

Newsletter of the Department of English (NODE)



EDITOR'S NOTE

We live in an age of communication revolution. Irrespective of geographical distances, instant contacting has been made possible by a range of new media. The construction of virtual spaces has passportized most of the population of the world to hook up with others in a cyber metropolis. However, the high influx of information this virtual world guarantees for us has its dark side too: it distances us from us. While it makes us over-know what happens worlds away from us, we remain ignorant to what happens next door. You know, for instance, when and where the next Oscars are going to happen but not that your own department is planning a star-studded night aka Alumni Meet-up at Islamabad Club in September, 2016. You also know where Shah Rukh Khan's son is enrolled these days but not where our very own Dr. Usman Ghani is doing his postdoctoral research. "Harvard!" Surely you know who George Clooney married. But, do you know who our very own Shahbaz Malik got married to? "Mrs. Shahbaz Malik" (By our correspondent). Most importantly, you know how to concentrate on flawlessly typing your text messages simultaneously distributed among four different persons (yes, persons) but not how to attempt a paper and at least spell the words given in the question paper as spelled there. By the way, did you know we had a seminar on How to Attempt Exams?

This newsletter is an attempt to re-route you to roots, to reconnect you with reading, to redirect you to your degree, to encourage you to unlearn what harms you, or is unnecessary for you, and learn what intellectually prepares you to engage in a dialogue with others for a better understanding of the world. Through this, we will let you know what this department did for you in the previous semester, and what it plans to do for you in the following semester. The news from other English departments across the country and abroad that might interest you will also be included in this newsletter.

The first issue of Newsletter of Department of English (NODE) is in your good hands. We are looking forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions to bring out its better issues in future. Before you turn the page, let me acknowledge that NODE would not have hatched without the warmth of devotion from our colleagues. I particularly appreciate Dr. Ayaz Afsar's support, and Mr. Mahmood ul Hassan's contribution to this. I am also grateful to my brilliant student Mr. Munhib Shah who contributed the news related with the ELS. (MS)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Department of English at the International Islamic University offers degree programmes in BS, M.A., MS, and Ph.D. Our graduate and undergraduate programmes help equip students with the necessary linguistic, research and IT skills they will need to forge a successful future. Adopting the time tested traditions of English Language and Literature, along with the changing needs of Pakistani society, Muslim Ummah as well as the world are our guiding principles.



While designing the syllabi, we have tried to strike a harmonious balance between Literature and Language; subjects like Creative Writing, Developing Writing Skills, Effective Communication, Linguistics, Phonology, ESP, Translation Skills, etc. provide that necessary balance between Language and Literature. In order to cultivate a more encompassing and analytical approach towards literature, subjects like Critical Theory, Film Studies, Comparative Literature, Pakistani Literature in English, Narrative Discourse, Corpus Linguistics, Islam and Modern Western Thoughts, have also been introduced in our degree programmes.

One of the distinguishing features of studying English in our department is our cosmopolitan outlook. We have around 150 students from over 10 countries, which means whichever module you take, you will have the opportunity to study and share ideas with intelligent and passionate individuals from around the globe. In addition, the department has strong links with North Carolina University in the USA and the University of Birmingham in the UK; students will have the opportunity during their course to visit these institutions.

The Department of English also boasts state of the art facilities to aid students in their academic progress. We have the largest university library in Pakistan, with over a million books, as well as a number of computer rooms with printing and scanning capabilities. Our greatest asset however is our highly dedicated staff (we currently have nine PhD's and seven MPhil's). Last year the department produced 4PhD's and 10 MPhil's. Our students regularly achieve outstanding results, and our alumni have gone on to: join the civil service, work as journalists in leading English dailies, teach in premier educational institutions of the country, join Arab countries to become English Language Instructors, and continue their education at top universities abroad.

Most of the co-curricular activities in the department are organized by English Literary Society (ELS). The office bearers of this society are students, who under the guidance of the faculty members organize a myriad of literary and extra-curricular activities. These activities are instrumental in endowing students with confidence and self belief. Students also have the opportunity to express the creativity and to make their voices heard through the university magazine named 'NEXUS' which is edited and published by the Department of English. The recently launched 'Wall Magazine', unique journal on wall, managed by the ELS is an all time open source of publishing.

The Department follows a policy of continuous self evaluation and feedback from intellectuals,

academicians, teachers and students. We look forward to reading your application and welcoming you into our department. (Dr. Ayaz Afsar)

NEWS BULLETIN

Dr. Ayaz Afsar Joins the Department as Chairman

In a recent development, Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Associate Professor and Co-ordinator Post-graduate Studies, has assumed the office of the chairman department of English in March, 2015. He has been associated with the department in various capacities of research and teaching since 1990. Dr. Afsar has got wide experience of teaching and research in Pakistan as well as abroad. He holds an MA in Applied Linguistics and a PhD in English Literature from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. His Postdoctoral Research in 2013-14 at University of Birmingham (UK) was on *Developing a Learner Corpus of Pakistani Written English*. He has additional major interests in Biblical and Qur'ānic Studies. He is widely published in a number of peer reviewed research journals, as well as being: an academic editor of South Asian Journal of ESP; and a member of the editorial boards of both, Insights and Kashmir Journal of Language Research. Having had previous affiliations with the University of Manchester in the UK, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad, Dr Afsar is an HEC approved PhD supervisor who has produced six PhDs and more than twenty five MPhils.

The Department and its PhDs

Dr. Aleem Shakir was the first PhD from the Department of English who successfully defended his PhD thesis on “Linguistic Variation across Print Advertisements in Pakistani Media: A Multidimensional Analysis” in 2013. He was supervised by Dr. Ayaz Afsar while his thesis was evaluated by foreign evaluators; Prof. Dr. Marina Bondi from University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy and Dr. Paul Thompson, University of Birmingham, Birmingham.



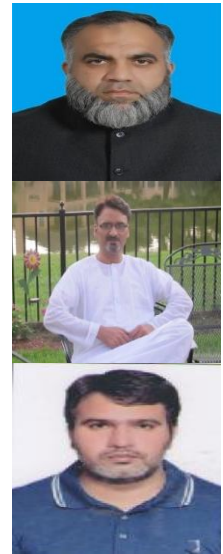
Ever since, the department has produced twelve PhDs namely: Dr. Aleem Shakir (Assistant Professor, GCU, Faisalabad), Dr. Ahsan ur Rahman (Ex-Chairman of the Department), Dr. Sardar Muhammad, Dr. Muhammad Nawaz (Assistant Professor, COMSATS, Islamabad), Dr. Malik Naseer (Assistant Professor), Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz (Assistant Professor, Department of English, IIUI), Dr. Mazhar Hayat (Associate Professor of English, Punjab Higher Education Department), Dr. Muhammad Saleem (Professor of English, Punjab Higher Education Department), Dr. Mustanir (Assistant Professor, Hazara University), and Dr. Akhtar Aziz (Assistant Professor, Department of English, IIUI).

Mr. Faisal Rasheed Shaikh, Dr. Akhtar Aziz and Mr. Arshad Mehmood Raja join as Assistant Professors

Mr. Faisal Rasheed, one of the most senior lecturers and ex-coordinator of the ELT program, has joined the department as Assistant Professor of English after having been selected through the last selection board. Mr. Faisal Rasheed is a PhD scholar in the department.

Dr. Akhtar Aziz, who was, earlier, working as a lecturer at Fatima Jinnah Women University, joined Department of English as Assistant Professor in November, 2015. Dr. Aziz has recently done PhD from the department of English, IIUI.

Mr. Arshad Mehmood Raja, who was already serving the department as lecturer has also joined as Assistant Professor in December, 2015. He is currently pursuing his PhD from the same department.



IIUI-UNCW Link: First cohort for postdoctoral research to leave in January 2016

Four PhD faculty members of Department of English, Dr. Munaza Yaqoob, Dr. Fauzia Janjua, Dr. Safeer Awan and Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz will be doing their postdoctoral research at University of North Carolina in Wilmington for six months from mid of January 2016 to mid of July 2016.

Dr. Usman Ghani joins Harvard University as Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar

A permanent faculty member at Department of English, Dr. Usman Ghani joined Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University Boylston Hall, Cambridge MA, USA in September 2015 as a Visiting Research Scholar for one year. The topic of his research is “Representation of Sexuality in Pakistani Literature.”

His postdoctoral research has been funded by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan under its Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program Phase-II.



Dr. Aroosa Kanwal's Book Published

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal's *Rethinking Identities in Contemporary Pakistani Fiction: Beyond 9/11* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2015. It is the only book length work on Pakistani literature in English from a Pakistani scholar since Tariq Rahman published his *History of Pakistani Literature in English*. Dr. Kanwal is serving as an assistant professor at Department of English International Islamic University Islamabad. She received her PhD from Lancaster University, UK.

Dr. Ayaz Afsar gives a Plenary Session at ICLAP

Chairman Department of English, Dr Ayaz Afsar was invited to give a plenary session at 1st International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan held at Kinnaird College for Women University in Lahore on 7-9 October 2015. Dr. Afsar's keynote speech was on: "Applying Computer Technologies for Evidence Based Analysis of Language: A Corpus Linguistics Approach to Enhance Research Skills in the Context of Pakistan." Dr. Afsar highlighted the importance of the use of corpora in research in higher education in Pakistan. He also enlightened the audience about various methods of utilizing the available resources.

Dr. Ayaz presents his paper at an International Conference

Dr. Ayaz Afsar, chairman department of English, presented his paper, *Analyzing Argumentative Patterns of L2 Student's Writings in the Context of Higher Education in Pakistan*, in a Two Days International Conference on Emerging Trends of Researching Language, Linguistics & Literature on December 15-16, 2015, organized by Air University, Islamabad. The fundamental purpose of Dr. Afsar's research was to raise awareness among teachers, students and researchers about the way students organize and present their argument in the context of higher education in Pakistan as the results gathered through the study, which was corpus based, show significant variation in the argumentation pattern of the students.

Workshop/Lecture by Dr. Ayaz Afsar

Dr. Ayaz Afsar, chairman department of English, was invited by Islamic Research Institute, IIUI to conduct a workshop on Argumentative Writing on November 20, 2015. Dr. Afsar's talk was part of a series of training workshops on Research Designs, Data Collection Techniques, Writing skills, and Technical Editing for production of quality Research.

"Promote social sciences to combat extremism," Dr. Safeer Awan

Addressing a large gathering at 2-Day International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities in National University of Modern Languages Islamabad, Dr. Safeer Awan, Assistant Professor, Department of English criticized the HEC for its unannounced policy of promoting natural sciences and ignoring social sciences. Dr. Awan also analyzed the National Action Plan and recommended that promoting social sciences could help combat extremism more effectively than other measures adopted by the government.



English Literary Society Reconstituted (ELS)

The English Literary Society (ELS) is a platform to enable students of English Department to take part in different literary and educational activities. The students, under the supervision of the teachers, can discuss different topics and arrange seminars, lectures, workshops, literary quizzes, dramas, and a lot more. The ELS provides students with a chance to get near to and enjoy literature and to express their creativity as they go deeper and deeper into the world of language.

It enables them to open up their minds, think critically, and enjoy literature to the fullest. The ELS is supervised by Dr Zulfiqar Hyder and Syed Rashid Mehmood. Currently its student office bearers are: Muhammad Munhib Shah, Atta Abbasi, Farooq Azam, Babar Manzoor, Ahmad Bilal, Hassan Tariq Chohan, and Faisal Khan Kakar.

Dr. Munawar Iqbal Ahmad delivers a lecture at UNCW

Dr. Munawar Iqbal Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Languages and Literature, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee on the IIUI-UNCW Link Program, visited the US in the last week of October 2015 and attended a conference of the local and international focal persons of link programs US universities have developed with those of the other countries. He also visited University of North Carolina in Wilmington and delivered a lecture on Pakistani folklore.



Dr. Abid Masood joins as Director of Protocol

Faculty members at Department of English have always been an active part of the mainstream administration of the university. Keeping the tradition intact, Dr. Hafiz Abid Masood has recently assumed the charge of Director of Protocol. He is also the Students Adviser of the IIUI, and has earlier served as the Provost of IIU hostels.



Dr. Zulfqar Hydr and Dr. Akhtar Aziz Assume New Offices

Dr. Zulfqar Hydr, Assistant Professor of the department, has joined as Coordinator Undergraduate Studies. He is a foreign qualified faculty member who did his PhD from University of Aberdeen, UK, in 2014. His specialization is in 20th Century British Literature. Dr. Hydr has got a diverse interest ranging from Modernist Literature, Critical Theory, and Psychoanalytical Criticism to Film Studies.



Dr. Akhtar Aziz, the newly appointed faculty member of the department, has joined as incharge English Language Centre (ELC). It is pertinent to mention here that English Language Centre at IIUI offers two tracks of English language programmes: track one includes special English preparatory courses such as IELTS, TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, GAT etc designed for those seeking to qualify for foreign and indigenous universities admission or for availing job opportunities abroad and to qualify for HEC's scholarships; track two focuses on the English proficiency programmes specially designed for working professionals, students with low English proficiency level, researchers and anyone seeking to improve his/her English language skills.

Faculty Members Invited as Judges

Three faculty members of the department (i.e. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Dr. Hafiz Abid Masood and Dr. Zulfqar Hydr) were invited as judges of All Pakistan Debate Competition held at Cadet College, Hassan Abdal in November, 2015.

Dr. Amir Aziz Joins the department of English at the University of the Punjab, Lahore

A former student of the department, Dr. Amir Aziz, has recently joined the department of English Language and Literature at the University of the Punjab, Lahore as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Amir has been a meritorious student of the department of English at IIUI back in 2002-06. Dr. Amir Aziz completed his PhD in American English Literature from LUCAS institute at Leiden University, The Netherlands. His research topic was: Theatre as Truth Practice: Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, a Play Waiting for the Occasion. Dr. Aziz is an academic, professional research scholar, feature writer and poet with one published collection of English poems from United p.c. Austria (2014). Its title is *Poetic Palpitations from Pakistan: A Lyrical Document of Protest against a Society*.



Professor S.M. Rauf Re-joins the department

Professor S. M. Rauf, one of the most senior faculty members of the department, has re-joined in the capacity of a visiting faculty member. He is one of the founders of the department and has also worked as the chairman in the early days of the department.

Dr. Sibghatullah Khan Joins NUML

Dr. Sibghatullah Khan a regular visiting faculty member of the department has recently joined the department of English, National University of Modern Languages, as an Assistant Professor. Earlier, he was working in an Islamabad Model College for Boys.

Students from the Department get Jobs in OQU, KSA

Three ex-students of the department; Mr. Muhammad Ali, Mr. Muhammad Azmat and Mr. Malik Naseer Hussain have recently joined Om al Qura University, KSA as English Language Instructors.

Mr. Kausar Mehmood Gets Admission in T&I for MS

Mr. Kausar Mehmood, a senior Lecturer of the department, has recently got admission in MS Translation and Interpretation Studies at IIUI. He has got



keen interests in studying various languages like; Arabic, Persian and English.

Students of MA English visit PAL, NBF, and NLPD

Students of MA English, first term, went on a one-day visit to Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) and National Book Foundation (NBF) on 27 November 2015. They visited Writers' House, PAL library, and Writers Gallery at Pakistan Academy of Letters where Manager Programs Mr. Masood Iqbal briefed them about the national organization meant to promote literary activities in the country. At NLPD, they attended a lecture delivered by its deputy secretary Dr. Rashid Hameed, and visited NLPD library, and *Kitab Khana*. At the NBF, the students were received by the PRO Mr. Asghar Abid and visited Book Shop, Book Park, Book Museum, and Readers' Club. Managing Director NBF Dr. Inam ul Haq Javed invited the students to his office and gave a talk on the importance of books and the activities of the NBF for the promotion of book culture.



Book Stall Arranged

For the convenience of the students and faculty members, the Department invites various book publishers and sellers to display their books in the department. In this connection, a number of recently published books were displayed on a book stall by Vision Books on 21 December 2015.

WRITERS AT CAMPUS

A Literary Session with Mustansar Hussain Tarar

Renowned writer, columnist, and anchor Mustansir Hussain Tarar was invited by Dr. Muhammad Safeer Awan to give a talk at Department of English. Organized by English Literary Society, this program was held in April 2015 in Allama Iqbal Auditorium at the Faisal Mosque Campus of the IIUI.



Dr. Madeline Amelia Clements' Lecture

The Department of English, Female Campus organized a lecture by Dr. Madeline Clements, a Senior Lecturer at Teesside University, England. With a PhD on *Orienting Muslims: Mapping Global Spheres of Affiliation and Affinity in Contemporary South Asian Fiction*, Dr. Clements is a young but notable theorist in contemporary Culture Talk in the post-9/11 scenario. Her public lecture, entitled, "Writing Islam: Negotiating Tensions Shaping a Study of South-Asian Muslim Novelists after 9/11" focused on the reconfiguration of Muslim identities in post-9/11 Pakistani Fiction in English by Kamila Shamsie, Mohsin Hamid and Nadeem Aslam. With a critical eye on the markedly reductive Othering strategies engaged by numerous global discourses regarding the identification in the wake of 9/11, Dr. Clements' views them as biased as numerous Muslims suffer as they are called upon to explain themselves in the Western public sphere. With this being the contextual framework of her research, Dr. Clements talked about how post-9/11 Pakistani Fiction in English may be read as an attempt to revise modern knowledge of the Islamic world and how this genre of literature may be utilized to reconfigure the potential of Muslims to connect with others. She argues that a number of these writings continue to indulge "exotic" appetites, or reinforce Eurocentric ways of seeing and that even highly resistant texts remain susceptible to appropriation by dominant political and cultural forces. While her talk focused on the nuanced perspective on contemporary Islam as she once again questioned the unsettling binaries between the East and The West, the subsequent question and answer session led the talk to focus on the role of Pakistani Fiction in English in the context of the contemporary socio-political scenario and, in some cases, its problematic co-opting by the Western market. Faculty members from the National university of Modern Languages and Foundation University, Rawalpindi attended this lecture and raised pertinent questions. More than 300 female students from the Department attended this lecture. Dr. Aroosa Kanwal and Dr. Nighat Shakoor presented the guest speaker with a souvenir as a token of respect and gratitude on behalf of the Islamic

University. In her vote of Thanks, Dr. Nighat Shakoor, Provost Female Hostels and Assistant Professor in the Department of English, acknowledged Dr. Munawar Iqbal (Dean, Faculty of Languages and Literature) and his office, the guests, the students as well as the organisers, Dr. Aroosa Kanwal and Ms. Asma Mansoor for their efforts in making this event happen. After refreshments, Dr. Clements gave a lecture to a closed group of MPhil and PhD students on the same topic.



A Session with Mansoor Afaq

Mansoor Afaq is famous Urdu poet based in the UK. He was invited by Dr. Ravish Nadeem to have a session with the students of the English Department on 10 December 2015. The sitting was organized by English Literary Society and it was conducted by Mr. Idrees Azad.



Bapsi Sidhwa talks to the students of English Department

Renowned Pakistani novelist Bapsi Sidhwa talked about her novel *Ice Candy Man* in a short video clip that she recorded specially for the students of MA English at the IIUI. Her talk can be accessed at the following

link:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10153298610639388>



Academic Sessions by Lance Cummings and Carrie Clements

UNCW faculty members Dr. Lance Cummings and Dr. Carrie Clements came on a visit to the IIUI on 9-13 November 2015 under IIUI-UNCW Link Program. During their stay here they had multiple academic sessions and workshops with the teachers and students of Department of English.



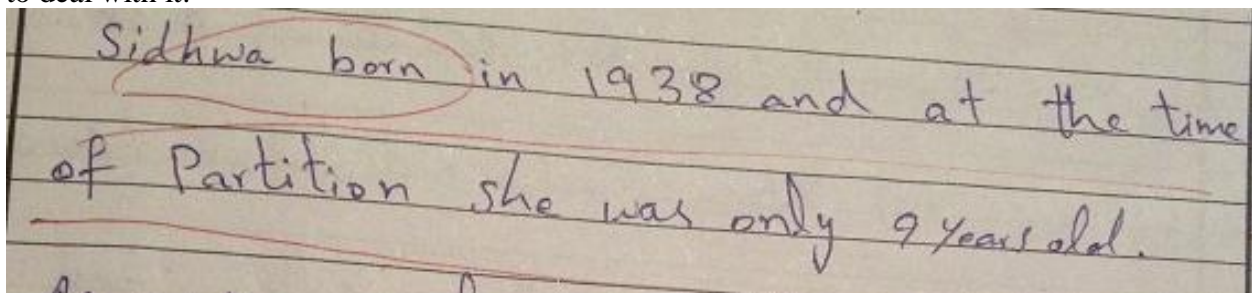
Guest Speakers for 2016

Department of English is planning to invite a number of writers in 2016 including the following national and international writers: Mohammad Hanif, HM Naqvi, Mohsin Hamid, Bina Shah, Inam ul Haq Javed, Fatima Bhutto, Arundhati Roy, and Sara Suleri.

SEMINARS

Seminar on Attempting the Exams

The ELS organized a seminar for the students of the university on “Attempting the Exams” in Auditorium of Faculty Block 1, on 29 April 2015. Dr. Ahsan ur-Rahman, Dr. Usman Ghani and Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz were the speakers. While Dr. Sheeraz emphasized the importance of the accessories, brainstorming, planning, writing relevant and correct, etc., Dr. Ahsan ur Rahman talked about the types of exams and their exams. Dr. Ghani talked about exam anxiety and how to deal with it.



Seminar on CV Writing

Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Chairman Department of English gave a seminar on “CV Writing” on 18 May 2015 in Auditorium Faculty Block 1. It was organized by the ELS and attended by many students from various departments of the university.



Seminar on (Re)authorship in Film: Adapting Literary Texts to Cinema

English Literary Society invited Hassan Zafar, PhD Candidate University of Glasgow, to give a seminar on “(Re) Authorship in Film: Adapting Literary Texts to Cinema” on 7 October 2015. Students and faculty of the department participated.



Seminar on “Literature, Film, and Society”

Dr. Nazir Mehmood, PhD University of Birmingham, gave a seminar on “Literature, Film, and Society” on 9th December 2015. It was attended by the students and faculty of the English Department as well as from others.



Research Seminars

As a part of the department's endeavours for faculty development, the Department has decided to hold a series of research seminars. They are also open to the students of MS and PhD. Dr. Ahsan Bashir, an assistant professor at Department of English, and renowned teachers' trainer, is the focal person of this academic activity. The details of the research seminars conducted during Fall 2015 are:

- "Writing Your Research Proposal" by Dr. Ahsan Bashir
- "Presenting Your Research" by Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz
- "Publishing Your Research" by Dr. Ayaz Afsar
- "Soviet and American Interventions in Afghanistan: A Comparative Analysis of Political and Media Discourse in Pakistan" by Dr. Akhtar Aziz

ELS READING CIRCLES

The English Literary Society also holds regular reading circles reading and critically evaluating various texts. Below are the glimpses from some of these circles:

Reading Circle on "The Last Leaf" by O Henry (21 October 2015)



Reading Circle on "An Irish Airman Foresees his Death" by W. B. Yeats (19 November 2015)



Reading Circle on "Funeral Blues" by W. H. Auden (25 November 2015)



WORKSHOPS

3-Day International Workshop on Corpus Linguistics

A 3-Day International Workshop on Corpus Linguistics was held on 2-4 March 2015 at Department of English, International Islamic University Islamabad in collaboration with University of Birmingham, UK, British Council, and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Thirty participants were selected from all over the country to participate in the workshop. The second part of the workshop was conducted in University of Birmingham which was attended by the participants from the UK. The theme of this international workshop was “Developing Corpus Linguistics in South Asia”. Dr. Paul Thompson, Director, Centre for Corpus Research, University of Birmingham was the coordinator of the programme in the UK whereas Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Chairman, Department of English, was the coordinator of the programme in Pakistan.



Workshop on Academic Writing

A one-day workshop on Academic Writing was conducted by Muhammad Munhib Shah, president of the ELS, for students of Department of English. It was held on 3 December 2015 in Seminar Room of the department.



EXPRESS THYSELF!

The ELS Wall Magazine and Online Blog

The ELS has established a wall magazine in the department. The purpose behind this is the need to bring students closer to literature and to give them a platform from where they can express themselves and find encouragement. Students can contribute in the form of their writings—either in verse or in prose—or submit their analysis of a literary work or artist. They can even share a quote from a critic or a writer, or pose a thought provoking question. Some of these posts will also be shared on the blog, opening the students' work to a wider audience. Furthermore, updates regarding the society and its activities shall be posted there as well. Thus, it is hoped, the Society will help students fall in love with literature and get to know it in its true depths. **Blog:** elsiui.blogspot.com; **Facebook Page:** www.facebook.com/els.iui



LIGHTER SIDE

Mr. Shahbaz Malik and Mr. Yaser Ali get Married

Fall 2015 witnessed the fall of two young men of the department. Mr. Shahbaz Malik, acting coordinator evening programs, married Mrs. Shahbaz Malik (this is what he told when contacted) on 10 October 2015, and Mr. Yaser Ali, acting coordinator, ELC, married Ms. Rabia Yaser on 11 October 2015. We wish them all the best for their married life ahead.

PROGRAM REVIEW

English Language Centre

Realizing the growing and inevitable importance of English as a global language of communication, business, commerce and politics, International Islamic University (IIU) Islamabad established the English Language Centre (ELC) in March 2008. One of the main objectives attached to initiating this centre is to develop and produce task oriented graduates, who should be proficient in English to comply with the challenges both within the university and out in the market too.

FROM THE WORLD

International Prizes in Literature

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2015 was awarded to Svetlana Alexievich *"for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time"*.

The Man Booker Prize of 2015 was won by Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai for his novel, *The Melancholy of Resistance*.

The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction of the year 2015 was clinch by *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (Scribner), an imaginative and intricate novel inspired by the horrors of World War-II and written in short, elegant chapters that explore human nature and the contradictory power of technology.

SUCCESS STORIES AT A GLIMPSE

- In 2015 Mr. Akhtar Aziz and Mr. Mustanir Ahmad of the department have been awarded PhD degrees after they successfully defended their theses. The following students successfully defended their MPhil theses: Mr. Ilyas Babar Awan, Abdul Rehman Tariq, Muhammad Tayyab, Muhammad Waqar, Hamza Hassan and Mr. Yasir Ali. We congratulate them for this and wish them best for future.
- Mr. Muhammad Saleem joins Punjab Education Department as professor of English.

- Mr. Mubashir Hasan Arif and Mr. Shehzad ul Haq (both BS in English from this department) were selected as lecturers in English at Punjab Higher Education Department in the Punjab Public Service Commission's recently held selection boards.
- Mr. Liaqat Iqbal, a PhD candidate at the Department joins Department of English, Abdul Wali Khan University as Assistant Professor.
- Mr. Mubarak Ali Lashari, a PhD candidate at the Department, joins Department of English, Sindh University Jamshoro as lecturer. He has also completed his 6-month research attachment at Hong Kong Polytechnic University Hung Hom, Hong Kong with MAK Halliday's co-author Professor Dr. Christian M.I.M. Matthiesen.
- Mr. Awais bin Wasi, a PhD candidate at the Department, joins Riphah International University as Assistant Professor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Department of English is all set to launch its first quarterly research journal to be called as Journal of Contemporary Poetics (JCP). The journal would publish research work in the areas of language, linguistics, literature and cultural studies. Dean Faculty of Languages and Literature will be the chief editor, Dr. Ayaz Afsar, the editor and Dr. Zulfiqar Hyder, Dr. Aroosa Kanwal, Dr. Nighat Shakoor, and Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz will be the co-editors of the journal.
- The Department is going to hold its first Alumni Meet-up in September 2016. All the alumni of the department are requested to register by 15 June 2016 by sending their brief introduction to: m.sheeraz@iiu.edu.pk. Your introduction should include the academic years and program(s) you were enrolled in at the Department and your current status. This will be published in an alumni magazine to be distributed at the Meet-up.

HOW TO!

Need to access digital library? Here is the route: 1. Connect internet in the IIU premises; 2. Open <http://iiu.edu.pk/>; 3. Click "Libraries" (sixth button on IIU homepage); 4. Click "Digital Library"; 5. Click any of the search engines (most of them allow campus wide access, some don't; read description) to find the work you are looking for.

USEFUL LINKS

Are you planning to improve your academic writing skills? Need to use some authentic online source? Try Purdue University's Online Writing Lab, and here is the link: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

NATIONWIDE

- Pakistan Academy of Letters H-8 Islamabad is going to hold an international conference on Language, Literature and Society on 2-6 March 2016. Please see their official page for details: <http://iclls.pal.gov.pk/>
- The only department of pure linguistics that was opened at Quaid-i-Azam University in 2011 has been officially closed as the administration saw it as serving no purpose. The students, scholars and the teachers at the said department and all over the country have expressed their concern and grief upon this development.

GLOBAL

- Third International Conference on Languages, Literature and Society (LLS2016) is being held in Bangkok, Thailand on 18-19 January, 2016. The conference is being organized by International Centre for Research & Development.
- Fourth International Conference on Language, Literature, Culture and Education 2016 is going to be held on 30th to 31st January, 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Website: <http://icsai.org/4icllce>
- International conference on literature and cinema is going to be held on 3rd to 4th February, 2016 in Tehran, Iran. Website: <http://ffll.ut.ac.ir/DownLoad/an492.pdf>
- 51st RELC International Conference (Teaching Literacies—Emerging Pathways and Possibilities in Language Education, 14 - 16 March 2016) 14th to 16th March 2016 in Singapore
Website: <http://www.relc.org.sg/Conference2016/>
This Conference provides a platform for educators and language professionals to share their insights and practices as well as discuss current trends in the areas of literacy teaching, educational innovations and creative pedagogy.

MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Wang Kaiping

Mr. Wang Kaiping is a Chinese national who is currently pursuing his MS in the department of English at International Islamic University Islamabad. He is working on cultural identity of the Chinese immigrants in the US as portrayed in the Chinese American Fiction. Previously he did his MA in English from the



same department in April, 2008. Earlier in July 2005, Mr. Kaiping graduated in the discipline of English Language and Literature from the faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature in Northwest University for Nationalities, Lan Zhou City, GANSU Province, People's Republic of China.

It is a matter of honour for the department of English, IIUI that in September 2008 Mr. Wang Kaiping was appointed as a regular faculty in the department of English at Gan Su Normal University for Nationalities in the People's Republic of China.

“The department is just like my home and I have had a wonderful time here. This department has enabled me to think critically and voice my ideas. I have made many good friends during my stay in Pakistan and at IIUI. I wish the department greater successes in future.” (*Wang Kaiping*)

LEARN!

Activity on vocabulary building

In a creative-writing exercise the teacher moulds the story but allows plenty of scope for the students' creative expression.



An IIU Classroom

Procedure

- The students work in pairs or groups of three. The teacher dictates a part of a story and then gives instructions on how the students should continue the next part of the story in their pairs. (This usually involves adding description or dialogue.)
- Once the students have added a part to the story, the teacher once again dictates the next part and asks them once again to add more.

- This process can continue for 5 or 6 paragraphs or until the students lose concentration.

You can use this procedure with any short story, but it works best when you dictate the movement of events and your students add description or dialogue. Students do generally like to decide on the end of the story themselves, so if you sense they are getting tired, just tell them to finish the story.

Follow-up activities

- If you have access to computers, get the students to transfer their stories onto disks. This can also be set for homework. The teacher can then edit the stories and correct the mistakes.
- In a subsequent class all the stories are read by all the students. Each group will also receive their original story to compare their version with the teacher's version. All the stories should be displayed on a classroom poster.
- The students record their stories onto audio cassettes. Allow the students time to practise their parts and to use sound effects. The students then all listen to all the stories. To focus your students' attention during the listening activity you can ask them to write a few comprehension check questions for their stories.

Example:

Story dictation

Teacher dictates and students write:

Alex and his friends got out of the__ (Students add type of vehicle) __ and looked around them. It was beautiful. They were all happy.

Teacher instructs:

- Describe the group of friends and the relationships within the group, any conflicts, romantic interest, jealousies.

Teacher dictates and students write:

They walked chattily through the beautiful countryside in search of a place to camp. After an hour or so they found it. Everyone smiled "Let's camp here!" they all said at once.

Teacher instructs:

- Write the dialogue the friends have while they set up camp.

Teacher dictates and students write:

"Finished" said Alex as he sat down on the grass. Suddenly a chill wind blew through the trees. Everyone looked up to see dark clouds in the sky above. "Right" said Alex "We'd better make a fire."

Teacher instructs:

- Describe what they see and hear and smell as they search for firewood and light the fire.

Teacher dictates and students write:

As they gathered round the blazing fire everyone started to relax until __ (students add the name of one of the group) __ decided to tell one of his/her stories."Hey did you hear what happened to poor old Bobby last summer?

Teacher instructs:

- Tell the scary story

Teacher dictates and students write:

“You don’t half talk rubbish” responded Alex and everyone giggled nervously.

Teacher instructs:

- Write the dialogue they have as they sit around the fire all hearing strange noises.

Teacher dictates and students write:

Everyone was getting more and more nervous until Alex said “Come on everyone. It’s nothing. Who’s gonna come with me and check it out?”

Teacher instructs:

- Describe what happens when Alex and his friend go to investigate and don’t come back. Then finish the story.

(Taken from IELTS)

AWARDS

- On 100% attendance students are awarded a certificate of appreciation.
- Deserving students with exceptional academic performance are given scholarships as per the university rules.

HEC RECOGNIZED JOURNALS

Some important HEC recognized local journals on English language, literature and linguistics:

Kashmir Journal of Language Research	1028-6640	Department of English, University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad	www.ajku.edu.pk
ELF Annual Research Journal	1026-7026	Department of English, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur	http://www.salu.edu.pk/publications/research_journals/ELF
Journal of Research (Humanities)	0555-7666	Department of English, University of the Punjab (New Campus), Lahore	http://www.pu.edu.pk/english/jrh/instructionsforauthor.htm
Me'yar (Bi-lingual)	2074-675X	Department of Urdu, International Islamic University, Islamabad	http://www.iiu.edu.pk/mayar-vol-5.php

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