

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another issue of the Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature. As we sift through the submissions, we realise with every passing issue that the scope of the discipline is changing. No longer is literature a record and representation of select coterie themes and writers. The shift in interest and engagement of literary criticism and scholarship has started encompassing pressing concerns of our everyday lives. Terry Eagleton phrases this as “crisis critique”, recognising that times of unrest and conflict require disciplines to take on the mantle of not merely speaking truth to power, but also stepping up to represent the most vulnerable and downtrodden. The articles in this issue demonstrate attempts to speak this vocabulary of justice as delineation and explanation of the multiple crises encompassing our world today. At the same time, we are made acutely aware of the need to develop a vocabulary to talk about these emerging challenges that, albeit through a borrowed language of the past, still struggles to theorise the present. The articles project both these challenges, while showing ways of attempting to talk about them through literary works.

In “Orality and Historiography: A Perspective on the Changing Contours of African History”, the author makes a case for methodological innovation in historiography by factoring oral history as a valid source of knowledge. This form of history is characterised by community memory, interpretive fluidity and performative action, all of which also characterise literary criticism. The article projects an implicit border crossing, linking historiographical methodology with the politics of aesthetic representation. “Ecological Consciousness and Ethical Awakening in *The Motorcycle Diaries*” examines Guevara’s travelogue to link ecological awareness with an ethical standpoint, associating the exploitation of nature and natural resources with power and conflict. The third article “The Transformative Power of Children’s Literature: An Intersectional Analysis of Narratives of Conflict, Caste and Gender” examines select poems and stories in *A Clear Blue Sky* to comment on the potential that literary representations in general, and children’s literature in particular, possess to engage creatively and critically with the many conflicts and challenges that human society faces today. The truth of these reflections present hope that the stories and creative pieces would spread an understanding of the intersectional complexities of realities enough to recognise conflicts around us. This is indeed the first step towards tolerance and peace.

Finally, we are happy to present to you a creative piece of writing, a poem “The Sepoy of Silpukhuri”. We would of course like to hear from you of how it talked to you!

Wish you all a happy reading and we look forward to bringing you another issue soon.

The Editorial Team