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Editorial Note

The unprecedented crisis that the human world faced due to the sudden outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic in the last year is still continuing to impede the normal course of human lives in all spheres. Especially in the field of education, the students, researchers, academicians have witnessed a drastic change, 'as' the continuous lockdown in academic institutions especially in countries like India has given emphasis on e-learning which is practically posing a threat to the learners from the backward society. Again, on the other hand, the stay-at-home situation has opened up more scopes for the researchers and academicians to focus on new research works. May be this is one of the reasons that we have got huge responses for the present issue of our journal (Vol-VII, No.I, June 2021 Issue) from all over the world. We really had to go through a rigorous review, rejection, editing, reediting procedure followed by anti-plagiarism check that finally resulted in fifteen scholarly articles of various subjects from the disciplines of humanities and social sciences along with an additional book review on a recently published book in early 2021. We know that the publication of a print journal at such a trying time is highly challenging because of the imposing restrictions by the government on communications as well as on the Publication Houses in order to maintain Covid-safety-protocols. We are still hopeful that we will continue to work for the *Exposure* family with indomitable spirit by overcoming all the obstructions it will face in near future.

We hope that the researchers and academicians will be immensely benefitted from this issue, and it will definitely bridge the academic gap created by the present global crisis. We are grateful to all those associated with this journal for making this happen once again. The *Exposure* family solicits the cooperation, guidance, and any wise suggestion for the future issues of the journal.

With warm regards,

Dr. Tanim Dutta

Editor-in-Chief

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Transgression and Transvaluation: Crime and
Punishment in John Gay's Play
The Beggar's Opera

Pradip Mondal

ABSTRACT:

Criminality and punitive measures taken against the criminals are in flux down the ages. *Newgate Calendar* stories are cautionary tales in which a perpetrator of a crime is captured, tried, and eventually punished. Gay's play *The Beggar's Opera* (1728) critiques the unfairness and corruption of the legal system in England. Gay locates the play in a criminal milieu to symbolise the criminal behaviour of the politicians, especially Robert Walpole and the courtiers. It is perhaps understandable that the readers should think of London in the 1720s as a vortex of criminality and dissolution, a place where "All Professions be-rogue one another". Gay knew what the people wanted, and deplored their obsession with the crime-ridden underworld. In this play, Gay successfully ridicules the affinity of the London society for all things immoral by transforming vice into virtue and vice versa. Thereby it turns the standard notion of ethics on its head. The present paper will attempt to look at discipline and punishment from the Foucauldian perspective. It is also going to pinpoint how transgression ate into the marrow of the then London society, and how transvaluation of values took place.

KEY WORDS: criminality, *Newgate Calendar*, ethics, transgression, transvaluation.

Black Hair: Personal or Political?

Aindrila Choudhury

ABSTRACT:

Hair is central to Black identity and the centrality accorded to Black hair commenced well before colonisation, when it was deemed an important cultural marker of communal identity among tribes. Post the abolishment of slavery, Blacks in America found themselves hard-pressed to conform to Eurocentric beauty standards to find acceptance and assimilation in a largely racist society. African-American women, in particular, are often viewed monolithically and their bodies are subjected to much scrutiny, making every choice they make for their hair and body an important political issue that affects the choices of their entire community. Wearing hair in afros or cornrows is often seen as tantamount to being uncivil and unprofessional, and consequently, generations of women spend their lives going through the constant struggle of conformation and the possibility of scalp burns from years of 'relaxing' hair to conform to the narrow White definition of 'professional'. This paper seeks to problematise the question of Black hair—whether kinky, curly hair in its natural state is a definite political statement of subversion and reaction against the long-standing history of racism in the U.S., as elsewhere; or whether hairstyling is simply a matter of personal choice; or if at all it would be correct to assume that Black women who wear their hair, natural, are more ethnically-rooted or have internalised racism to a lesser degree than those with 'relaxed hair'. The paper also sheds light on how choices and motives regarding hair for African women differ from their African-American sisters. On a broader level, this paper seeks to show that residual colonial ideas of White supremacy and xenophobia are so

internalised, that even in such an ethnically diverse republic like the United States, a person of colour is still seen as the 'cultural other', and how this 'cultural other' is forced to live in constant emulation of his White overlord.

KEYWORDS: Black hair, feminism, media images, Black pride.

Introspecting the Usefulness of E-Governance in Combating COVID Pandemic in India : A Changing Milieu in Indian Administration

Souvik Chatterjee & Honey Raj

ABSTRACT:

With the emergence of information communication technology (ICT), modes and interactions of society have undergone significant changes. We are now witnessing a knowledge-based society and E-governance occupies a significant position in it. Today the use of E-governance in administration increases because it minimises corruption, guarantees transparency and accountability and it is an easy and convenient way for the public to directly engage with the government thus improving the overall quality of administration. In India, due to its socio-economic diversities incorporating e-governance into administration is a herculean task. But adopting digital literacy in India would allow the government to focus on areas such as technology, strengthen the economy, improve trade, develop connectivity, modernize agriculture and ensure socio-economic development to alleviate poverty. However, an effective e-governance administration requires both government's substantial involvement and investment as well as higher digital literacy among the ordinary citizenry.

KEYWORDS: Information Communication Technology, E-governance, digital literacy, socio-economic development, Poverty Alleviation.

'This Journey Home is the Right Thing to Do': Space and Belongingness in Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Arijit Mondal

ABSTRACT:

The concept of space is generally thought to be of basic importance to an understanding of the corporal world. As a result of various social, economic and political circumstances, men's movement from one place to another not only effects on their physical space but on their mental or psychic space which always remains with nostalgic emotions and memories. The aim of the paper is to deal with the issue of forced displacement and how it helps to construct the concepts of home and belongingness within a new spatial terrain. As the longing for staying at home and going back home with a new hope and anticipation rouse to regain people's own identity back, the paper attempts to investigate how people's emotional attachment to their families, the spaces and the communities are traumatized by the violent events as a result of displacement with particular reference to Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Moreover, the paper will try to show that changing boundaries within a new space is not the intention of the people who are displaced; rather their consciousness yearns to get back their past individual and communal space.

KEYWORDS: Space, home, belongingness, identity and nostalgic.

Subversion of the Rhetoric of *Terra Nullius* in Peter Carey's *A Long Way from Home*

Anjan Saikia

ABSTRACT:

Published in 2017, Peter Carey's *A Long Way from Home* vividly divulges the loss of a timeless civilisation in Australia in the aftermath of British intervention. Through the description of a brute car race in Australia popularly known as the Redex Trial, Carey here explores the Aboriginal predicament and their traumatic life experiences. Through the mouths of his central characters namely Irene Bobs, Titch Bobs and Willie Bachhuber, Carey here deliberates upon Australia's forgotten history and Black-White encounter, and subsequently questions the validity of the rhetoric of *terra nullius*. Thus, by delineating the British presence as well as sufferings of the Aboriginals, the novel potentially subverts the notion of *terra nullius* and unearths the concealed history of Australia through some shocking revelations. The article is an attempt to demystify the falsity lying in the rhetoric of *terra nullius* and the subversion of it in Carey's seminal novel *A Long Way from Home*.

KEY WORDS: *Terra nullius*, Black-White encounter in Australia, Aboriginals, British white.

To Be or Not to Be: Murakami Redefining
the Spirit of Existence in *Kafka on the Shore*:
A Study

Suraj Das

ABSTRACT

In the postmodern world, it is almost impossible to find the spirit of one's existence; it is blemished by the consumption of hyper-real symbols and images. In this late capitalist era a person needs to construct his identity only through the signs society suggests. Nevertheless, what are attained from these signs are hollow imageries, turning identity into an unsound body. This study aims to find out how Haruki Murakami in *Kafka on the Shore* tries to give a sense of belonging to the lost individuals searching for an identity in a consumerist world. In this article, the perspectives of social cognition and symbolic interaction have been used to study the three main characters of the novel *Kafka on the Shore*. The research exposes the hidden side of the late capitalist world that adores the superficial consumption of empty signs in the process of identity creation. In the novel the borders between dreaming, fantasy, and reality are merged together to construct a sense of the self against the oppressive capitalist customs. The findings of this research conclude that Murakami's literary landscape delineates a collective perception that is situated in a new sense of the self accentuating the tension between modernity and post-modernity. A way to escape from this shackle of signification and to develop a strong identity is self-exploration

Translating Humayun Ahmed: Exploring the Strategies

Khadijatul Kaminy

ABSTRACT:

The current study attempts to investigate the most frequently used translation strategies in translation of selected short stories by Humayun Ahmed from Bengali to English and identify if two translators investigated in this study differ in the application of these strategies. The researcher selected translations done by Mohammad Shafiqul Islam and Arunava Sinha as two popular translators of Humayun Ahmed. To this end, the list of eight strategies proposed by Mona Baker (1992) is adopted as the framework. The materials of this research are sentences, phrases and single words from Bangla texts of stories under consideration. Selected materials are compared and contrasted against the translations while the strategies are identified and extracted. Then the frequency and percentage of the most used translation strategies are calculated. Research findings showed that the mostly used strategy by both translators is “translation by paraphrasing using a related word” which indicates the translator’s intention to be loyal to the original.

KEYWORDS: Humayun Ahmed, short stories, Mona Baker, translation strategies, translator’s intention.

As any translator of a literary text would know, various strategies and techniques are required for a translation work which are intricate and subtle. Translation, when considered as an act, poses diverse problems for the translator as it involves layers and nuances of meaning. Interestingly, the term translation has diverse meanings; it may “refer to the general subject

Women and Politics: Situation of Women Representation in the Present Indian Political Scenario

Tapas Sarkar

ABSTRACT:

We know that India is the world's biggest democratic country. Here every person in the society can live independently and enjoy his or her basic rights. But, since independence to the present day, women have not been given equal representation opportunities in politics in India. In the political arena, women remain only as voters, not as the representatives. Women's representation in politics in India is very disappointing because Indian political parties do not seem to have overcome the age-old mentality of the patriarchal society in the early part of the 21st century. Indian political parties lack interest in encouraging women's participation in politics. Generally, no party openly opposes the proposal for greater participation of women in politics. There is huge discrimination in the representation of men to women ratio in Indian politics. This has always been a matter of concern.

KEYWORDS: Women politics, reservation, political party.

INTRODUCTION:

The system of participation and representation of women in government and politics make it possible to empower women by making them successful. But even today, the participation of women in politics is generally limited and women are confined to the private sphere or the confinement of the home and family. The structure of patriarchal society in

An Analytical Study on the Socio-Economic Related Problems Affecting Education of the Tribal Community in the District of Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal

Mahua Sengupta and Indrojit Saha

ABSTRACT:

This study aims to bring out the hidden and unexplored areas about tribal education. Since decades, Tribal community were denied of their basic rights of freedom and education. Indian tribals are spread over the length and breadth of the nation, and yet they are unrecognised by the mainstream population of India.

Since independence, India has finally for the first time developed an urge to bring all these tribal communities into proper light of education and literacy, thus letting them merge with the world dominated by urban educated clan of people. This study mainly focuses on the hindrances and road blocks faced by the tribes to reach out to the light of education, where traditional education is not inclusive in our country and the barriers created by that surely demoralise the affinity towards education among the tribals. At the end of this study, it is anticipated that the problems of the tribals towards receiving education will be gradually eradicated that will promise for them a more vibrant life in future.

Keywords: Tribal, education, urban, hindrances, inclusive

Distinction between “Work” and “Text” in the light of Roland Barthes’ “From Work to Text”

Sayan Saha

ABSTRACT:

The aim of my paper is to investigate how Roland Barthes makes a paradigm shift from structuralism to poststructuralism. He deconstructs the notion of structuralism having a particular centre around which the western theories used to revolve. Actually he questions the pre-existing socio-political structure that was regulated by capitalism. In western society, there was made figurative association between God, the father of creation and the author, the father of work. The capitalist idea of reading, interpreting “work” is countered by the non-interpreting “text”. Basically, keeping aside the role of author, “text” establishes a direct relationship between the reader and literary manuals. It is no longer the author, but the reader who discovers the meaning (or variant meanings) from the literary works. That becomes only possible because of and by the appearance of “text”. His use of Lacanian psychoanalysis and reference to several French authors substantiate the distinction between “work” and “text”.

KEY WORDS: Poststructuralism, sign, limit of doxa, intertextuality, author, jouissance.

Traumatic Spatio-Temporality in Kazuo Ishiguro's Novels

Amalia Călinescu

ABSTRACT:

The current study proposes an overview of Kazuo Ishiguro's novels from a psychological perspective on the distorted nature of the characters' spatio-temporal perception with the overall purpose of proving their therapeutic potential. Owing to his ability to write elliptically about the human condition, Ishiguro's works possess a magnetic power that can draw the reader towards their core from a subconscious dimension hard to put into linguistic forms. Their hybrid nature thus allows the author to explore delicate themes with such an emotional candour that it is hard not to accept their universal preponderance and let go of the denial or reactive mode that falsely ensures human survival. In short, for all their narrative audacity, and sometimes awkwardness, Ishiguro's novels speak directly to the reader's psyche, which makes them impossible to erase from the mind, even when their form proves quite incongruent with the reader's conscious expectations. Overtly or otherwise, and in accordance with Cathy Caruth's psycho-literary beliefs, the Ishigurian reader is willing to redress their spatio-temporal perception for the betterment of their life.

KEYWORDS: Kazuo Ishiguro's novels, spatio-temporal perception, trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, choices, decisions and behaviour, literary psychotherapy.

Islamic *Mahr* and Dowry

Rapti Dhar

ABSTRACT:

Marriage is considered in any society, a vital social structure that incorporates various traditions and dowry is considered to play the leading role in the effective completion of marriage. Dowry or giving bride's marriage gifts are essentially a custom that has not been endorsed by the *Qur'an*. It is exceedingly out of line for a man to claim settlement in the event that he is an Islamist. Be that as it may, a practice has been lawfully vested with the convention of giving a token of appreciation to the bride in any form known as *Mahr*. In every possible circle culture is now moving towards changing and fulfilling its requirements, reshaping past forms of law to meet its inclinations. Furthermore, despite the fact that they are aware that dowry is forbidden by Islam, Muslims continue to practice it. This paper examines how the *Mahr*-practising community has been caught up in the social catastrophe of dowries and turned *Mahr* into a typical symbol just for the sake of a rite.

KEYWORDS: Marriage, dowry, *Mahr*, woman, Islam.

INTRODUCTION:

Matrimony is considered as an important part of life, bringing joy and celebration and new beginnings. In Islam, marriage is a contract (Rahim 327), not a sacrament, and dowry is one of the most long-standing evils synonymous with marriage. Though dowry is not ordained by *Qur'an* but it is taking place among Muslims as well. If marriage is conducted with a large dowry, it has become a status symbol for both parties. The *Qur'an* commands

Pandemic and Dislocation in Parallel Universe: Existence, Memories and Imaginations

Brintika Das and Sanjay Kumar Roy

ABSTRACT:

The present article is a qualitative research that aims to make a comparative study between the present pandemic situation and the relative themes written in the pages of literature. For its central argument, the article takes references from four texts written or translated in English addressing human crises in different times, spaces and circumstances. The selected four texts are Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*, Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* and J.M. Synge's *Riders to the Sea*. Dislocation is the condition of post modernity to which we have all responded with excitement as well as fear. For people, positioned at the in-between spaces of home and home-away-from home, the present epidemic reconfigures a place of doubt and homelessness and at the same time it typifies biological and economic condition as well as a state of mind. Existential crisis, migration, chaotic state of situations, involving loss of lives of human beings, especially middle-class families of Indians and Asians spread out in many states and countries and their desperate urges to come back to their roots remain in the centre of the study.

KEY WORDS: Pandemic, existential crisis, migration, home, mind.

Representation of Women in *Thakurmar Jhuli*: Engaging with the 'Bhadramahila'

Sukanya Pal

ABSTRACT:

Thakurmar Jhuli by Dakshinaranjan Mitra Majumdar, being one of the first compilations of folktales in Bengali, enjoyed a central position in Indian nationalist discourse with its emphasis on the revival of vernacular literature. The figure of the woman dominated the literature of *Swadeshi* nationalism through the conceptualisation of the country in her image. The early twentieth century nationalism also endeavoured to reconstruct feminine roles and duties and enforce them on women. Women or the 'bhadramahila' were placed in the contentious position of 'traditional modernity'. This paper engages with the various discourses leading to the emergence of the 'bhadramahila' as a composite identity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The 'woman question' being of paramount importance in nineteenth and early twentieth century Bengal, this paper attempts to investigate "Kalabati Rajkanya", the first tale of *Thakurmar Jhuli* (as a representative text) through the gender lens in order to look into convergences between the women in the stories and the *bhadramahila* of the contemporary society.

KEYWORDS: *Thakurmar Jhuli*, nineteenth century, representation of women, *bhadramahila*, folk tales.

Ambedkar's Liberal Democracy and Contemporary India : An Overview

Ratan Saha and Sudaita Ghosh

ABSTRACT:

India fought for her independence against the English rule of near about two hundred years. The ambition was to achieve the *Swaraj* or self-rule or ruling by the own government. The goal was achieved in 1947 and the objective of the independence was fulfilled in 1950 when India declared herself as a Socialist, Secular Democratic Republic. The spine of the Country's democracy is the Constitution of India. B.R. Ambedkar was the chairperson of the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly. He was a strong devotee of democracy. Ambedkar had trust on social and economic reforms of the country. His thought was that true democracy could not be achieved politically; success of democracy depends on socio- economic prosperity, removing of caste system and upliftment of the lower castes.

Now after 71 years of the Indian Constitution building, people are being robbed of their food and people are still being branded as anti-national. And backward section of people, however, depends on subsidies for their nourishment. Supreme Court asked how many generations' reservations will continue. Liberalism teaches the coexistence of values of society, culture and the rules of the Constitution. The aim of the present study is to execute a critical analysis about Ambedkar's thought of democracy in contemporary India with a perspective of liberal democracy.

Book Review:**The Portrait of Soumitra Chatterjee as an Intimate Artist in Amitava Nag's *Murmurs: Silent Steals with Soumitra Chatterjee****

Prabir Kumar Dutta

*** Nag, Amitava. *Murmurs: Silent Steals with Soumitra Chatterjee*. Blue Pencil, 2021, ISBN: 978-81-943921-1-8.**

Amitava Nag, a prolific man of letters, wrote the first ever book written in English on Soumitra Chatterjee, *Beyond Apu: 20 Film Roles of Soumitra* in 2016. This book is principally about the most favourite film roles of Soumitra. It also contains the recollections of the great iconic actor about those memorable roles. In that book Amitava Nag chronicled the interviews to pick up his mind in that captivating book (*Beyond Apu*). Nag had numerous discussions and 'adda' sessions with Soumitra, the veteran actor with a view to share the anecdotes with the readers before the writer ventured to compose that book. Nag wrote of such anecdotes himself "He changed his handwriting forever for *Charulata* because Ray wanted to have a different one as the story was set in the pre-Tagore time."¹ Again, he wrote, "He [...] would visit a number of swimming clubs in North Kolkata to pick up mannerisms and character traits for Saroj Dey's *Kony*."²

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