## **Session 2020-2021**

## **Young Alumni Lecture Series**

• Topic: History of English Literature.

Venue : Google Meet Duration : 05 days

• No. Of Participants : 40

• Date: 13.04.2021 to 20.04.2021

• Resource Person: Alumni of 2014,2016,2017,2019 and 2020 batch.

- Objectives: To provide a deep understanding of the History of English Literature and the various ages and its influence on literature.
- Details of the programme: A 05 day lecture series with its distinguished Alumni for the students of M.A.English Semester I and Semester III was organised by the Department of English. The details of the programme is as follows:
- Day 1: A power point presentation was given by Mohd. Zafir Khan (2020 pass out) on 'Romantic Poetry (Poets) and their Critical Theories'. Mohd. Zafir dealt extensively on the background that led to the rise of Romanticism in English Literature, its major attributes, the two generations of romantic poets- Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey belonging to the first and Byron, Shelley and Keats belonging to the generation. Critical theories expounded by the romantics were also dealt with by him in great detail. The programme was conducted by Dr. Somali Gupta, Dr. Qamar Talat introduced the speaker and a vote of thanks was given by Dr. Suchitra Gupta.
- Day 2: On the 2nd day of the lecture series a powerpoint presentation was given by Ms. Parul Pandey an alumnae of the 2019 batch on 'The Modern Age'. She began her presentation by tracing the onset of the Modern Age to the end of the Victorian Era in the 20th century. Dealing at length with the general characteristics of Modern Age she covered the stature of all the four genres-poetry, prose, drama and fiction of the age. She discussed at length the Transitional Poets (R.Bridges, G.M.Hopkins, W. B.Yeats). The War Poets, the three types of War poetry- early war poetry eg. Rupert Broke, later war poetry eg. Wilfred Owen and Edmund Thomas and war poetry by civilians eg. W. H. Auden and Dylan Thomas. She then talked of the Imagist Movement that came as a reaction to Georgian poets and poetry. The modern age also saw the revival of the periodicals essays and despite being

the age of fiction, essays continued to live and thrive. Salient features of 20th century essay writing were also discussed. Talking of the position of Drama in the 20th century she pointed that Drama revived with great gusts and gave rise to Poetic Drama and the Theatre of the Absurd. 20th century drama is also characterised by many trends such as Realism, Play of Ideas, Romanticism, Impressionism, Expressionism and Historical and Biographical plays. Coming to Fiction she said that in the 20th century fiction writing was the most popular literary work of the later Modern Age and the Stream of Consciousness Technique was the popular technique employed by the fiction writers. The programme was conducted by Dr. Somali Gupta, chaired by Dr. Qamar Talat and Dr. Suchitra Gupta and vote of thanks was presented by Ms. Megha Chandana, a student of M.A. English, Semester I.

- Day 3: On the third day of the lecture series a Powerpoint presentation was given by Shri Shobharam Patel on 'The English Renaissance'. Shri Shobharam Patel who is an alumnus of 2016 batch is a JRF recipient and is currently enrolled for Ph.D and is a guest faculty at D.B.Girls College, Raipur. He began his presentation defining and explaining the term Renaissance and traced its origin to the fall of Constantinople that led to the spread of Greek scholars all over Europe. He also discussed Renaissance and Humanism and said that a Renaissance man had to be a multi-faceted figure, a warrior, a lover, a philosopher all at the same time. He also talked of development and reforms that were brought about by the Renaissance movement. Referring to English Renaissance, he said it brought about a flow in sonnet writing, essay, drama and epic writing. The onset of Renaissance affected the establishment of the Church of England, Protestantism grew and James I Bible was written. In fact Renaissance influenced almost all aspects of human life be it painting, art, literature, music, politics, science and religion. The programme was conducted by Dr. Somali Gupta, chaired by Dr. Qamar Talat and Dr. Suchitra Gupta and vote of thanks was given by Ms. Samriddhi Deshmukh, a student of M.A.English Semester I.
- Day 4: On the fourth day of the lecture series organised in association with the young alumni by the department a PowerPoint presentation on 'The Elizabethan Age' was given by 2017 batch alumnae Ms. Geetanjali Netam. Tracing the events leading to the onset of Renaissance. She drew upon the major characteristics of the Elizabethan age and the reasons for being called

the Golden Age of English Literature. Growth and development of all the 4 genres of literary writing in Elizabethan age were also discussed. Focusing on drama writing, she discussed the influence of Seneca on Elizabethan tragedy, contribution of University wits to drama writing. Shakespeare as a dramatic artist was discussed in great detail while to his tragedies, comedies, history plays and dramatic romances. The contribution of Ben Jonson and Webster in the field of drama was also discussed. She then traced the growth of English novel during this period. Development of prose with special reference to Francis Bacon was sketched in the presentation. Evolution of poetry from Spenser to Donne was traced apart from discussing Elizabethan sonnets and sonneteers, Elizabeth songs and lyrics and Elizabeth satire and satirists. The programme was conducted by Dr. Somali Gupta, Chaired by Dr. Qamar Talat and Dr. Suchitra Gupta and vote of thanks was extended by Devraj Baghel, a student of M.A. English, Semester III.

Day 5: On the fifth and last day of the five day lecture series organised by the department of English, a Powerpoint presentation was given by 2014 alumnus Shri Satyaveer Singh Rathore on 'The Restoration Age' or 'The Age of Dryden'. After giving the historical overview of the Restoration Age, he discussed the major characteristics of the age. Discoursing on the growth of satire writing, he talked of the role and influence of Dryden on satire writing. He dwelt at length on the characteristics of heroic tragedy, the growth of comedy of manners and the dramatists of this school. The programme was conducted by Dr. Somali Gupta, chaired by Dr. Qamar Talat and Dr. Suchitra Gupta and vote of thanks was given by Ms. Priyanka Verma, a student of M.A. Semester III.

Photographs of Alumni Lecture Series 1





