

## Editorial

We are delighted to present to you a fresh edition of the *Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature* or *JTREL*.

Our call for papers saw a wide range of themes and perspectives from scholars who engaged in different ways with the imagination of literature. As we read through the papers and the ideas they contained, we were struck by the diversity of approaches to this discipline, as also the methodological approaches adopted in literary criticism and interpretation.

We have had a tough time selecting the papers but are happy to present a flavour of our contributors' reflections on literary studies today. Besides being interesting studies, the first two Papers offer a special visual appeal as they present colourful attractive pictures.

In the opening paper, Papri Bhattacharya expands the scope of literary studies by positioning it within the interdisciplinary domain of media, communication and culture studies. She demonstrates this via "Alternative Transgender Discourses: A Critical Analysis of an Indian Ad Campaign", which showcases the multiple ways in which creative industries work with social justice for a sustainable humanity through rhetorical and critical modes of expression. The paper weaves seamlessly discourses from gender, queer theory and cultural studies on representations and its effect to construct a discourse of justice based on warmth and care.

In the next paper, Punitha Andrews explores the evolution of Aesop's fable "The Fox and the Grapes" from the 15th to the 20th century. She examines how changes in language, narrative style, and cultural context influence its interpretation in this period. Analysing adaptations by William Caxton, Samuel Croxall, Thomas James, and V.S. Vernon Jones, highlights the fable's adaptability and enduring moral significance. The study sees Aesop's fables as cultural artefacts reflecting societal values across various historical periods.

The paper by Ritu Agarwal explores Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's insightful novel *Oleander Girl* published in 2013. It focuses on how children can serve as powerful symbols of unity and empathy and help to transcend societal divisions. The analysis centers on the relationships formed by Pia, the young sister of Rajat, especially with Asif Ali, a Muslim chauffeur who treats her like a sister. Through these relationships, the paper argues that children, often underestimated for their lack of maturity, can play a vital role in breaking down barriers of caste, class, and religion with their innocence and purity. By highlighting children as agents of reform and understanding in a fractured world, this thoughtful study aligns with Tagore's vision of a society unbroken by "narrow domestic walls."

In the next contribution, Neeru Tandon and Yashika Bajpai examine the thematic landscape of Jayanta Mahapatra's creativity and showcase the dynamic evolution of the poet's intellectual and emotional journey. Their paper looks at Mahapatra's poetry through different phases of his career and traces his progression from existential angst to a celebration of Orissan culture, feminist consciousness, environmental awareness, spiritual exploration, and explicit socio-political commentary. The analysis highlights Mahapatra's consistent engagement with personal memory, and in tracing his intellectual

and emotional journey, the paper provides a pithy but profound understanding of Mahapatra's poetic legacy.

The concluding paper by Pallavi Anand Mane discusses the significance of Dalit Literature in expanding the Indian Literary Tradition, focusing on Baby Kamble's autobiography, *Jina Amucha* which sheds light on the socio-cultural aspects of the Dalit community in India. It emphasizes the impact of translating regional literary works like *Jina Amucha* into English, highlighting the challenges and importance of maintaining the original sensibility and cultural nuances during the translation process. The paper aims to compare the original Marathi text with the English translation to assess how well the translator, Maya Pandit, captures the essence of Baby Kamble's autobiography.

We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we enjoyed putting it together and look forward to your submissions for upcoming issues of *JTREL*.

Happy reading, friends!

Regards,  
**Prof. Shaila Mahan**  
Editor-in-Chief, *JTREL*.  
Former Joint Director,  
Commissionerate of College Education,  
Rajasthan, Jaipur.  
President, ELTAI Jaipur Chapter.