



ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

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Vallal Dr. R.M. Alagappa Chettiar



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

LITERARY HONEY DEW 2022 - 2023



Prof. G. Ravi, Vice-chancellor, Alagappa University delivering the Presidential Address in the Two-day National Seminar on *Ethicality, Morality and Justice in Literature* held on 13th & 14th October 2022.

E - MAGAZINE 2022 - 2023

Department of English and Foreign Languages

A Note on the Magazine *Literary Honey Dew*

2022-2023



I am very glad to unite with the readers through this department E-Magazine. It features the events and incidents of academic and research importance that happened at the department during the academic year of 2022-23. Besides, students' exhibition of skills and creativity on certain literary agesforms part of this magazine.

During this period the Department conducted series of programmes that include National Conference on *Ethicality, Morality, and Justice*, Special Lecture on *Performance of Yoga*, International Webinar on *Shakespeare for all Ages and Stages*, Webinar on Medieval Poetry, Webinar on Forgotten of Zones Post colonialism, Observance of World Poetry Day, Conduct of Alagappa Celebrates Themed Nobel Excellence Talk (ACT NEXT) and so on.

All these events aim at intellectually impacting upon the learners in such a way that rather than being mere consumers of literature, they become creators of literature. In order to shape the learners into intellectually competent individuals, such programmes are organized at the department periodically. I hope you will find *Literary Honey Dew*illuminating.

Chief Editor
Dr. P. Madhan

Department of English and Foreign Languages

E-Magazine – *Literary Honey Dew*

2022-2023

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Alumni Meet - 6th August 2022



The Department of English and Foreign Languages organized Alumni Meet on 6th August 2022. Dr. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, welcomed the gathering. The objective of this meeting is to reconnect with the Alumni and celebrate their success and various achievements. Alumni also interacted with the students and gave motivational talk regarding preparing for higher studies and placements. Students asked many questions regarding placements and the alumni shared their views. At the end, Dr. M. Natarajan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University proposed the vote of thanks. With the support of the organizing committee the Alumni Meet 2022 has made a grand success.

The Department of English and Foreign Languages organised Parent – Teacher Association Meet – 2022 on 6th August 2022 at 11. 00 a.m. The parents were informed through their wards about the said meeting. More than 30 parents/guardians grace the occasion. Dr. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University welcomed the gathering followed by the interaction between Parents, Class Teachers, Subject Teachers and Mentors. There was a discussion on student’s performance in individual subjects, students’ discipline in classrooms and their attendance percentage. One parent was happy with the way the department was conducting academically. He was very satisfied with the performance of her ward. One parent also enquired what kind of placement arrangements are done for their ward. The faculty members discussed in detail about the academic calendar and their last working day. He also stressed that if

parents and students had any difficulty, they can contact the faculty and the Department anytime. CIA marks in all the subjects were discussed with the parents. At the end of the meeting Dr. SP. M. Kanimozhi, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University, proposed the vote of thanks. The department faculty members Dr. S. Valliammai, Dr. M. Natarajan, Dr. S. Sudha, Dr. SP. Shanthi, Dr. S. Vinoth Kumar, Assistant Professors attended the meeting.

Prof. Chellappan Endowment Lecture



The Department of English and Foreign Languages staged a special lecture programme under the auspices of Prof. Chellappan Endowment on 4.9.2022. Prof. Manikkam who served in Alagappa

Government College for about three decades participated as a resource person and made a lecture on Tennyson's poem Ulysses. The senior professor expatiated upon the indomitable spirit and the unquenchable quest of Ulysses for adventures. Even if Ulysses made a great number of accomplishments in his life, he does not like to be complacent or self-satisfied. The former professor of Alagappa Government College Mr. NP. Manikkam explicated Ulysses' discontent, restlessness and anxiety upon returning to his kingdom Ithaca. By entrusting his kingdom to his son Telemachue, Ulysses wishes to explore life more. The guest of honour quoted the following lines from the poem, "I can not rest from travel I will drink ; Life to the lees: All times I have enjoyed greatly, have suffered greatly". Prof. Manikkam's exhortation to students is that they should draw inspiration from the character of Ulysses and make rapid strides in their career. They should always have a spark inside them to accomplish further in their career. He wound up the

lecture by quoting the lines, To strive, To seek and not to yield. When students put their heart and soul into the work they undertake, they will definitely become successful and victorious, Prof. Manikkam said.

At the end of the programme, Dr. SP. Shanthi proposed a vote of thanks. Faculty, Research Scholars and students took part in large numbers.

A Special Lecture on Yoga Conducted on 13.09.2022



A Special Lecture on Yoga was organized at the department on 13.09.2022 with Mr.Suresh , a yoga master from Mahayogam Meditation Centre. The Guest Speaker explained to students and research scholars the benefits of performing Yoga and Meditation.

Webinar on Shakespeare for All Stages

An International Webinar on Shakespeare for All Stages happened at the Department of English and Foreign Languages on 25.09.2022. Prof. BootheniaMajoul from University of Carthage, Tunisia took part in it as a guest of honour and made a talk on the above-mentioned topic. Prof. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University, delivered the welcome address.

Prof. BootheniaMajoul called Shakespeare a phenomenon whose thirty-seven plays and hundred and forty-four sonnets have attained immortality and deathlessness. She further added that Shakespeare's works are not for an age but for all ages not for one country but for all countries and not for one generation but for all generations. From her perspective, Shakespeare's plays a repository of knowledge and a store-house of worldly wisdom. The Tunisian professor BootheniaMajoul spelt out that

Shakespearean's literary works remain a beacon of light and guidance for the human life. Apart from providing entertainment for the readers, the dramas of Shakespeare present enlightenment as well. Other ideas that appeared prominently in her lecture are as follows : Macbeth Teaches that over-valuing ambition is an evil ii) Hamlet's lesson is procrastination of action is dangerous . As part of her lecture, Prof. BootherinnaMajoul shed light on the ever-relevant and ever-applicable nature of Shakespeare's plays. Even if Shakespeare does not follow poetic justice in his plays, the very nature of human-life – as the combination of joys and sorrows and ups and downs justifies the absence of it, Professor BoodheinnaMajoul added.

At the end of the webinar, Dr. M. Natarajan, Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks. English Faculty from University Departments, Affiliated Colleges, Research Scholars and Students took part in the webinar.

International Webinar on Forgotten Zones of Postcolonial Studies

The Department of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University, Karaikudi organized an International Webinar on “Forgotten Zones of Postcolonial Studies” by inviting Dr. Amrita Ghosh, Assistant Professor of South Asian Literatures, Dept. of English, University of Central Florida, U.S.A. on 07th October 2022. While delivering the special discourse on the topic, Dr. Amrita Ghosh, presented overview on the Indo-Bangladeshi complex borderlands, focusing on the enclaves or ‘chitmahals’ that became unique stateless conflict zones between India and Bangladesh. She stated that a historic Land Boundary Agreement was signed in 2015, that helped in the official exchange of all chitmahals on both Indian and Bangladeshi sides for incorporation and inclusion within national sovereignties, after seventy years of the Partition of the Indian subcontinent. Yet, in 2021, the question about identity and space arouse posing a challenge to easy resolutions

within these complex borderlands. Further, she opined that in light of new scholarship on the once stateless people and former enclaves, she found the enclaves as still hovering in a space of 'abjectness' between inclusion within national sovereignty and not yet fully there. She concluded her lecturing by stating that "As a literary and cultural studies scholar, I finally turn to art and the cultural productions and the lived experiences of the residents of the 'former' chitmahal enclaves and find some of the new literary productions, art, documentaries and recent photographs reflecting the possibilities and means towards solidarity, understanding, boundary crossings that perform critical moments of resistance against the patriarchal-statist hegemony." Earlier, Dr. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University welcomed the gathering and at the end Dr. M. Natarajan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, proposed a vote of thanks. More than 200 scholars participated in this webinar.

International Webinar on T.S. Eliot, Identity and India

The Department of English and Foreign Languages organized an International level webinar on 16.06.2022. Prof. Robert Frazer, from Open University, Faculty of Arts Royal Holloway, University of London, participated as a guest of honour and delivered a lecture on the title T.S. Eliot, Identity and India. In his lecture, he illustrated how the literary creations of T.S. Eliot have turned out to be the documentation of socio, political, cultural and religious conditions of England in the wake of the two great world wars. Prof. Robert Frazer called T.S. Eliot a versatile man of letters who stamped his individually and creative personality in several literary genres including poetry, drama, prose, criticism and so on. The distinguished academic Prof. Robert Frazer opined that T.S. Eliot's stature and standing are so great that he is known as the identity and face of twentieth century English literature. T.S. Eliot whom the resource person projects as a spiritualist be moans the decline of ethics, deterioration of

morals and break-down of public morality in The Waste Land. T.S. Eliot's knowledge of Indian Vedas and Upanishads is so phenomenal that he presents a three-fold remedy of Datta, Dayatavam and Damyata taken from Upanishads for eliminating all the maladies of modern life, Prof. Robert Frazer added. Another significant ideas which figured prominently in the discourse of Prof. Robert is that T.S Eliot is a modernist keen on creating order out of disorder, unity out of disunity and coherence out of incoherence. It is very much palpable that T.S Eliot was concerned about the overall progress of mankind, Prof. Robert Frazer explained. The English faculty of University department, affiliated colleges and other universities, research scholars and students participated at the webinar. Finally, Dr.SP.Shanthi, Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

International Webinar

As part of the International Lecture Series, the Department of English and

Foreign Languages conducted an International Webinar on 27.4.2022 with Prof. Dono Usmanova, Head of English Language Department, Fergana State University, Fergana, Uzbekistan as the resource person. Prof. P. Madhan, Head of the Department of English and Foreign Languages delivered the welcome address.

Prof. Dono USmanava, the guest of honour from Fergana State University, Uzbekistan spoke about post modernism. She called the school of postmodernism a counter-enlightenment movement which brought about unprecedented progress in all walks of human life. Prof. Dono Usmanavo's articulation is that progress on this scale was made possible only by the faculty of reason and rationality. The phenomenon of enlightenment is a reason powered movement but post-modernism does not believe in this reason-driven progress, Prof. Dono Usmanavo added. Quoting Immanuel Kant who stated that the faculty of reason functions in specific ways in specific people and its findings are contingent and

provisional, the guest of honour Prof. Dono Usmanavo illustrated that postmodernism wants intuition-driven progress rather than reason-powered development. In addition to that, the Head of English Department, Fergana State University, Prof. Dono vocalized the view that post modernism seeks to replace totalizing and over-arching meta narrative, by mini-narratives. The former is concerned with grand subjects like politics, religion Marxism and so on whereas that latter deals with the way of life, culture, traditions and conventions of people was belong to the peripheries of society. The resource person described postmodernist fiction as historiography meta fiction. Referring to Canadian postmodern critic Lynda Hutcheon, Prof. Dono Usmanovo said that historiography is related to actual historical events and metafiction is pertaining to fictionality of fiction. It is a strange paradox. History contains the elements of fiction and fiction is seen as contributing to history, Prof. Dona Usmanova spelt out. She further put forth the notion that magical

realism, pastiche, intertextuality, hyper-reality and pre-occupation with extra-terrestrial lives are some of the important post modern features.

At the end of the programme Dr. SP. Shanthi, Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks. Faculty from University Departments, Affiliated Colleges, Research Scholars and PG students participated at the programme in great numbers.

Two-Day “National Seminar on Ethicality, Morality and Justice in Literature”

A Two-Day “National Seminar on Ethicality, Morality and Justice in Literature” was inaugurated today (13.10.2022) at Alagappa University, Karaikudi, under the auspices of the Department of English and Foreign Languages.



Presiding over the event, Prof G.Ravi, Vice-Chancellor, referred to the efficacy of literature and observed that humanity would have remained in sheer ignorance but for great literary works. Since the dawn of civilization, literature has acted as a unifying radiating and moralizing force and shown the right path to mankind to tread on upholding values such as ethicality and justice for a peaceful coexistence. In the contemporary global milieu, the need to study literature and absorb values highlighted in them has become all the more important to make the earth a safe haven to live in. He added that efforts would be made to teach Japanese language in the Department of English and Foreign Languages for students who want to learn this language of job opportunities.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Vinod Balakrishnan of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, who dwelt at length on the continuing clash between the individual and collective freedom, said that surrendering the individual freedom to the State for preserving our safety has become a necessity now in the larger interests. He added that concerns of humanity and complexities of reality are well portrayed in the postmodern literary works.

Dr. P.V Sreebitha, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, Kannur University, Kerala, said that one of the great merits of the colonial rule is the introduction of English Language, the study of which has liberated the marginalized sections of society in India and helped them articulate their predicament. The English translations of standard regional language works that embody the life and aspirations of people do act as unifying force enriching the Indian culture and ethos.

Earlier Prof. P.Madhan, Head of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, welcomed the gathering and presented the thematic address. He said that ancient literary works mainly focused on moral dimensions of human life and later on psychological and sociological aspects found in them were explored by critics but the manifestation of life intrinsic to the literary text remains at the base of all types of interpretations. At the end of the inaugural session.

Dr.M.Natarajan , Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

ACT NEXT - Seminar on Nobel Laureate for Literature



The Department of English and Foreign Languages in association with

Department of Tamil staged a seminar to honour and celebrate Annie Ernaux, the Nobel Prize winner for literature for 2022 on 22.02.2023. Dr. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages, welcomed the gathering and explained the origin and history of institution of Nobel Prize in the year 1901. He illustrated the accomplishments of Indian Nobel Laureates such as Rabindranath Tagore, Sir C.V. Raman and others. After that, Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University Prof. G. Ravi delivered the presidential address wherein he said that Nobel prizes have been awarded to path-breaking and seminal contributions in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, peace, literature and economics. The Nobel Prize winners, the Vice-Chancellor opined make inspirational impact not only on people belonging to their own fields but also on humanity in general. Further, he added that students from under privileged backgrounds are second to none in terms of caliber, potential, intelligence and hard work. He energized the students by

stating the students from rural areas are in possession of determination, resolve and inner strength to make accomplishments in their career. He then exhorted the students to draw inspiration from Nobel Laureate Annie Ernaux and become Nobel Awardees like her. Afterwards, the chief guest of the programme Dr. Ganesan, Associate Professor, Department of English, The H.H. Rajah's College, Pudukkottai delivered the key note address, and said Annie Ernaux was born in Lillebonne in France in a working class family in 1940. She was educated in University of Rouen and University of Bordeaux. Her important novels are: Cleaned Out, Do what they say or Else and The Possession. He stated that Annie Ernaux has dealt with the themes of inner conflicts of women, their psychological trauma, social divisions, gender discrimination, time and memory and so on. Dr. Ganesan further elaborated that even if Annie Ernaux has not projected herself as a feminist or a social reformer, her literary works abound with feminist perspectives, social consciousness

and the desire to demolish social divisions. Furthermore, the chief guest spelt out Annie Ernaux has handled taboo subjects which traditional writers hesitate to deal with but she has done it with the intention of sensitizing the general public about the harrowing experiences women face in their lives. As part of his keynote address the chief guest traced the evolution of women's writing with reference to American Feminist writer Elaine Showalter's Towards the Feminist Poetics. The perusal of Annie Ernaux literary works, Professor Ganesan said will make people know that she has championed the cause of women-empowerment, the upliftment of the vulnerable and boycott of quack doctors. The guest of honour quoted the citation of the Nobel Prize which goes as follows: "Annie Ernaux was awarded Noble prize for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and restrains of personal memory. The citation also states that she has been given this award for a body of work that is personal and at the

same time universal. The professor Rajaram, Head of the Department of Tamil offered felicitations and illustrated the achievements of Nobel Laureate's for literature. He puts forth the notion that when the literary creations of Nobel Laureates are analyzed, it demonstrates that writers with social consciousness and desire for the empowerment of women have been given Nobel Prize. He then added that the Nobel Prize winners with their powerful literary creations conquered time. In the end, Dr. S. Valliammai, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Foreign Languages, proposed a formal vote of thanks. Faculty and students from University Tamil and English Departments, Alagappa Government Arts College and Government College of Arts and Science, Thiruvadanai participated in the programme in large in numbers.

Alumni Meet - 19th March 2023



The Department of English and Foreign Languages organized Alumni Meet on 19th March 2023. Dr. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, welcomed the gathering. The objective of this meeting is to reconnect with the Alumni and celebrate their success and various achievements. Alumni also interacted with the students and gave motivational talk regarding preparing for higher studies and placements. Students asked many questions regarding placements and the alumni shared their views. At the end, Dr. M. Natarajan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University proposed the vote of thanks. With the support of the organizing committee the Alumni Meet 2023 has made a grand success.

Parent Teacher Association Meeting



The Department of English and Foreign Languages organized Parent-Teacher Association Meet – 2022 on 19th March 2023 at 11.00 a.m. The parents were informed through their wards about the said meeting. More than 40 parents/ guardians grace the occasion. Dr. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University welcomed the gathering followed by the interaction between Parents, Class Teachers, Subject Teachers and Mentors. There was a discussion on student's performance in individual subjects, students' discipline in classrooms and their attendance percentage. One parent was happy with the way the department was conducting academically. He was very satisfied with the

performance of her ward. One parent also enquired what kind of placement arrangements are done for their ward. The faculty members discussed in detail about the academic calendar and their last working day. He also stressed that if parents and students had any difficulty, they can contact the faculty and the Department anytime. CIA marks in all the subjects were discussed with the parents. At the end of the meeting Dr. SP. M. Kanimozhi, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Alagappa University, proposed the vote of thanks. The department faculty members Dr. S. Valliammai, Dr. M. Natarajan, Dr.S. Sudha, Dr. SP. Shanthi attended the meeting.

World Poetry Day Celebrations – 30.03.2023



The Department of English and Foreign Languages observed the World Poetry Day on 30.03.2023. The Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University, Prof. G. Ravi presided over the event and delivered the presidential address wherein he said that without literature particularly the genre of poetry, Human life will be enveloped by hollowness and void. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the genre of poetry performs the two significant functions of entertaining and enlightening mankind. He further, added that during freedom struggle poets like Bharathiyar inspired feelings of patriotism and yearning for independence among people through their poetry. Poetry, which the bards utilized as an effective instrument reached the masses in every part of the country and awakened them to struggle for the liberty of the country, the Vice-Chancellor articulated. Prof. R. Raja Govindasamy, the former Principal of Thiyagarajar College, Madurai, who took part in the event in English Literature. His discourse threw much light on the themes of

sufferings of mankind, nature, optimism and the predicament of the marginalized as portrayed in the poetry of Langston Hughes, Wordsworth, Thomas Gray and others. Prof. Karmegam, Formerly Head of the Department of Tamil, Alagappa Government College, who is another resource person for the event highlighted the way of life of ancient Tamils, their traditions and conventions found in Sangam Tamil Poetry. He called Sangam Tamil Poetry as prior to that Dr. P. Madhan, Professor and Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages, welcomed the gathering. In the end, Dr. SP.M. Kanimozhi, proposed a formal vote of thanks. Faculty Members from University Departments and Affiliated Colleges, Research Scholars and students participated at the event.