

Department of English

Annual Report

July 2023-June,2024

The new academic session began under the headship of Dr. Balaram Uprety. Like previous year, the academic session began with orientation programme for students. The orientation programme was organized on the 7th of August, 2023 in Room No 124. The notable ideas underlined during the orientation programme were:

- Introduction of the history of the Department of English
- The introduction and discussion on the nature of the four year undergraduate programme.
- The introduction and discussion about the college rules and regulations
- Introduction and appraisal of the internal evaluation system.
- Key highlights of the higher education system and its difference from the secondary level educational system
- Underlining of the importance of the attendance for appearing in the university exam

Orientation of the Parents

The department conducted a parent orientation programme on the 17th of August, 20223. It was a sensitization programme that sought to make parents aware about their role in the education of their ward in higher education. As one of the key stakeholders, the parents were requested to be more proactive in the education of their ward.

Departmental Activities/Achievements

- I. The students of the department—Sujal Rai, Ayan Gurung, Adarsh Kumar, Tenzin Khemsar, Ritika Dahal, Nima Tamang, Vaidehi Rai and Akriti Rasaily-- participated in *Ramayana Path* the Bhanu Jayanti celebration organized by the department of Nepali and in the said competition secured the first place. The event had taken place on 30th August, 2023.



- II. The department of English in collaboration with the Current Affairs Forum organized a seminar titled *Popular Movements in the Eastern Himalayas: Representations and Contestations* on the 9th of November, 2023. The speakers invited for the occasion were Dr. Bidhan Golay, Department of Political Science, Sikkim University and Dr. Satyadeep Chhettri, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, Gangtok. The seminar

focused particularly on the movements in Darjeeling and the Dooars and the democratic movements in Sikkim that transformed a kingdom into a state of the Union. The seminar first highlighted the statist representation of both movements. The statist discourse equates the movements with violence, insurgency, and the problem of law and order and above all, the failure of development. Moving away from such statist representation, the speakers brought to focus a counter-discourse about the movement with the emergence of the native writers.

In the writings of Prajwal Parajuly, Chetan Raj Shrestha, Prerna Rai Dewan, Deepraj Rai, the Gorkhaland movements in the Darjeeling Hills as well as the movement in Sikkim represent people's regional aspirations and are therefore democratic and emancipatory. In conclusion, the archive of writing found in English, translation and Nepali contests the governmental or the official narrative on the movement and gives a glimpse of a liberatory alternative. The seminar saw an interactive and vibrant question-answer session. This confluence of counter-discourse and counter-hegemony saw the presence of students of English honours from first year, second year and third year.



III. Students Exchange Programme

The department of English took part in a student-exchange programme between St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling and Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College, Kolkata from 21st to 23rd of November, 2023. In the said programme, four students of the department—Nishatha and Nikhil Shanker, Tenzin Yangchen Bhutia and Rickchen Sherpa—presented papers on Rasasundari Devi and the Glass Menagerie respectively.

Similarly, the teacher and the students of Barrackpore Rastraguru college also presented papers on various subjects. Miss Susri Bhattacharya presented a paper titled “Confessional Poetry and the Broadway towards Cognitive Psychology in Literature.” Likewise, Saprativ Das and Shrutee Das presented a paper titled “Bengali Society Through the Lens of Cinema and Literature.” Diptayan Banerjee and Semanti Chattopadhyay presented a paper titled “Mirth and Mockery: Exploring Farces, Satire and Comics in the 19th and 20th Century Bengal.” The students of both the colleges showcased their rich cultural heritage through songs and dance—classical as well as contemporary.



IV. The World Poetry Day Celebration

The department of English in collaboration with the Scholar's Society celebrated and observed the World Poetry Day on the 21st of March, 2024. The event was organized in order to mark the significance and relevance of poetry in the contemporary society. Dr. Pathik Roy coordinator of the Scholar's Society in his welcome address talked about the nature and functions of poetry in the modern times. Many students and teachers of the college recited their self-composed poetry as a part of the celebration. The department also revived its wall magazine *Cogitations* on the occasion of the World Poetry Day.



V. Muktohdhara

On the occasion of Tagore's 163rd birth anniversary, the department of English in collaboration with the Scholar's Society organized *Muktohdhara* to celebrate the versatile genius that Gurudev

is. The *Muktodhara* was a confluence of music, dance and recitation showcasing the rich literary, artistic and cultural heritage of Tagore. The chief guest of the event was Dr.Partha Gangopadhyay ,head of the department of English, Darjeeling Government College. The occasion was also graced by Fr. Dr. Donatus Kujur, Principal St. Joseph's College Darjeeling along with the faculty members from the various departments of the College.Dr. Shradhanjali Singh of the Department of Hindi, Darjeeling Government College and Dr. Radha Sharma of the Department of Nepali, St. Joseph's College shared their insights on the life and works of Kobiguru Rabindranath Tagore. The event also saw a participation from the teachers and the students of Southfield College Darjeeling.



Challenges

Some of the challenges identified by the department are as follows:

- 1.The majority of the students that have enrolled for the English Honours are first generation learners and which therefore affects the teaching learning process in the classroom and beyond.
- 2.Since English is not the first language of many students it becomes difficult for them to grasp the complexities of English literary studies that has become very complex and highly specialized with the revolution in literary studies since 1960s.
3. Many students who enroll for honours in English are not academically motivated. Lack of academic drive amongst the students is one of the most difficult challenges faced by the department.

Future Plans

- 1.To equip the students with better communicative and linguistic skills the department aims to provide remedial coaching on grammar and spoken English.
- 2.The department also intends to organize a series of lectures to give students exposure to new ideas and trends in the academia.
- 3.The department aims to organize Seminars, Workshops and Invited Lectures so that the students may see the world beyond the classrooms.
- 4.The department also aims to strengthen and calibrate the mentoring system so that every student in the class benefits from mentoring.
5. The department intends to organize students exchange programme so that the students get exposure to richer academic and cultural experience.

Faculty Development Profile

Dr. Fr. K L George

- Participated in *NEP-2020 Orientation and Sensitization Programme* organized by the UGC, Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Central University of Gujarat from 6th to 14th May, 2024

Dr. Pathik Roy:

1. Paper presented in Seminar/Conference:

Presented paper titled, *Indian Nationalism, Modernity and The Women's Question: Revisiting the Age of Consent and Sahara Bill Controversy* at ICSSR Sponsored, two-day International Conference on "Gender Equality and Women's Rights: Exploring Women's Voices and Experiences in South Asia" Organized by Department of Economics & Women's Cell and IQAC, Chanchal College in Collaboration with Centre for Women's Studies and IQAC, Raiganj University on 6th and 7th December, 2023 at SKC Hall, Chanchal College, Malda.

2. Workshops attended:

- Participated in National Workshop on *Digital Humanities: Bridging the Gap Between Traditional Scholarship and Modern Technology* organized by Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences held from 5th to 9th February, 2024.
- Participated in the short term course on *Master Trainers' Faculty Training Program on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)* organized by Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, New Delhi in collaboration with University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi at Central Sanskrit University, Bhopal from 26th February to 2nd March 2024.

- Participated in Workshop on the *NEP 2020 Orientation & Sensitization Programme* under Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MM-TTP) of University Grants Commission (UGC) Organized by UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi from 1st May to 10th May, 2024.
- Participated in National Workshop on *The Short Term Faculty Training Programme on Indian Knowledge Systems* organized by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi in Collaboration with IKS Division of Ministry of Education, New Delhi from 28th August to 02nd September, 2023.

3. Select Chapters in Edited Volume

Contributed a book chapter titled *Gender and Environment* in "Through the Gender Lens". Edited by Chilean Ghosh and published by Doshor Publication, 2024,

Mr. Ashish Chhettri:

- Presented a paper titled *Khuda Jagai: The Scripting of a Master Commemorative Narrative in Select Works* at XVI Biennial International Conference on Interplay of Community and Textuality and Orality, Comparative Perspectives in History, Culture and Society organized by the Department of English, Sikkim University in Collaboration with National Translation Mission, CIL, Mysore, Institute of Language Studies and Research, Kolkata and Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi from 20th to 22nd November, 2023.
- Participated in a week-long Faculty Development Programme on *Reading and Researching the Literature of Crisis* organized by the Department of English, NIIT Trichy and the UNESCO Chair for Vulnerability Studies, University of Hyderabad from 22nd to 28th of January, 2024.
- Participated in *NEP-2020 Orientation and Sensitization Programme* organized by the UGC, Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Banaras Hindu University from 1st to 13th February, 2024.