

Editorial

It's a moment of special joy to bring to you this second issue of *JTREL* which is dedicated to the writings of Booker awardees. As you might recall, our last issue provided a bunch of perceptive papers on Booker winners. These were presented at a two-day Conference on 'The Literary Legacy of Booker Prize Winners' organised by the Rajasthan Jaipur Chapter of ELTAI to celebrate 2022 as a landmark year for the literary tradition of the Indian subcontinent – as reflected in the Booker awards for Gitanjali Shree's Hindi novel *Ret Samadhi* translated as *Tomb of Sand* and for Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka for his *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*. Given the massive response to the Booker theme, in this issue of *JTREL*, we present some more of the stimulating papers on Booker-winning authors presented at the Conference in Jaipur.

In the opening paper of this issue, entitled 'Unravelling the Post-Modern Narrative through the works of Ben Okri', Arghya Chakraborty and Charul Jain attempt to study the unique style of developing the narrative which is now considered as one of the tenets used by post-modern writers in their works. Time and space are the two constructs present in any post-modern narrative that function diversely for different authors from different locales. The authors look at some major creations of Ben Okri, the Nigerian post-colonial, post-modern novelist who draws different mythical beliefs and rituals of his society around the real and spiritual world. The authors analyse the constructs used by Ben Okri to re-create the post-modern narrative in his insightful works.

Puru Sharma and Harneet Kaur Sandhu, in their Paper entitled 'Quest for Identity: A Study of Self-Animalisation' in Aravind Adiga's Booker prize-winning novel take up the discourse on animality. The authors analyse the theme and argue that for the protagonist Balram animalising or beastalising himself as a white tiger becomes an important meaning-making exercise to profess his identity. They claim that it also helps him come to terms with his immediate exploitative reality, especially in the context of the rising class conflict and deteriorating socio-economic conditions in the Indian scenario.

In another pithy piece, Sarita Jain focuses on the 'Changing Textual Identities in Magic Realism in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*.' She attempts to show how this Booker-winning creation deals with the concept of magical realism and textual identities within the post-colonial structure. The paper goes on to reflect how Rushdie handles post-colonial issues very effectively within the framework of the novel. The article also highlights the textual journey that follows through concepts such as margin and centre, identity and otherness, unity and division.

In the next Paper, entitled 'Sand, Sound and Semantics: Unveiling the Linguistic Inventiveness of *Ret Samadhi*', Sanjay Goyal attempts to delve into the nuances of Gitanjali Shree's text and analyzes the ways in which it conveys meaning through sounds and the clever use of language(s). The use of onomatopoeia, alliteration, and rhythm in *Ret Samadhi* adds a layer of complexity to the literary piece and enhances its ability to convey emotions and moods. Through a close reading of the text, the article explores how sound, symbolism and linguistic inventiveness contribute to its overall impact and the meaning-making process which collectively make it a wonderful creation.

The final paper analyses the terrific 2010 Booker-winning novel *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel. In her reading, Minakshi Joshi discusses how this novel provides a window for the readers to revisit the history of sixteenth century England through the eyes of the chief protagonist, Thomas Cromwell. She also highlights how Mantel dexterously weaves the national myth with historical facts into this award-winning novel.

Over the five decades since its inception, the Booker Prize has become the leading literary award in the English-speaking world and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction every year – it's a prize that transforms the winner's career. Putting together these Booker-dedicated issues has been a fulfilling exercise – hope *JTREL* readers too find it a rewarding read!

Regards,
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