

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

I'm delighted to present the latest issue of our E-Journal, Teaching & Research in English Literature.

At the outset, permit me to briefly introduce myself. I'm Shaila Mahan, an educator, administrator, and a teacher-trainer with a keen interest in ELT and Indian writings in English which I've pursued for the past three decades. I'm currently working as an Associate Professor at the Commissionerate of College Education of Rajasthan in Jaipur. I'm an IELTS Examiner for the British Council and have been closely associated with ELTAI for about 15 years.

I'm thankful to Professor Rajagopalan for entrusting the task of editing this prestigious Journal. I consider it an honour to be a part of the editorial team and will work hard to live up to the faith reposed in me. With the co-operation and support of all friends, contributors and well-wishers of this journal, I hope we shall be able to carry forward the high standards set by Dr. M. S. Xavier Pradheep Singh and all other past editors.

The current edition incorporates five interesting and perceptive pieces on different aspects of literary analysis. While two pieces are of a general nature that focus specifically on women and gender issues, one is on Indian English writing and the remaining two deal with American and Canadian literature. Hopefully, the offering on the whole will be accepted as a thought-provoking and delicious treat for the discerning reader.

Jyoti Bhatia, in her paper 'Writing as a means of Female Resistance and Empowerment' argues that when women write/ tell their stories, they empower themselves. The basic act of writing for most implies a resistance to the patriarchal structures that invariably strive to keep them weak/vulnerable/voiceless/powerless.

Likewise, Supriya Mandloi attempts to study how existing socio- patriarchal patterns amongst natives served to initiate the process of cultural subjugation of the colonies by offensively representing the native women in Oriental discourses. Women across the globe have been considered as insignificant and 'the other' since ancient times. The paper highlights how certain Romantic texts further derogate the status of eastern women by not only portraying them as mere objects and bodies rather than as individuals with identities separate from their male counterparts but also illustrating their worlds as dark, bleak and dangerously mysterious.

Neeru Anand discusses the inter-twinning of history and literature in I. Allan Sealy's 1998 novel *The Trotter Nama*. The detailing of the history of the Anglo-Indians as undertaken by Sealy is analysed by centring on the way the story is narrated. The paper asserts that post-modernist techniques are especially effective in bringing into sharp focus the community of Anglo-Indians who have generally remained on the margins.

Another contributor Sangeetha Puthiyedath takes up the Man Booker Prize winning Novel of 2000 *The Blind Assassin*. This Paper explores the dilemma of a confessional narrative that seeks to reveal secrets on the one hand and tries to conceal guilt on the other. The paper even delves into the real intent of Iris Chase's memoir who is the protagonist and the narrator. It also goes on to emphasize and discuss the complexities of expiation, confession, guilt, and victimhood.

Mekha Mathew in her paper 'Politics and Caste System in Kiera Cass's *The Selection*' attempts to analyse the caste conflicts in the young adult fiction *The Selection*. The Paper highlights how the politics in a country named Ilea depicts the subjugation of people ruled or supervised by a supreme structure. Along with the caste conflicts, the discrimination shown towards the so-called 'low-class' people also eventually gets reflected.

The Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature is essentially a forum for the dissemination of information and views which enable its readers to get a rewarding experience with each of its issues. We hope you enjoy reading the contributions in this edition. Here's wishing that 2020 helps each one of us to nourish and cherish our reading habit not just for the purpose of academic study/scholarly exchange but also for the simple joy of enriching our lives with fresh thoughts and perspectives!!

Warm regards,

Shaila Mahan

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