

ICSSR-SPONSORED TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

On
"Re-thinking Literature: Eco-Criticism And Socio-Economic Concerns"

Organized by:

Post-Graduate Department of English

TRIVENIDEVI BHALOTIA
COLLEGE
1957

In collaboration with

Dept. of English, Kazi Nazrul Islam Mahavidyalaya, Churulia

On

19th & 20th December, 2019

Date	Time	Events	In Chair
19-12-2019 (DAY I)	9:30 am	Start of Spot Registration	
	10:00am	Inauguration of Seminar by Lighting of Lamp	
	10:10am	Felicitation of dignitaries.	
	10:20am	Welcome Address by Dr. Ashis Kumar Dey, Principal, Triveni Devi Bhalotia College, Raniganj.	
	10:30am	Opening Address by Convener, Dr. Sharbani Banerjee, Associate Professor in English, Triveni Devi Bhalotia College, Raniganj.	
	10:35am	Address by Prof. A S Purakayastha, on behalf of the Hon'ble V C, KNU	
	10:40am	Address by Prof. S K Bhattacharya, Head, Dept. of English, KNU	
	10:45am	Address by Prof. A. K. Mallick, Teacher-in-Charge, Kazi Nazrul Islam Mahavidyalya, Churulia	
	11:00am	Key-note Speech by Dr. Pankaj Sekhsaria Title: "At the tri junction of fragility and vulnerability: The Andaman and Nicobar Story"	
	12:00pm	Plenary Session I (each speaker 30 minutes) Speakers: a. Dr.Sajal Kumar Bhattacharya, Professor of English, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol--- "Statelessness, Environmental Refugee and 'The Law of Humanity': Reading Hannah Arendt, Lawrence Buell and Amitav Ghosh together" b. Dr. Sivashis Biswas, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Assam University c. <i>Dr. Pradipta Sengupta</i> --"Environmental Evocations" in Hawthorne: Space and Human Behaviour in <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> and "Young Goodman Brown" d. Dr. Pinaki De, Associate Professor, Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara,	Dr. Pankaj Sekhsaria

		Graphic Designer & Illustrator--- "Ecocritical approach in comics: an overview"	
		LUNCH	
	2:00pm	Business Session I&II— Parallel Sessions Parallel Session I&III --- Room 72 (Smart Room) Parallel Session II & IV--- Room 15 (Conference Room)	Dr. Sivashis Biswas (P.S I) Dr. Pinaki De (P.S II) Dr. Pradipta Sengupta (P.S III) Dr. Sharbani Banerjee (P.S IV)
	4:30pm	Conclusion of Day I	
20-12-2019 (DAY II)	10:00am	Plenary Session II a. Dr. Ashok Mohapatra, Professor of English, Sambalpur University b. Dr. AngshumanKar, Professor of English, Burdwan University c. Dr. G.B. Sural, Professor of English, Bankura University	Dr. Sivashis Biswas
	12:00pm	Book Launch, Bengal Chapter of Dr. Pankaj Sekhsaria	

	12:30pm	Business Session III Parallel Session V Parallel Session VI	Dr. Ashok Mohapatra (P.S V) Dr. Angshuman Kar (P.S VI)
	1:30pm	LUNCH	
		Valedictory Session	Dr. G.B. Sural, Dignitaries on dais and presentation of Participation Certificates
Vote of Thanks: Sujit Malick & Arunima Karmakar, Joint Organizing Secretaries, Seminar			

A Two-Day National seminar on “Re-thinking Literature: Eco-Criticism And Socio-Economic Concerns” was organized by Post-Graduate Department of English, Triveni Devi Bhalotia College, Raniganj, Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal in collaboration with Department of English, Kazi Nazrul Islam Mahavidyalya, Churulia, Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.

Concept Note

Abstract of Seminar Proposal

In 1987, the Brundtland Report for the first time mentioned the term ‘Sustainable Development’. The Report is often taken to be the guiding principle of the environmental concerns that the 20th century human race is confronted with. However, to think that environmental concerns linked with modern development and a conscious debate on such matters is entirely post-modernist would be foolishness and such debates and co-related eco-critical writings go as far back as 1662 with John Evelyn’s *Sylvia* and in the writings of Hans Carl von Carlowitz, Frederick Augustus I and Aldo Leopold. In the year 1962 Rachel Carson published her seminal and much-acclaimed book *Silent Spring* which changed human perspective on how we looked at the world around us. It brought together a multi-disciplinary approach towards how we understood the environment upon which the very existence of the human race depended. At same point of time it opened up a debate on how we should understand and balance the need for sustainable development and related socio-economic issues. Over the last 50 years it has thus given to us a fresh field of study which we call as Eco-criticism.

Eco-critics firmly believe that human culture is related to the physical world and such criticism can be the answer for inter-linking the life-forms, their sustenance, socio-economic development and in turn thus expand the very notion of the ‘world’. The definite link between nature and culture is often best represented by the literary treatment on such ecological and environmental issues, their textual representations and so-called ‘thematizations’ of land/world and nature/human beings influence the actions on the land. We may therefore often need to go back to Cheryl Glotfelty who suggested a three-tier development of eco-criticism. Within the ambit of the debate between ecological threats, socio-economic concerns and eco-critical perspectives, culture plays a vital role particularly with reference to such parameters as Identity and engagement, creativity and recreation. Memory and projection, belief and ideas, gender and generations, enquiry and learning, wellbeing and health

It was hoped that this Seminar would be able to address the concerns that environmentalists today share about the world that we live in and the socio-economic concerns that bind human lives while looking at the various environmental issues. At the same time it was hoped that the question of sustainable development shall be interrogated vis-à-vis environmental concerns arising across geographical territories. What then can be the role of literary texts when we look into the various challenges that lie ahead of mankind when Mother Earth’s existence is under threat?