



ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

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Vallal Dr. RM. Alagappa Chettiar



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

LITERARY HONEY DEW 2020 - 2021



Faculty with Professor K. Chellappan who has instituted an Endowment in his name at the Department of English and Foreign Languages .

E - MAGAZINE 2020 - 2021

Department of English and Foreign Languages

A Note on the Magazine *Literary Honey Dew*

2020-2021



It offers me immense pleasure to connect with you through this E-Magazine *Literary Honey Dew*. It is worrisome that due to the outbreak of COVID – 19, classes in regular mode have been cancelled. Still, the Department of English and Foreign Languages, under the instruction of the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, conducted online classes for students on a regular basis. The faculty took all possible steps to ensure that the learning of students was not affected in any way. Students were encouraged to contact the faculty over phone and by email for learning new subjects and clarifying their doubts. Further, the Department conducted an online lecture on 5th February, 2021 on “Enigmatic World of Drama” with Prof. M. Murali Ganam, Head of English Department, D. G. Vaishnav College, Chennai as the resource person. The observance of World Poetry Day through online mode also took place on March 21, 2021. Even if online classes were new to students, they very quickly adapted to this digital mode of learning and exhibited enormous interest in online academic activities. It is indeed creditable that faculty prepared impressive and student-friendly online teaching materials and presented them to the students in an interesting way.

I hope you will find this E-Magazine *Literary Honey Dew* very interesting, illuminating and informative.

Chief Editor

Dr. P. Madhan

Department of English and Foreign Languages

E-Magazine – *Literary Honey Dew*

2020-2021

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**ACT NEXT (Alagappa Celebrates
Themed Nobel Excellence Talk)
09.07.2020**



The Department of English and Foreign Languages organized Nobel Excellence Talk on 9th July 2020. Prof. Vinod Balakrishnan from the National Institute of Technology, Trichy delivered the keynote address wherein he elaborately dealt with the themes, narrative devices, and services of Peter Handke, the Nobel Prize Winner for Literature in 2019.

**Prof. K. Chellapan Endowment
Lecture- 18.07.2020**



The Department of English and Foreign Languages organized Prof. K.Chellapan Endowment Lecture on 18-07-2020 by inviting Prof. V.Nagarajan, Head of the Department of English, Alagappa Government Arts College, Karaikudi. He spoke on the title “Significance of Comparative Literature”. The eminent speaker illustrated in his lecture that though humanity is divided by forces like economics, geography, and race, it is united by Literature. The instrument of comparative literature can

be used as a weapon to bridge the gap among nations and to establish international unity and harmony.

Discourse on the Enigmatic World of Drama-Explained-5th February 2021



The Department of English and Foreign Languages held a special discourse online on 5th February, 2021 on “The Enigmatic World of Drama-Explained” with Dr.M.MuraliGanam, Professor and Head of M.A. English Programme, DG Vaishnav College, Chennai. The distinguished speaker said that of all the genres of literature, drama proves to be most effective as it is a life-like representation of the world; and he traced

the growth and development of drama. The speaker made an observation in his talk that morality and religious plays based on the Biblical themes paved the way for the growth of drama when the religious priests wanted to preach morality to people particularly to the people of lower strata who were not educated enough to read the Bible and learn lessons from it, they staged plays interwoven with spiritual themes for the benefit of the simple illiterate folk. In course of his discourse, Dr.MuraliGanam referred to Aristotle’s concept of “catharsis” which is nothing but the purification of the feelings of pity and fear. When the spectators behold a play particularly tragedy, the guest speaker quoting from Aristotle’s Poetics, illustrates that they will go through purification of emotions and emerge as far better mortals. The subsequent parts of

the discourse cast light on the popularity and immortality of British drama for which the contributions of Ben Jonson, Marlowe, William Shakespeare Dryden, T.S.Eliot, George Bernard Shaw and others made enormous contribution. The erudite eminent guest of honour articulated that Shakespeare with the publication of 37 plays including the immortal tragedies, Macbeth, Othello, King Lear and Hamlet is considered to be the father of English Drama. Over and above, Dr.M.MuraliGanam drew the attention of the audience to the glory of ancient Indian dramas the manifestation of which can be found in the dramas of Kalidasa. His Plays Sakuntala, Kumarasambavam, Megathoodham and others have not only attained immortality but also earned him the title “The Shakespeare of India”. The eminent guest speaker further added that although

Kalidasa belongs to 4th century BC and the phenomena of Shakespeare happened only Azhagu Newsletter 13 in 16th century AD, critics equate the former on a par with the latter. After that, the guest speaker’s discourse centered around the contemporary dramatic domain wherein the plays of Vijay Tendulkar, Mahesh Dattani and others are found. The kernel part of his discourse was the analysis of the themes and stylistic features of the western and eastern dramas. Prior to the commencement of the discourse, Dr.P.Madhan, Professor and Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages, welcomed the gathering and delivered the introductory address. In the end, Dr. S. Sudha, Assistant Professor of English, proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Special Discourse on Post-Modernism



The Department of English and Foreign Languages held a special discourse on “Post Modernism” on 11th March 2021 with Prof. K.Chellappan as the guest of honour. The Former Head of the Department of English, Bharadhidasan University, Trichy explained in detail all key characteristics of Post Modernism. He said that some critics view it as a “Period Concept” and some other critics look at it as a “unique genre.” He added further that if it is perceived as a “Period Concept”, it can be both the continuation and contradiction of modernism. Even if modernism is followed by post modernism, the latter is different from

the former in its approach towards human life the manifestation of which is found in literature. Modernism mourns the disorderliness, fragmentation, chaos and incoherence of modern life. The octogenarian professor referred to T.S.Eliot’s “The Waste Land” as a landmark work of modernism wherein the poet grieves for the disorderly, chaotic, untidy and fragmented lives of moderns. But, the speaker said when modernism seeks to create order out of disorder, coherence out of incoherence, tidiness out of untidiness, and perfection out of chaos, Post Modernism celebrates disorder, incoherence, untidiness and chaos and it accepts them as part of life. Further, the distinguished speaker referred to Canadian Academic, Linda Hutcheon who opines that post-modernism can be viewed as a blend of historiography and metafiction. Historiography is about

recording the actual historical events whereas metafiction is concerned with fictionality of fiction. The speaker illustrated that postmodernism is a blend of fact and fiction, adding that it reduces history to a kind of textuality and problematizes it. In this regard, Prof.K.Chellappan, in his discourse brought out the post-modern elements from Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* wherein the protagonist Saleem Sinai associates his life with the history of India. Furthering his discourse, he articulated that magic realism which is an exaggerated version of realism is a key feature of post-modernism. In addition to students, research scholars, faculty members from the University English Department, Teachers, and Students from the neighboring Alagappa Govt. Arts College also participated in the programme. In the beginning of the

programme, Dr.P.Madhan, Professor and Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages delivered the welcome address and finally Dr. SP. M. Kanimozhi proposed a formal vote of thanks.

World Poetry Day Celebrations- March 2021

In keeping with the tradition of observing UN (United Nations) declared World Poetry Day which falls on 21st of March every year, this year also the Department celebrated World Poetry Day on 19th March 2021 through Azhagu Newsletter 14 online mode with the resource persons Prof. Navaneethan, Former Head of the Department of English, H.H. THE Rajah's College, Pudukottai and Former Professor of Tamil Dr.Valliammai from Annamalai University. One of the Guests of Honour, Prof. Navaneethan who spoke about English poetry defined poetry in the following way: The Identity of a race is

Language, the identity of Language is Literature and the heart of Literature is Poetry, he further illustrated that the heartbeat of a society can be heard in its poetry. Besides, dwelling on the profundity of Poetry, he stated that Poetry has the potential to bring about transformation and metamorphosis in people. Prof. Navaneethan's further articulation included the fact that back in the day, in the days of yore, only poetic pieces which were available in the forms of proverbs and sayings educated and enlightened the masses. In this regard, Prof. Navaneethan made a reference to the following definition of Shelley: Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of mankind. He made a mention about the following definitions of poetry by Wordsworth and Coleridge, with the former saying that "Poetry is spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings and it is

emotions recollected in tranquility and the latter's statement "a poet's mind is not like a mirror but a lamp because it not only imitates reality that also creates reality." The Guest of Honour also explained how T.S.Eliot's statement that poetry is not the expression of emotions but an escape from emotion differs from that of Wordsworth. Over and above, he made a survey of the growth and development of British Poetry and cast light on both romanticists and classicists. His lecture was followed by the discourse of Prof. Valliammai who painted a picture of the glory and greatness of Sangam Tamil poetry. She illustrated that through Sangam Tamil poetry the way of life, culture, civilization, love, warfare and agricultural practices of ancient Tamils can be learnt. She called Elangovadikal's Silapadhikaram the first ever national linguistic epic. The

PG and research students of the Department and faculty members attended the programmes. In the start of the programme, Dr.P.Madhan Professor

International Webinar on Model Minorities by Prof.Nalini Iyer from Seattle University Washington-28th June 2021



The Department of English and Foreign Languages staged an International Webinar on Model Minorities by inviting Prof. Nalini Iyer from Seattle University, Washington DC America. She spoke as follows: Even if the immigrants get caught between two

and Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Natarajan, proposed a formal vote of thanks in the end.

nations and two cultures, they stabilize themselves in such a way that their nostalgic feelings of home and estrangement in the host country do not knock them down. They remain so stable the people of the host country by and large respect them for their law-abiding nature and industry.