



ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

(A State University Established in 1985)

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

LITERARY HONEY DEW 2018 - 2019



Release of Research Compendium by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran at the Two-day National Conference on *Critical Approaches East and West and Their Application to Literature* held in December 2018 .

E - MAGAZINE 2018 - 2019

Department of English and Foreign Languages

A Note on the Magazine *Literary Honey Dew*

2018-2019



I am very glad to connect with you all through this student E-Magazine *Literary Honey Dew*. It features the academic, research and extension activities which happened during the academic year 2018-2019. In keeping with the Department's tradition of organising a number of programmes of teaching and research significance, this year too the department of English held a series of events such as Prof. Chellappan Endowment Lecture, ACT NEXT (Alagappa Celebrates themed Nobel Excellence Talk) observance of World Poetry Day and other similar activities besides laying emphasis on the completion of the curriculum in a qualitative manner. The programmes organised at the Department have great impact upon the students who are able to hone their skills in a very impressive manner by participating in these events. Moreover, cultural celebrations of Saraswathi and Ayutha Poojas help students get connected with their roots. They are provided with the opportunity of learning about their traditions, conventions and heritage through these celebrations which happened at the Department during this academic year 2018 – 19.

I hope you will find this e-magazine very interesting and useful.

Chief Editor
Dr. P. Madhan
Associate Professor and Head i/c

Department of English and Foreign Languages

E-Magazine – *Literary Honey Dew*

2018-2019

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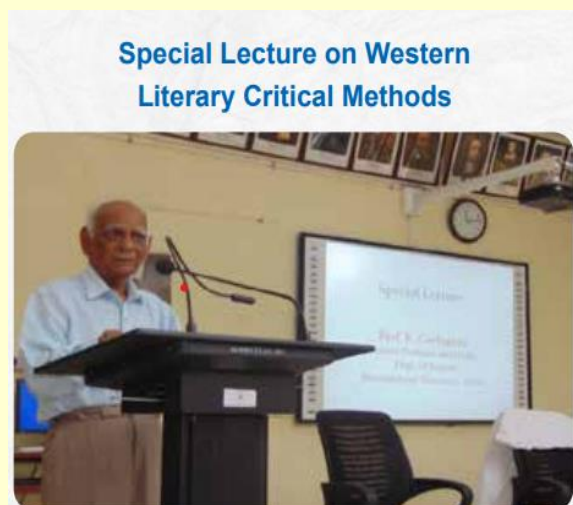
Special Discourse on British Poetry



The Department of English and Foreign Languages staged a special discourse on 13th August 2018 with Dr. S. Venkateswaran, the Former Professor of English from Regional Institute of English, Bangalore, as the resource person, who delivered a lecture on the Evolution of British Poetry. The eminent academician structured his discourse into two parts of which the first one highlighted the significance of Literature in the globalised world and the second part shed light on the evolution Azhagu Newsletter 19 of English poetry with specific reference to T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land. He began his lecture by articulating that role of literature has turned

out to be far more important than ever before, because literature has got the amazing powers of humanizing the humans. He further added that when the times of globalization have led people to live their lives in a very mechanical manner, literature can make human life vibrant, energetic, lively and illuminating. Literature, Prof. S. Venkateswaran said, would do the dual role of teaching and delighting and enlightening and entertaining. People can learn from literature, which is generally considered to be the mirror of human life, do and don'ts in life. Then he moved on to trace the history of British poetry, the seeds of which were sown during Anglo-Saxon period which was followed by Chaucer's poetic creations. Prof. S. Venkateswaran illustrated that Chaucer is worthy of being called Father of English Poetry, because Chaucer has painted an accurate picture of social, political and religious conditions of 14th century England. Then, his lecture brought into focus Elizabethan Poetry, Neo-Classical School of

Poetry, Romantic Movement and Victorian Poetry. After that, he also directed students' attention to T.S. Eliot's poetic output much of which grieves for the decline of human values and deterioration of ethics in the Modern World. Earlier, Dr. P. Madhan, Associate Professor of English, welcomed the gathering and Dr. SP. M. Kanimozhi proposed a formal vote of thanks. The faculty members, research scholars and students participated in the programme.



The Department of English and Foreign Languages organized a special lecture on 6th September, Thursday, 2018. Professor K. Chellappan, Former HOD of English, Bharadidasan University, was the resource

person. In his lecture on Western Literary Criticism, he illustrated that literary works are silent and only criticism speaks. He further explained that critical approaches such as Moralistic, Psychological, Sociological, Archetypal and Formalistic should be applied in the analysis of literary works so as to bring out the important hidden concepts in them. His lecture subsequently focused on the key idea that Feminist Criticism too should be applied in literary works where women's feelings and emotions and plight and predicament are portrayed. Elaborating on his lecture further, he stated that the application of moralistic approach will help draw lessons of life from the texts. Similarly, analyzing literary works in the Azhagu Newsletter 20 light of Sociological Approach would bring to light the various layers of society as expressed in literature. Likewise, to examine the texts in the perspective of Archetypal Approach will highlight the presence of myths in them. Then, he added that Formalistic Approach which is

also called New Critical Approach has turned out to be the most effective approach in the present day criticism with its stress and emphasis on textual materials. Extra textual materials are not considered to be essential in New Criticism. The eminent professor shed light on the concept that according to significance to extra textual materials would give rise to prejudice either in favour of or against the author. The eminent speaker, in his second part of the lecture, made a statement that Tamil poet Bharathiyar was tremendously influenced by Romantic poets particularly Shelley and Coleridge. Bharathiyar's Kaninizham was influenced by Coleridge's Kubla Khan. At the end of his lecture, he reiterated that more and more research endeavours must be made in the field of literature so that it would spur the growth and development of language and literature studies. Earlier, Dr. P. Madhan, Head i/c of the Department, delivered the welcome address. In

the end, Dr. M. Natarajan, proposed a formal vote of thanks.



The inaugural function of a Two-Day National Conference on "Critical Approaches: East and West and Their Application to Literature" was held on 17.12.2018 at Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Sponsored under the aegis of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, the conference was attended by 250 delegates. While presenting the thematic introduction, Dr.P.Madhan, Head i/c, Department of English and Foreign Languages, said that the role of literature in the creation of an ethically strong, morally virtuous and culturally renowned

society is very significant. Equally important is the criticism for “Literature is silent and only criticism speaks”. It explores the unexplored and provides richer insights into the creative and critical writings of an author. Adopting multiple critical approaches, critics of the East and the West have brought to light the hidden meanings embedded in works of art, he added. Inaugurating the conference Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, referred to the power of Criticism. He said emphatically that “It is criticism that makes a book alive. Without criticism it has no life”. Criticism is as important as breathing, said the renowned critic T.S.Eliot. Dwelling on the inseparability of History and Literature, he said that literature not only narrates the social history of a people but also portrays the finer aspects of the culture of a particular society. Over the years innovative and inspiring criticism has led to the evolution of critical theories. If literature is a tool, criticism of it is certainly a guide highlighting how to use the tool for

illumination. Whatever be the subject it is the artistic presentation that makes a book a piece of literature. In this context he said that Charles Darwin’s Origin of Species is considered a classic though it deals with the scientific subject of evolution. Gibbon’s The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire is glorified as a piece of literature since its first publication. Providing aesthetic appreciation is the aim of good criticism. In his key note address Prof.K.Chellappan, Former Professor and Head, Dept. of English, Bharathidasan University, stated that literature is an ever growing live phenomenon. There are no barriers to literature. Through a deeper study of literature the Socio-Economic and Cultural History of a nation could be known. Azhagu Newsletter 15 The literature of a country is its great asset. Criticism, the other side of a coin, helps in aesthetic appreciation of a work of art and it has also been helping to preserve and propagate significant ideas found in literary works to the succeeding generations of people.

Quoting profusely from Sangam Tamil Poetry, the speaker brought out the beauty and the play of intense emotions embodied in them by applying multi-dimensional western critical approaches. He made a reference to the relevance of Natyasastra, a treatise on performing arts, attributed to Bharata Muni and the richness of Rasa Theory propounded in classical poetics. A compendium containing select research papers was released by the Vice-Chancellor and the first copy was received by Prof.K.Chellappan. Among the distinguished participants were Prof.P.Marudanayagam, Fellow, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai and Founder Professor and Head, Dept. of English, Pondicherry Central University, Puducherry, Prof.S.Venkateshwaran, Former Professor, Regional Institute of English, Bangalore, Dr.DS.Kesava Rao, Professor, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana and Dr.Mallikarjun Patel, Professor of English, Dharwad University, Karnataka.

Dr.SP.M.Kanimozhi, Assistant Professor, Alagappa University, proposed a vote of thanks.

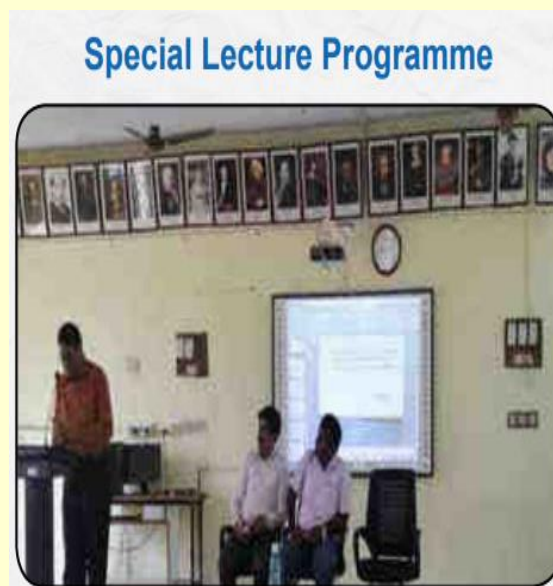
**Valedictory Function of the Two-Day
National Conference on Critical
Approaches : East and West and
Their Application to Literature
(Funded by RUSA Phase 2.0 Scheme)**



The valedictory function of the two-day National Conference took place on the afternoon of 18th December, 2018 in the seminar hall of Convocation Auditorium. Eminent Professor P. Marudanayagam, formerly Head, Department of English, Central University, Pondicherry, delivered the valedictory address in which he dwelt at length on an array of critical approaches ranging from traditional critical perspectives to post modern schools of thought including structuralism, post structuralism, reader

response theory, de-construction and so on. In addition to that, he alluded to New Historicism under which when creative literary works are analysed, historical details pertaining to the text are treated as co-texts and not contexts. Further, he took up the analyses of many Sangam Tamil Poems in the light of post structuralist critical approach. He added that reader response theory is also playing a predominant role in the landscape of literary criticism. It puts forth the notion that it is the readers who give meaning to a text and in their absence a text is considered to be an empty container. He further stated that the presentation of the research paper “Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of Human Science” by Jacques Derrida in 1960 in John Hopkins University, America, marked the start of Post Structuralist Movement in criticism. He concluded his address by saying that though post modernism and post structuralism are used interchangeably the former refers to other Arts fields like sculpture, art and music

whereas the latter denotes critical endeavours in literature. Earlier Dr.Madhan Associate Professor and Head i/c, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Natarajan proposed a formal vote of thanks. Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu earlier delivered the presidential address and gave away certificates to the paper presenters from across the country. Faculty from University Departments and affiliated Colleges along with their students participated in good numbers.



The Department of English and Foreign Languages organised a special lecture programme on 18th February 2019 with Prof. RambhauBadode from Bombay University as

the resource person. The eminent academician in his lecture took up the analysis of Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey" poem. In the beginning, he said that Wordsworth's joint publication of Lyrical Ballads along with Coleridge marked the beginning of Romantic Movement in English Literature. He further illustrated that unlike neo-classical school of poetry which focuses on reason, adoption of classical rules, depiction of urban life, romantic poetry chooses rural life, natural landscape, rich novelty and deep imagination and supernatural ideas as its themes. Earlier, Dr. P. Madhan, Associate Professor of English, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Natarajan proposed a formal vote of thanks in the end. Faculty members, Visiting Professors, research scholars and students participated in the special lecture programme.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

World Poetry Day – 2019



The Department of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University, organised the World Poetry Day on 21st March 2019. Dr. P. Madhan, Associate Professor, Department of English and Foreign Languages, delivered the welcome address by delving on the richness of both English and Tamil poetry. Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University delivered the presidential address. He said that poets in general are great humanists and they propagate the humanistic ideals to the world at large. Reading of poetry ennobles our life. He stressed the importance of poetry in our lives. The Department of English and Foreign Languages held a special discourse

on 9th March 2019 with Dr. Mallikarjun Patil, former Head of the Department of English, Karnatak University, Dharwad, as the resource person. The eminent professor in his discourse analysed the growth and development of American poetry with reference to Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost. In the beginning of his lecture, he stated that for the sake of convenience of study only, literature is classified under various heads. In reality, literature, wherever it comes from, revolves around human passions, human sentiments, human feelings and emotions and so on. The distinguished speaker held that the nature of literature has given rise to the concept that “humanity is one and literature is one.” Earlier, Dr. P. Madhan, Associate Professor of English, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Natarajan proposed a formal vote of thanks in the end. Faculty members, Visiting Professors, research scholars and students participated in the special lecture programme.



The Department of English and Foreign Languages conducted the Broad Based Board of Studies meeting on 11th June, 2019 at the Department. Dr.Anitha Devi Pillai, Senior Lecturer from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, participated in the

meeting in her capacity as Foreign Subject Expert. She provided intellectual inputs and suggestions for the formation of the syllabus on a par with World Class Universities for M.A and M. Phil English Programmes and it will come into effect from the academic year 2019-20. After the meeting was over, the foreign expert delivered a lecture to M.Phil and P.hD students. In the interactive session, that followed, she answered all the questions raised by the students. Then, she visited the faculty library and suggested the purchase of good number of books both on Language and Literature for the further enhancement of the Library.

Besides, Dr.K.Chellappan former Head of the Department of English, Bharathidasan University and the Senior Most Teacher of English in Tamil Nadu, attended the Board of Studies meeting as a Special Invitee and he emphasized that the syllabus framed should make students very knowledgeable about the subject, ethically upright, morally strong and culturally forward, besides making them eligible for facing the challenges of life and also for appointments in educational institutions, private and government sectors. He offered suggestions and guidance for framing a curriculum that will fulfill the objectives specified above. The other members who attended the meeting are: Dr.P.Madhan, Head in charge of English Department and Chairman of Board of Studies, all the faculty members, Dr.K.Chelliah, Prof and Head Department of English, M.K.U, Dr.Isacc Jebastine, former Head, Dept. of English, Bharathidasan University, Trichy and Dr. Rajesh (Alumni), Department of English, DDE, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai.

**Village Placement Programme- 2018-19
Maruthangudi Village – September 2019**



Distribution of Prizes to the School Students by the Faculty Members



Awareness Programme during VEP-2019



Pongal Celebrations- 2019



Pooja Celebrations -2018

