

National Seminar

on

**IMAGINING THE WORLD:
LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY,
MYTH AND REALITY**

July, 27th – 28th 2019



Organised by

Department of English

GURU NANAK COLLEGE, DHANBAD

NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'B'

**A Sikh Minority Degree College
Affiliated to BBM KU, Dhanbad**

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Abstract of papers in about 250 words along with the following information -- a) author b) affiliation c) email address d) title of the abstract, e) the abstract, and f) key-words may be submitted electronically as attachment in MS Word (Font: Times New Roman, Size: Title – 14, Body – 12, Single Spaced) by 10th July 2019 and full paper in about 3000 words by 20th July 2019 to the Organising Secretary at deptofenglishgnc@gmail.com

Registration Fee

Teachers:

Rs 1500/- (With Accommodation)

Rs 1000/- (Without Accommodation)

Research Scholars:

Rs 1200/- (With Accommodation)

Rs 800/- (Without Accommodation)

Registration fee is to be paid at the time of Registration.

Venue :

The Seminar will be held in Guru Nanak College (Bhuda Campus), Dhanbad.

With a background of rich cultural heritage, the city of Dhanbad is situated in the Indian state of Jharkhand. It is the second most populated city in Jharkhand which shares its land borders with Asansol, West Bengal. Dhanbad has some of the largest coal mines in the Country and is called Coal Capital of India. Tata Steel, Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Indian Iron And Steel Company (IISCO) are some of the companies who operate coal mines in the district. The engineering institute IIT (ISM), Dhanbad and the newly established Binod Bihari Mahto Koylanchal University (bifurcated from Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag) are located in Dhanbad. **Climate:** Dhanbad features climate that is transitional between a humid subtropical climate and a tropical wet and dry climate. Summer starts from last week of March and ends in mid-June.

Concept Note:

It is a truism that human beings understand their world through stories. Stories have accompanied the evolution of society in its structuration as well as in its ordering. One would not exaggerate if one says we make sense of reality by its linguistic construction. This might be seen as a linguistic turn in conceptualising reality; this has to be accepted that the imagination itself is constructed around the language or the languages we are acquainted with. Cutting across disciplines we can understand reality through literature – oral, written, historical, mythical or philosophical.

In the times we live in this very fact has led to the concept of multiple realities, even a fragmentation of reality leading to the pluralising attitude to the erstwhile essential concepts about universal themes. In our age when literature is being written not in its traditional manner but on devices having its own brains, under the huge pressures of the unstoppable force of globalising and globalised realities which in turn are at best fragmented and fragmenting. This seminar proposes to bring in scholars primary from the world of literature, theory, philosophy, history, as well as other disciplines feeding the thoughts. Any fruitful discussion about literature right now can only take place when we can situate literature in its context of its engendering philosophy and history, myth and reality. We should also be courageous enough to imagine the world which is progressive, liberal, and futuristic with dignity and integrity of the human being at its centre. This seminar proposes to read, understand, analyse literature in its myriad forms in their various locations, origins and presences.

Papers are invited to be presented in the seminar to be submitted electronically as attachment in MS Word (for editing, designing, etc.) as well as PDF (Font: Times New Roman, Size: Title – 14, Body – 12, Single Spaced).

Broadly speaking, articles which deal with the idea of imagining our world in its representation – textual, literary, mythic and historical are to be accepted. A request is made

that it will be desirable if as a way of textual practice we invest ourselves in finding our resources from actual literary textual materials or literary artefacts.

Academic Session 1

Theories of Imagination

Imagination and Identity

Representation of Gender in Literature

Representation of Reality in Literature

Impact of Psychology in Literature

To imagine is to represent without aiming at things as they actually, presently, and subjectively are. One can use imagination to represent possibilities other than the actual, to represent times other than the present, and to represent perspectives other than one's own. Imagination can be seen 1) as a mental faculty common to all people to some degree and 2) as an important principle in literary theory. This structural and functional analysis of imagination tries to show its immense importance in everyday-life as well as in literary activity and reception. The 1st Technical Session of this seminar aims at focussing on the reading of multiple theories of imagination, the role of imagination in representation of identity, gender, and representation of reality as well as the impact of psychology (most specifically) in literature.

Academic Session 2

Evolution of Literature Down the Ages

Discussions About Literature – How We Have Been Imagining

From the Literary Theories – How We Should Imagine

Literary Adaptations and Imagination

This session will target both – evolution in literature and the evolution of literature down the ages with further critical discussions about the ways we have been imagining with reference to literary texts. The session will also read through literary theories along with literary texts to define the ways we should imagine. Literary adaptation is usually debated as a genre which either leaves 'little to the imagination' or adds value to the text. The session will try to pull the thread of this debate further with comparative studies between the original text/s and its adaptation/s.

Academic Session 3

Literature in Translation(s) – The Imagined Terrain

Censorship and Imagination in Literature

Representation of Culture & Society in Literature

Representation of the Subaltern in Literature

Representation of Silence(s) and Noise in Literature

Translation has become one of the major surges of contemporary literature; hence, the 3rd Technical Session will target to provide a critique on literary translation. The session will also deal with the role of censorship in the history of world's literature, which means coming to grips with the often brutal repression, prohibition, and persecution of writing, writers, performance, and cultural producers by sovereign power underwritten by violence. The session will also carry discussions on the representation of culture and society in literature along with the representation of the so-called 'other voice', i.e. the subaltern, in literature. The session will also attempt to provide a critique on the representation of 'silences' and 'noise' in literature.

Academic Session 4

Popular Culture and Literature

Fantasy Fiction, Detective Fiction

Humour in Literature

Mythology and Literature

Imagination and Children's Literature

Imagination and Adult Fiction

In this session, we will investigate the role of imagination in popular culture and its narratives by focusing on the relationship between our changing cultures and literary texts like pop-fiction, graphic fiction, chick lit, fantasy fiction, detective fiction, etc. The session will also have discussions on humour in literature. With changing times mythologies are also turning modern; this session will also attempt a discussion on the modern interpretation of mythologies in literature. Imagination plays a crucial role in creating a strong base for children and their turning into adults, therefore, the session will also try to critique the role of Children's literature and Adult fiction in creating the sense of imagination.

Panel Discussion :

{English Literature: Situation As It Obtains Today}

Backdrop Events:

Poster Presentation

Painting Exhibition

Paper Exhibition