

## **Editorial**

Dear Readers,

Welcoming you to the latest issue of the Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature, we are pleased to present a collection of diverse and thought-provoking articles that delve into various themes and dimensions of literature. These articles contribute to the understanding and exploration of literature's role in awakening spiritual intelligence, self-exploration, cultural contexts, critical analysis, and the power of sisterhood. Each study offers unique insights into the complex and transformative nature of literary works.

The first article, "Awakening of Spiritual Intelligence in the Women Protagonists of Shashi Deshpande and its Significance in Life" by Sr. A. Maria Philomi and Dr. Shanthi, explores the concept of spiritual intelligence as awakened in the women protagonists of Shashi Deshpande's works. The authors examine how self-discovery, acceptance of misfortunes, and living with equanimity are manifested in the characters, presenting a holistic view of awakened feminism.

In the second article, "The Theme of Self-exploration and Quest for Belongingness in Nancy Huston's *Fault Lines*" by Dr. Sandhya Tiwari, the focus shifts to the repercussions of self-exploration and modernity on individuals, particularly children. Through an analysis of Nancy Huston's novel *Fault Lines*, the author delves into the distortion of self and unfulfilled desires, shedding light on the challenges faced by individuals caught in the complexities of self-discovery.

The third article, "Langston Hughes – A Protest Poet" by K.R. Vijaya, examines the poems of Langston Hughes as protest poetry against the backdrop of social, political, and racial dimensions. The study emphasizes the need to analyze Black literature within its sociological context, showcasing Hughes' response to racialization and his quest for a better world through his powerful and evocative poetry.

Turning to a critical examination of UGC NET, the article titled "UGC 'NET': A Critique" by S.C. Sood addresses the suitability of the eligibility test for the recruitment of teachers in higher education. By analyzing sample questions from different papers, including English Literature, the author explores whether the test effectively improves the quality of teachers and teaching in institutes of higher education.

The fifth article, "Ruth Praver Jhabvala's Technique as a Novelist" by Dr. Shikha Saxena, focuses on the artistic excellence of Ruth Praver Jhabvala as an Indian novelist. The author highlights Jhabvala's unique position as an outsider with deep insight into India's social and cultural ethos, which is reflected in the diverse themes of her novels. The analysis showcases Jhabvala's skillful handling of human relationships and her compassionate portrayal of Indian society.

In the sixth article, "Language of Agony of Clowns: A Study of Saul Bellow's *Herzog* and Rushdie's *Shalimar the Clown*" by Dr. Jandhyala Ravindra Nath, the comparative

study of Saul Bellow's Herzog and Salman Rushdie's Shalimar the Clown explores the protagonists' struggle for meaning in an objective world. The analysis highlights the impact of historical and ideological currents on their responses to crisis, examining the masculine notion of honor and its subjective influence on their lives.

Lastly, in the seventh article, "Reading an Interracial, Cross-Cultural Sisterhood in Jhumpa Lahiri's Hell-Heaven" by Ved Mitra Shukla, the focus is on the possibilities of an interracial, cross-cultural sisterhood as depicted in Jhumpa Lahiri's short story. The author explores how the characters navigate cultural and generational gaps to establish a sisterhood rooted in shared emotional experiences and the struggle against patriarchy.

Collectively, these articles enrich our understanding of literature's capacity to awaken spiritual intelligence, provoke self-reflection, challenge social norms, and foster connections among diverse individuals. They remind us of the immense value of literature as a tool for personal growth, social critique, and cultural understanding. We hope that the readers find inspiration and insights within the pages of this journal, and that these articles contribute to the ongoing discourse in the field of English literature.

Regards,  
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