

EDITORIAL

Welcome to another issue of the ELTAI Journal of Literature!

The previous academic year witnessed a plethora of activities as part of the 400th death Anniversary of William Shakespeare in various parts of the world. Be it theatre, scholarly journals, or discussions in conferences, the Bard ruled the roost and such academic deliberations have opened up many insights on his works. ELTAI too had its share of programmes and they have been successfully conducted throughout India. A big salute to all those who contributed.

In this issue, we are continuing with the legacy of Shakespeare. We have selected a few papers presented in various ELTAI Chapter programmes.

We are happy to have a scholarly article by Prof. M.S. Nagarajan titled “On Writing the Literary History of Indian Fiction in English” which attempts a much-needed analysis of the logical development of the literary history of Modern Indian Fiction. The article is truly insightful and it will surely help students of Indian Fiction to approach the subject with a truly critical perspective.

Mr. Mrunal Chavda in his article “Reconceptualising witches as *Hijras* in *Macbeth*: Tara Arts’ Adaptation” examines the theatrical production of *Macbeth* by Jatinder Verma, in which the emphasis is on the Hindu myth of *ardhanarishvara* (a half male and a half female) and the concept of coexistence of two genders living in the same body.

Mr. Vikas Chandani makes a study of *Tempest* by delineating two characters in particular which might support the argument that Prospero represents the English power, i.e. Ariel and Caliban. He logically arrives at a conclusion that *The Tempest* is one of the most scrutinised literary texts by Shakespeare, (apart from *Hamlet*) because “it stands on the border where colonial literature, racism, textual interpretation and deconstruction meet”.

Dr. Prasenjit Panda’s article titled “When Lady Macbeth becomes a Man: Subversion of Sexuality and Gender in *Macbeth*” deals with the dichotomy of WO(MAN) at the cultural level but proposes that the possibility of merging the two needs to be explored. Lady Macbeth’s inherent drive to ascent in public life through her maternal power so as to manipulate the masculine power to change her position in the marginalized society is rarely taken up for detailed discussion.

Aeda Abidi discusses the historical situation regarding the status of women during the Renaissance in her article, “Shakespeare and the inculcation of modern traits in Renaissance Women with special reference to *As You Like It* and *Merchant of Venice*”. She has established the fact that though the bold woman characters of Shakespeare such as Rosalind and Portia are ahead of their times regarding their sensibilities, Shakespeare had to make them suitable to the audience of his times with respect to cultural necessities.

“Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds.” says Percy Bysshe Shelley in his *A Defence of Poetry*. This issue also contains twenty poems written and shared by the members of ELTAI Literature SIG on the World Poetry Day celebrated by the ELTAI Literature SIG on 21 March 2017. Each poem in this special

issue unfolds a happy moment captured by the poets. I invite you, our readers, to cherish these happy moments. Happy reading!

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