

EDITORIAL

Welcome, dear readers, to the July 2025 issue of the *Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature*. A ubiquitous change is evident in how contemporary literature has expanded in both form and function to embrace experimental styles, fluid genres and cross-cultural themes. Given the hyper-connected nature of our world today, literature is no longer just the written word. It has transformed instead into a dynamic force shaped by technology, global narratives and reader preferences. This fascinating trend manifests as a collection of seemingly unrelated subjects being discussed under the covers of a single book. As literature evolves, readers are also expected to expand their worldview by engaging with unfamiliar perspectives. This *JTREL* edition attempts to provide you with an interesting mix of such offerings! The opening paper, “R.F. Kuang’s *Babel or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators’ Revolution*” by S.J Kala and Roselin Jenifer, tries to unearth Hayden White’s ‘linguistic turn’ in the novel, which considers how a literary text can act as an alternate historical narrative to retell the cause, effect and significance of the First Opium War. By tweaking a crucial moment of the event, Kuang substantiates his claim on the capricious nature of history. The research paper examines the different approaches of historiography and emphasises the alternate position of history as an end product of Science Fiction. That literature carries no social relevance if divorced from the mediating effects of history and contemporary life is evident from reading Rakshita and Sonai Malik’s exposition, “Reading Brutalism as Estranging Space: A Lefebvrian Analysis of Hari Kunzru’s *Red Pill*.” By analysing the novel’s architectural framing with brutalist aesthetics, the paper argues how Kunzru deploys the visual grammar of brutalism to critique neoliberal rationality, where freedom is illusory and coercion always subtle. The intersection of alienating surveillance and brutalist aesthetics is explored by applying the Lefebvrian concept of spatial triad in *Red Pill*.

The third paper of the issue, “Time Loops, Portals, and Alternate Realities: Stephen King’s Multiverse and Quantum Fiction”, examines how speculative fiction can serve as a medium to explore certain deep philosophical questions. By analysing two of Stephen King’s works, Sheeba Mary looks at how, by creating portals, time loops and parallel realities, King explores challenging existential and ethical questions -- from the responsibility of choice to the definition of cause and self. In the texts, reality based on quantum notions is represented as flexible, multi-layered, and even participatory, which includes, though not limited to, the many-worlds interpretation and observer effect. Next, Amjad’s paper on the Malayalam film *Aavasavyuham: The Arbit Documentation of an Amphibian Hunt* adopts an ecocritical lens to analyse the film’s representation of nature and its focus on the loss of biodiversity, exemplified by the search for a rare frog species. It discusses how the film adopts the mockumentary genre to illuminate instances of environmental degradation like the destruction of mangroves and the fast-declining fish stocks. The paper discusses how these environmental concerns serve as a backdrop to explore the human-nature relationship in *Aavasavyuham*.

The last paper of this issue by Bibin K. applies Jakobson’s three-part model of Intralingual, Interlingual, and Intersemiotic translation to interpret Copley and Viney’s graphic adaptation of Mary Shelley’s novel *Frankenstein*. The paper argues that graphic novel adaptations of canonical literary texts require a dual-mode analytical framework, and looks at the context of graphic narrative scholarship, whereby the spatial logic of the comic pages becomes an interpretive resource to actively shape the meaning it carries from its source, thereby attempting to make inroads into the practice of literary criticism in an age of multimodal representations.

We hope the articles here provide you with hours of worthwhile reading!

The Editorial Team, *JTREL*