

## EDITORIAL

The name 'Shakespeare' conjures up a wide spectrum of scenes and dialogues in the minds of modern readers. An array of varied scenes such as the trial scene in *The Merchant of Venice*, the balcony scene in *Romeo and Juliet*, the murder of Duncan in *Macbeth*, and the death of Desdemona in *Othello* reveal the brilliance and craftsmanship of the Bard.

The year 2014 is the 450th birth anniversary of Shakespeare. Despite various mysterious enshrouding his works, he has withstood the test of time. He stays the unignorable author in any English Literature course. His works remain the most adopted and adapted of all time. In order to celebrate the occasion of Shakespeare's 450th birth anniversary, ELTAI Literature Special Interest Group devotes the present issue of the *Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature* exclusively to the criticism of the Bard's plays from the 21st century perspectives. So, this issue contains six articles from research scholars who analyze Shakespeare from the viewpoints of Postcolonialism, Feminism, New Historicism and Disability Studies. These papers were presented in the national seminar on "Shakespeare in the 21st Century" organised by *Cuckoo*, an international literary magazine in collaboration with the Postgraduate Department of English, V. O. Chidambaram College, Tuticorin, Tamilnadu on 20th September, 2014.

Balu Vijayaraghavan reads Shakespeare's the most unusual tragedy *Othello* in the light of postcolonial feminism. His attempt to understand "how the fair Desdemona is constructed in relation to the black Othello" (Vijayaraghavan 9) brings out the gender and racial ideologies of the play. He emphasizes that *Othello* provides much food for thought for feminists and postcolonial theorists because the play enables the fantasy of victimised white womanhood imperilled by black masculinity.

Jyotsna Krishnan's study focuses on the intersemiotic translation of *Othello* into a Malayalam film *Kaliyattom* directed by Jayaraj. In her article, she attempts to analyse the adaptation techniques used in the film in a general sense focusing on the theoretical opinions of various translation scholars.

Adeline Udhaya Theresa, in her article, analyses the character of Cleopatra as postfeminist woman in the pre-modern era. She discusses how post-feminism differs from feminism wherein sexuality was not negated. She also notes that post feminist women glorified their sexuality and searched for their individuality. And thus Adeline Udhaya Theresa proves that Shakespeare's Cleopatra is clearly such a unique and unparalleled post-feminist figure.

Thayumanavan probes into the issue of illegitimacy in *King Lear* in his article. He traces the concept of disability which was prevalent in the Elizabethan area. He brings out how illegitimacy is considered a disability with reference to the character of Edmund in *King Lear*.

Gender role is a central issue of feminism. Hemalatha Kannan, in her article, examines the gender roles as expressed by Shakespeare in daughter characters in his select plays.

Mahendran, in his paper, explicates historical elements in the plays of Shakespeare by juxtaposing literary text with historical documents. His New historical

approach to the plays reveals the fact that a text is a socially contributed and determined phenomenon. He also discusses Stephen Greenblatt's concept "the circulation of social energy" that gives life to artistic work.

Thus, the current issue of JTREL presents an assorted treat to our readers. We, the editors, firmly believe that this issue will definitely add new knowledge to the existing criticism of Shakespeare's plays. Happy reading!

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