

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

**Spectrum of Voices: Diversity and Inclusiveness in
Language, Literature and Culture**

ABSTRACTS



LITTCRIT, IRJH

&

**RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURE
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

(Recognized as “College with Potential for Excellence” by UGC)

(Accredited at “A++” Grade with a CGPA of 3.66 by NAAC)

PALAYAMKOTTAI—627 002, TAMIL NADU

JULY 2025

Spectrum of Voices: Diversity and Inclusiveness in Language, Literature and Culture

ABSTRACTS

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Published by

Littcrit, *IRJH* & Research Department of English, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai-627002, Tamil Nadu, India.

CONTENTS

	Page
The Preamble	i
Themes	ii
About the College	ii
About the Department	iii
About the Journals	iii
Programme	iv
Abstracts (Table of Contents)	01

THE PREAMBLE

The significant aspect of critical theories during the past fifty years has been the concept of diversity and inclusiveness, focusing on the view that culture is a mosaic, not a monolith. In postcolonialism, there has been a journey from Frantz Fanon’s *Counter-Violence* through Edward Said’s *Orientalism* towards Homi K. Bhabha’s *Third Space*. Feminism now includes the voices of the people who were excluded in the past feminist movements. The journey is from the first wave of feminism which began in the second half of the nineteenth century through Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex* and Elaine Showalter’s *A Literature of Their Own* towards Chimamanda Adichie’s *We Should All Be Feminists*. Gayatri Spivak points out that the female subaltern could not speak because “she did speak but was not heard.” Diaspora Literature is generally viewed as a tool for exploring ethnic identity and cultural nationalism. In the fast-changing global scenario, there is a need for the movement from mere multiculturalism to interculturalism. This conference shall be a forum to identify, understand, and interpret the diverse voices representing myriad identities in terms of language, literature, and other cultural elements to create a deliberative platform that resonates with diversity and inclusiveness to renegotiate power and space.

Identities are defined paradoxically by their constant state of flux because the interplay of power structures, as viewed by Foucault, determines the space and voice of the people belonging to a particular society. The ephemerality of boundaries makes the subaltern voice silent. Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide* is an example. What the marginalised people have to narrate is a shattered story. In such context, the literary texts which describe the mosaic perspective of culture, acknowledging the presence of culture, diverse groups and traditions.

THEMES

- Region and Nation
- Literature and History (New Historicism)
- Cultural Identity and Diaspora
- Postcolonial Studies: Third Space and Hybridity
- Gender Studies
- Cross-Cultural Challenges
- Popular Culture and Contemporary Media
- The Textuality of History and the Historicity of Texts
- Ideological State Apparatuses
- Multiculturalism and Interculturalism
- Cultural Studies
- Historiography of the Indian
- Diaspora Studies (Labour/Victim/Imperial/Trade)
- Feminism and Diasporic Writings
- Culture and National Consciousness in Folk Literature
- Anthropological Approach to Literature
- Literature and Environment
- Comparative Literature and Translation Studies
- Posthumanism
- Digital Humanities and Medical Humanities

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

St. Xavier’s College was established at Palayamkottai in 1923 by Jesuit Fathers with an aim of preparing generations of students for a happy, healthy and harmonious life. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited the college at Five Star Level in April 2000, at “A” Grade in 2006 and 2012 with a CGPA of 3.50 and at “A++” Grade in 2019 with a CGPA of 3.66. The UGC conferred the status of College with Potential for Excellence on St. Xavier’s College in 2004. The Dept. of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, awarded Star College Status in 2014. Acclaimed as a premier institution for higher learning, the college offers 49 programme options to students from under graduation to research.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of English was established in 1923. Great educationists like Fr. A. Lebeau S.J., Fr. Jerome de Souza S.J., Fr. A. Bonhoure S.J., Fr. I. Arulsamy S.J., Fr. T. N. Siqueira S.J., Fr. Lawrence Sundaram S.J. and Fr. Louis Xavier S.J. have served the Department, moulding young students as “citizens of the world.” Manonmaniam Sundaranar University recognized the Department of English as a Research Centre in 2011. At present the Department of English consists of 32 teachers. The thrust areas of research are Indian Writing in English, Postcolonial Studies, English Language Teaching, and New Historicism.

The following programmes are offered:

1. M. A. (2 years)
2. B. A. (3 years)

About the Journals

Litterit

Litterit, a literary journal published from Thiruvananthapuram is completing 50 years in 2025. The founder editor of the journal was Dr. P.K. Rajan, former Vice-Chancellor of Kannur University. The editorial board members in the early days were Prof. Francis Sounderraj, S. Thothadri, S. Rangachari and N.V. Rao. After Dr. P.K. Rajan’s sad demise in January 2006, Dr. Ajayakumar P.P. took over as Chief Editor. The first issue came out with the name, ‘Onlooker’ before the name ‘*Litterit*’ was allotted. The name ‘*Litterit*’ is an acronym that refers to literary criticism, an area in which the journal focused during the past 50 years. *Litterit* had the good fortune to publish the writings of many famous writers like Mulk Raj Anand, Nissim Ezekiel, M.K. Naik, K.R. Sreenivasa Iyengar, E.M. S. Namboothiripad, G.N. Devy, Sashi Tharoor, Geetha Hariharan, John Oliver Perry, K. Ayyappa Panikkar, Krishna Rayan, E. V. Ramakrishnan, Jonathan Dollimore to mention only a few. The journal published an interview with famous Marxist critic, Frederic Jameson conducted by Prof. Ayyappa Paniker and a series of responses to the same by critics including Terry Eagleton.

IRJH

Interdisciplinary Research Journal for Humanities (IRJH) (ISSN: 2249-250X), a biannual Peer Reviewed Journal is published by St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai. It was started in 2012 by Dr. N. Ramachandran Nair, Former Director of Folklore Research Centre. As the editors of the journal, Dr. V. Joseph Albert, former Deputy Principal and HoD of English and Dr. S. J. Idhayaraja, HoD of Tamil worked tirelessly to give a facelift to the journal. The journal publishes authentic, unpublished articles under the branch of humanities. This includes subjects like Tamil, English, Folklore, Social Work and Social Science. Eminent academicians, independent researchers, philanthropists, and research scholars from various parts of the country contribute their findings in the form of research articles and they are published after plagiarism check and review by the editorial committee. Besides this, the journal collaborates with different departments and institutions in conducting conferences, seminars and lectures to disseminate knowledge, encourage dialogue and thereby help research scholars and academicians.

49.	Ms. Sneha Sardar	The Narrative of Healing by Medicine under the Light of Literature	22
50.	Ms. Harsha.V & Dr. M. N. V. Preya	The Rural Imagination: Depictions of Village Life in Indian and Russian Literary Landscapes	22
51.	Dr. S.P. Vanjulavalli	Is English being eschewed a mark of Egocentrics' Attitude?	22
52.	Mrs. Jinchu P Tomy & Dr. P. Suria Thilagam	Beyond the Pastoral: Re-evaluating Nature in Contemporary Literature: A Study of the Novel 'The Overstory'.	23
53.	Mrs. R. Abinaya	Nature's Benevolence: Exploring Deep Ecology in Prodigal Summer	23
54.	Ms. Angel A Chand	Hinglish Heroines: Language and Identity in Chauhan and Misra's Chick Lit	24
55.	Ms. Josephine Christina Pasangha & Dr. A. Josephine Alangara Betsy	Fractured Inheritance: Generational Memory and National Trauma in Salman Rushdie's <i>Midnight's Children</i>	24
56.	Mrs. P. Shunmuga Vadivoo & Dr. M. P. Anuja	Isolated Motherhood and Painful Abandonment: Silent Struggles in <i>Zikora</i>	25
57.	Dr. Chandrashekhar. S & Dr. S Venkateswaran	T.S Eliot's Works: An Eco Critical Perception	25
58.	Ms. C. Madhumitha & Dr. M. P. Anuja	The Fragmented Self of Hanwell: Tracing Feminine Absence in Zadie Smith's <i>Hanwell in Hell</i>	25
59.	Ms. Swetha. M & Dr. Narasingaram Jayashree	Inherited Wounds and Entangled Legacies: Mapping Trees, Trauma and Ties in <i>Greenwood</i>	26
60.	Ms. Maalya S Jayan & Dr. T. Mangayarkarasi	Eco-Spiritual Reading of <i>Jungle Nama</i> by Amitav Ghosh	26
61.	Mr. Rajagopal Mukherjee	Borderlines of Nationhood: Nehru's Conception of Borders in the aftermath of World Wars and the Trauma of Partition	27
62.	Ms. Sagnika Das & Ms. Angika Das	"Khagam": A Nostrum for Colonial Vestige	27
63.	Mrs. S Prabha Kantha & Dr. B. Beneson Thilagar Christadoss	Tradition and Transformation: Journey of Women in Temsula Ao's Short Stories	28
64.	Ms. Gopica M	What They Called Madness: The Feminization of Emotion in Literature and Media	28
65.	Mrs. J. Malar Vizhi & Dr. B. Lakshmikantham	Living with the Wild: Human-Animal Kinship in Santhali Folktales	29
66.	Ms. Princy Evangeline C & Dr. B. Kathiresan	Trauma and Resistance in Laurie Halse Anderson's <i>Speak</i>	29
67.	Dr. Uzma S Raheel & Dr. S. Venkateswaran	Towards Developing Need-based English Language Curriculum: Issues and Implications	29
68.	Ms. Meenakshi	Children's Engagement with Folk Literature in the Digital Age	30
69.	Ms. Rajrani Sadhu & Ms. Sreyasi Dey	The Visible Invisibility of Presence Explored by Postcolonial Adventurers in Ray's "Brown Sāhēbēr Bāri" and "Conway Castle-ēr Prētātma"	30
70.	Mr. Braj Kishor Gupta & S. Venkateshwaran	Learner and Learning-Centred Approach to Teaching Literature: Issues and Implications	31
71.	Ms. Sneha. V. J	Graphical Representation of Social Divides in India: Exploring Marxist Naturalism and Dominant Caste Theory in <i>Bhimayana: Experiences of Untouchability</i> , Through the Life of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar	31
72.	Ms. R. Vaishnavi & Dr. D. Dhanalakshmi	Spirits of Survival: Postcolonial Echoes in Ben Okri's <i>The Famished Road</i>	31
73.	Ms. Aditi Mishra	Are the Kashmiri Pandits Refugees or Genocide Victims? A Critical Study of Rohit Tikoo's <i>Uprooted & Forlorn</i>	32

303.	Saraswathy A	Healing the Self, Healing the Land: Emotional Struggles and Belonging in Kavery Nambisan's <i>The Hills of Angheri</i>	126
304.	Selva Priya K	Subaltern Perspective of Meena Kandasamy's <i>The Gypsy Goddess</i>	126
305.	Sinthu C	The Blurred Lines of Reality: Identity and Desire in Anita Nair's <i>Mistress</i>	126
306.	Sobhiya B	Guarding The Last Synagogue: Cultural Resistance in Esther David's Jewish Narrative	127
307.	Srigayathri S	Violence, Development and Tribal Struggles in Arundhati Roy's <i>Walking with the Comrades</i>	127
308.	Stephy A	The Interplay of Caste, Class and Gender in Rural Tradition in <i>Pyre</i> by Perumal Murugan	127
309.	Suba Lakshmi S	Beyond the Story: Exploring the Narrative Techniques in Christopher C Doyle's <i>The Mahabharata Secret</i>	128
310.	Sujitha M	Madwoman, Matriarch, Muse: Reclaiming Em's Identity om Jerry Pinto's <i>Em and the Big Hoom</i>	128
311.	Thana Lakshmi P	Subaltern Voices and Oppression in Aravind Adiga's <i>The White Tiger</i>	128
312.	Velvizhi I	A Portrayal of Class Conflict in Aravind Adiga's <i>Last Man in Tower</i>	129
313.	Durga Lakshmi B	From Faerie Lore to Magical Law: Bestiaries in Contemporary Fantasy – <i>The Fantasy Beasts and where to Find Them</i> by J.K. Rowling and <i>The Spiderwick Chronicles</i> by Holly Black and Tony Diterlizzi	129
314.	Muthu Selvi L	Hierarchy with Gender: Examining Female Power, Privilege and Silence in <i>The Sari Shop</i>	129
315.	Ms. H. Karthika & Dr. R. Princee	Maternal Martyrdom and Patriarchal Complicity: Reframing Feminine Sacrifice in Buchi Emecheta's <i>The Joys of Motherhood</i>	130
316.	Mr. Twin Antony Edward & Dr. B. Lakshmikantham	Bharati Mukherjee's 'Tree Bride': A Tale of Memory, Trauma and Rejuvenation	130
317.	Dr. V. Ajitha	Mapping the inclusiveness of invisible voices in Ben Okri's <i>Astonishing the Gods</i>	131
318.	Ms. Asna Habiba. S	Faith and Fear: The Feminine Dilemma in Jean Plaidy's <i>Daughter of Satan</i>	131
319.	Ms. Usharani. G & Dr. P. Suria Thilagam	Cybernetic Futurity and The Fragmentation Of Humanity in Marge Piercy's <i>He, She And it</i>	132
320.	Mrs. M. Shanmugapriya & Dr. B. Kavitha	A Voice of Voiceless in the novel of Malswami Jacob's <i>Zorami: A Redemption Song</i>	132
321.	Mr. Sarathlal M	Caste, Humiliation and Struggle for Human Dignity in Indian Sports: Reading <i>Gobaraha</i>	133
322.	Ms. F. Arlene Zita	The Silenced Frame: Colonial Erasure and Feminine Voice in Atwood's Photographic Metaphor	133
323.	Vaidehi Uniyal	Ritual Servitude and Gendered Oppression: A Comparative Study of Deuki and Devadasi Traditions	134
324.	Mr. K. Saravanan & Dr. C. T. Ambika Devi	Across Borders: The Essence of Multicultural Exploration in Kiran Desai's <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>	134
325.	Dr. A. Latha	Exploring the Diverse Marginal Voices: A Study on Sujatha Gidla's <i>Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India</i>	135
326.	Ms. Vidya. K	Digital Pedagogy in Ecopoetry: Harnessing Technology to Explore Environmental Themes	135
327.	Ms. C. Deebika & Dr. R. Rita Yasodha	A Study on Ecocentric and Anthropocentric Spectrum in Carl Hiaasen's <i>Scat</i>	136

has nothing to do with the International language. In spite of the fact that the language has been shunned on many reasons, it also traces some of the evidences that this supreme language of imperial British colonizers has been regarded trivial by the so called other European colonizers and autocrats, leading to attain the secondary position even after their reign. Yet, the paper throws light on the undeniable growth of English Language amidst the indifferent rulers.

Keywords: Global Language, Universal Significance, English Language and Growth.

BEYOND THE PASTORAL: RE-EVALUATING NATURE IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE: A STUDY OF THE NOVEL 'THE OVERSTORY'

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Literature is one of the fields of knowledge that concentrates on the ecological concerns. This research article examines the interplay between literature and the natural world as in Richard Powers' novel, *The Overstory*. It uses qualitative textual analysis and critical discourse analysis, as well as empirical evidence, to discover how the narrative of Powers' novel counters anthropocentric worldviews by emphasizing nonhuman agency, showing how ecological interdependence is deeply rooted in human culture, and influencing environmental activism. By exploring the novel's thematic intensity and innovative narrative practices, this article studies the impact that *The Overstory* has in raising ecological awareness and in influencing cultural attitudes about stewardship of the natural world and sustainability. The findings underscore the vital role of ecocriticism as a crucial and ethical practice in the field of contemporary literary studies, and show that literature can make a profound difference in the resolution of environmental threats and sustainability in society.

Keywords: Literature, Ecological Awareness, Ecological Interdependence and Sustainability.

NATURE'S BENEVOLENCE: EXPLORING DEEP ECOLOGY IN PRODIGAL SUMMER

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Barbara Kingsolver's prominent book, *Extravagant Summer*, is set in the embroidery of a little Appalachian city during a solitary, hot summer. It remains a demonstration of Kingsolver's capacity in entwining the mortal involvement in the numerous-sided nobility of the regular world. This paper plans to dig into the appearances of profound biology in the clever *Extravagant Summer*, explicitly trying to disentangle the changeable associations among people and the non-human rudiments. Prominently, exchanges inside the story centre around the actuality of bootleggers, moths, and homilies, which act as a medium that backers for the safekeeping of these species. Through different account strings, the creator accentuates the demand for interconnectedness of all living and non-living factors.

Keywords: Deep Ecology, Living Factors, Non-living Factors and Ecological Consciousness.

neither of which provides her with any breathing space or a voice, bringing in early feminist themes in a very sexist society.

Keywords: Puritanism, Heresy, Witchcraft, Spanish Inquisition, Feminism.

CYBERNETIC FUTURITY AND THE FRAGMENTATION OF HUMANITY IN MARGE PIERCY'S HE, SHE AND IT

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We are living in a world where technology and machines are inextricably intertwined with human life. The Amalgamation of humanity in a corporatized, post-apocalyptic world has become inevitable. Fragmentation acquires symbolic and thematic meaning in dystopian or posthuman literature, frequently signifying the breakdown of the body, society, or mind. *He She It* examines the fuzziness of the lines separating nature and technology, human and machine, individuality and manufactured identity. Piercy explores how technological developments subvert conventional ideas of selfhood, agency, and emotional connection through the cyborg character Yod and the parallel story of the Golem of Prague. The story depicts a posthuman state in which gender, memory, and consciousness are socially and cybernetically constructed rather than biologically fixed. Dislocated identities, corporate dominance, environmental degradation, and digital alienation are some of the ways that the fragmentation of humanity is portrayed. Piercy enhances the prospect of alternate, hybrid ways of living that embrace diversity and oppose oppression. It explores how *He, She, and It* imagines a future influenced by the dangers and opportunities of cybernetic integration. This study analyses what it means to be human in a world where machines increasingly control our mind and body.

Keywords: Cyborg, cyberpunk, Posthuman, Dystopian, Digital consciousness.

A VOICE OF VOICELESS IN THE NOVEL OF MALSWAMI JACOB'S ZORAMI: A REDEMPTION SONG

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The present paper attempts to analyse the Malsawmi Jacob's '*Zorami: A Redemption Song*' (2015). It unveils the destruction of Culture and Manliness in the society and it also expresses violence against child, women and innocent people. The traumatic experiences faced by the Mizos like rape, mental and physical torture, sexual assaults, child abuse, inequality and murders of male. Women were their easy targets and rape is their tool or a strategy to punish them and dominant them. Military people plays an important role in violence against women and other common Mizo people. They thought it troubles them severely and made them shame without knowing that is shame to that