



साहित्योत्सव Festival of Letters

24 - 29 February 2020

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National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature (contd.)



In the fourth session chaired by Prof. Harish Trivedi, noted scholar of Post-colonialism and Translation Studies, and Dr. Seema Sharma, Fullbright scholar, academician, research guide, Prof. Sachin Ketkar, bilingual writer, translator,

editor, blogger and researcher, presented their papers.

Dr. Seema Sharma in her paper on "Ecological Concern in the Novels of Amitav Ghosh" said that in fictional and non-fictional writings of Amitav Ghosh, humans and nature are intertwined.

In his paper on "Geocritical Ecologies in the Contemporary Indian Fiction: A study of Gujarati short fiction by Nazir Mansuri and Mona Patrawala", Prof. Sachin Ketkar said that both these writers use narrative strategies extensively in their prolific writings and explore their works through geocritical and ecological perspectives.

The fifth session – Nature in Poets' Imagination - I – was chaired by Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri, noted scholar, and papers were

presented by Dr. Manikyamba 'Mani', former Professor and Head of Osmania University, Sri Bodhisattva, eminent poet and writer in Hindi, and Dr. Rakhshanda Jalil, writer, critic and literary historian.

Dr. Manikyamba 'Mani' in her paper on "Kavi ki Kalpna Mein Prakriti: Chhayavad (Hindi) Bhav Kavita (Telugu) ke Sandarbha Mein" said that Shaivism poetry represents humanization, semiotics, etc. in Nature whereas "Bhav" poetry in Telugu sees Nature in an innovative way.

Dr. Rakhshanda Jalil in her paper on "Nature in the Urdu Poets' Imagination" narrated that descriptions of Nature have been widespread in Urdu and Persian poetry.

Sri Bodhisattva in his paper said

TODAY'S EVENTS

National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature (contd.)

Sahitya Akademi Auditorium,
10.00 a.m.

Spin-a-Tale (Programme for Children)

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.00 a.m.

Panel Discussion on Publishing in India

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.00 a.m.

New Harvest (All India Young Writers' Meet)

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.30 a.m.





that we are surrounded by Nature, and it is more important as to how we relate ourselves to it.

The sixth session - Environment, Feminism and Dalit Imagination - was chaired by Prof. Malashri Lal, retired Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi, and Dr. Mini Prasad, Associate Professor, Mar Thoma College, and Dr. Manju Sarkar, Associate Professor, University of Delhi presented their papers.

Dr. Mini Prasad in her paper on "Environment, Feminism and Dalit Imagination" said that eco-feminism is an attempt to hold and save the whole Mother Nature through the eye of empathy.

Dr. Manju Sarkar in her paper on "Jangal ke Davedar-Dalit Katha, discussed in Mahasweta Devi's novel *Jangal ke Davedar*". She said that this novel, despite based on the life of Birsa Munda, speaks of women, environment and Dalit spirit.

The seventh session – Nature and Region in Modern Indian Fiction-II – "Nature and Region in Modern Indian Fiction -was chaired by Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Amity University, Gurugram. Prof. P.P. Raveendran, eminent academic and literary critic in Malayalam, Sri Sa. Kandasamy, eminent Tamil critic, fiction writer, scholar and documentary film maker, Prof. Rana Nayar, former Professor, Department of English and Cultural Studies, Punjab University, translator and theatre artist, and Dr. Yashodhara Mishra, well-known Odia fiction writer and poet, presented their papers.

Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, from the chair, spoke of Saikat Rakshit and 'Regionalism' in his narrative, specifically in connection with tales from West Bengal.

Prof. P.P. Raveendran, in his paper, "Ethics of the Region: Contemporary Malayalam Fiction" said that the ethic of the region

implies a set of shared moral principles that govern the community's life practice and conditions in which people relate themselves to the physical world.

Sri Sa. Kandasamy in his paper, "Nature and Region: Modern Indian Fiction" said that literature is language-oriented in the sense that with the help of language only it is written. Literature lives on beyond the borders of language.

Prof. Rana Nayar in his paper on "Cultural Ecology and Punjabi Literature" said that the shrinking of space and territory has not necessarily led to the shrinking of the cultural imagination of Punjab or Punjabis.

Dr. Yashodhara Mishra in her paper "Nature and Modern Odia Fiction" said that language, like most other aspects of human life, is shaped and nurtured by nature. A writer may use Nature as the main theme, backdrop or metaphor in his writing.



Panel Discussion on Art of Translation: Cultural Responsibility



On the occasion of Festival of Letters 2020, Sahitya Akademi, organized a Panel discussion on 'Art of Translation: Cultural Responsibility' at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on 28 February 2020. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the august gathering saying no other country than ours can boast such variety, depth a number of languages, literature and linguistic and literary traditions in the world.

Sri Chandrakant Patil, eminent Marathi poet and translator, in his inaugural address said that the work of translation of fiction or poetry cannot be mechanical as they are the forms of creative literature; a writer's urge to speak out against the norms of world. He called the translation an art which joins the soul of the text to another body.

Prof. Chandrashekhhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address said that our cultural and linguistic diversity is greatest blessing and India is the only country that has produced and preserved classics in so many languages for about two thousand years and still going strong.

Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, eminent English poet, critic, editor, translator and painter, as the moderator of the panel, said that real value of translation lies in what one chooses which is like walking on a tight rope. She elaborated the social hierarchy of languages in the neo-colonial India, English - Hindi - one's mother's tongue. This hierarchy needs to be exploded.

Sri Alok Gupta, noted critic and translator, said that during the translation, a translator fills in with his knowledge and experience, what gets lost in the process. Prof. Janaki Prasad Sharma, noted critic

and translator, said that translator doesn't follow any set principles while translating he relies on his experience and knowledge. Ms. Pravasini Mahakud, well-known Odia poet and translator, said that a translator plays the role of ambassador of cultures between two cultures by his/ her translations. She also called translation a recreation. Prof. Rekha Sethi, an author, critic, editor and translator and Associate Professor at Indraprastha Collge, University of Delhi, called the process a beautiful duet which takes place between two languages, while in translation.





Panel Discussion on Media and Literature: Information and Sensibility

As part of Festival of Letters 2020, Sahitya Akademi, organized a Panel discussion on 'Media and Literature: Information and Sensibility' at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on 28 February 2020. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the august gathering and said that when the information at one's disposal gets expressed in a cogent, meaningful way, and attains fullness of expression, it becomes a relatable thought universally. When such universally relatable thoughts expressed in a particular manner it becomes informative literature.

Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, eminent journalist, thinker and the former Chairman of NBT, in his inaugural address, talked about the importance of sensibility which is more useful than intellectuality in Media and literature, otherwise it will stagnate the mind and society, so sensibility must be alive. Indian Media is totally different from European media because European media reflects some negativity but Indian media help develop sensibility, awareness and avoid negativity.

Prof. Chandrashekhkar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address said that Media should be more careful to serve information to people because media spreads news immediately in the society.

Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, eminent poet, critic, academician and translator, as the moderator of the panel, considered Media, the fourth pillar of democracy, as a



watchdog of our democracy. She said that we all need alert Media. Visual media is more powerful than any other form, it can impact anyone.

Sri Aaku Srivastava, noted journalist, thinker and analyst, observed that Media and literature are more powerful tools that have easy impact on the people. Sri Baldevraj Gupta, noted journalist and thinker, said that in Media sensibilities are as much important as the information. Sri D. Umapathy, noted journalist, stressed that nowadays media has become a trade, and disparaged the present status of the Media. Sri Madhu Acharya, eminent Rajasthani and Hindi litterateur, theatre artist and journalist, pointed it out that our sensibility should orient us as to how to perceive the Media.

Cultural Programme: Dastangoi by Mahmood Farooqui



Cultural event on the evening of 28 February 2020 included the magnificent performance Dastangoi by Sri Mahmood Farooqui, celebrated writer, performer and director. Dastangoi indeed was rare as it was in the base language of the storytelling art, Urdu. The performance drew upon a very wide variety of transcontinental texts, most of which were rarely presented together ever. The language of the performance was Urdu in the main but there was substantial usage of Sanskrit, Hindi, Farsi and Arabic. Sri Mahmood Farooqui specializes in the art of storytelling - Dastangoi, the art he and his uncle - Shamsur Rahman Farooqui, distinguished Urdu litterateur, have revived. Farooqui began reinventing Dastangoi, the 16th century Urdu storytelling art, in 2005. Since then, he has performed thousands of shows across the world.

