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&
The PG & Research Department of English

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THE EDITORIAL

Thankfully Creativity hasn't become an obsolete word. Sibylline rears her head amidst the hustle and bustle of technicalities all around us.

We've had to redefine her space in the seething void, and now she is like a restless angel panting breathlessly for new insights.

As always, the M.Phil. scholars render their explorations through research papers and abstracts, to fan the flames of literary pursuit. Some of our budding poets too, find expression in these pages of Sibylline.

We are thankful that there is 'still room to fill' and look forward to many more creative exercises through the auspices of the Journalism Club.

Dr. Venum Cecilia P.A.A.

Associate Professor & Head

PG & Research Department of English

A REPORT

The Journalism Club embarked on motivating our unique pupils into creative experiments with the target to foster their inherent skills. Over several years, the Club has appreciated various young talents across all the Departments of our college and show-cased them as young naïve writers in the vitrine as a forum entitled ‘Sibyline’, a yearly journal from the Journalism Club, which simply means ‘foretelling the future’ like a prognosticator.

The Club has conducted various competitions viz. Caption Writing, Short Story Writing, Haiku Poetry, Caricature, Pencil Sketch, Articles, Book Reviews, Poetry Reading Session, Prepare a Magazine/Journal and Photojournalism. The Club has got its own sub-unit titled ‘Tale’ of Club activities for the students and members of the Journalism Club who were given the opportunity to express their resourceful talents by the conduct of playoffs like Cook up a Story, Spell – Bee, Ex-tempore, Hilarious Stage – Play and Interviewing a Celebrity et al.

Thereby the Journalism Club not only focuses on the promotion of the students’ skills but also fosters a platform in advocating a career in Journalism.

Ms. Janani U.

**Assistant Professor of English &
Staff in – Charge of Journalism Club**

FICTIONALISING THE FACTS

JOURNEY OF MANIPULATED TRUTHS AND DECEPTION OF IDENTITY IN

JOSE' EDUARDO AGUALUSA'S WORKS

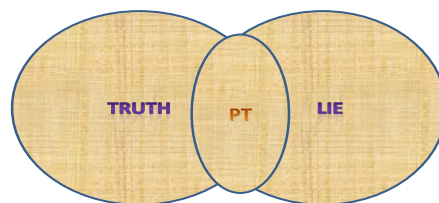
I

Post-truth is referred as 'beyond' truth. The word Post-truth is coined after the famous speech and activities of Trump in the US presidential election. All the reports that the government presented were fakely created and spreaded in the social media for the purpose of winning, because of its over popularity the word was selected as the word of the year in 2016 by oxford dictionaries. Hence, this is also called as the Trumpian era. This Post-truth like postmodernism can be considered as a 'condition', it's a condition where we live. The values of truth have been shrunk in this world with 'pluralities'. Projection of 'self' is gaining importance in this generation with overwhelming social-media. Media defines the self of the people, it defines the truth. In this condition, "lying is not only a possible action, but a preferred one" (Ralph Keyes). People gradually lie to fix and save their identities. Stabilizing the identity is the most prominent idea in this media culture, the formulation of 'truths' from one singular 'Truth' is to place their identity in the safer zone.

In this present world, there is a question of reality. In spite of utter falsehood People expect reality. This is 'Fake reality' and media plays a vital role in promoting it. There are reality shows telecasted on T.V, in spite of knowing that it is made up, People still thrive on the element of the real in it. One can directly correlate the idea of truth and falsehood with honesty. Most of the books dealing about Post-truth, tells the history of truth, lies and honesty. They concentrate on the idea of society. Society is an important ambiance for leading life. 'Honesty' is a key to run a compatible society. In the history of human development 'Honesty' was created by the members of the society for the purpose of trust. Any individual living in a society needs to trust other people to lead an interdependent life. If the person lies the mutual and social harmony gets disturbed. Most of the writers of 'Truth' believe that people in the society tend to lie only to strangers than the known people, as the people who know an individual well may easily know the honesty of his words. These lies which people tell to strangers are to protect and stabilize their identities.

Identity is the main element through which people gain respect and attention in the society. The thirst for individuality, popularity and respect created a natural instinct in people

to 'lie'. Improvement in the stages of evolution paved way to the concept of 'leader' - leading a group. The notion of 'power' unknowingly crawls with the concept of leader. A leader who was selected for making peace and harmony within the group has started to enjoy 'Power'. The position gives him and uses other people for his own well-being. 'Lie' from this stance had the major preoccupation not only to maintain/ stabilize identity but also for 'Power'. Truth in this era has been reduced to believability. Truth like history is not singular but plural. According to Ralph Keyes , 'The gap between truth and lies has shrunk to a silver' (PTE 2). There merges a state between truth and lie which is called as half-truth/ partial truth, it can also be phrased as Post- truth.



Major ground of politics in the current scenario is Media. This being a digital world, everybody lives in simulated reality. Social Medias are the source of knowledge for people, but ironically the choice is not based on the individual's own priority. The News, memes and videos are created and spread by the political/NGO groups. They make it catchy and it goes trending. People who read that conclude that as real without any prior knowledge. Thus was the case in the US presidential election. People were ready to believe the 'News' that was given to them since it was made in a believable way. Michiko Kakutani's article in The Guardian states, "Donald Trump, the 45th president of the US, lies so prolifically and with such velocity that the Washington Post calculated he'd made 2,140 false or misleading claims during his first year in office- an average of 5.9 a day", Trump has gained his power through his lies and false informations. This falseness is a key element of Post-truth. This process is similar to "Misinformation Effect" of Psychologist Elizabeth Loftus.

'Memory' plays a vital role in the spread of post-truth information. 'Memory' is not a stable entity, it's fallible. Sometimes one's own memory can fail to recollect the true information of an event. 'Misinformation effect' in psychology refers to formulation of these 'false memories'. According to Loftus, any small information related to past event may modify the existing memory of the event and create false memories. These may be called as post-event information or post-event memory. "The misinformation effect refers to the impairment in memory for the past that arises after exposure to misleading information . . . investigators have explored the fate of the original memory traces after exposure to misinformation appears to have made them inaccessible" (Loftus). Memory researchers have experimented on people by giving them the post information to their actual memory. Interestingly most of the people responded to post information as the actual event they encountered. This psychological concept goes along with Post-truth as there is a mind play game for the people which they tend to believe as reality.

The motive of the truth changers is to attack people emotionally; they corrupt the memory of people by corrupting the process of getting the truth. Manipulating the facts, the Misinformation element helps in charging people emotionally and make them believe which is given to them. The process is most important in Post-truth since post-truth is a condition like postmodernism, this process helps them to gain power.

These are the general ideas on Post-truth. The second part of the essay will take aid of Post-truth to analyze the literary work.

II

Literature is a mirror of life. Literary research in the contemporary stage cannot stand by itself. Research in literature in the late 20th and 21st centuries is interdisciplinary. Literature seeks the aid of Psychology, Sociology and Politics to bring out the light of life. Post-truth in this order is a recently developing political theory slightly crawling in its path through literature and academic writing. Literature is a fantasy, depicting facts. Researchers are attempting to theorize Post-truth; some of the writers take Post-truth as a medium to reflect society. It is compared with Post-modernism:

Post-truth today as it exist, is an extreme manipulation of the fertile grounds laid by postmodern theories . . . There has been an evident surge in the academic publications on post-truth with writers like Michiku Kakutani, Lee

McIntyre and Ari Rabin-Havt along with Palgrave Macmillan anthology on Post-truth and contemporary society shows the urgency of the Post-truth decade. (Hussain)

Post-truth takes postmodernism as a pioneer to follow it further. An attempt has been made to analyze literary works in the perspective of Post-truth.

Jose' Eduardo Agualusa is a Angolan writer in the Portuguese language. Angolan literature is an underworked area in the branch of African literature. He is a journalist and a prominent writer in Portuguese, most of his works deal with history, truth and the Country's independence. His narrative is a thrilling, where his books are similar to that of detective fiction. He won several literary awards. The main conflicts in his novels are multiple truths and the search for truth in both identity and the country's history. The works chosen for study are:

1. *The Book of Chameleons* (which has won the independent foreign fiction prize).
2. *A General Theory of Oblivion* (which has won International Dublin literary award and has been shortlisted for Man Booker prize).

The *Book of Chameleons* deals with the story of the past seller, a Genealogist named Felix Ventura who is an albino. The Interesting story line of creating pasts suddenly reveals the hidden truth and ends as a murder mystery story. The process of recreating fake history itself correlates with post-truth, since it is coherent with false memory. *A General Theory of Oblivion* is a story of Ludovica an agoraphobic woman who locks herself in an apartment for 30 years during the period of civil war. The book gives the parallel accounts of the events and political mysteries during the war and ends up with breaking the real identity and trauma of Ludo and others in novel.

'Appearances are deceptive' is proved in both novels. Things which seemed simpler were not simple but ironically most complex. There were multiple truths most of the time created by the characters in the novel, which is believed by readers and others as truths but it turns out to be false when actual truths are revealed. In post-truth era, the 'facts' that are given can be simple and believable but there is a great process behind the screen to make these alternative facts believable.

Post- truth being the evolving concept in literature, there is an attempt made to correlate it with other related concepts of memory and psychology. As given in the first part

of the article, the ‘Misinformation Effect’ of Loftus is synonymous to this. The Memory of humans is a complex entity. People fix their memory with the memories of others. Each individual has different accounts of memory for the same incident. Hence, it is easy to falsify the already unstable memory within an individual with ‘post information’ as mentioned by Loftus. In this case, the process is ‘inevitable’. False facts are not spread easily, there is great political agenda behind it. The working group undertakes this and creates false facts. Through a planned process they execute it to the targeted audience and corrupt them.

Post- truth “is not just the careless disregard or the complete abandonment of facts, the post- truth thrives in manipulation of the process and the corruption of the machinery by which facts are gathered and then used to shape people’s opinion about issues” (Hussian). This corruption of machinery is elucidated in both the novels. In *The Book of Chameleons* the profession of Felix Ventura (the basic foundation of the novel) itself questions the existence of reality/truth, for each client Ventura strives in creating new histories and facts with exact detail. To match the false histories he equips himself with the knowledge of great personalities of the country, their individual histories and the country’s history. With this he provides his clients a believable genealogy which stabilizes their current identity as a powerful people. In one of the episodes of the book, Ventura creates genealogy for a minister in Angola. He collects list of great personalities of past in Angola and correlates that with the minister’s own genealogy and he frames the new genealogy for the minister, according to which the current minister is the decent of the past freedom fighter in Angola. They fix this as ‘truth’ to the people of Angola (the targeted audience) by registering it in the ‘memoir’ of a minister. The whole process offers a lot to the final falsification.

A similar account is seen in *A General Theory of Oblivion*, where there is a murder of the great writer. It was believed that the writer was swallowed into the ground. When the journalists search for the proper information about the death of the writer the firsthand account is from the children playing near the area of murder. They affirm that the writer was swallowed by the ground, when the cap of the writer falls down, but on enquiry, the journalists find that the children did not see the event but there was a man running around telling them that the writer has been swallowed. Since there was a noise and the ground had a crack they believed it. Here, the process is the ‘man’ who corrupts the children with the false information, is the machinery. This process in both novels shows the journey of manipulated truth. Post-truth involves a similar kind of process.

Post- truth is not only of multiple truths but it also questions the very existence of ‘truth’. This concept is evident in Jose Buchman’s episode in *The Book of Chameleons*, where Ventura creates a fake genealogy for Buchman (the name Buchman is also the created one) and orders him not to go to Chibia, the place of his descent according to fake genealogy. Buchman breaks the word, goes there and Newyork is fictional mother’s residence according to the story. When he returns he brings pictures of his fictional father Mateus Buchman’s tomb and an old magazine, with his fictional mother Eva Miller’s water colour paintings. This creates doubts related to his fictional genealogy since there is proper evidence stating that fiction is reality. Ventura who created the genealogy story himself cannot believe this and doubts whether his fiction accidently turns out to be true. These incidents raise a question of the existence of truth.

The main purpose of creating false truths is to alter identity to cheat others (to get power, but here it is used for the purpose of revenge). Identity is one of the important elements which is indirectly connected with Post- truth, the purpose of it. In both the novels the correct identity of the protagonists was not given. In *The Book of Chameleons*, Jose Buchman’s real name and identity is not given until the unraveling of the truth in the end. He changes his identity for the purpose of revenge. Ventura’s birth is not detailed. It was mentioned that he was a son of a second hand book dealer, but the dealer was not his real father since he tells that the book dealer once got a parcel of books written by Eca and there was a baby among the books which turns out to be Ventura. In *A General Theory of Oblivion*, Ludovica’s reason for agoraphobia was given only during the end. Her identity of being fearful was out of being raped in childhood.

The novels provide the ground for analyzing it in the Post- truth perspective since there are manipulations of truth and alteration of identity. This research is an attempt at considering Post- truth as a critical perspective in literature.

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P. ISVARYA

M.Phil. English

LOVE YOURSELF

Just before the dawn

Your responsibility to be born

Is Cast: 'Love yourself'

It doesn't mean "Love you"

It only means, just "adore the real you".

Don't need the other

There's a sight which makes it clear

Flash a smile that drives the fear

You have a hand which wipes the tear

Find a track in the obscure.

The day has finally begun

Your deeds, to be called fun

Patience! "Love yourself"

Yeah! Sometimes it's better to stay alone

No one can hurt you and make you groan.

Indeed! Can't hold it back

Have comfort on your rack

Just love, "Love yourself"

You won't find it always dark

There's a Ray to make you spark.

Leap out of that door and make a walk

Then take a look around without a talk

Within the depth, just inhale

The world gives a different aroma

When you find more around.

The wind ripples through your hair

Making you feel beautiful ever

Then you begin to think that

"The world doesn't deserve another Helen like me"

That's how "love yourself" feels like.

- **CHRISTO C. D. SHALY**

III – B.A. English 'A'

Time

The Guardian of 'Past', 'Present' and 'Future'
Always takes its stand beside the 'Present';
Regardless, the distress in its blooper.

Yet, terribly scared of 'Hope Present';
Viciously poisons it to choke to death,
On ignorance, its 'immortal crescent'.

The mysterious 'Past' with ice – cold breath;
Trapped the soul beneath its claying lodgings,
And delivered it to funeral hearth.

The uncertain 'Future' keeps on dodging,
The destined realities with a fear,
Impotent towards the 'longtime - longing',
Efficacious to go around the sphere,
Knowing that the end is frightfully near.

CHRISTO C. D. SHALY

III – B. A. ENGLISH 'A'

THE DREAM

She was a little figure
standing alone,
girdled by darkness.
All alone was she there
crying quietly.
Her crystal blue eyes
shed tears
that rolled round
Her pinched cheeks.
Her withered lips,
went up and down,
but came out nothing.
All alone was she there
enveloped with dust,
with dirty nails
clenched
against Her palm.
My stare stood
stagnant
at Her feeble figure.
She made no response
of Life,
but stood
Lifeless .

The only essence were
the tears that sprang
forth ,Her Still eyes.
I looked deep into Her,
and was startled
for I saw my own self
In Her.
Taken aback
I shut my eyes and
opened again to
See the figure disappear.
Darkness clouded my sight.
Suddenly there appeared
a blot,
and bigger did it grew,
Until no longer
could I dare to look at it.
My eyes flickered open.
The room stood still
In the bright light.
Its just a Dream
Least that's how
I am convinced.

BALGEES RENOZA M.
III – B.A. English ‘B’

FOR MY TEACHER

My stranger, My mentor and now My friend.

When we first crossed paths, you were a complete stranger

Who promised me security and trust.

Then you became my mentor, who I trusted in and

did feel secure but more than all the formal

labels we had for each other, you struck me more

as a friend.

Someone who turned into a safe haven or an excellent

confiding cane; every being in this planet believes

himself to be the only individual that's under the spotlight

but you, my stranger, my mentor and friend

had to put on a different outlook for the sake of

me or many more like me.

Though you never actually let out what's bothering

you or what might be disturbing you,

I still can read you in the same way you read me,

I know all about the sacrifices you make,

you sacrifice your pain, your sleep or sometimes even

your very own existence along with your society.

But nothing stops your will to keep on moving and

living and that of course is applaudable.

You show us what it mean to be a woman, the

hardships, the humiliations, the success, the happiness

every light and darkness, the way you move across

all these hindered broken down paths, all of this

allow us to accept our identity and move forward.

You taught me how to accept and believe and even how to feel or express. The world we're living in it's quite hard to come face to face with reality because sometimes everything first scenes like a farce, but you taught me how to tear that curtain down and to strip off the negativity and allowed me to gain the light, to see it and to feel it.

A lot of people would never be accepting life that they're thrown into but I'm glad I met you because you showed me that everything I was thrown into or will be thrown into is an opportunity and it's in my hands to seize it and use it.

You taught me the beauty of life, about how to live and love and no matter how many times people try to put me down, you taught me dust it off and still move forward.

Every little thing you've taught me in this short period of time, I promise you that I'll treasure them and will be using it like how you taught me to.

I am and also will be more than grateful for us crossing paths.

So I just want to drop in a little something,

Thank you for everything, it's been an honor to get to know you, you've given me a path, you are moved all the hindrance so I can walk on the free path.

Though I feel extremely indebted to you, I know that nothing
I do would be enough, so all I can do is I wish you
The best, you will be in all our prayers and I hope you
continue to reach out and touch more and more
who are in need of a map or a guide.
Lastly be happy and blessed, you are loved and
respected more than you know, so thank you all over
again, to all the strangers who turned into mentors
and now into friends.

HAPPY TEACHER'S DAY

ANGELINE SHERRY ANTONY

III – B.A. English 'B'

WOMEN

Always subjected to restrictions,
Taboos and Assaults
Scapegoats for rituals
Forced to be perfect.
Embodiment of Sacrifice
Demanded to be flexible
But remember one thing
Women are Women
They Rule the World!

B. VARALAKSHMI

III – B.A. English 'C'

THE HEALING POWER OF TRAUMA IN EDWIDGE DANTICAT'S *BREATH, EYES, MEMORY*

Trauma can be healed using narrative as a therapy, many traumatic victims have a pessimistic thought that, their trauma will last forever in their lives and there is no possible way to eliminate it. There are many possible ways to recuperate from traumatic memories and the psychiatrists suggest that the best way to liberate oneself from traumatic memory is to put them in words. They also believe that the narrative has a healing power, when the traumatic event is narrated to someone then the supremacy of that actual event is condensed which leads to the healing of trauma.

Trauma can be narrated in different forms, victims can verbalize their traumas to the therapist. Some victims cannot share certain things explicitly with others, so they can verbalize their trauma by writing personal diaries or else by writing letters to their beloved one. Many writers use the technique of narrating their personal memories in the course of putting them in words. The psychological theory and memory study assists the reader to analyze the personal memory of the writer.

The healing of trauma attained using verbalization as a mode of cure is known as “talking cure” which is a technique of treating psychological disorders or other emotional difficulties, where the victims discuss about their stress, anxiety, depression or relationship problems with the therapist and they learn about their psychological conditions as well as how to handle those conditions. There are different types of talk therapies found in the clinical line, humanist therapy, group counseling, psychodynamic, interpersonal therapy, psychotherapy, and cognitive behavioural therapy. The best talk therapy that works on the individuals and their needs are psychotherapy and cognitive behavioural therapy.

The process of talking cure is frequently scorned as a relic of the past but it must be celebrated as an enduring and valuable search that can help countless people to come out of their psychological problems. It is argued that the healthier way to confront traumas is to put them into words. In the novel *BEM* the characters use the technique of storytelling to eliminate their trauma, through this they attain solution for their traumatic memories. The journal of the American Medical Association supports the efficacy of talk therapy in psychoanalytic treatment.

Traumatic memories construct harmful effects in human lives, but it can be overcome through therapies. “Caruth, too, articulates concerns that the traumatic ‘cure’ implies a

dilution of the experience into the reassuring terms of therapy” (Whitehead 116). This shows that the magical power of language can ease out the heavy mental burden of the trauma victim. The female characters in the novel carry trauma with them, they create stories about their traumatic past and deliver them to ease out their trauma. Tante Atie and Grandme’ Ife’ narrate numerous folk tale, the tales are packed with melancholy through which they indirectly voice out their inner agony.

A person can liberate themselves from their traumatic memories by narrating their life story to someone, it is believed that it will ease out their psychic pain. In the novel BEM, the Caco women in the novel accept their traumas and live happily with it for decades without any destructive effect. Cathy Caruth in *Trauma: Explorations in memory* says that:

... the inaccessibility of trauma, of its resistance to full theoretical analysis and the understanding, they also open up a perspective on the ways in which trauma can make possible survival, and on the means of engaging this possibility through the different modes of therapeutic, literary, and pedagogical encounter ... notion of traumatic experience as a neurotic distortion, ... back continually to the ever-surprising fact that trauma is not experienced as a mere repression or defense, but as a temporal delay that carries the individual beyond the shock of the first movement. (10)

Caruth states that there is a possible survival for trauma victims, which can be attained using different modes of therapeutics. In BEM the characters widely use talking as a cure. The term “talking cure” was coined by Bertha Pappenheim, the subject of the first eminent case recorded in the history of psychoanalysis, who diminished her psychic pain by narrating her life story. Freud got fascinated by her technique, later he used this technique in his therapeutic study and theories. Many contemporary trauma theories and theorists are concerned about whether trauma can be narrated or represented. This topic is also closely concerned with the possibilities of a ‘cure’, because narrativization is seen as a vital cure in the context of Post-traumatic stress disorder.

Victims should revisit their past life in order to articulate their trauma to others and there they will reexperience the traumatic event all again and many victims deny to put them in to words, Cathy Caruth in *Trauma: Explorations in memory* says that:

The trauma is a repeated suffering of the event, but it is also a continual leaving of its site. The traumatic reexperiencing of the event thus *carries with it* what Dori Laub calls the “collapse of witnessing,” the impossibility of knowing that first constituted it. And by carrying that impossibility of knowing out of the empirical event itself, trauma opens up and challenges us to a new kind of listening, the witnessing, precisely, *of impossibility*.(10)

Martine refuses to seek out for help, as she fears that the psychiatrist will take her to the past life and there she will “reexperience” her traumatic event with the same impact of the original. So, she denies seeking help from a psychiatrist, but Sophie comes out of her comfort zone and articulates it to others and by it they are enable to achieve a possible cure.

The first person narration of the novel suggests that Sophie is narrating her life story to the unknown readers. Danticat says that “I wanted to write a kind of fictional autobiography for Sophie, an “auto fiction,” as the French might call it, by someone who has trouble remembering or doesn’t really want to remember her certain parts of her life” (BEM 251). The novel is autobiographical as the author represented by Sophie, recollects her past in fragments and delivers it to the readers. She also attends therapy session meant for victims of sexual abuse and her therapist advices her to have a confrontation to free herself from her traumatic past and in the end she also confronts to her grandmother about the painful testing and with all these tactics, she is able to tackle her trauma. The confrontation helps victims to come out of their traumatic past and it acts as a possible cure.

Many Holocaust survivors, war veterans used writing as their escapist strategy. The Holocaust victims like Charlotte Delbo and Primo Levi, represented their traumas in the form of words. They created narratives out of their life stories by which they started writing. They wrote comprehensively about their correlation with Auschwitz, this helps them to come out of their traumas. When the actual event is narrated the original essence of the event is mimicked, and this leads to the dilution of their past experience. Through writings and narrativization the traumatic memory of victims gets weakened and this helps them to overcome their traumas.

There are some traces found in the novel, where the writing is used as a curing agent of trauma. In the group sessions with the sexual phobia patients Sophie, uses writing as the healing agent of trauma. When all the victims write letter to their abusers and then burn them

to ashes, Sophie says at the end of the session “I felt broken at the end of the meeting, but a little closer to being free” (BEM 207). The writing heals the psychic wounds of the victims.

The novel BEM is a semi-autobiographical novel of Danticat, where she narrates her life story using a fictional character, Sophie. Danticat narrates the painful story of her life which haunted her very much in an interview recalls “... pain and trauma can definitely be a powerful muse. They can force us to sit down and express something from very deep within ourselves.” Trauma summons the writers to narrate their stories in the form of written words. The confessional writers Sylvia Plath and Kamala Das verbalized their personal suffering through their works, but some writers never wanted to project their narratives as their own so they choose to be objective in narrating their stories by using a fictional character to make it impersonal as Danticat used Sophie.

In the novel Sophie confesses her story to the unknown listener, who is reading the book. The first person narrative affirms that Sophie is trying to liberate her-self from her traumatic memories. Danticat says “I wanted the reader to feel as though Sophie is nearly out of her breath as she’s telling us all of this, as though the actual telling of the story is saving her life” (BEM 251). Sophie narrates her story in order to be liberated from her traumas.

Many confessional writers narrate their individual experiences, personal trauma, mental illness, traditional taboo, sexuality and their suicidal thoughts in their writings. When they express their inner agony in the form of words, the original event is witnessed again and they get reconciled to their trauma and the pain created by it. The confessional writing is also considered to be the best cure to the trauma victims. In Christianity there is a traditional way of confessing sins to the priest, it is believed that when someone confesses their sin, the healing of the soul and mind is attained through it.

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PAVITHRA C
M.PHIL ENGLISH

EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF POETRY THROUGH BLENDED LEARNING USING MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Introduction

“English language is spoken or read by the largest number of people in the world, for historical, political and economic reasons.” (C.L.Wrenn; 2013, 6). English is considered to be the global language for its wide spread influence on all the disciplines and discourses of knowledge. In India, English language was considered as second language especially in students’ curriculum owing to its importance in the field of science, business, politics and all other fields. There is a dire need for the students to acquire the language to achieve their academic goals. Teaching English is tedious because of its grammar, vocabulary, periphrases, inflexion, word order and intonation. Teachers should unveil its true beauty to students. In the 21st century, the most perplexing job for the teachers is to use technology in teaching. Teachers should find a tranquil way to include technology in teaching, which is not time consuming, at the same time enable them to finish portion with in the given time.

Effective teaching of poetry through blended learning using technological aids

The present study aims at effective teaching of poetry by imparting the value, aesthetic pleasure, language function, knowledge and also to enhance the creative writing among students. The above aims could be attained through blended learning approach using technological aids. The instructional aids used here is animated videos which have been prepared using plotagon, to activate the senses of hearing and vision, enabling the students to have a new learning experience by creating a realistic classroom situation. This draws the

attention of the students and enables them to learn poetry more effectively than the traditional methods.

Purpose of the study

The present study aims at teaching poetry to middle school students with animated videos as instructional aids made through application plotagon. Students consider poetry to be vague because of its method of teaching. From the ancient times, importance given to poetry has been high and it is relatively same even today for the value it imparts. Poetry enables students to get closer to the language through its emotions and pleasure it withholds. The rhythm in poetry enables the students to acquaint with the word order, it increases the vocabulary of students, it analogously develops students' creative writing and it also develops students' knowledge, personality and manners. Hence greater importance should be rendered to poetry teaching. At each age, students should be made aware of certain values. In Kamala Das' poem, *My Grandmother's House* it is necessary to introduce the importance of grandparents, but there is no need to introduce her biography which is filled with feministic views, hence through the application Plotagon teachers can make videos based on the grades of the students and objectives of the syllabus.

Objectives

- To teach the content of poems effectively to the learners using plotagon and blogs and enhance their learning skills.
- To enable the students to procure vocabulary which they come across in poems taking the aid of the animated forms of instruction.
- To teach the poetic devices and make them learn the poetic devices that they come across in the poems
- To analyse the impact of blended teaching on the learning process.

Approach

The approach used in the study is Blended Learning. In the 21st century, lecture method is considered as traditional method but the advent of technology alone is not likely to accomplish the aims of teaching. Blended learning combines both technology and face to face teaching to render effective teaching. 'The term "blended learning" has been used

interchangeably with “mixed mode learning,” “hybrid instruction,” and “technology-mediated or enhanced learning.” (Wang, Han, Yang, 2015, 380) “Blended learning seems to be the “de facto” term to refer to these mixed modes of learning environments. The study blends videos prepared through plotagon and face to face lecture methods.

Identification of the problem

Poetry is always taught in the old lecture method where teachers paraphrase each stanza and deliver it to students. Objectives that need to be focussed in each chapter are often unexploited. In today’s world, school students are often projected to selected questions and they study the given answers, due to which they fail to understand its importance, there by failing to know the essence and beauty of the poetry. Their choice of words is poor and they rely on teachers for the meaning of words in poems. The instructional material used for the study was blackboard because of which the students were least interested to involve themselves in classes. The above method gives no greater ways to improve the students’ language and knowledge. When the teacher uses technology in the classrooms it enriches attention, and motivates students to learn the lesson effectively.

Methodology

Instructor conducts for one hour an introductory session with students and teachers of standard VIII(40 students), in Pasavankottai. The instructor conducts the pre-test and introduces the topic to both the students and teachers. Student’s data was collected through demographic charts. Instructor gives the Pre-study questionnaire to the students, which has a set of questions about the author, poem and general questions pertaining to the objectives. The students should surf the online blogs and fill the questionnaire. The information that is gathered in the pre-study was discussed in the class in the next day. The students actively involved in the discussion. The instructor teaches the experimental group through audio-visual aid which was prepared using plotagon. The instructor plays the video and after that the instructor carries the face-to-face lecture method to explain the vocabulary, poetic devices and values and encourage the students to follow it in their life. The control group remain unexposed to the new method and the poems were taught to them using lecture method. The students of experimental group were given a post- test. The same question paper is given to the control group and the results were evaluated.

Findings of study

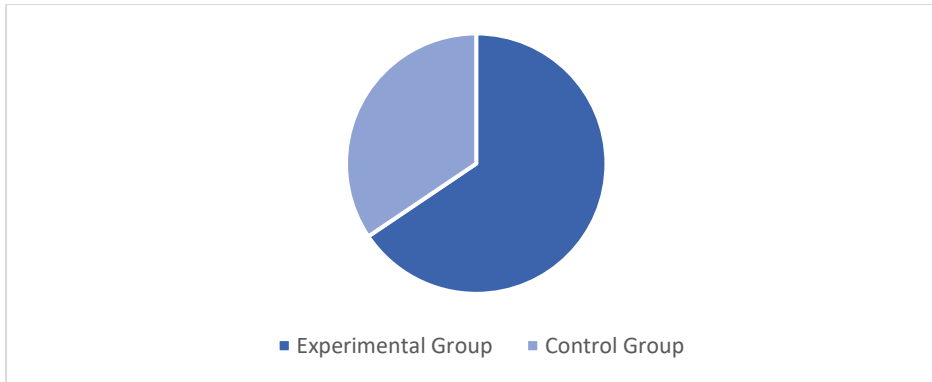


Figure 1: Comparison of post-test in control group and experimental group

The above figure shows that present study was effective in teaching. The present study dealing with technological intervention in the teaching learning process was found successful in teaching poetry in the eighth grade students. This is evident from the mean value of post-test that was conducted to both control group (11.56) and experimental group (22). Through this method both teacher and students affirmed that the approach drew the attention of the students there by it facilitating the learning process through visual reception. The learners also simultaneously learned vocabulary and poetic devices that they came across in poems included for the syllabus. Thus through the marks secured by the students it is evident that the method can prove to be successful in the teaching language through poetry.

Conclusion

The above method can be successful in teaching poetry and it is evident from the data collected. The students in the pre-test found the poems prescribed as difficult and hard to remember. Through blended learning the researcher uses the technological aids like Plotagon, blogs to draw their attention. Through the above data collected it is evident that it can be employed in teaching poetry for effecting comprehension.

Works cited

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1. Name:
2. Class:
3. What do you think as drawback in our educational teaching system? What would you suggest for betterment?
4. Do you use technological aids in reading and learning?
5. Do you have access to the internet at home? (if yes, how):
6. How many hours do you spent in a day in internet and in online resources?
7. What is your chief interest in internet?

Have you browsed online study materials pertaining to the subjects? (online blogs, videos, reviews, other resources):

MONIKA M
M.Phil. English

ABSTRACTS

IMPACT OF MODERNIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN BARBARA KINGSOLVER'S ANIMAL DREAMS

ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to analyze the ecological crisis in the novel *Animal Dreams*. Barbara Kingsolver illustrates how the notable country Grace, Arizona, struggles against the Black Mountain Mining Company, a fictional company and how it affects the living trees, land, river and the lives of the people. This company digs the river and dumps the chemicals into it. Therefore all the affluent land and water gets devastated. Codi the protagonist of the novel teaches biology to the students and simultaneously educates them about the seriousness of the ecological crisis. She collects samples of the river water and examines them to witness the teeming microscopic germs inside the dirty water. Codi finds out the hidden truth how the acid mixes with the river water and creates a biotic death and oxygen load. The valley of Grace, Arizona slowly perishes due the leaching operation in the mining companies. Codi gives awareness to Grace people regarding the importance of preserving nature and mother earth from eradication. However, she succeeds in protecting the country from hazardous situation with the help of Stitch and Bitch Club members. So, therefore modernization and industrialization brings greater effects to the environment.

KEY WORDS: Ecological Crises, Black Mountain Mining Company, Land, River, Leaching Operation, Stitch and Bitch Club and Modernization.

T.S.SANDHIYA

M.Phil. English

EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF POETRY THROUGH BLENDED LEARNING USING MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY

ABSTRACT

The present study attempts to teach poetry in an effective way. From ancient times, importance is given to poetry and has been high and it is relatively the same even today for the value it imparts. Poetry enables students to get closer to the language through its emotions

and pleasure it withholds. The Present study aims at the variables like content, vocabulary and poetic devices. It also aims to inflict values in the students which is conveyed in poems and emphasises on the students' attention in the objectives of chapters in a text book, which includes the development of LSRW skills. The approach used for the study is Blended Learning, which uses both technological aids and face to face lecture method.

Blended learning has six modals in language teaching, they are face-to-face driver model, rotation model, flex model, online lab model, self-blend model, and online driver model. The technological aids used for the present study are, Plotagon, Online blogs, Power point presentation. Multimedia Technology are apps, soft wares, webpages, websites, and blogs. The aid that is excessively used for the study is plotagon, power point and blogs. Plotagon is an animated video maker that is extensively used in all the discourses. It enables one to create videos based on the need of an individual. It has numerous settings, characters, audio recording to enjoy a real learning experience. A questionnaire was given to both the teachers and students to collect the data and to validate the study.

KEY WORDS: poetry teaching, Blended Learning, Multimedia Technology.

MONIKA M
M.Phil. English

JOURNEY OF MANIPULATED TRUTHS AND DECEPTION OF IDENTITY IN JOSE' EDUARDO AGUALUSA'S WORKS

ABSTRACT:

Post-truth is a present condition in the fields of philosophy and politics. This twenty-first century is categorized as a Post-truth era. There lies an ambiguous relationship between facts and fiction which has become inseparable. Lying is the major preoccupation and has become a routine of daily life. 'Truth' is replaced by 'truths'. Media plays a vital role in giving these fake truths and mispresenting the events administered by the authorities. This according to psychologist Loftus is "the Misinformation Effect" where the external agents shape the post-event information. So, truth is constantly in a state of flux. Literature is a

mirror of life. It is a fiction, representing the facts. This article aims at analyzing the manipulated journey of truth and identity with the works of Agualusa. The article is divided into two parts: the first part deals with general ideas of Truth, Honesty and Post-truth; the second part deals with the process of making Post-truth in narrative, with examples of Agualusa's works.

KEY WORDS: Post-truth, Misinformation, Manipulation, Identity, Facts, Falsifying.

P.ISVARYA
M.Phil. English

THE HEALING POWER OF TRAUMA IN EDWIDGE DANTICAT'S *BREATH, EYES, MEMORY*

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study focuses on the healing of trauma using narrative as a therapeutic agent. A person who is affected by trauma suffers a lot with their traumatic memories. The excruciating pain of trauma makes a person mentally weak, multiple characters in the novel are affected by traumatic memories. Each character in the novel struggles a lot to come out of their haunting past. Many possibilities are found in the world to negotiate traumatic memories and this act as the central concept of the study. The healing of trauma attained, using verbalization as a mode of cure is known as "talking cure" which is a technique of treating psychological disorders or other emotional difficulties. The victims discuss about their stress, anxiety, depression or relationship problems with the therapist. They learn about their psychological conditions as well as how to handle those conditions.

KEYWORDS: Traumatic memory, Talking cure, Narrative, Healing therapy, verbalization.

PAVITHRA C
M.Phil. English

**THE DECONSTRUCTION OF FAMILY STRUCTURE IN SUZAN-LORI PARKS’
TOPDOG/UNDERDOG**

ABSTRACT:

A well-organized social structure named ‘Family’ is deteriorating its form when its need meets with the economy. The world which is running through money lost its connection with humanity. Here the constructed field lost its centre and it deconstructs within. Declination of society due to lack of morality, like the common use of a gun and gambling, leads to a lot of violence in society. Money and luxurious life hovered through humanity that dismantles all. The materialistic world aims at a profit without strain. Universal Brotherhood deviates into enmity, love made into money, loyalty declines its power, pain is unrecognised by its colour. The world which should be bound by love and trust is shattered because of hatred and greed. Parks’ *topdog/underdog* concentrates on family structure and the negligence of oneself. In this article, the importance is given to the deteriorated family structure and the biased social notions based on colour is dealt with.

KEYWORDS: Deconstruction, family, economy, gun violence, slave- master, humanity.

**H. RAMLATH,
M.Phil. English**

**AN ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL HARMONY IN TAN TWAN ENG’S THE GIFT OF
RAIN IN THE LIGHT OF MULTICULTURALISM**

ABSTRACT:

Multiculturalism, the key degree of achieving cultural diversity in a nation is a body of moral principles, beliefs and practices through which a group of people identify themselves. This sense of rootedness and forms of identification is achieved through the spectrum of culture in cultural amalgamation. The Gift of Rain by Tan Twan Eng is an enriching novel which exuberantly portrays the co-existence and collision of a different society of people belonging to different ethnic groups. The paper explores this harmonious coherence of different cultures and how the conception of Self preservation exists among them by observing a common pattern of beliefs, myths and celebrations.

KEYWORDS: Multiculturalism, Cultural harmony, Egalitarian society.

**NIMLA ESTHER.B
M.Phil. English**

**CLASS WAR EXPOSES INDIA'S DARK HEART IN MEENA KANDASAMY'S
NOVEL *THE GYPSY GODDESS***

ABSTRACT:

Ilavenil Meena Kandasamy is an Indian poet, fiction writer, translator and activist. Her works are centered on Feminism and the Anti-caste Caste Annihilation Movement of the contemporary Indian setting. She has published two collections of poetry. Two of her poems have won accolades in the all-India poetry competitions. In *Gypsy Goddess* she tried to look into various aspects that directly and indirectly, Dalit literature is influenced by and also the need for studying Dalit literature in the light of postcolonial theory. The paper aims at studying the emergence of Dalit literature as an alternative discourse in representing the ever silenced and excluded voices of the Dalits. The proposition of the paper is also to look into different aspects: socio-political, historical, cultural and linguistic aspects that Dalit literature has briefly represented so far and how the form and genre of Dalit literature, may be varied in regional dialect but go hand in hand in depicting the neglected promises of the caste-Hindu society which is considered by the Dalits that the caste-Hindu society is religiously conventional and culturally repressive against the Dalits, minorities and women. Dalit Literature aims to highlight the disabilities, difficulties, atrocities, and inhuman treatment meted out to Dalits in society. The main object is to create social awakening among the downtrodden. Dalitness is essentially a means towards achieving a sense of cultural identity. The inferiority complex based on "to be a Dalit" is now disappearing. Dalit literature is based on individual, culture, social burden, and Dalitness.

KEY WORDS: Feminism, Pain, Frustration, Humiliation.

S.K.MONIKA
M.Phil. English

**THE ESSENTIALITY OF ART FOR INSPIRATION IN HELON
HABILA'S *WAITING FOR AN ANGEL***

ABSTRACT:

Media is an effective tool which encourages communication, motivates inquiry and criticizes the oppressors' tactics. Media needs the power of words in volumes. These words sometimes a misnomer, are inspired by ideas which are conceived upon gazing at art in wonder and resonance. Art in any form reflects the past, history and culture of one's community. The idea of visiting a museum to replay nostalgia and a New Historicist's way of looking at history is dealt here. The role of mentor to guide his/her students explaining when needed and creating a sense of appreciation to their present freedom, is highlighted. The importance of the symbolical representation of the older generation in imparting the knowledge of their rich heritage and wisdom to their younger generation is stressed here. As a result, various lives change, and on spreading these truths through media, one can aspire to inspire others to awaken to these changes.

KEYWORDS: Misnomer, Wonder, Resonance, Culture, New Historicism and Nostalgia.

KIRUPA T

M.Phil. English

**TRAVEL WRITING AND DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURE IN
V.S NAIPAUL'S *A BEND IN THE RIVER***

ABSTRACT:

Travel Writing or travelogue is a genre of literature that deals with nature writing, adventure writing, guide books etc. Travel writing records the experiences of travellers in some interesting places circumstances. Travel is the essence of experimental learning. The principle of travel is connected with social relationships, opportunities to learn, grow and to develop a new ability to discover new cultures. Travel writing teaches a lot of things it changes the perception about people and the community from different surroundings. This genre of writing is influenced in various fields such as science, history, literature, culture, colonialism etc. Travel writing is documentation in the form of literary texts called travel narratives. Naipaul's novel *A Bend in the River* is probably his highest and

most convincing description of modern Africa. Naipaul expresses the concept of humanity through the impact of imperialism on culture. Naipaul seeks to express how the political and cultural domination of Europe has influenced the psychology of the Indians and Africans.

KEY WORDS: Travel writing, Cultural Identity, Imperialism

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M.Phil. English