is in striking contrast with the enduring nature of beauty.

This research also aims to explore Keats’ conception of beauty in times of turmoil by analyzing masterpieces like “Ode to a Nightingale” and “Ode on a Grecian Urn”. In the poetry of John Keats, crises and the sublime are interconnected. Keats, who confronted personal hardships and grappled with his own mortality, turned these challenges into poetic themes that resonate deeply with readers. Amidst the crises, Keats discovered the aesthetics of the natural world, capturing the awe-inspiring beauty of seasons, objects, and landscapes. This sublime served as a haven, allowing readers and himself to momentarily escape the harsh realities of life. Keats firmly believed that beauty, whether found in art or nature, held the power to console and uplift the human spirit, even in the face of adversity.

Also, Keats wanted his poetry to be remembered for a long time, even though he knew he might not live very long. This research paper delves into Keats’ poetry to unravel the connection between crises and sublime highlighting how his verses continue to resonate as a testament to the enduring power of art and nature in the face of life’s challenges.

Keywords: John Keats, Crises, Beauty, Sublime.

Bio-note:

Anushikha Massey is an Assistant Professor, Sophia Girls’ College (Autonomous) Ajmer, Rajasthan.

**Dalit Graphic Novels: Re-narrating the Resistance and Reading the
Destabilized Aesthetics**

Chandra Prabha Mahawar

Abstract:

Dalit texts have always been critically engaging with the caste issue by bringing to the fore Dalit communities’ diverse problems, living experiences, Dalit cultural milieu and register their collective trauma. But in all the literary production in different genres, traditional narrative

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strategy of literary expression such as detailed word description has conventionally been occupying the central stage. The present paper expands on the intense Dalit literary potential by situating the politics of resistance in context of Dalit graphic novels. The format of graphic novel writing features the collaboration of graphic elements and narrative form and hence uses sequential art narrative to put in the artistic vision. Drawing upon a larger tradition of resistance, Dalit literature exploits this contemporary popular medium and through this narrates the activism in a new and more engaging manner as well as widens the Dalit literary zone. For this purpose, graphic Dalit novels named *Bhimayana* and *A Gardener in the Wasteland*, addressing the foundational figures of Dalit sociopolitical movements and all Dalit art, serve as interaction channels. Here, *Bhimayana* is a picture book variation of Dr. Ambedkar's personal as well as activist life while *A Gardner in the Wasteland* essentially brings round Jotiba Phule's subversive piece of work *Gulamgiri* in a new lively style. These books' striking, continuous, in-depth and vivacious illustrative presentation gives them an attractive and inquisitive look, while simultaneously reflecting the legacy of Dalit consciousness. These visual narratives, with the help of images and a lot less text than the conventional literature, make the readers take inferences and synthesize the knowledge smoothly. As a result, they develop an unforced attention in studying the text with an analytical eye and look into its depth and complexity, which pushes further the boundaries of Dalit discourse and consequently contributes to the existing body of channels of resistance.

The paper is also an attempt to display this new section of writing creating more space to challenge the aesthetic norms of graphic novels. When this kind of literature deals with the country's most persistence system of injustice and its counter notes, it reaches beyond being an essentially entertaining sequential art narrative, and drives the reader to interconnect with the serious societal, political, and cultural ideas and practices. The graphic narrative representation of the socially relevant contemporary world, where an implicit status is attached to one's caste, simply strikes to the reader. This property of Dalit graphic novels facilitates in destabilizing and reconstructing the meaning and aesthetic of graphic novels and therefore, renders them new artistic parameters.

Keywords: Dalit literature, Graphic novel, Aesthetics, Resistance, Narrative.

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Chandra Prabha Mahawar is a PhD Scholar at the Department of English, Central University of Rajasthan. Her research work falls on the role of Dalit youth in the transitional phase of contemporary Dalit literary activism. She has got published as well as presented a couple of research papers in relevant academic journals and conferences. Currently, she is also working as Assistant Professor of English under the Department of College Education, Rajasthan.

The Literary Works of Second Generation of Immigrants in Contemporary

Italy

Parul Puri

Abstract:

Italy, once known for mass emigration, is today one of Europe's migrant hotspots due to its strategic position in the Mediterranean, which makes it a crossroads of complex transnational movements. These movements have changed Italy's landscape and brought racial, religious, and linguistic diversity to the country. The presence of newcomers on Italian territory has not always been welcomed, and integration has been problematic on a diverse level. Since the 1990s, immigration has been portrayed negatively by the Italian media. Negative terms have been connoted, like "biblical exodus" or "mass invasion". This scenario has been politicised enough over time that Italy has also gradually adopted rigid positions against immigration, joining the effort to construct a "Fortress Europe".

While public discourse largely focuses on new arrivals and security concerns, the second generation of migrants (2G) often faces marginalisation, being denied recognition as true Italians by peers, in public debates, and even in legislation. Despite the negative and alarmist tone, migrants are claiming new spaces in Italian society and gaining access to cultural practices.

Over the past three decades, migrant writers from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe have emerged as significant contributors to Italy's contemporary literature. Their works give voice to the pain of uprooting, exclusion, prejudice, and the struggle for legal status while grappling with diasporic identities. These narratives rupture the dominant literary discourse, offering personal perspectives on the immigrant experience.

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This paper will explore how the literary works of the second generation of immigrants are talking back to dominant discourses that claim the need to defend unitary Italian culture against incoming hybridization and defy representations of the Italian population as homogeneous and of migrants as dangerous or victimised subjects who are deprived of agency.

Keywords: Second Generation Immigrants, Italy, Hybridization, Italia-Ness, Homogeneous.

Bio-note:

Parul Puri has been teaching Italian language and literature at Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, as guest faculty for the last 7 years. She has her Master and MPhil in Italian studies from the Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi. Currently, she is pursuing a Ph.D. from the same department. Her area of research is migrant literature.

Susan Sontag: The Fading Star of American Literary Criticism

Srutishree Mohanty

Abstract:

The paper discusses Susan Sontag, the American writer, a global figure who is known across the world for her prolific, fearless writing. The work deals with her non-fictional writings, in which she vividly describes her thoughts regarding the denigration of American culture and morality, ethos. Her take on America's materialistic pursuit, her dream to the superpower has spread like Cancer across the country making it morally and spiritually empty devoid of humanity.

As a writer as well as citizen she is aware about the country's fight to be superpower at the cost of its own people. The paper explores, Susan Sontag as an American writer, as well her life which shapes a great part of her writing. Her take on Art and American sensibility,

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the interpretation of texts. The evolving forms of Art, and its implications in literature as a whole.

The paper, discusses Sontag's take regarding real and virtual world which is a great concern of the modern society. Regarding the inhumane attitude of human beings towards the pain of others, treating human beings as objects, a source for their art. Her essay, *On Photography*, reaffirms Plato's thought of philosophy of world, as shadow or image of spiritual realm. Sontag's says the love for virtuality as made today's generation empty, devoid of feelings. America which projects itself as the saviour of world is empty in real sense, always interested in own benefits.

She discusses, America's craze for power, and materialistic pursuit has spread like cancer in America making it a nation which does not care for anyone not even its own people. This chapter discusses cancer not only as a disease but its metaphors and implications are frightening. Cancer the cause of Sontag's death, and the way she suffered came to light when her photographs without her permission was published.

Susan Sontag as a writer intervenes the narrative and dismantling "America as superpower." As a writer who evolved with time, who believed that form should be the way of judging art into a writer who herself visited the places and discussed it in her writing. She involved in the process of writing and realizing that writer equally as the writeup evolves, the writer reflects the writer. Her non-fictional writings, as not been discussed much. She is the last star of American literary criticism as said.

Keywords: Culture, Narrative, Criticism, Sensibility, Virtual World.

Bio-note:

Srutishree Mohanty is continuing her PhD on Susan Sontag's non-fictional writings. Presently, she is working as a Lecturer in English, in Kujang College, Kujang.

**Unmasking the Dark triad: Obsession, Fear, and Isolation along with the
Gothic elements in Avengers: Age of Ultron -A Semiotic Analysis**

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Asra Tariq & Md. Sidratul Muntaha

Abstract:

This paper will invite readers to contemplate the profound implications of this Gothic undercurrent in our tech-saturated world. It would also challenge us to confront the digital nightmares lurking beneath the sleek surfaces of our devices and would allow us to consider how the Gothic, in all its haunting glory, shapes our modern technological experience. Through the lens of film semiotics, we would try to traverse how visual and symbolic elements in the movie *Avengers: Age of Ultron* add to the depiction and understanding of malevolent personality traits.

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern technology, an eerie undercurrent of Gothic influence has emerged, intertwining the realms of the digital and the macabre. With the aid of these textual resources, readers would delve into this intriguing intersection, unveiling the shadowy connections between the Gothic world and the digital age.

This paper would aim to help explore how elements such as isolation, obsession, fear of the unknown, and the blurring of reality and illusion, originally woven into the narratives of classic Gothic literature, have found new life in our technologically driven society. Through an interdisciplinary approach, we would try to analyze a myriad of examples, including film, literature, art, and digital media, to uncover how the Gothic's chilling embrace has seeped into the very circuits and algorithms of our digital existence. By the medium of this paper, we will make an effort to search inside the haunted spaces of virtual reality, the uncanny valley of humanoid robots, and the dystopian landscapes of cyberpunk fiction, uncovering how the dark spectres of the past continue to haunt our technological present.

Keywords: Dark Triad, Obsession, Isolation, Gothic Elements, Semiotic Analysis, Posthumanism.

Bio-notes:

Asra Tariq, an ardent scholar, embarked on her academic journey by completing her undergraduate studies in English at Aligarh Muslim University. At present, she is ardently

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pursuing a master's degree in the same discipline. Beyond her scholastic pursuits, Asra is an accomplished writer of short stories, her literary prowess showcased through contributions to various esteemed publications. Her intellectual inclinations extend to the realms of deconstruction theory, fiction, and postcolonial studies, reflecting her deep-rooted passion for literary exploration. Equally engrossed by the annals of diverse locales and eras, she finds profound fascination in the historical narratives they proffer.

Md. Sidratul Muntaha, originating from Bhagalpur, Bihar, is an emerging writer with his compositions featured in numerous anthologies. Currently a student of English literature at Aligarh Muslim University, he is honing his writing skills alongside pursuing his degree. Having a journalistic foundation, he cultivated his writing prowess from a young age. With over a dozen co-authored books to his credit, he is actively engaged in the creation of several upcoming literary projects. He also gained experience as a journalism intern at The Social Talks. His passions encompass Film studies, Psychology, and Digital humanities.

**Transcending Contagion: Convergence of Lovecraftian themes in Pandemic
Narratives**

Trisha Das

Abstract:

This paper delves into pandemic narratives as profound reflections of our contemporary epoch, offering distinctive vantage points on the human condition amidst the pervasive shroud of existential uncertainty. These narratives unveil deeply rooted fears and anxieties, compelling readers to confront the multifaceted challenges that define our era. Within these narratives, conventional anthropocentric perspectives are perturbed by the infusion of Lovecraftian elements, traditionally confined to the domain of cosmic horror. Viral outbreaks and contagion transcend their conventional portrayal as mere biological threats, emerging as inexorable, apathetic cosmic forces that thrust humanity into a precarious and unsettling predicament. The enduring literary legacy of H.P. Lovecraft, celebrated for his profound explorations of cosmic insignificance, existential angst, and the frailty inherent in human existence, provides a fertile bedrock for this

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intellectual inquiry. Moreover, the seismic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global crisis of unprecedented magnitude, has wrought profound transformations upon our world, laying bare the vulnerability of human existence and challenging the boundaries of our comprehension of the cosmos. Against this backdrop, narratives have emerged as potent instruments for navigating the uncharted territories of existential dread, encapsulating our innate yearning to impose order upon the chaos that envelops us. Within this context, we embark on an exploration of the intriguing convergence of Lovecraftian horror and pandemic narratives, initially seemingly incongruous but profoundly resonant across both temporal and thematic domains.

This research conducts an intricate exploration of the dialectical interplay between Lovecraftian horror and pandemic narratives, intersecting both temporally and thematically. By scrutinizing the instantiation of Lovecraftian tropes within the contextual tapestry of pandemic discourse, it unveils the existential and psychoanalytical dimensions intrinsic to the corpus. Employing an integrative paradigm that synthesizes posthumanism and antihumanism as its theoretical scaffolding, the study embarks on a nuanced thematic content analysis of a curated selection of texts. The endeavour is geared towards unearthing subliminal and variegated portrayals of boundary dissolution, thereby yielding novel insights into the profound reverberation of Lovecraftian elements in engendering ontological disquietude within the human condition amidst the crucible of existential uncertainty.

Keywords: Posthumanism, H.P Lovecraft, Pandemic Narratives, Anthropocentrism, Cosmicism.

Bio-note:

Trisha Das is a dedicated research scholar at Sister Nivedita University, specializing in the intricate intersection of 20th-century Indian fiction and prevailing societal norms. She has a Master's degree from Presidency University, Kolkata and she has qualified UGC-NET examination in 2019. Trisha's research interests extend to the convergence of popular culture and advanced theoretical perspectives, particularly in the realm of amplifying marginalized voices. She has been an active participant in various national and international seminars, where she has presented her work. Beyond her academic pursuits, she possesses a keen interest in

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language acquisition, having completed a Spanish Certificate course at Jadavpur University and achieved B1 proficiency in Spanish at Ramkrishna Mission, Kolkata.

**Marginality, Memory Crisis and Trauma: Evading the Holocaust in Anita
Desai's Baumgartner's Bombay**

Dr. Suneeta Upadhyay

Abstract:

As Marx and Engles emphasized, "It is not consciousness that determines life, but life that determines consciousness." The Jewish diaspora suffering the pangs of genocide and trauma finds its expression to a shared experience of migration engendering splintered identities and inheritances along with a problem of dislocation and dispossession in Anita Desai's Baumgartner's Bombay. The novel trails the lonesome life of Hugo Baumgartner who flees Nazi Germany and travel to politically-torn India after British rule seeking refuge and picking up bits and pieces to make an all-inclusive image of his fragmented identity in exile. This analysis purports to unravel the notion of otherness and marginality through the hybridities (German, Jewish and Indian). Through this fictional oeuvre, Anita Desai epitomizes the way individual and shared holocaust memories generate divergent traumatic trials and conflicts. Further it accentuates, how the notion of otherness arises out of the consciousness of unrelenting rejections and refugee melancholies can be convenient to comprehend further the trauma and predicament of the victims of the multiple marginality during twentieth century.

Keywords: Holocaust, Marginality, Memory, Otherness, Predicament, Anita Desai.

Bio-note:

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Dr. Suneeta Upadhyay is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of English, N. K. B. M. G. (PG) College, Chandausi, Sambhal, UP. She is perceptive critic and erudite scholar. She has published several papers, articles and book reviews in established journals. Her areas of interest are: Indian Writing in English, Literary Theories, and New Literature in English.

**Crisis in Representing Trauma: A Comparative Study of Oral and Literary
Trauma Narratives**

Anjali Vijayan & Dr. Rashmi Rekha Borah

Abstract:

Cathy Caruth, the major proponent of literary trauma theory, describes a traumatic event as a shocking incident that breaks down the psyche of the individual and eventually results in the inability to comprehend and locate the event. Inability to understand the traumatic event causes the event to escape any form of oral, literary, or artistic articulation or representation. Trauma theorists Dori Laub and Shoshana Felman talk about the importance of testimony in the case of a traumatic event and how testimonies impart agency to the survivors of the horrific traumatic event. Articulation of trauma has always been at the centre of therapeutic processes. Once the individuals are able to distill the events, they can start their journey towards the curative process. The first step towards the cure of trauma is an understanding of the event and its aftermath. The ability of a traumatic event to escape linguistic articulation is one of the central tenets of trauma theory. Literary or oral ways of articulation are the most common methods of representation resorted to by the victims. Bearing testimonies through a language that is socially constructed could lead to many distortions and biases. The same biases and differences could be present when trauma is presented through different mediums of oral and literary representation. The research paper tries to analyse the crises faced by the survivors when translating the linguistically incomprehensible traumatic event and the differences in articulating the trauma orally and linguistically. The analysis will be made by comparing first-person verbal narratives of Holocaust survivors with Viktor Frankl's memoir *Man's Search for Meaning*, which chronicles his experience as a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp.

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Keywords: Trauma, Representation, Articulation, Testimony.

Bio-note:

Anjali Vijayan is a research scholar from VIT, Chennai. Her research areas include contemporary Indian crime fiction and trauma studies.

Dr. Rshmi Rekha Borah is an assistant Professor at VIT, Chennai. She did her Ph.D. from EFLU, Hyderabad in ELT. Her interested research areas include ELT, Ecocriticism, Gender Studies, Ecofeminism, Culture Studies, and Trauma Studies

Nomenclature for Nature: Naming the Landscape as Eco Critical Solution

Dr. Shalini Sharma

Abstract:

No man is an island, and no poem is a solitary piece of writing. The lines and the spaces in between, hoard memories and mentalities. One of the ways that a poem can emote is by use of places and naming those places. A fine excerpt from the following poem, *Western Ghats*, tells how for the poet the Western Ghats should take in her last remains:

Fling my ashes in the Western Ghats

They've always seemed like home.

May there be mist and waterfalls

Grass and flowers

In the wrong season.(de Souza)

The Bombay poet, Eunice de Souza, identifies the geographical area of Maharashtra as her home. Not a compact flat, but the plateau of Western Ghats becomes her macrocosm. The ghats do not sound harsh in spite of cacophony of alliterative sound of t. Rather it would flood the memory gate of anyone from that place. This adds to the eco consciousness for the land

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you have lived or loved, an emotional bond that can fan the fire amongst environmentalist to save such geographical identities from wealth mongers.

From Nature poetry we have moved to nurture poetry. The concept of nature as environment that needs to be nurtured and protected has now taken the form of Ecocriticism. Naming the landscape to augment the ecological awareness is a pertinent solution to the crisis of environmental destruction. Identifying a landscape or waterscape as a proper name lends an identity that creates emotive bonds for the writer as well as the reader. Sense of belongingness to a place comes from the emotive bonds that tie us to that place. For Indians talking about Ganga and Himalayas invoke unspeakable emotions. To describe these esteemed places as geographical identity just as river and mountain will not stimulate much of the emotions. While the speeches around environmental protection may fail but a connection to a place with which it has been identified, cannot fail.

The aspects that will be pondered upon are toponymy as characters in literary geography, connecting the dots between places and memories, naming the landscape to greening the psyche of materialistic men.

Keywords: Nomenclature, Eco Consciousness, Toponymy, Literary Geography.

Bio-note:

Dr. Shalini Sharma is working as Assistant Professor in Amity School of Languages, Amity University Mumbai. Apart from NET and SET qualifications, she holds a PGD in Journalism and Mass Communication. Her 19 years of teaching experience spreads across faculty like Humanities, Management, Pharmacy, Engineering and Commerce. Best Paper award and publications in national and international journals along with conference presentations, mark her research work. Five research scholars have been awarded PhD under her guideship. Digital Literature, Geocriticism, Literature and Communication Skills confluence, are some of her preferred areas for intellectual and literary quest. She has been a speaker in the FDPs, a member of BoS, and has delivered guest lectures.

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**Posthumanism and Identity Crisis: An Analytical Study of Power Politics
Between Humans and Artificial Entities as Shown in the Film *Enthiran***

Shibasambhu Nandi

Abstract:

Posthumanism is an umbrella term concerning the future of the universe wherein a lot of change occurs due to the intervention of science and technology. The futuristic posthumanist society may invite a world cohabited by humans and artificial entities, as humans will engage them in the creation of technologically powerful beings like robots, cyborgs, and artificial intelligence. Such power leads those figures to disobey their creators and enables them to set up a world ruled by their kind. They consider humans as their enemies who are engaged in limiting their desires. This opposition presents a dystopian world dominated by the issue of power politics between humans and machines. Humans may feel less powerful in front of these mechanical entities in the struggle for power and dominance. To combat and survive, humans sometimes undergo many surgical processes incorporating separate technological tools into their bodies to make them more advanced. Sometimes, the machines forcefully allow humans to replace their organic body parts with artificial ones. In this way, humans lose their pure human identity and become mixed creatures of organic and inorganic cells. The present paper will discuss the identity crisis of humans in the face of technological beings. It also attempts to explore the hidden power struggle between humans and machines, due to which the pure identity of humans is at stake. The posthumanist world will be less secure, wherein the humans feel the dilemma of whether they are human at all or whether their identity is mixed due to technology's intervention.

Keywords: Posthumanism, Power Politics, Hybrid Identity.

Bio-note:

Shibasambhu Nandi is a Research Scholar in the Department of English at Central University of Rajasthan. He has published a joint paper in the Journal *Fortell* and two other papers in international journals published from Algeria and America. He has presented five papers in

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national and international conferences/seminars. Besides, he has published one book chapter and has also attended a number of workshops and Faculty Development Programs.

Crisis and Diaspora: Exploring Transnational Identities in Literature

Meghna Basu

Abstract:

The Diaspora community keeps building and rebuilding their identity on the basis of the bridge that exists between their home country and the host country. Even though they face from similar factors like alienation, loss, displacement, rootlessness, the effects on their crisis in identity is vastly different. For example, Michael Ondaatje's "Anil's Ghost" has the protagonist who can't speak Tamil and despite returning to her homeland after fifteen years she still identifies herself as a British. On the other hand, Bharati Mukherjee's female characters have a conflict in terms of their struggle for identity as a woman as well as a human settling in foreign lands. Thus, this paper aims to establish the variations in identity crisis as meted out to the characters of the different novels even though the background is similar as in, they all have migrated to an exile whether forced or voluntary.

Keywords: Transnational, Identity, Crisis, Feminism, Exile.

Bio-note:

Meghna Basu has completed her Honours (2018) and Masters (2020) in English from The Department of English, Rabindra Bharati University. She takes a special interest in Postcolonialism and Diaspora Studies.

Exploring the Horrors of Disease in the Post-Apocalyptic Fiction Blindness

Princie Joshi

Abstract:

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Mankind and literature are perceived to be the two sides of a same coin, both appear distinct from each other at the surface level but, when examined parallelly their overlapping relationship comes to fore. From time immemorial literature has unravelled not only the mysteries and complexities of humanity, but also emphasised suffering and crises since its inception and evolution. In literature one finds rendering of crises of various sorts including, political unrest, cataclysmic warfare, social turmoil, disease, death, and catastrophic disasters and apocalypses. Discourse involving disease, epidemics, and pandemics becomes relevant more than ever before in today's post-pandemic world. And in literature one finds numerous anecdotes and allusions centring devastating diseases. Hence a thorough study of such literary texts becomes of paramount importance for one navigating in the post Covid-19 Pandemic world. In this light this paper titled '*Exploring the Horrors of Disease in the Post-Apocalyptic Fiction Blindness*', underscores the extent of individual suffering amidst the unprecedented epidemic of Blindness. The paper aims to foreground the functioning of the social system, and further it unravels the political, psychological and spiritual aspects of the society at large in the time of crisis. The paper underpins the entrenched injustices existing in the social fabric that becomes conspicuous during abysmal circumstances like plagues and epidemics. This epidemiological study will also throw light on an intersectional analysis of Covid-19 situations and the metaphorical epidemic of Blindness fictionalised by Jose Saramago in his eponymous novel.

Keywords: Crisis, Epidemic, Disease, Post-Apocalyptic, Covid-19, Blindness, Suffering, Psychological.

Bio-note:

Princie Joshi is an Assistant Professor of English at Government College, Bidasar, Churu, Rajasthan. She is a doctoral candidate and a Junior Research Fellow, (JRF) in the Department of English, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. She received her bachelor's and a master's degree in English from University of Delhi. Her doctoral study broadly deals with Pandemic Literature. Her areas of interest include Medical Humanities, Post-Colonial Literatures, and Literary and Cultural Theory.

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**Apocalyptic Illness and the Infectious Science fiction: A study of '*The
Andromeda Strain*' by Micheal Crichton**

Shiny Emerancia C

Abstract:

In the contemporary era marked by a surge in local and global disease outbreaks, there has been a discernible uptick in the readership of apocalyptic literature. This literature often revolves around themes of illness, disease outbreaks, and the specter of apocalyptic extinction. Within the realm of fictional narratives, particularly those addressing global extinction scenarios precipitated by virulent pathogens, readers find a source of relatability. Such narratives offer readers a means of grappling with existential crises arising from the prospect of an impending apocalypse. Apocalyptic literature that incorporates themes of illness, particularly when rendered within the context of science fiction, not only provides a means of escape from reality but also serves as a mirror reflecting contemporary concerns and anxieties. Within the expansive landscape of science fiction, the thematic motif of apocalyptic illness assumes a pivotal role. Such narratives transport readers into alternate worlds where the boundaries of medical knowledge are persistently tested, contagions resist containment, and societal fabric is strained to its limits. Science fiction, as a genre, offers a unique vantage point from which to explore not only the biological dimensions of illness but also the profound societal, ethical, and existential questions that invariably surface when humanity confronts existential threats of this nature. This research specifically delves into the representation of apocalyptic illness within the context of science fiction, with a focused examination of Michael Crichton's '*The Andromeda Strain*' (1969). In this work of science fiction, human society grapples with the outbreak of a lethal extraterrestrial microorganism. The primary objective of this research is to scrutinize the infectious themes inherent in "The Andromeda Strain" and the various facets of human responses to the apocalyptic illness it presents within the realm of infectious science fiction.

Keywords: Apocalypse, Illness, Science Fiction, Disease.

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Bio-note:

Shiny Emerancia C, a research scholar from the Department of English at the Christ(Deemed to be) University, Bangalore. My research interests comprise of the broad areas of health humanities, medical humanities, pandemic literature.

Understanding the concept of ‘Tree Time’ through Sumana Roy’s *How I became a tree*

Priyanka & Dr. Poonam Bisht Rawat

Abstract:

In the first chapter of *How I became a Tree*, Sumana Roy introduces the term, ‘Tree Time’ to readers. She says that one thing which is very interesting about plants is that they cannot be asked ‘to rush’ the process. If a seed takes three weeks to germinate then one will have to wait for three weeks for it germinate. The seed cannot be ordered to do it in one week. In plants’ case from germination to ripening of the fruit, everything is out of human control. Any alteration can cause deformities in the plant shape, obstacles in its growth, change in fruit size and of leaf color. Humans are habitual of thrusting their will on natural world but plants shows resistance to it. They remain unaffected to human commands. They are not ‘good slave to (human) time’ and their pace varies from plant to plant. This freedom helps a tree to grow in whatever direction they want to. Every tree be it sharp-straight or having several crisscross branches is beautiful on its own. Other animals can be tamed and set by the clock but with plants it is almost impossible. They have their own rules and they are driven by ‘tree-time’. This paper is one small step to understand the discourse Sumana began in her book. The focus will be on ‘Tree time’ but other ideas will also be catered. The ultimate purpose is to look for a better and ‘ecotopian’ kind of world where human interference will be kept out of doors and a plant will be a free entity.

Keyword: Trees, Anthropocene, Ecocriticism, Utopia, Disobedience.

Bio-note:

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Priyanka is pursuing her Ph. D with English literature from Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Uttarakhand. She did her M. Phil on Atwood and has extended the same for her doctorate degree. She has recently done a course on folklore and a workshop on translation. Her research interest includes culture, cuisine, cinema etc. but ecology has been the focal point to look at all of it. She keeps an eye on what's happening around and expresses it through her social media handles.

Dr. Poonam Bisht Rawat is an associate professor of English in the Department of Modern European and other foreign languages at B.G.R campus of Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University Srinagar Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Her area of interest is mainly the culture she is surrounded with. She likes to understand the human psychology through deep interactions and observations.

**Exploring Eco-Literatures amidst the Climate Crisis: Unveiling
Submerged Narratives of Environmental Consciousness in Climate Fiction**

Priyanka S. Raj

Abstract:

Climate change has emerged as a paramount issue in the contemporary era. The twenty-first century has borne witness to a plethora of discussions and deliberations surrounding climate justice, action, and policy. Notably, authors and scholars have embarked on disseminating a diverse range of perspectives on this global phenomenon, spanning from gender-based climate violence to climate anxiety. However, the endurance of eco-literature in adequately addressing these challenges may be somewhat lacking.

The novels, poems, and narratives that contribute to this comprehension of the climate crisis constitute a dynamic facet of our collective awareness. Indeed, a pivotal question persists: "Are we sufficiently cognizant and equipped to grasp the nuances of the climate crisis"? In this era

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of climate change, novels often serve as experimental arenas where real and imagined scenarios unfold, ethical and moral quandaries are contemplated. The environmental catastrophe and the unpredictability of the future have left an indelible impact on us; it is now demanding our attention and necessitating for thoughtful discourse. Can narratives be the catalysts for instilling environmental consciousness, facilitating adaptation, and effecting change?

Discussions surrounding the climate crisis undeniably hold the key to delineating the explicit and implicit aspects of comprehending ecological awareness. This paper endeavours to ascertain whether works of climate literature possess the potential to heighten awareness regarding the crisis we currently face and stimulate transformative action. Moreover, the study seeks to elucidate the multifaceted realm of environmental communication and its persuasive influence within the realm of narratives.

Keywords: Climate Crisis, Climate Fiction, Ecocriticism, Eco Literatures, Environmental Communications, Ecological Consciousness.

Bio-note:

Priyanka S. Raj is a multi-award-winning journalist, author and researcher with experience in the public broadcast media sector, including DD News and All India Radio, as well as a communication strategist. She has experience working for the Government of India's Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Science as a Media Consultant (Head). Presently, Priyanka is a Research Scholar in the Mahindra University, Hyderabad working on Climate Fiction and Environmental Humanities. In academia, she also had profoundly imparted my educational skills, and worked as a faculty associate and taught undergrads. As a speaker, she had delivered talks on Climate Science Literacy: Essential Principles of Climate Literacy on Oct 9, 2022.

Talk link – (Youtube): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_PMSmP3Gdk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mahipriyankaraj>

To be or not to be a ‘human’: An Analysis through Kazuo Ishiguro

Pritam Panda

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Abstract:

Transhumanism, as a modern day conjecture, discusses human being's relentless pursuit to overcome mortal limitations through sophisticated enhancement procedures. This practice of enhancing human capabilities and its effect on human sentience has been explored by quite a few practitioners of transhumanism in literature. These practitioners tread on the liminal space between human and trans-human with regards to the organic tenets found in human beings. The critical discourse around transhumanism interrogates the need for engendering artificially enhanced human beings and questions the ethicality of it. Drawing references from the disastrous consequences of a Victor Frankenstein or an Icarus, the essentiality of these practices have been scrutinized by cynics of transhumanism perennially. The present paper focusses on two texts by Nobel Laureate Kazuo Ishiguro namely – *Never Let Me Go* (2005) and *Klara and the Sun* (2021), to show how the biological substratum of human beings intersect with its socially constructed texture. Through use of Marxist theory, the paper attempts to compare the two trans-human texts and trace the development of the movement over the years. Another objective of the paper is to critically reinforce the idea of what it takes to be a 'human' by detangling the essence of 'being human' from its accompanying physical anatomy and aligning it with values like empathy and kindness which are the basic constituents of human existence.

Keywords: Conjecture, Sentience, Trans-Human, Ethicality, Empathy.

Bio-note:

Pritam Panda is working as an Assistant Professor of English, JDSG College, Bokakhat, Assam. He completed his Ph.D. from the University of Lucknow and the title of his doctoral research was "Re-enactment of Today's Myths and the Creation of Tomorrow's Myths in Science Fiction and Cinema". He worked under the supervision of Professor Nishi Pandey. His areas of interests include Speculative fiction, Eco-critical studies and Victorian literature.

Crisis and Gender: Decolonizing Sexuality in Sachin Kundalkar's *Cobalt*

Blue

Pragya Bhatnagar & Manju Dhariwal

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Abstract:

The Victorian era, which redefined the morality of society, was an essential marker in the revision of sexuality and gender identities in the West. With an emphasis on heterosexism, it resulted in policing and persecuting identities that did not fit the gender binary and normalizing these identities over a period of time,

As these notions of standard identities reached the far-flung countries through colonialism, they deconstructed the existing multiple discourses on sex and sexual identities in these cultures. It resulted in an identity crisis for people who did not confirm to the gender binaries or heterosexism. In India, the gender-neutral perspective that prevailed in pre-colonial India was questioned and delegitimized by the British. The emphasis on (de)naturalizing homosexuality gradually transitioned into a legal law as the Sodomy Act of 1860 and thereafter into the Indian thought of sexuality. However, India has undergone several transitions in social values and laws since then and has become more open in providing more rights to the LGBTQ+ community in the 21st Century. The paper will examine the crisis caused by colonial modernity in India in universalizing gender binaries. It will debunk the notion of compulsory heteronormativity and naturalize homo-romantic and erotic expressions through a critical analysis of the novel *Cobalt Blue* by Sachin Kundalkar, which narrates the tale of passionate love and heartbreak. It provides an insight into the human bodies and sexualities, which are fluid and do not adhere to any fixed sexual identity. Through the lens provided by Ruth Vanita on Indian traditions on queer in her critical work *Same-sex Love in India*, the paper will validate the existence of non-hetero sexualities with an aim to liberate sexuality from the male-female gender schema.

Keywords: Decolonize, Gender, Crisis, Sexuality, Indian.

Bio-note:

Pragya Bhatnagar is a research scholar in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in the LNM Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur.

Manju Dhariwal is a faculty in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in the LNM Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur. She teaches courses in English

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Language and Literature to Engineering Students. She has published papers in reputable conferences and Journals.

**Crisis, Infertility and Women Characters in *The Selector of Souls* and
Secret Daughter: A Study**

Shishu Bala

Abstract:

This paper intends to critically analyse some of the issues pertaining to the life of a woman in the contemporary Indian social set up which are like infertility, foeticide, and infanticide. Social set up here prefers a son's birth in the family. By taking up two contemporary novels *The Selector of Souls* by Shauna Singh Baldwin and *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda both of them living away from India by writing about Indian themes highlight the fertility crisis in the life of a woman unable to achieve motherhood. The paper takes up the feminist theory to analyze the life journey of women characters in the two novels and studies that how these women they take up the life challenges and show their agency by making decisions for their life along with learning to stand for the cause of women and the importance of a girl child in the society. Some of them like Anu in *The Selector of Souls* and Kavita in *Secret Daughter* do stand up against their husbands and try to save their daughters or even decide to move away from the family life.

Keywords: Infertility, Foeticide, Infanticide, Son Preference, Agency.

Bio-note:

Shishu Bala is Associate Professor in Higher Education Department in the state of Himachal Pradesh, India. She has been teaching for about twenty eight years in various Government colleges of the state. She is a doctorate from IIT Mandi, HP. Her areas of interest include gender in contemporary fiction, the historical subjugation and relegation of women, and the deplorable societal mindset pertaining to the girl child in India that results in various challenges

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faced by them in the society. She also exhibits interest in the study of translations of folk stories from the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Identity Crisis in Cults: A Close Reading of *1984* by George Orwell

Avanika Verma & Dr. Prachi Priyanka

Abstract:

The 20th century witnessed a rise in the dystopian genre. Dystopias incorporate a list of features like a decline in society, an oppressive and controlling environment (usually created by a government or social group) and a constant state of fear and distress among the people. Another social group that reflects the same qualities as that of a dystopian society is a cult. “1984” by George Orwell is set in a totalitarian society that impacted the readers in a way that the work is relevant and unforgettable even 74 years after it was published. This paper delves deeper into the work in pursuit of identifying various instances from the plot that resonate with a cult-like milieu. With a special focus on the protagonist, Winston Smith, it analyzes how cults have special effects on individuals under their influence. This paper mainly explores the identity crisis that the protagonist undergoes while being in a socio-political crisis parallelising it to what a cult member encounters. Mentions of environmental crisis have also been made in the paper. Similarities between Plato’s Republic and the actions of the government in terms of manipulation of the truth and information are drawn in this paper. It also discusses the multifaceted nature of freedom and surveillance as demonstrated in the narrative with the help of theories. Moreover, this paper puts forth brief notations of an existentialist point of view in regard to the events endured by Winston Smith.

Keywords: Dystopia, Cult, Crisis, Totalitarianism, Identity, Existentialism.

Bio-note:

Avanika Verma is student at Sharda University, Greater Noida, India.

Narrating the Silence: A Study of Deoli Internment Camp Testimonies

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Smriti Dadhich

Abstract:

“After all, those folks ‘looked’ Chinese.” Dilip D’souza’s *The Deoliwallahs* takes a detour all the way from Canada to Rajasthan in 1962, during the Indo-China war that led to the internment of the Chinese Indian community in the deserted camps of Deoli. In his book, D’Souza exposes the absence of the internees from the official narratives of Chinese migrants in India which carry with it the traumatic memories of the victims of Sino-Indian war. Their fragmentary positioning rendered them questioning their national identity even after years of assimilation. The book provides space for the articulation of the trauma of their sudden incarceration in 1962, that left them perplexed and disillusioned with the nation. Cultural and racial minorities gain new significance at the time of war because the politics of national security are performed in the form of racial prejudice. When definitions of nation and culture assume new parameters with the onset of war, the internal normalcy of a communal minority and its effects upon migrant cultural minorities acquire new meanings.

Segregated from a culturally hybrid society and kept within barbed wires for years stains their sense of belonging with fear and humiliation. As an aftermath of it, the Chinese Indian community migrated to Canada and has been protesting and reminding the government of the unfair treatment they received as ‘outsider’. Reading the book through the lens of trauma and memory studies reveal that the normalcy they deserved demands a psychological cost that is beyond comprehension and compensation.

Keywords: History, Testimony, Memory, Trauma, Catharsis.

Bio-note:

Smriti Dadhich is an independent scholar who completed her degree in Masters from University of Delhi in 2022. She has been researching extensively on diaspora and displacement of culture and identity with the backdrop of war. She has profound interest in partition literature and intends to pursue further research studies in literature of displacement within the context of war and culture.

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ABSTRACT VOLUME

Bridging Divides of Religion and Science in Arthur C. Clarke's Science

Fiction Novel *The Fountains of Paradise*

Dr. Bandana Devi

Abstract:

Science coalesces with religion to enunciate the silent voices of inner self in Arthur C. Clarke science fiction novel *The Fountains of Paradise*. The novel imbibes the doctrines of Buddhism as subset of Oriental Culture that validates the cultural milieu of the work, through the interpretation of New Historicism. Scientific outlook determines the course of action and such insinuations employ religion into an anecdote to emphasise the role and relevance of science and technology in order to transcend beyond the egocentric identities and worldly desires. Buddhist establishments supports the science and spiritual ascendance. Both science and religion are used as a double-edged tool to mend the man with mounting existential crisis through metaphorical elucidations.

Keywords: Science, Science Fiction, Religion, Self.

Bio-note:

Dr Bandana Devi is an Assistant Professor, Department of English, Vallabh Government College, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.

**Bhikhari Thakur's Bhojpuri Folk Drama: A Study of Resistance and
Representation**

Sonu Sah

Abstract:

Bhikhari Thakur and concept of resistance, representation, social exclusion is parallel to each other. This concept has emerged as an important concept in the field of caste, class, gender, and culture. In this paper, I attempt to review the folk drama of Bhikhari Thakur in the purview of portrayal of resistance, representation, and social exclusion i.e., resistance towards not only dominant class, caste, culture, religion etc but towards each and every practices that try to suppress one for another while representing not only Bhojpuri culture but literature as well.

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Locating this body of literature in the colonial paradigm, there is an attempt to delineate the social, cultural, economic, and political characteristics of Bhojpuri society. Such folk drama is embedded in everyday life, struggle and people of different classes, castes, gender, and culture. These folk dramas can be considered as performances of resistance and representation of socially excluded people and its physical and mental effect on them. These folk dramas are recognized by the centrality of performance, the materiality of socially excluded people and the integration of various art form. Drawing on an understanding derived from the folk drama of Bhikhari Thakur, this paper will attempt to provide a conceptual framework for theoretical underpinning of resistance, representation and social exclusion concentrating on Bhikhari Thakur folk drama such as Bidesia (The Foreigner), Beti-Bechwa (The Daughter Seller), Bidhwa-Vilap (The Wailing Widow), Putrabadh (Killing of Son), etc. Existing approach to Bhikhari Thakur and his work, with some exception continue to be shaped by representation of only women, propagandist theory, as social activist etc. This paper attempts to go outside of such understandings in terms of both its subject matter and approaches. This paper will argue that work of Bhikhari Thakur and his folk play as a conceptual framework needs to go beyond the question of representation of only women as well as propagandist theory and counter discourse to take account of the articulation of resistance and representation of whole Bhojpuri society and literature through the folk drama of Bhikhari Thakur and its creative and productive process that constitute the core of these folk drama.

Keywords: Folk, Drama, Resistance, Representation, Social Exclusion, Caste, Class, Culture.

Bio-note:

Sonu Sah is a PhD research scholar at Institute of Language Studies and Research -Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal. She is presently working on Bhojpuri Folk specifically on the Bhikhari Thakur's folk drama from the perspective of Migration, Memory, Marginalization, Resistance, Representation etc.

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ABSTRACT VOLUME

**Capturing the Essence of Bengali Culture: A Dive into ‘Rocky aur Rani ki
Prem Kahani’**

Ms. Nimisha Yadav & Dr. Shrutimita Mehta

Abstract:

For years now, cinema has been an inevitable and indispensable facet that turns modern metropolises into fantasylands where most individuals dream of living luxurious lives. It acts as a dominant platform to create meanings and shed light on political, social, cultural, and economic aspects to export realities to the audience. Among Indian cultures, Bengali culture is renowned for its richness, depth and unique contributions to the world. Consequently, abundant filmmakers have documented Bengali culture in their movies.

Within this prototype, the present paper expounds on the movie ‘Rocky aur Rani ki Prem Kahaani’ a cinematic representation of Bengalis by Karan Johar. The director presents Rani, a Bengali girl belonging to a progressive society. The movie offers both Bengali and non-Bengali viewers an engrossing and engaging cultural experience as it celebrates the beauty, diversity, and time-honoured traditions of Bengal through its people, environment, and story. The movie offers a unique opportunity to explore and celebrate the rich tapestry of Bengali culture. Therefore, the present paper shall examine how the movie provides a cinematic window into the multifaceted world of Bengali culture.

Keywords: Calcutta, Cinema, Metropolis, Culture, City.

Bio-note:

Ms. Nimisha Yadav is presently a Ph.D. Student in the Centre for Language Learning at The NorthCap University, Gurugram, India. Her primary area of interest is Cultural Studies and her current research focuses on City Literature.

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Dr. Shrutimita Mehta is an Associate Professor at The NorthCap University, Gurugram, Haryana, and has been teaching English at the Centre for Languages Learning for twenty-six years. Her areas of interest are Gender studies, Indian Writing in English, Postcolonial Literature, Partition Studies, Women Novelists and Twentieth-Century Writing.

Transcending Caste Realities in Urbanscapes: A Reading of Yogesh

Maitreya's Memoir

Maitri Verma

Abstract

Rooted in the past yet presiding in the present; transparent in tradition but translucent in modernity, "caste" is something that runs in the blood of every Indian, insider or living abroad.

Yogesh Maitreya's (2023) memoir *Water in a Broken Pot* is one such novel in the Dalit literary tradition that traces the metamorphoses of caste in urban, educated, modern and sometimes elite environments including esteemed institutions such as universities, situated in the context of India of the contemporary times. In this memoir, the young author hailing from a family of the ex-untouchables of India presents in detail his urban experiences of caste and its implied crises thereby defying the rumor that urban landscapes are now caste-free. This paper is an interdisciplinary effort to analyze the depiction of caste in Maitreya's work *Water in a Broken Pot* to unravel the contemporary projections of the inheritance, intricacies, and consciousness of the ancient practice of caste, focusing on the intersectionality between caste and city spaces.

Keywords: Caste; Identity; Urban Spaces; University and Representation; Dalit Literature; Urbanity and Caste.

Bio-note:

Maitri Verma is a Research Scholar at the Department of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Her PhD falls within the cross-disciplinary realm of Dalit Studies. In addition to it, she harbors a keen interest in Feminist Studies and also has a passion for Folklores. All her

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research interests delve deep into the rich tapestry of cultural narratives and traditions of India. Her academic pursuits are a commitment to social justice, equality, and preserving the culture of storytelling.

**Authorship Under Attack: A Study of Changing Notions of Authorship in
the Era of Generative AI**

Divya Mathur

Abstract:

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence (AI) like ChatGPT has sparked a profound transformation in the realm of literary creation giving rise to significant debates surrounding the role of the author and their relationship with text. This paper delves deeply into how advances in generative AI are transforming traditional conceptions of the literary author and the creative process. By autonomously generating text that can mimic styles and themes of renowned authors, AI poses novel questions about what constitutes an authorial voice and the intent behind works. Drawing on theorists like Foucault, Barthes and Susan Sontag, the paper explores how AI challenges the author's singular authority over a text's meaning and interpretation. The proliferation of machine-generated content invites a multiplicity of readings while shifting power dynamics among authors, readers and texts. However, the paper notes that AI lacks the fundamental human capacity for transformative creativity - it identifies, reinforces and replicates patterns rather than resisting or altering them. In this way, AI-generated texts run the risk of deceiving audiences into believing the works come from human minds. The paper warns against an oversimplified dichotomy between "romantic authors" and "AI authors," advocating we must consider deeper philosophical and societal theories of language, relationality and law. Failing to engage these questions overlooks AI's interconnected role in our world. Ethical issues like plagiarism, originality and attribution also come into sharper focus. While generative AI presents opportunities, it intensifies the need to rethink the author's place in digital literary spaces. Broad considerations of fairness and transparency are equally imperative. In closing, this research offers valuable contributions to ongoing reflections on AI's

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impact in reshaping literary creation and the crisis of authorship in the digital age. By examining evolving relationships between AI authors and texts, it provides insights into both the challenges and possibilities that emerge at their intersection.

Keywords: Generative AI, Authorship, Creativity, Plagiarism, Attribution.

Bio-note:

Ms. Divya Mathur is a young researcher and educator who is doing her research in English literature and cultural studies at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur. She has completed her M.A. in English from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. She has qualified UGC NET in 2019 and GATE with an AIR 15 in 2021. Her area of interest includes digital humanities and fan studies. She wants to learn more about how theoretical and academic discourse can shape our reality. She has also taught as an Assistant Professor at Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Jaipur.

Tracing The Biological and Technological Evolution of Singularity: A Critical Study of

Select LitRPG

Shavleen Kour

Abstract:

The goal of the research project is to critically analyse the select LitRPG, Marie Lu's *Warcross* (2017), to portray the association between metaverse technology and human experiences through the lens of technological Singularity theory. The study seeks to investigate the rapid mediation of technology into human lives and how it is leading towards an epoch of Singularity, a future moment in human history when machine intelligence merges with human intelligence, leading to "a profound and disruptive transformation in human experiences and capabilities" (Kurzweil 136). This research aims to examine the evolution of technological

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innovations, beginning with augmented reality and progressing to virtual reality, culminating in the emergence of the Web3 metaverse. Kurzweil characterizes evolution as advancing through six epochs over time, namely, Physics and Chemistry, Biology and DNA, Brain, Technology, The Merger of Human Technology with Human Intelligence, and The Universe Wakes Up. Kurzweil states that the first four epochs of evolution have already occurred and predicts that the Singularity will coincide with the next epoch, 'The Merger of Human Technology with Human Intelligence'. By Singularity, Kurzweil means the point when machine intelligence will be infinitely more powerful than all human intelligence combined or the merging of virtual and physical reality. The metaverse is the next iteration of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technology that involves collective virtual shared space, created by the convergence of technologies like virtual reality, augmented reality, blockchain, and artificial intelligence. As a result of this reformulated vision, the research will provide readers with a deeper understanding of how technology has influenced human experiences and prompt readers to redefine what it means to be human in the technoscientific reality of today.

Keywords: Technological Singularity, Metaverse, Virtual reality, Warcross, Neurolink.

Bio-note:

Shavleen Kour is a JRF research scholar from the Research Centre in English and Cultural Studies, PGGCG- 11, Punjab University.

**Ecological Apocalypse in Sefi Atta's "News from Home": A Critical Study
of Biodiversity Degradation in the Niger Delta**

Dr. Sucheta

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Abstract:

The Niger Delta of Nigeria is the largest wetland in the world. It is also the richest ecological region of Africa that covers 9 states of West Africa and is home to 5000 to 6000 communities of 33 million people and the region has sustained major environmental calamities related to the oil and mineral extraction and population pressure. Sefi Atta highlights the very issue of degradation of ecosystem and biodiversity in the Delta region of West Africa and the aftermaths over local communities and West Africa as a whole in the story, “News from Home”. This research paper delves into Atta’s work, exploring the intricate interplay between environmental degradation, socio-economic factors, and the resulting ecological apocalypse. Through a multidisciplinary lens, this paper examines the impacts of oil extraction, deforestation, and pollution on the delicate ecosystem of the Niger Delta, ultimately illustrating how these factors become apocalyptic in the event of climate change. By analyzing the author’s use of character development, symbolism, and narrative structure, this research paper seeks to unravel the ecological apocalypse depicted in “News from Home” while shedding light on the real-world implications of biodiversity degradation in the Niger Delta. Also, this research paper addresses the saga of violence and bloodshed in the Delta region as local communities continued to protest and federal soldiers kept on suppressing their voices.

Keywords: Ecological Apocalypse, Biodiversity, Violence, Climate Change.

Bio-note:

Dr. Sucheta is an asst. Professor in Sri Aurobindo college (Evening), Delhi University. She is a Ph.D. in English from Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, India. The title of her doctoral work is “Hybridity and Identity Formation in Select Works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Sefi Atta”. She has done her Master’s degree in English from the same University. She has published six research papers in reputed journals and has received the “Young Researcher Award” for one of the papers. She has also presented many research papers in national/international conferences. Her area of interest is postcolonial studies, popular culture, posthumanism, Indian and Western philosophy and subaltern studies etc.

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**A Study of Durational Flux and Narrative Techniques in the Select Work
of Virginia Woolf and James Joyce**

Aliya Saba Mirza

Abstract:

After the First World War, the world descended into a state of crisis and disorder. Disciplines such as philosophy, literature, psychology, and physics were outstripped by phenomenology and solipsism. The war had shaken faith in morality, coherence, and durability. After the war, a sense of disillusionment contributed to the emergence of modernism. Modernism is an aesthetic movement that produces a body of experimental work to represent contemporary disorder. It broke away from traditional ways of writing and romantic views of nature and does not believe in things being steady and whole. The modernist writings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries represent a new sensibility of time and consciousness against Newton's absolute time and absolute space. It is notable for new techniques and an altered conception of temporality. George Luckas, for one, laments the loss of humanity in *The Theory of the Novel* (1916), which uses the term avant-garde for this non-traditional practice of literature. He believes that great novels do not impose meaning on a meaningless world. Modernism brings into center the concept of fluidity of time and consciousness and studies the interior world of the character, which is the focus of Bergson's theory of time and free will. This article proposes to study Bergson's theory of time and free will and how it is applied to the narrative techniques of modernist writers such as Virginia Woolf and James Joyce. The article seeks to capture the difference between psychological time and chronological time as reflected through narrative

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techniques such as stream of consciousness and internal monologues in *Orlando: A Biography* and *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*.

Keywords: Modernism, Time, Space, Fluidity, Consciousness.

Bio-note:

Aliya Saba Mirza is a Ph.D. Scholar at the Department of English at Aligarh Muslim University. She has qualified for the Net in 2019 and was awarded the Maulana Azad National Fellowship in 2020–21. She has presented papers in national and international conferences and presented her translation in the workshop cum seminar of UGC SAP DRS-II held on March 12, 2022, by Aligarh Muslim University. She has done a GIAN course on “Electronic Literature and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Theory and Practice of Digital Storytelling” and "Subtitling Screened Dialogue: The Pragmatics of Audio-Visual Translation organised by the Department of English, AM.U. She has been a volunteer for IACLALS 2022.

How far Literature has been Successful in Advocating Climate

Consciousness?

Rishika Ghosh

Abstract:

Margaret Atwood in her speech at the PEN Congress, Tokyo asks the most important question, “Is literature even possible without nature? And will yours, mine or anybody else’s writing matter if humankind fails to preserve nature?” There are several aspects of the contemporary world that simply can’t be described within the conventions of science fiction, that is where

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Literature plays a pivotal role in fostering emotional resilience and help establish a connection between the readers and the tangible consequences of climate change. Ecocriticism goes beyond what in William Ruckart's perspective is “the application of ecological notions of the study of literature since ecology has the greatest importance to the present and future of the globe” rather it brings in the intersection of climate, ethics and social ramifications of the unparalleled environmental crises. Literature, therefore has the power to connect with people intellectually, emotionally and imaginatively providing a platform for readers to immerse themselves in hypothetical simulations since cli-fi uses artistic license to imagine climate risks in ways that are more perceptive and concrete than scientific projections by bridging the gap between abstract information and emotional discourse, the climate trauma. The development of literature, actively engaged with the concept of anthropocene has come a long way in increasing climate consciousness, addressing anthropogenic climate change and emphasizing the importance of narratives that focus on human causation and catastrophic results. This paper is divided into 2 sections: the development of literature in advocating environmental consciousness and the defining characteristics within climate fictions followed by how they are depicted in the three groundbreaking Indian novels, *The Great Derangement* and *The Hungry Tide* by Amitav Ghosh, and *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Arundhati Roy and ultimately how they influence public perception and awareness of climate crisis and environmental issues.

Keywords: Ecocriticism, Ecology, Cli-Fi, Climate Risk, Climate Trauma, Anthropocene, Anthropogenic, Catastrophe.

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Rishika Ghosh is a Postgraduate student of The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara with a major in English Literature. She has a keen interest in diverse research areas including environmental literature, partition literature and Indian literature, some of which she has worked on as a part of her previous curriculum. Presently, she is an intern in Pixstory as a content strategist and simultaneously she is working on her paper on climate fiction and its defining characteristics and aims to become a research student.

**Crisis of Female Body in English Writing from Kerala: A Study on Select
Works of Manjeri S. Isvaran**

S. Suthara

Abstract:

Conflicts pertaining to human body and identity take manifested representations through literature of all times. Kerala writing in English- taken as an isolated movement in its continuum- needs individual attention and in-depth analysis set in parallel to the gender dynamics of Kerala society. The paper observes female body as a spatial construct that upholds certain stereotypical notions and analyses how a prominent writer in English from Kerala, Manjeri S. Isvaran represents the same through his works. Body theories would be employed in order to explore the dimensions in which female body is treated in his works. Manjeri Isvaran [belonging to the pre-globalisation era] is one among the writers who used English language as a medium of protest against those who question their creative practices in the foreign language. Isvaran weaves his tales centering on the rural landscape of Kerala with all its dilemma and social issues. The paper chooses Isvaran's works namely *Immersion* (1951), *Song of the Gypsymaiden* (1945) and selected stories from his collection *No Ankletbells for Her* (1949) to study the conflicts of womanhood as captured by the author. The paper would explore

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how gender relations are portrayed and female body is treated in his select works. The attempt is to understand how Malayali writers of English visualise female body and its complexities through their creative practices. The study would also include a close examination of Kerala society and female identity during the times so as to situate Isvaran's 'women' in the macrocosmic level. The paper intends to establish the indispensable connection of human mind and body, thereby equating human deeds to one's psyches- a major characteristic feature of womanhood in Isvaran's works.

Keywords: Gender Conflicts, Kerala Writing in English, Manjeri Isvaran, Female Body.

Bio-note:

S Suthara, having completed her masters in English literature, is currently a Research Scholar at the Research Department of English, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur, Kerala. Having keen interest in gender studies, she works on Kerala writings in English and gender relations for her research. Her other areas of specialisation include popular culture, film studies and Kerala history.

***Before the War, we made a child: Identifying the 'Affect' of War on the
body politic in Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* and Ilya
Kaminsky's *Deaf Republic****

Akanksha Krishnatre

Abstract:

Times, they are a-changing, human suffering remains constant. Written eight decades apart, Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* and Ilya Kaminsky's *Deaf Republic*

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emerged as a result of conflict disrupting existence. The two texts, with distinct voices yet complementary styles, stand as a testament to the tumult of war that upends normalcy and transform the mundane into something perilous. Through characters like Mother Courage, Katrin, as well as Momma Galya, Sonya, townspeople of Vasenka, and others, this paper aims to re-examine human ambitions, behavior, drives, and desires within the framework of War. For the purposes of this re-examination, this paper will refer to Affect theory as developed by Silvan Tomkins, and Gilles Deleuze Felix Guattari. In their book, *The Affect Theory Reader*, Seigworth and Gregg define Affect as visceral forces—beneath or beyond conscious thought—that drive us to act, think, and perceive. Thus, two line of thoughts that have traditionally been read in isolation are brought together for a comprehensive examination of the influence of Affect on both individual and cultural levels. The paper centers this through the analysis of four major ideas. The first analysis focuses on the establishment of Mother Courage and Deaf Republic within the tradition of experimental war literature; the second, the dynamics of gender in crisis during armed conflict, and how this shapes the desires of the ‘living personalities’. Third analysis examines silence as a means of finding a language of the self. At last, tracing the true cost of war through the turbulent relationship between the individual and society where pertinent questions such as who are the affected parties, what factors influence the politics of the persecutors and the persecuted, are raised. This paper takes to heart the words of Kaminsky, literature is the reason why “*There will be evidence, there will be evidence*”.

Keywords: War, Affect Theory, Motherhood, Childhood, Body Politic.

Bio-note:

Akanksha Krishnatre, a graduate of Ramakrishna SaradaMission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan and postgraduate from Presidency University, is a passionate researcher in War Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Gender, and Disability Studies. Her work focuses on the intricate intersections of these disciplines, aiming to amplify marginalized voices within them. Akanksha is currently immersed in research concerning war and affective memory within marginalized communities, further enhancing her contributions to these crucial fields of study.

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**Investigating Climate Change and the Social Dynamics in Amitav Ghosh's
Gun Island**

Bibhudatta Dash & Priyanka Jinde

Abstract:

The twenty-first century is witnessing various global crises, climate change is one among them. Climate change ecology studies the interconnection between climatic variations and their effect on ecosystems. It also seeks to understand the effects of anthropocentric activities on climate, leading to climatological alterations like thermal variation, change in weather patterns, rise in sea level, etc. The change in climatic conditions has severe impacts on the ecosystems, species distribution, and biodiversity. Apart from that, it also impacts humans in various ways like health, resource scarcity, social inequities, and migration. This paper examines the impact of human activities on climate and the consequences of it on both humans and the natural world. It not only studies how climate change impacts different strata of society differently but also aims to evaluate the interconnection between climate change and social impacts like displacement, habitat destruction, shifting of ecosystems etc. through the theories of ecology in Amitav Ghosh's Gun Island.

Keywords: Anthropocentrism, Climate Change, Ecology, Migration.

Bio-notes:

Dr. Bibhudatta Dash is an Assistant Professor of English in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur. His research interests include studying literatures, cultures, nature, and people in interdisciplinary contexts.

Ms. Priyanka Jinde is a Research Scholar of English in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology Nagpur. Her area of doctoral research is in the intersection of Ecology and Indology.

**The Crisis of Representation: Presentation of Hyper Masculinity in The
Hindi Film Poster**

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Ms. Monikinkini Basu

Abstract:

It is observed that the posters of the Hindi film industry have a visible influence of the South-Indian posters that portray men in a hegemonic, toxic and deified manner. This portrait of the man in the situation of crisis is estimated to be a man on a mission. Just like the Shakespearean tragic hero, he is doomed to a destiny of a tragic fall. This larger than life man has to prove his stardom in the box-office. This is specifically a call to the performer who has to perform on screen and beyond the screen. The actual performance and the associated crisis is the one that is lingering on the broad consumerist mind-set. The concept of performance therefore goes beyond the realm of the screen. This can be read as a broadening of the space of performativity and can be seen as a collection of the voids in performance to create a contextual error of judgement that might negotiate the space and fill the gap between these demarcated spaces of performance.

In my paper I would talk about the economic stress and associated need to bank on toxic masculinity and the concept of performing on the box-office records. I shall try to talk about the twin-layer of performativity and economic success and the impact it has in creating a superstar out of an actor. I shall take into account the presentation of men in film posters and the politics of exclusion of certain characters from the posters. I shall also talk about the pressure on the performance of the hero and the associated slide into the realms of unanimity. The threat to the position of authority is a vital nuance of the film industry and we shall try to examine what impact it has on the market-impact of the performer.

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Keywords: Performativity, Space, Masculinity, Film-Poster, Authority.

Bio-note:

Ms. Basu is on the verge of completing her PhD from the internationally-renowned Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta [Jadavpur University] having previously studied at the University of Kalyani. She has been teaching since 2013, with her time divided between Sri Krishna College under the University of Kalyani and The Bhawanipore Education Society. Her teaching and research interests include Drama, Performance Studies, Masculinity Studies and Film Studies.

**From Glass Slippers to Mechanical Foot: Reading of Merissa Meyer's
Cinder in Modern Context**

Chetna Rawat

Abstract:

In modern times, with the advancement of technology, the art of story has drastically changed. Before the 2000s, children's literature was mostly anti-technological, assuming that technology threatens human individuality. Gradually, the paradigm shifted to more real-life positive technology engagement in human lives. This exploration of the relationship between humans and technology gave rise to the theory of posthumanism. Modern Young adult fiction explores the same human subjectivity in the context of contemporary technology, stating that the posthuman need not be seen as a danger to the human species. Rather, it should be considered a new tool to understand the human self better. Young adult fiction engages with the complexity of technology most closely as it mirrors the "real-life positive engagement" with modern-day technology because the existence of technology in children's lives is a reality. Hence, using it in literature to connect them with the narrative is practical. Marissa Meyer's Cinder (2012) retells a classic Cinderella tale set in the futuristic city of New Beijing. It utilises

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a firmly focalised third-person narrative to present a cyborg version of Cinderella. Cinder's body does not fall into the category of culturally constituted as a "natural body", and she has been frequently reminded of her "alien" body casting her into "other". This paper attempts to analyse the paradigm of "otherness" in the modern view and also aims to shed light on the idea of selfhood in the posthumanist world.

Keywords: Cyborg, Self, Other, Posthumanism.

Bio-note:

Chetna Rawat is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow. Her area of research includes the psychoanalytical study of violence in literature. She is the editor and designer of Rhetorica, A Literary Journal of Arts.

**From Ego-consciousness to Eco-consciousness: A Study of Human-nature
Correlation in Rigveda and Atharvaveda**

Bibhudatta Dash & G. Lakshmi Narasimham

Abstract:

Environmental consciousness is awareness and understanding of the interconnected relationship between human activities and the ecological balance of the natural world. It entails an understanding of the ecological and social consequences of human actions and advocates a sustainable and balanced relationship with the ecosystem. One of the convenient and effective ways of cultivating environmental consciousness among the people is through literatures and scriptures as they reflect the socio-ecological conditions of their times thereby making people to think about the possibilities for a better society.

This paper studies the Ancient Hindu Scriptures Rigveda and Atharvaveda from an ecological perspective to understand their role in creating awareness in humans. It highlights the significance of ecoconsciousness in fostering environmental harmony, the ethical implications of human choices, and their far-reaching consequences for the environment by employing

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green theories, particularly eco-consciousness and deep ecology. Through Hindu teachings, this research aims to establish a shift from ego-consciousness to eco-consciousness among people in the present anthropocentric age.

Keywords: Literature, Environmental Consciousness, Rigveda, Atharvaveda, Deep Ecology.

Bio-note:

Dr. Bibhudatta Dash

Dr. Bibhudatta Dash is an Assistant Professor of English in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur. His research interests include studying literatures, cultures, nature, and people in interdisciplinary contexts.

G. Lakshmi Narasimham

Mr. G Lakshmi Narasimham, is a Research Scholar of English in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology Nagpur. His area of doctoral research is in the intersection of Ecology and Indology.

Decoding the Representation of the Hyperreal in Mathieu's 3"

Debdatta Mitra

Abstract:

The Postmodern milieu is filtered through simulations which distort the representation of reality. Marc-Antoine Mathieu examines this breakdown of the real in 3". His avant-garde comic book uses the detective genre to highlight the late capitalist and industrial structures of the United States. It observes a beam of light which takes only three seconds to travel nine hundred thousand kilometres. The viewer looks on as the light bounces off a series of reflective objects such a camera lenses, mirrors or even satellites. The story which is about an enactment of a murder is the classic postmodern collapse of the linear plot structures with an emphasis on the visual owing the lack of dialogues. Mathieu scrutinises the importance of the Lacanian gaze by examining the events of the plot which happened in three seconds using various angles. It

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is axiomatic that the perspectives are multi-layered and multi-tiered. The paper shall intend to address Mathieu's conception of reality in *3''* and Baudrillard's theory of simulation in *Simulation and Simulacra*. The latter identifies late capitalism and consumerism as a part of the complex industrial processes wherein reality has been replaced by false images creating hyperreality. These images have become a part of the simulacra which can be doctored and manipulated to mould societal standards. A key focal point of the paper would be to establish the depiction of the media in *3''* and *Simulation and Simulacra*. The use of camera lenses and the television sets are of particular interest in this regard. The detailed perspectives in the panels of the comic book suggest that the simulacrum has already permeated in every level of our material existence. The paper shall also study the use of violence and gore in the creation of hyperreality by following the journey of the murder in the comic book.

Keywords: Comics, Hyperreality, Late Capitalism, Gaze.

Bio-note:

Ms. Debdatta Mitra is pursuing her Ph.D. in English from St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. She has obtained her M.A. and M. Phil. (English) degrees from the University of Calcutta. She has been teaching since 2017 having previously taught at Manindra Chandra College under the University of Calcutta, and is currently engaged at Sister Nivedita University since 2020. She has an advanced degree (B2) in French from Alliance Française du Bengale. Her research interests include Modernism, Postmodernism, and Art history.

Tracing the Past: Postmemory in Bapsi Sidhwa's Stories of Partition

Shivali Dhaka & Dr. Rani Rathore

Abstract:

The present paper explores the memory discourse in the short fiction of Bapsi Sidhwa, a South Asian immigrant writer, through the lens of 'Postmemory', a term coined by Marianne Hirsch. The study aims to analyze how Sidhwa recreates the traumatic history of partition in her stories

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through inherited memories, which play a crucial role in her connection with the past. Postmemory refers to memories that are not directly experienced by an individual but are transmitted through cultural and familial means. In the case of Bapsi Sidhwa, the impact of partition on her family and community has been a recurring theme in her writing. This study argues that Sidhwa portrays the world she has experienced and inherited, which includes knowledge passed down from earlier generations. For the study, two short stories, 'Defend Yourself Against Me' and 'A Gentlemanly War' are selected from Sidhwa's story collection '*Their Language of Love*,' which delve into the partition of the Indian Subcontinent and the struggles of the victims and depict how historical events are still relevant in the present. By utilizing the concept of postmemory, the stories bring historical events into current discussions and offer new perspectives for understanding them. The paper also analyses how the memories of violence are transmitted across generations and continue to impact the second generation children, who grew up listening to the stories about the suffering of their ancestors. Shaped by the memories of their ancestors, they are able to connect with the past through inherited memories and understand its impact on their present.

Keywords: Immigrants, Memory, Postmemory, Partition, Second Generation.

Bio-note:

Shivali Dhaka received a B.A. from MKP Dehradun, India, and an M.A. in English Literature from Ruheilkhand University Shahjahanpur, India. She is pursuing her Ph.D. degree in English Literature from the IIS University, Jaipur, India. Her research interests include exploring South Asian Diaspora fiction writings, Memory, and Socio-Cultural studies. As a bilingual poet, her

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poems have been published in well-reputed national journals and anthologies in Hindi and English.

Dr. Rani Rathore is an Associate Professor at IIS University and has teaching experience of almost 17 years. Her research interests include Indian Writing in English, Gender Studies, Children's Literature, and Critical Theories. She has 03 Ph.D. awards in diverse subjects. And presently 08 scholars are working under her supervision She has published research articles in national and international journals of repute. She is a published poet who writes in Hindi and English.

**Unpacking the Patriarchal Tiffin: The Politics of Food and Gender in
Contemporary Indian Cinema**

Dr Shelly Narang

Abstract:

The broad theoretical underpinning of this paper is that food is a vital part of the second-order signifying modes in not just texts but also contemporary Indian cinema . The Great Indian Kitchen (2021) (TGIK), Ammu (2022), and Darlings (2022), are three movies that put women and their experiences at the centre of their plot. The last two movies deal with domestic abuse, while TGIK emphasises how women in marital homes are plagued by the burden of housework. In differing degrees, all three movies deal with women's position and status within patriarchal norms, and food serves as a forceful symbol for keeping women inside the boundaries of the "domestic."

Reading these movies via the lens of food helps peel back many layers that deepen dialogues by venturing beyond just the purview of the narrative. Discussions about the representation of gender roles and hierarchies are strengthened and complemented by this point of view.

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Understanding how food is framed within social and cinematic contexts reveals the rich symbolism these movies contain.

However, the paper seeks to go beyond the definite thesis, in relation to the age-long debates on power dichotomy between male and female gender, is that while men merely enjoy and noisily exercise social power sustained by patriarchy, which is a contrivance, women also sometimes possess a great deal of authentic power usually not overtly acknowledged. These theoretical and ideological (thesis) statements respectively are demonstrated through a semiotic reading and analysis of foodspheres through which the women revolt, using the critical lenses of gastro-criticism, social semiotics and textual cooperation theory. Through these analytical lenses, the paper recognises that each of the foodspheres in these movies is also a subversion that transcodes or interrogates the diverse gendered power relations

It concludes that while food can be a servile metaphor it can also showcase power that women exercise in food preparation and administration, as signified in some of the foodspheres analysed, is a semiotic prototype of the many other unnoticed powers, through which the females rule the home and world.

Keywords: Culinary Tradition, Food, Foodsphere, Paratext, Semiotic Prototype.

Bio-note:

Dr Shelly Narang is an Assistant Professor, SGGS College, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

**The Changing Idea of 'Other' in Saeed Naqvi's Play 'The Muslim
Vanishes'**

Tanisha Shokeen

Abstract:

The play *The Muslim Vanishes* by Saeed Naqvi offers a thought-provoking insight into a hypothetical scenario where 200 million Indian Muslims suddenly disappear along with their cultural heritage. This play provides a commentary on the current socio-political order and envisions a post-apocalyptic India without Muslims. It explores the potential reorganization and redefinition of established power structures and political order. The play also deals with the changing idea of 'other' and their representation in the play. The present paper explores the

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changing dynamics of 'other' with regard to issues such as religion and caste in the play. Saeed Naqvi, a well-known Indian journalist and writer, raises critical issues such as discrimination, caste and religious conflicts, casteism, communalism, socialism, and politics in the Indian context. In the play, Naqvi stages a trial with a jury comprised of historical figures like Amir Khusro, Maulana Hasrat Mohani, and Mahatma Phule, among others, to explore potential solutions for the return of Indian Muslims.

Keywords: Power, Politics, Caste, Religion, Other, Orientalism, Saeed Naqvi, Socialism, Communalism.

Bio-note:

Tanisha Shokeen, is a Doctoral Scholar in PhD programme in University School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, under the supervision of Prof. Shuchi Sharma, Professor at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

**Intricacies in Memory, Ideology and Cultural Practices: A Theoretical
Perspective**

Dr. Chitrita Prusty

Abstract:

Before the nineteenth century, memory may have operated somewhat transparently within the framework of what was considered the "natural order." However, as society evolved, the way cultural practices and ideologies were transmitted and reproduced changed. This shift became detached from the idea of a "natural order," leading to the need for more consideration and theoretical understanding of this process. As the role of ideology became clearer from a theoretical perspective, there was also a trend towards automating the functioning of ideology. This automation likely refers to the institutionalization and standardization of ideologies and cultural practices in modern societies. The role of ideology was becoming clearer in theory, the concept of "natural" or "organic" memory started to pose challenges. This suggests that the traditional ways of preserving and transmitting cultural practices and ideologies were being disrupted or questioned during this period, leading to a complex interplay between memory, ideology, and cultural practices in present society. This study discusses memory in the context of ideology, cultural practices, and modernity, emphasizing its evolving nature. Overall, the passage explores the intricate relationship between memory, ideology, and cultural practices

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within the context of modernity. Memory ideology and cultural practices are intertwined aspects of how societies remember and transmit their history, values, and traditions. These two elements, memory ideology and cultural practices, are dynamic and evolve over time. They are essential for understanding how societies remember and transmit their cultural heritage and shape their collective identities. In summary, the study of memory ideology and cultural practices is essential for comprehending the complex interplay between history, culture, and society. It has practical implications for conflict resolution, identity formation, and the preservation of cultural heritage, making it a valuable field of inquiry in the social sciences and humanities. The aim of this article is to situate archaeological approaches to modern conflicts within a framework of conflict memory and commemoration. On the basis of this critique I argue that a study in this area offers a unique and powerful forum for socially engaged interdisciplinary research

Keywords: Memory, Collective memory, Ideology, Culture.

Bio-note:

Dr. Chitrita Prusty is a faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar.

**Crisis and Gender: Feminist perspectives in literature and Culture in the
work of Githa Hariharan *Thousand Faces of Night***

Anuradha Kumari

Abstract:

Feminist perspectives in literature and culture often provide valuable insights into the crisis surrounding gender issues. Feminist perspectives in literature and culture contribute to a deeper understanding of the gender crisis by analyzing and critiquing the ways in which it is represented, perpetuated, and resisted within these spheres. These perspectives also play a vital role in advocating for change and promoting gender equality through creative expression and critical analysis. "*Thousand Faces of Night*" delves into various themes, including the role of women in a patriarchal society, the complexities of personal and cultural identity, and the

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struggle for self-discovery and empowerment. The novel is often associated with feminist literature, as it explores the challenges faced by women in a society that often restricts their autonomy and opportunities. It delves into questions of self-determination and the desire for personal fulfillment. "Thousand Faces of Night" is considered a significant work in contemporary Indian literature and feminist literature. It offers a thought-provoking exploration of gender, identity, and societal expectations through the experiences of its protagonist. Githa Hariharan is an Indian novelist who has published the book "Thousand Faces of Night." Since its first release in 1992, the book has garnered praise for its examination of a variety of topics, including gender, identity, and social standards in the context of modern India. Themes like female inequity, the limitations of marriage and family, and the search for individual freedom and self-expression are all explored by Githa Hariharan throughout the book. The story offers a profound and introspective glimpse into the protagonist's inner existence as she negotiates the complexity of her environment.

Keywords: Crisis, Culture, Feminism, Identity, Genders.

Bio-note:

Anuradha Kumari is a research scholar, at Department of English, Patliputra University, Patna. Her research focus on Postmodern theories. She is also interested in Feminist literature, Gothic and Children literature. As a literature student she has to trained to take class in different schools and institute. She worked as a language trainer in an institute. Her dedication is to give the best. She finished her primary school, belonged to top five students of middle and high school class. She is also passionate about writing poetry and short stories.

**The Depiction of Kinship in the Short Stories of Manoj Das:
A Critical Study**

Kaminikanta Mohanty & Krishna Pratap Singh

Abstract:

Kinship is known as the familial bonding. It refers to the relation among the members of a family and the emotional connection shared among them. Kinship fosters feelings of love, devotion, duty, and other virtues. It demonstrates one's duty to one's parents, a parent's worry for their children, and a person's concern for his or her siblings. Family is a scaled-down version of society. One of the important elements of a family is kinship. A life without kinship is of no

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value. Manoj Das is a renowned Indo-Anglian short story writer. His short stories are remarkable for a number of attributes in them and depiction of kinship is one of them. This paper aims to highlight the relationship among the members of a family and the familial bonding among them. Through literature review, it is discovered that this dimension in the short stories of Manoj Das has not been examined in the previous studies. This perspective of research is undertaken with a view to creating awareness in people about the value of kinship.

Keywords: Family, Kinship, Relation, Short Stories, Society.

Bio-note:

Kaminikanta Mohanty is working as the lecturer in English at Subarnarekha Mahavidyalaya, Baliapal, Balasore Odisha since 2016 by cracking SSB (State Selection Board). His educational qualification is M.A., M.Phil. in English. He is pursuing PhD in English at Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha under the direct supervision of Dr K.P. Singh, Associate Prof. in English, Sri Sri University. The title of his PhD thesis he is working on is “Ethical and Social Dimensions in the Short Stories of Manoj Das”. In addition to it, he is the author of a number of books in English. The mission of his life is to build the careers of the students.

The Role of Literature in Shaping Environmental Consciousness:

A Study of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*

Kamaldeep Kaur

Abstract:

There are a few texts more important than Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* (1962) that shaped environmental consciousness and started a new movement to save nature. Carson played a significant role in bringing forth the dangerous effects of fertilisers and pesticides on the environment. The movement by Carson highlighted and informed the public about how these pesticides harm the living organisms. Although she faced several challenges and threats from the chemical industries and faced the controversies, yet she kept fighting the preservation until the excessive use of fertilisers was banned. It is through her book *Silent Spring* that Carson accomplished it all. In the genre, the book combines field study and literary writing. The present paper explores the role of literature in raising people’s awareness about the environment; the

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issue that is of utmost importance today. From being an environmentalist to a storyteller, Carson's writing style influenced people to work for the preservation of environment and still doing the same. The paper discusses how the book which was penned down in the twentieth century inspires readers in the present times as well.

Keywords: Literature, Environment, Pollution, Future.

Bio-note:

Kamaldeep Kaur is a research scholar pursuing PhD in the Department of English, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab (147002).

**Cultural Narratives of North-East India: Examining the Lamentations of
Zo People as Recalled in Their Oral Tradition**

Dr. Nunchawii Hatlei

Abstract:

Oral culture, as defined by Walter J. Ong, is "a culture with no knowledge whatsoever of writing and even of the possibility of writing". Due to the absence of writing, an individual's verbal memory is a "valued asset" in those cultures. In the present day, the narratives, songs, speeches, riddles, tenets, etc., that had been passed on in the verbal form, became the carriers of a community's cultural development and progress. Stories have come to be shaped by their social conditions, and it is in this way that an intertwined relationship exists between oral art forms and the society that produced them.

Not much was known about the tribes of North-East India. They reside in the geographical region known as "Zomia", as termed by Willem van Schendel. The paper is a study on the cultural narratives of the Zo ethnic group of North-East India who were historically isolated from the rest of the country. The narratives of the people speak of their origin and history through the oral means, which also gave a sense of continuity in the midst of change while providing insight into the people and the region. They reflect the hardships and resilience of the people and also demonstrate the role of the community in their lives. The aim of this

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research paper is to examine the various aspects of ZO cultural narratives in general with a special emphasis on the themes of grief and lamentation.

Keywords: Zo, Mizo, Cultural Narratives, Memory Studies, Oral Tradition.

Bio-note:

Dr. Nunchawii Hatlei obtained her doctorate degree from the Department of English Literature, The English and Foreign Languages University, Shillong Campus. Her thesis is titled "*Identifying the 'Folk' through their 'Lore': A Study of Vaiphei Oral Culture*". Her areas of interest include, among other things, the oral literature of North-East Indian communities. She teaches in the Department of English, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, as a Guest Faculty. She has contributed book chapters and papers on different fields of research, the most recent being on the literatures of North-East India.

**Multiculturalism Policies Currently Endure in the Modern Indian Culture,
A Sociological Perspectives**

Dr. Sameena Z. Mir

Abstract:

Multiculturalism policies continue to hold a central place in contemporary Indian culture, reflecting the nation's rich tapestry of diversity in religion, language, ethnicity, and regional identities. Rooted in India's historical and cultural pluralism, these policies have evolved over time to address the challenges posed by its heterogeneous society. India's multicultural ethos finds expression in its Constitution, which enshrines principles of secularism, equality, and religious freedom. Affirmative action measures, such as reservations in education and government jobs, have been implemented to rectify historical disparities and promote social inclusion. Cultural and educational initiatives further endorse the preservation and celebration of India's diverse heritage. However, these policies also face complex sociological challenges, including identity politics, debates on cultural appropriation, and occasional religious tensions. Overall, multiculturalism policies remain crucial in shaping the sociological landscape of modern India, facilitating both unity in diversity and social equity. Multiculturalism policies in

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contemporary Indian culture represent a complex and multifaceted sociological phenomenon. On the one hand, these policies are a testament to India's commitment to embracing its profound diversity and ensuring social inclusion for marginalized communities. They have played a vital role in promoting the coexistence of different religions, languages, and cultures within the nation. However, a critical analysis also reveals several significant challenges and areas of contention within the framework of multiculturalism in India. One of the central issues pertains to the effectiveness and implementation of affirmative action policies, particularly reservations based on caste. While these policies were introduced with the noble intention of addressing historical inequalities and promoting social mobility among disadvantaged groups, they have also been criticized for perpetuating caste-based identities and divisions. Sociological studies have shown that, in some cases, reservations have not translated into meaningful improvements in the lives of the intended beneficiaries, and they have occasionally led to tensions and conflicts between different caste groups. Furthermore, the politicization of multiculturalism and identity-based politics in India has created a complex socio-political landscape. The emphasis on caste, religion, and ethnicity in politics has at times hindered the pursuit of a more inclusive and harmonious society. Identity politics can lead to fragmentation, with different groups vying for their share of power and resources, sometimes at the expense of social cohesion.

Keywords: Multiculturalism, Ethnicity, Cultural Perspectives, Contemporary Issues, Social Inclusion, Diversity.

Bio-note:

Dr. Sameena Mir is an assistant professor (Sociology), Ajeenkya DY Patil University.

The Crisis of Human Identity in Jayanta Mahapatra's 'Hunger'

Dr. Ankita Swetaparna

Abstract

The cancerous growth of sexual abuse and domestic violence against women in India have become a part of the ugly phenomenon of human identity urging thinkers and sensitive people

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around the country to take it up on their sleeves with all sincerity and search for a possible explanation for its existence. Jayanta Mahapatra, a leading Indian poet writing in English, who recently breathed his last on the 27th August, 2023, tries to explore different facets of the multiplicity of human experience through his poetry that appears complex and mystical, but never far-fetched. ‘*Hunger*’ is one of the most dexterously written poems of Jayanta Mahapatra where he not only uses ‘*hunger*’ ironically – the hunger of the belly and the hunger for the fulfillment of sexual desire – but also tries to convey that poverty kills the body and the mind as well. It is poverty that strangulates filial affiliations of a father and reduces the child into an entity devoid of any identity. This paper is a humble attempt to critically analyze Jayanta Mahapatra’s ‘*Hunger*’ from an existential perspective in order to show that human identity is still at the cross-roads in the modern society.

Keywords: Sexual Abuse, Hunger, Poverty, Identity, Cross-Roads.

Bio-note:

Dr. Ankita Swetaparna is currently working as an Assistant Professor of English at Vellore Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh. She did her M.A. at the University of Hyderabad. She also completed her M.Phil at the same university in Applied Linguistics. After her Ph.D. in English, she has been regularly contributing articles to different journals of repute.

**Weaving Stories about Dying Out: Why Literary Texts on the
Anthropocene Extinction Crisis are Important?**

Dr. Abhra Paul

Abstract:

Humans are the most numerous big animals on Earth, deciding the fate of other species. As the massive geological force in the current epoch, the Anthropocene (Paul Crutzen 2002), human-driven alterations of the Earth’s environment take the form of a few dangerous trends: climate disruptions, species extinction, pollution of air, land, and sea, and growth of the human population. Unlike the previous geological epochs, the Anthropocene impacts the coextinctions of interacting species globally. Biologists, scientists, and extinction studies scholars warn that humans have been heading toward the sixth mass extinction since the beginning of life on Earth (Barnosky et al. 2011; Kingsford et al. 2009; Myers and Knoll 2001). In *Fiction and the Sixth*

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Mass Extinction (2020), Jonathan Elmore stresses the importance of narratives exploring the issue of mass extinction: ‘The stories humans tell about their own involvement with extinction are critical for understanding the extinction event currently happening all around the globe’ (5). Therefore, tales and narratives capture the ‘horror’ and ‘excitement of what is learnt’ (Kolbert 2014, 3) and also re-weave new possibilities that offer hope and scopes of sustainable co-existence.

Following this line of thought, this paper examines why exploring literary texts on species extinction is important. Do natural/social science arguments and facts represented through literary storytelling influence/affect readers to *change*? Do literary texts have any positive impact on the public/readers and urge them to control their actions? The paper reads the selected fictional and nonfictional works of Amitav Ghosh and Stephen Alter as representative environmental writings/narratives that foreground the current “Anthropocene extinction” (Earl Saxon 2008) crisis and focuses on the *storytelling mode* of the texts. This study also presents the texts as new narratives presenting the affirmative visions of a sustainable future and the coexistence of human-nonhuman species.

Keywords: The Anthropocene, Species Extinction Crisis, Ecocriticism, Human-Nature Connection, Storytelling.

Bio-note:

Dr. Abhra Paul is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, An OCC of HBNI. She has done her Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur. She is pursuing her research in South Asian Literature and Environmental Humanities. Her research areas are English Literature, American Literature, South Asian Literature, Culture Studies, Blue Humanities, the Anthropocene, and Environmental Humanities.

**Story, Game, and the Lived Experience: The Crisis of Defining New Media Forms
Between Popular Culture and Academia**

A Qualitative Study

Prakhar Srivastava

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Abstract:

In the rapidly transforming world shaped by technology and its many extensions into the spaces of culture, art, literature, and other related areas, the inevitable transformation of the nomenclature and the well-known concepts such as story, cinema, etc. is in a constant flux as well. With the emergence of little-known areas such as Ergodic Literature and game studies, the attention of academic discourse has also shifted to newly emerging forms of texts and media that continue to change the way stories and other forms of entertainment are perceived and consumed.

In this scenario, equally inevitable is the steady transformation of the very nomenclature and the popular understanding of these terms. With the recent popularization of interactive cinema and video games that incorporate elaborate and contrived narrative structures while carrying an immersive visual experience, the very distinction between story, game, and experience - as well as the associated concepts such as cinema - stand at risk of being eventually invalidated or forgotten. This crisis of the conceptual extinction of concepts that continue to define a large part of how stories are created and consumed in the twenty-first century is not merely a shift in the way these concepts and terms are seen in the popular dialogue but how their usage in the academic study of texts incorporated in these areas is potentially approached.

This study looks into the academic nomenclature rooted in the study of the relatively new domains such as ludology and Ergodic Literature, how the definitions of these concepts contradict with instances of convoluted narrative structures and mediums pervading the popular culture. The focus of this study is to demonstrate by the means of autoethnography and in-depth content analysis how the dubious agency of the viewer as a participant in unravelling a text may essentially transform the way said text can be accurately defined in a theoretical framework.

Keywords: Game Studies, Story, Game, Cybertext, Cinema.

Bio-Note:

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Prakhar Srivastava is a research scholar at the Central University of Rajasthan, working in the areas of cinema studies, digital humanities, and popular culture. His focal areas of interest include Hollywood and English language cinema, with special emphasis on the newly emerging narrative media forms such as video games, transmedia franchises, and interactive fiction in various media. He displays keen interest in science fiction and other speculative genres alongside fiction with contemporary social relevance that blend in well with the several crises of human experience and behaviour and their many fine intricacies.

**The Silent Messengers: Examining Animal Symbolism and Resilience in
Christy Lefteri's *The Beekeepers Of Aleppo***

Madhavi Krishna. S & Dr. L. Dhowmya

Abstract:

Animal symbolism in literature has a rich tradition, dating back to ancient fables and myths. This research paper delves into the rich tapestry of animal symbols in the Christy Lefteri's novel "The Beekeeper of Aleppo," showcasing how they amplify the novel's exploration of trauma, resilience, and the enduring human connection to the natural world. The paper throws light on to how animals take the role of "silent messengers" and become more than just literary devices as they act as profound conduits for understanding the characters journey and their landscapes. Through the lens of animal theory, the paper uncovers the profound insights and emotional resonance that these symbols bring to the narrative. It also emphasizes the significance of the animal-human bond in the face of adversity.

Keywords: Animal Symbolism, Animal Theory, Animal-human bond, Refugee, Resilience.

Bio-note:

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Identity Crisis in Selected Works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Vandana Beniwal

Abstract:

Half of a Yellow Sun (2006) and *Purple Hibiscus* (2003), two of Adichie's books, are the focus of the study's attempt to analyse identity development. The reader response hypothesis served as a guide for the investigation. Every character in both books struggles to build his or her identity, according to a critical interpretation of the texts. Self, social, and national identity were the three facets of identity that were studied. In literary works, every child struggles to define their own identities through contact with the world around them. In *Half of a Yellow Sun*, Chimamanda Adichie also introduces the idea of social identity when the elite convene a meeting in Odenigbo's home to discuss various concepts related to Pan Africanism, tribalism, nationalism, and race. Similar to this, in *Purple Hibiscus*, the family of aunty Ifeoma and father Amadi support Jaja and Kambili in developing their social identities by interacting with them and getting them involved in various activities. In this study, national identity is also examined by using both young and adult characters from the books. Everyone is looking forward to potential ways they may work together to bring peace and harmony to their nation.

Keywords: Half, Self, Nation, Society, Yellow, Sun, Purple, Hibiscus, Identity.

Bio-note:

Vandana Beniwal is a Research Scholar, Dept of English, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

**Eco-Critique of *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*: Intersecting Nature and
Narrative**

Uttam Kumar Maji

Abstract:

This paper presents an eco-critique of R.K. Narayan's novel *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*, examining the intersections between nature and narrative within the text. Through the green

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lens, we will try to analyse how RK Narayan intricately used the natural environment into plot of the novel, reflecting nature as one of the main characters of the novel. Malgudi, the fictional town is the setting of the novel. The peaceful harmony of Malgudi is disrupted by the presence of Vasu, the taxidermist whose exploitative action causes the environmental degradation as well as moral, spiritual decay.

The man eater of Malgudi highlights the dichotomy between the traditional, eco-centric way of life and the anthropocentric worldview of Vasu. By the depiction of Vasu's destructive and inhuman actions on nature and its consequences on the livelihood of the people of Malgudi, R.K. Narayan tries to give some advocacy for ecological balance and towards the preservation of nature. Moreover, this paper examines Narayan's use of imageries, portrayal of wild life, character development etc to restore the natural equilibrium and harmony in nature.

This eco-critical approach gives the readers ample opportunity to delve into the world of Malgudi and the world surrounding it. The ecological concern and the intention to protect Mother Nature from the inhuman actions of human beings are well explored in this novel. By analysing nature and narrative, this paper demonstrates how this novel can reflect and influence environmental consciousness among readers, advocating for a symbiotic relationship between humanity and natural world.

Keywords: Environment, Malgudi, Man Eater, Nature, Exploitation, Ecosystem.

Bio-note:

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**Reimagining Nature: An Ecocritical Exploration of William Wordsworth's
Environmental Vision**

Gour Hari Mondal

Abstract

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Exploring William Wordsworth's poetry from a perspective reveals his deep environmental insights and how they resonate with modern ecological discussions today. As a Romantic poet Wordsworth's poems stress the close relationship between nature and humans depicting nature as more than just a setting but as a living entity, with feelings and consciousness. In this study we delve into the details of significant poems such as 'Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey' and 'The Prelude' analyzing how Wordsworth envisions the natural world as a source of moral and spiritual rejuvenation instead of just mere scenery to admire or exploit for personal gain or pleasure. Wordsworth's perspective challenges the notion that humans are at the center of everything and emphasizes the need for a balanced and respectful coexistence between humanity and nature. By exploring Wordsworth's eco poetry in this manner we shed light on his early support for preserving the environment which aligns with present day environmental movements aiming to minimize human impact, on our planet's delicate ecosystems. Focusing on Wordsworth's writings through the lens of ecocriticism in the paper seeks to highlight his significance in literature and encourage a more profound contemplation of the connection between nature and humanity, in today's world.

Keywords: William Wordsworth, Ecocriticism, Environmental Vision, Romantic Poetry, Nature, Anthropocentrism, Eco-poetics.

Bio-note:

Gour Hari Mondal, Research Scholar of English, Mansarovar Global University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sabang Sajanikanta Mahavidyalaya (Vidyasagar University), West Bengal, India.

The Poetic Self: Identity and Existentialism in the Works of Louise Glück

Gopal Choudhari

Abstract

This research article examines the concept of identity in the poetry of Louise Glück, Nobel Prize-winning poet, by intertwining existential themes with personal narratives. Glück's exploration of identity is deeply connected to existential ideas such as isolation and the search

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for meaning, alongside personal experiences shaped by memory and familial relationships. While rooted in personal reflections, her poetry extends beyond individual experiences to engage with broader human concerns. Through an analysis of works like *The Wild Iris*, *Ararat*, and *Meadowlands*, this study reveals how Glück navigates the complexities of selfhood in a way that is both intellectually profound and emotionally intimate. Her poetry offers readers a reflective journey through individual and collective struggles, blending philosophical inquiry with personal storytelling.

Keywords: Louise Glück, Existentialism, Selfhood, Memory, Identity.

Bio-note: Gopal Choudhari is a Research Scholar in the Department of English, Mansarovar Global University, M.P, India.