

Newsletter of the Department of English (NODE)



EDITOR'S NOTE

It makes me happy to say that in continuation of the initiative taken by Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Chairman Department of English, and Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, Editor NODE, the second edition of the Newsletter of the Department of English (NODE) is, finally, in your hands. The basic aim of publishing the newsletter of the department is to record the events and activities of the department; to let the people at large know what is happening in and around the department and what is in the pipeline. We also intend, through this link, to report the good work that is being done by the faculty as well as the students of the department.

This edition includes an interview with Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar. I hope you will get to know him and his vision/plan for the development of the department better. It is a detailed interview covering a whole range of issues, including; his studies, research interests, future planning and much more. We intend to make it a regular feature of NODE, 'In Shā' Allāh! Besides, this edition also dedicates a section for our writers from the department. It is exciting to know that the department has got a lot of creative talent. Considering that, NODE provides you with the site to vent your feelings and share ideas. I would also like to invite you to contribute your very short stories, poems and excerpts from whatever you have tried your hand at for this purpose.

Let me express my gratitude to everybody who has lent a hand in this effort, including; Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, the Chairman, for his backing and providing the necessary push, Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, Editor NODE, who has been very supportive all along and Mr. Munhib Shah, the Student Editor, who fulfilled the responsibility of bringing together and compiling stories from English Literary Society and various other events. I would also like to thank Mr. Zahoor of the Students' Advisor Office for covering several events of the department with his lens. I am also appreciative of the support I have received from my students of English Literary Society.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to wish our outgoing students best of luck for making whatever they want from their lives. I am sure you will strive to make a difference!

We are looking forward to getting response from everybody in the department. Remember! We are One Family and NODE is our Family Album. Please contribute with your stories. Thanks

Mahmood ul Hassan

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. DR. AYAZ AFSAR, CHAIRMAN DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Interviewers:

Mahmood-ul-Haseen (Assistant Editor)

Muhammad Munhib Shah (Student Editor)



Mahmood:

Bismillāh ir-Rahmān ir-Raheem. Thank you very much, Prof. Dr. Ayaz, Chairman Department of English, for taking out time for the interview for NODE, the Newsletter of the Department of English. I also welcome Mr. Munhib, for joining me for the interview.

The first question, sir! Would you please tell us briefly about your early and higher education?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well, my primary school education began in a government school in Rawalkot, Azad Kashmir. I have my MA in Applied Linguistics and PhD in English Literature, both from the University of Manchester in the UK. Furthermore, I have got two post-doctoral research experiences at the University of Manchester and the University of Birmingham, respectively.

Mahmood:

Why did you choose the Profession of teaching and research for yourself—what was it that drew you towards this, sir? Any inspirations?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well, I was inspired by one of my teachers at the University of Karachi. He was a great motivator. I remember being inspired by his methodology, language skills and vast reading. I still recall when he came to our class for the first time, he told us he



believed in three books: the Qur'ān for his faith, the Bible for the Storytelling, and the complete works of Shakespeare for understanding the nature of Human beings.

As regards choosing teaching as my profession, it was an obvious choice. My father was a lawyer but started off as a teacher. I remember helping him in marking work and preparing lessons. I guess I have always had a natural flair for teaching. Teaching gives me satisfaction; I am a voracious reader and when I read books I want to share them with other people. My interest was in reading imaginative literature and enjoying it. In what other job could I have the time for this pursuit? Now, I have the time and the opportunity to talk about literature, to share and challenge ideas.

Mahmood:

The inspiration went a long way, I guess, even in determining your research areas, that became Biblical and Qur'ānic studies, did not it?

Dr. Ayaz:

Yeah, it did and continues, and that is obvious from my publications, my teaching subjects, and from my discussions.

Mahmood:

Please tell us, for our readers, about your teaching and research interests.



Dr. Ayaz:

Well, I have taught different aspects of English, from Language to Linguistics to Literature, and at all levels, from beginners to postgraduates. These days, I only teach M Phil and PhD students, and I have been the coordinator of the PhD programme at IIU, as well as the Head of the Department of English and the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Literature. Most of my time is spent in

administration duties as opposed to teaching. However, I still teach three courses in addition to supervising research students.

I also regularly publish in HEC approved blind peer reviewed journals. I am planning to publish a book this year about contemporary reading approaches to Biblical and Qur'ānic Narratives. It will mostly be about highlighting the utility in reading the Bible and the Qur'ān as literature. I am also the editor of the Journal of Contemporary Poetics, a newly approved journal that will be publishing its first issue in May 2017.

Mahmood:

You are a teacher, a researcher and an administrator, at the same time. How do you switch over to the various roles that come with it? And, what suits you the most? Are you more inclined towards one role or do you feel that all are interrelated?

Dr. Ayaz:

I enjoy teaching the most and in my other roles I am always looking for ways to help others improve professionally or academically.

Munhib:

Sir, some people say that if you are doing two things together then you have two personalities inside you that end up clashing. Have you ever faced such a situation or do you feel that, in your case, it's pretty much in harmony?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well, if somebody says that you have a split personality or you have two personalities, I don't agree. If you are genuine, you have only one personality. And if you are a teacher, and I consider myself to be a bold teacher, you try to teach everywhere you go. As a teacher who is an administrator, you have a different type of relationship with your staff, you don't keep a distance between your staff and yourself. Instead you look for ways to support them in their professional development.

Mahmood:

How do you consider your experience of research and teaching in Pakistani universities vis-à-vis the universities in the West, particularly in the UK, where you have been engaged in research as well as teaching?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well, in the West, the emphasis is on learning skills and understanding concepts. Books aren't taught and memorisation isn't valued. In Pakistan, there isn't any in-depth analysis; our system is based on regurgitating information without developing analytical and creative skills. Students tend to slavishly follow books, whereas in the West, critical thinking is valued, and as a result, students gain

transferable skills. In short, the difference between learning in Pakistan and the West is that in the former, it is text-book based, and the latter, it is concept based.

Mahmood:

Do you think education is a national priority in Pakistan? Or has ever been?

Dr. Ayaz:

It has never been a national priority in Pakistan, which is evidenced by the amount governments have deemed appropriate to invest in education. More recently there has been a surge in the budget allocated to Higher Education through HEC. However, if you want to improve the quality of education, investment must also be made in schools and colleges so students develop the skills they need to succeed later.

Mahmood:

As you know, since HEC was formed, some fifteen years back, several Pakistani students had been sent abroad to complete PhDs in high ranking universities in various fields with the aim to bring back that human resource to build higher education institutions in Pakistan. Do you think it helped the cause of promoting the culture of research and the quality of teaching in our universities?

Dr. Ayaz:

The establishment of HEC sent a positive message about Pakistan's research and teaching aspirations. However, it is important to note that the HEC programme is still relatively new, the first beneficiaries who travelled abroad and achieved PhDs will have returned to Pakistan in around 2007 or 2008. The contribution of these scholars will no doubt help improve the research culture in Pakistan, but understandably a complete revolution will take time.

Mahmood:

Considering the recent boom in higher education in Pakistan, there is an opinion that the over-emphasis on producing too many PhDs and research papers has badly affected the quality of research as well as teaching, particularly, at university level. Because, they say, teachers are more interested in getting their papers published and doing, you know, PhD and all that, rather than, delivering in the classrooms. Your views on that, sir?



Dr. Ayaz:

Well, when I was considering doing a PhD, there was no HEC. Therefore, there wasn't the same financial incentive to pursue a PhD programme. People who were

really interested in a subject did a PhD and, like me, bore the cost of their education. Although HEC initiatives such as linking salaries to publications have good intentions, the result has been that those with genuine skills are in a rat race to produce more PhDs and publish. In that rat race, there has been a compromise in quality. Furthermore, it has led to the flourishing of bogus degrees and journals, rackets which will accept cash to publish. As a result, the standard of education has declined.

Once, a Masters from any university was considered prestigious. At that time, there were 21 universities in Pakistan. There are now 188. Admittedly, there are more job opportunities, but the quality of researchers today is incomparable with their Master-holding counterparts in days gone by.

Mahmood:

So, producing too many PhDs is not going to help?

Dr. Ayaz:

That won't help much. How do you get a PhD in Pakistan? Acquiring a PhD in Pakistan comes from the base of the same system, memorisation. A PhD is a prestigious degree, and will probably lead you to a lucrative job, that's it! There's no real need to apply and do some research or develop some critical and creative skills.

Mahmood:

You've been part of this department from the very beginning; hence, you must have seen the formative phases it went through. How do you think is the department of English at IIUI different in terms of research outcome and curriculum vis-à-vis other universities' departments of English in the country? What changes, constructive changes, have you been able to bring about?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well, we introduced a combination or a mixture of new subjects along with the old or traditional ones. We teach Pakistani English Literature, South Asian English, and some subjects like Literary Theory, and some other, traditional, subjects. We have introduced some Islāmic content, for example, *Islām and Western Thought*, *Postmodern Muslim Thought and Western Philosophy: A Comparative Study*. Other departments (such as the University of Punjab) just teach conventional literature modules e.g. drama, the novel and canonical literature. We emphasise other Literature, or other Literatures. That is why our syllabus includes: Latin American and Afro-American and African Literature. Therefore, I can say, we have a more comprehensive and inclusive curriculum, a "Global Literature". Also, we have introduced modern approaches, like *Metrical Phonology* and *Narratology*, *Minimalism*, *Current Issues in Theory*, etcetera.

Mahmood:

What about the research that is being produced in the department? Do you think it is also in line with that? And, how is it different from what is being done in other departments of English in Pakistan?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well if you look at the PhDs we have produced, they are not only in those traditional subjects, but some of the contemporary approaches and topics, like *Corpus Linguistics*, you'll see some on *Media* and *Print* and *Discourse Analysis*.

Munhib:

Sir, if you could share some of your research insights, some, if you could, for example, talk about some recent projects?

Dr. Ayaz:

I think I've already mentioned my interests regarding the book I am going to publish this year which focuses on Qur'anic and Biblical narratives.

Mahmood:

I think you would like to talk little about your affiliation with the department, wouldn't you?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well I have been teaching at IIUI since 1990 and over the course of my career have run modules and programmes on language, linguistics and literature. Naturally my research interests have reflected these three areas. I have published on: teaching methodology and developing skills, like reading, teaching grammar in a context, and teaching pronunciation, that type of thing. Then I have also published in Linguistics, so some of my articles you will find in Phonology, articles related to pronunciation, Pakistani English and comparatives of Pakistani English with British Standard English. At different levels, at segmental levels, at supra-segmental levels. With regards to Literature. Some of my papers, you will see are based on the Bible as Literature and Qur'ān as Literature or as a comparative study.

My post doctoral experience has been in Corpus Linguistics and in 2014 I co-developed a Corpus of Pakistani English Learners.

Mahmood:

Because, both the Qur'ān and the Bible are Divine Books, so, it just popped into my head... When we are reading, and analysing the Qur'ān and of course the Bible as texts, what are or would be our methods of literary analysis?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well, I mean, some people confuse it, because both texts claim to be a great literary resource and have merits, literary merits. So, when we study in the Department of English this study would be different then when the same text would be taught in the Department of Theology and Religion. When we study these texts, we take them as texts and apply literary



theories and criticism accordingly. Some of the greatest literary critics have written on the Bible, such as Frank Kermode, Ronald Barthes, and Robert Walter. In fact if you look at the history of criticism it can be said to have developed from exegesis of the Bible.

Mahmood:

And, many stories have also come out from the Biblical traditions of stories. Like, Milton's famous Paradise Lost, many plays of Shakespeare and others...

Dr. Ayaz:

Yes, we only have to look at the development of Drama. The dramatic tradition in England finds its roots in Miracle and Morality Plays. These plays were based on Biblical stories, and were originally performed in the Church, and then outside the Church in the courtyard, and then on the street. AS you can see, the Bible has a well established tradition in drama as well as in criticism. That criticism was the close reading of the Bible, and the techniques and skills developed were later applied to other texts.

And so, in that way, from the time immemorial, I mean the four thousand year history of the Bible to the modern day Hollywood, if you go into the background of any story or film produced, you will see there will be a Biblical plot. That's why the Bible is a book of storytelling. Interesting stories! And it has all the elements which you find, you see, in any novel or any other genre of Literature. And all the Literature, if you look at Mary Sidney Herbert and Gerard Manley Hopkins and whoever, they were, in the beginning, they were just copying, you see, from the Bible. Yes, that was it!

Munhib:

Sir, when you talk about the Biblical and Qur'ānic narratives...the Biblical narratives are mostly...they have more detail and they are, like, more continuous and, like, it's one story at one place. In the case of the Qur'ānic narratives, it's normally that they come in pieces, and often with a different focus each time a narrative comes again, in different lengths, in different, you can say, snippets, or pieces. So, how do you think



these two different modes of telling a story contrast with each other, and why do you think they are different, and also, how do you think they affected the tradition of storytelling in the case of English and in the case of different Muslim cultures?

Dr. Ayaz:

Yeah, that's a good question. Well, as I said, the Qur 'ān is not a book of stories, right? Whereas, you can say, the Bible, a major part of the Bible, is telling stories. Indeed the Bible takes, you see, a pride in telling the stories. The Qur'ān does not. The Qur'an and the Bible have different purposes, and are celebrated in their respective communities for their style. The Qur'ān refers to all those previous Scriptures i.e. the Torah and the Gospels and the Psalms. The audience of the

Qur'ān is expected to have some prior knowledge of these stories, and so there was no point in retelling them in a linear fashion.

In terms of style, Qur'ānic stories seem to be dramatised, interactive, interpersonal, and in the dialogue form. Whereas Biblical stories have a longer narrative where the dialogue is the climax of the episode, the punch line is when direct speech is brought in. So you have the detail with the Bible, but those peaks have been taken in the Qur'ān.

In the West some scholars have interpreted this as proof that the Bible is a primary source and the Qur'an one of its derivatives, just as other scholars have argued both the Qur'an and New Testament are derivatives of the Old Testament. However an Islamic interpretation is that the first man, Adam, was a prophet and then there was a line of prophets, and the message was the same from prophet Adam to prophet Muhammad, right? So, if there is any similarity, it means that it is the continuation of the same tradition.

Mahmood:

Sir, being a university professor/a scholar, how do you see the role of a university in today's Pakistan? Do not you think that the role of universities has become even more important as, you know, we are confronted with so many challenges as a nation and country?

Dr. Ayaz:

Universities?

Mahmood:

Yes, universities and university professors.

Dr. Ayaz:

Universities should be a place where people can discuss and explore ideas. If you restrict freedom of expression then you stifle debate which hinders both the creative and critical thinking faculties. If you don't allow people to express their thoughts and beliefs you remove the opportunity for those ideas to

be challenged, changed or improved. Therefore, dialogue is the best way, the only way forward. If you have a point, then it should be debated. There shouldn't be a fear of disagreeing with other students, professors or authorities. The important thing to realise is that no one has got the definitive version to the truth, and so we should listen to each other with respect. The academic climate in Pakistan is



currently hostile towards this expression of free speech, especially with relation to issues surrounding religion.

Mahmood:

And, do you see it happening in future? Do you think ours will become a more tolerant society as a result of everything that is happening?

Dr. Ayaz:

I think this is a global problem that societies are becoming more insular and nativistic, think about Brexit, Donald Trump, Modi and Daesh. The political climate seems to be getting more conservative in their approach and retreating to traditional in some cases tribal values. In this context, it is hard to imagine a reconciliation or harmony in the immediate future.

Mahmood:

Alright, thank you, sir. Now, the department that you head! What is your plan/vision for the development of the department of English and what are the challenges you are facing in this regard?

Dr. Ayaz:

I intend to launch some new programmes, some of which are already in the pipeline, for example, MA in TESOL. The background is that until we teach our students how to teach, we cannot expect an improvement in the quality of education. I feel there should be a continuous professional development of our faculty and students. We are also introducing long distance education, so people can register and enrol for classes online. In addition, I am looking to introduce MA in Corpus Linguistics into our programmes, which will require bringing on-board some experts in that field, in Corpus Linguistics. In order to realise this expansion of our current programmes, current programmes, we will need to recruit more staff and faculty members. After that, the challenge would be to retain the skills of such highly qualified faculty.

Mahmood:

Before we thank you for your time and thoughts, at the end, would you give any message for the students of the department?

Dr. Ayaz:

Well, what I will say for the students, if they want to gain something in the world, and, ultimately, satisfaction, then they should read a lot. Because reading provides you not only the opportunities to think, but also to imitate a style of writing. So, more reading. And this culture of just memorising and cutting and paste, that won't help, you see. It won't make you independent and dominant researchers and scholars, you will always be dependent on someone else. Have faith in your own abilities and nurture your skills through reading.

Mahmood:

Thank you very much for the discussion, sir.

Munhib:

Thank you, sir.

Dr. Ayaz:

Thank you.



Prof. Dr. Ayaz, the Chairman Department, in Conversation with the Interviewing Panel of NODE



NEWS BULLETIN

Dr. Munawar Iqbal Ahmad and Dr. Ayaz Afsar Join the Department as Professors of English

Dr. Munawar Iqbal Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Languages and Literature, is the senior most faculty member of the department. His PhD is in Pakistani literature in English from National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. The title of his research was *Post-independence/post-colonial Pakistani Fiction in English: A Socio-political Study with Focus on Twilight in Delhi, The Murder of Aziz Khan, Ice-candy-man and Moth Smoke*. The study has a topical significance as Pakistani writers in English, after a long period of marginalization, are registering a strong presence in the global academia. Prof. Dr. Munawar has been the Chairman of the department for over ten years. He has been instrumental in developing department to level that today it is perhaps one of the biggest departments of English in terms of the number of PhDs as well as the quantity and quality of its research and teaching output.



Dr. Ayaz Afsar, currently serving as Chairman of the Department, has been associated with the department in various capacities of research and teaching since 1990. He has the honour of joining the department as the first PhD faculty member. 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 several 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.

Orientation for New Students of the Department was Held

An orientation session for new students of the department was held in the Seminar Room Block-I. Students of BS, MA, MS and PhD attended the session. The session was conducted by Mr. Rashid Mahmood and was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, chairman of the department. All faculty members introduced themselves to the new-coming students. It was followed by a presentation by Dr. Zulfqar Hyder, Coordinator, Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Hyder welcomed the students on behalf of the department and wished them very good time in the department. He also briefed the students about various aspects of the undergrad and graduate programs and the resources available. The students were, then, taken on a tour of the department as well as the central library where an orientation was organized for them.



Dr. Ahsan Bashir, Dr. Zulfiqar Hyder and Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz join as Assistant Professors

Dr. Ahsan Bashir, one of the senior most lecturers of the Department of English, has joined as Assistant Professor of the Department. Dr. Ahsan has been associated with the Department as lecturer for over twenty years. His PhD is in Linguistics from Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.

Dr. Zulfiqar Hyder also joined the Department as Assistant Professor of English after having been selected through the last selection board. He did his PhD from University of Aberdeen, UK, in 2014. His specialization is in 20th Century British Literature. Dr. Hyder has got a diverse interest ranging from Modernist Literature, Critical Theory to Psychoanalytical Criticism.

Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, who was already serving the Department as lecturer and In-charge of English Language Centre, has also joined as Assistant Professor. He did his PhD from the same Department while he has also completed his Post-doctoral research from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, USA. Currently he is working as a visiting scholar at the Department of Asian Languages and Civilization, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA.



Faculty Members Represented IIUI at Pakistan Vision 2025 Debate as Judges

Dr. Akhtar Aziz, Mr. Farrukh Nadeem, Mr. Rizwan Aftab and Mr. Mahmood ul Hassan were invited as judges of the first ever National Parliamentary Debate organized by Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms in collaboration with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The debate was held in the Old Campus of International Islamic



University Islamabad. More than thirty university teams from across Pakistan participated in the event that continued for four days i.e. September 2-5, 2016. The purpose of

the event was to initiate a debate among youth of the country on Pakistan Vision 2025 to evolve socio-economic thought process which can steer Pakistan towards greater development and growth.

IUI MARKS SHAKESPEARE'S 400TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY, HOLDS SYMPOSIUM ON HIS WORKS' RELEVANCE

The Department of English, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) organized a symposium entitled 'Relevance of Shakespeare in the Contemporary world'.

The event was held to mark 400th Death

Anniversary of William Shakespeare, one of the most celebrated poets and playwrights of Elizabethan era and was attended by faculty members, researchers and students of the departments of English from across the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

In the symposium, a panel discussion incorporating various aspects of contemporary criticism with reference to Shakespeare's texts and contexts was of much interest for the participants. The panel including Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Chairman Department of English, IIUI, Dr. Saeed ur Rehman and



Dr. Jaleel Akhtar discussed Shakespearean texts in the light of Post-structuralist and Postcolonial perspectives.

Thought-provoking papers were presented by Mr. Mahmood ul Hassan (International Islamic University, Islamabad), Dr. Saeed ur Rehman (F.C.U. College, Lahore) and Dr. Jaleel Akhter (COMSATS, Lahore), while Dr. Shaista Sonnu's interview by Salman Rafique, PhD Scholar, augmented the interest on the ongoing discussion. Earlier, Dr. Zulfiqar Haider, moderating and foregrounding the event, accentuated the significance of Shakespearean Studies for the students of English Literature. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Chairman, Department of English.

Centre of Excellence for Modern Languages Established

Faculty of Languages and Literature has established the Centre for Teaching Excellence replacing the English Language Centre (ELC), as was formerly known. It was formally inaugurated by the university President Dr. Ahmed Yousif Al-Draiweesh who on the occasion said that language is a source of bringing people closer to each other and the greater people of both countries understand languages of each other the better they will comprehend the culture and traditions mutually. He added that university was mulling over holding a conference for the Pak-Chinese entrepreneurs in coming days which will help in further broadening exposure of investors of both sides about the conditions in respective countries. Dr. Al-Draiweesh hailed the faculty for its efforts to launch the course and hoped it will keep arranging courses with no gaps.



Dr. Munawar Iqbal Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Languages and Literature told the participants that faculty has launched the course for 2 months, three months and 6 months, while all the registered will start together and they will proceed to the next levels according to their desire and performance. He vowed to further strengthen the centre and welcomed the course participants.

Dr. Akhtar Aziz, Head of Centre of Excellence for Modern Languages, said that language helps as a bridge in case of barriers in communication and Chinese faculty members at the centre are here to prepare the participants to comprehend the functional communication and interpretation of the Chinese language.

The centre has also included Chinese Language Teaching and has started courses on Chinese Languages in collaboration with China's Council for Islamic-Chinese Relations, for that matter, a Chinese faculty member has also been hired. The centre aspires to include more languages in future.

IIUI-UNCW Academic Link Program

Faculty Members Complete Postdoc at the UNCW

Three PhD faculty members of the department of English, Dr. Munazza Yaqoob, Dr. Fauzia Janjua and Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, conducted their postdoctoral research at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington from January – June, 2016. Alongside the research work, they also attended various academic and community engagement events such as giving panel talks and guest lectures, attending book reading circles, giving presentations on Pakistan's culture and languages, and weekly research workshops.



Faculty Members Go on An Academic Visit to the University of North Carolina

Five faculty members from the department went on a three-week academic visit to the UNCW. The cohort included Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Dr. Ahsan Bashir, Dr. Akhtar Aziz, Ms. Sofia Hussain, and Ms. Amal Sayyid. During their stay, they gave various academic and cross-cultural talks at the UNCW and other institutions in Wilmington.



IIUI-UNCW Host International Conference “The New Global City: Presenting and Translating Worldwide Cultures Within a Global Citizenry”

Under IIUI-UNCW link program, an international conference was held at the UNC in Wilmington on 12-14 May, 2016. Several faculty members from the English Department participated in the conference, and presented their papers on several issues of contemporary significance as listed below:

Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar: “Seeds of Conflict: How have Biblical Realism and Qur’anic Idealism Shaped Western and Muslim World Views?”

Dr. Munazza Yaqoob: “Novel as ‘Public Sphere’: Exploring Revolutionary Potential in Contemporary Pakistani Anglophone Novels”

Dr. Fauzia Janjua: “Not Scholars nor Saints: The Poetic Problematization of Socio-religious Myths”

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal: “Self-Orientalization or Revival of Faith: The Politics of Sacred and Religious in Aslam’s fiction”

Dr. Saiyma Aslam: “Gender and Mobility in the Globalized World: A Postcolonial Perspective”

Dr. Ahsan Bashir: “Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence of English Language Teachers: Exploring perceptions and possibilities”

Dr. Zulfqar Hyder: “Globalization or Neo-tribalism: The World as shown in *Elysium*”

Dr. Akhtar Aziz: “Competing Narratives on the Swift Glorification of Malala Yousafzai: A Social Semiotic Analysis of Pakistani Social Media”

Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz: “‘Every Writer is Dangerous’: Silencing in Pakistani Resistance Fiction in Urdu”

Ms. Sofia Hussain: “Narrating History and Politics from the Margins in Post-Colonial Novel: A Comparative Study of Kamila Shamsie and Arundhati Roy’s Fiction”

Ms. Amal Sayyid: “Towards an Islamic Modernity: A Critical Investigation of Syncretic Imaginaries in MohjaKahf’s *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* and Robin Yassin-Kassab’s *The Road to Damascus*”

Ms. Sonia Irum: “Trauma of Displacement: An Ecopsychological Study of *Trespassing* and *Sea of Poppies*”







Four Faculty Members of the Department Visit UNCW

Four faculty members of Department of English, Ms. Komal Shehzadi, Ms. Salma Kalim, Mr. Farrukh Nadeem and Mr. Mahmood ul Hassan visited the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) during November 2016. The three weeks' visit is a part of a three years State Department Grant to promote educational and cultural exchanges between the peoples of the two countries.



During their visit the faculty members met with the faculty at UNCW, had formal as well as informal interactions with the students and faculty, visited the libraries, met with the UNCW and Wilmington community and gave presentations on various topics including academic englishes in Pakistan, Regional Peace, Democracy in Pakistan etc. They also participated in the Intercultural Festival held at UNCW. The group also had the opportunity to see the US political process at work on Election Day. At the end of the visit, they also attended the traditional American Thanksgiving Meal. The faculty members while talking to NODE termed their visit fruitful in terms of research

exposure as well as professional development. They said that experience would help them contextualize teaching practices. It would also help in understanding the cultural differences, they said.

Four Faculty Members go on Post-Doctoral Research to UNCW, USA

Four PhD faculty members of the department of English, Prof. Dr. Munawar Iqbal, Dean FLL, Dr. Ahsan Bashir, Dr. Saiyma Aslam and Dr. Nighat Shakur have gone on postdoctoral research at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington for the session from January – July, 2017 under the Academic Link Program between IIUI&UNCW. Besides the research, the visiting scholars will give presentations, hold meetings with the community to forge better understanding between the peoples of the two countries.



UNCW Delegation Visits the Department of English, IIUI

A delegation from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW), USA came on a four-day visit to International Islamic University Islamabad under IIUI-UNCW Link Program. Executive Director of Iqbal Institute for Research and Dialogue, Dr. Husnul Amin, and Acting Dean Department of English, Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, along with the faculty members from the Departments of English and International Relations welcomed the guests.

UNCW delegation included Prof. Dr. Caroline Clements, Dr. Diana Ashe and Dr. Florentina Andreescu. The delegates participated in interactive activities and various sessions at male and female campuses.

Separate lectures/academic sessions for the students as well as the faculty were arranged in the Department of English.

Session on “Conflict Management” with Dr. Carolina Clements

Dr. Caroline Claments shared her studies on “Conflict Management” with faculty members at the Department of English on February 14, 2017. The focus of her talk was as to how to deal with the conflicting situations in an organization. She said that it was quite natural to have conflicts between various people in the organizations and that the conflicts have both negative as and positive impacts on the working of organization—negative in the sense that conflicts often hinder the smooth working of the organization and positive in way that they open a discussion that could potentially bring forth and resolve issues.

She also said that those were global issues and that in the US universities conflicts do happen and that situation is not different. In an interactive way, the discussion sought the ways to resolve the issues that often deter the cordial working environment in departments. She stressed the role of senior colleagues and particularly the head of the department to mediate in order to resolve the conflict.



“Academic Writing” with Dr. Diana Ashe

A discussion session on Academic writing was held on the same day with Dr. Diana Ashe. It was a two-part session, with the first part focusing on a brief discussion on connecting ideas and the

importance of showing how one's premises could lead to a certain conclusion. The basic idea was that students need to make their assumptions clear and they need to make the required connections when they write an essay or an assignment.

The second part of the session was in the form of a creative activity. The students were asked to imagine a situation in which they had to describe a monster. Each student was then asked to make a drawing of their monster and to then write down a description of it. This description was then used by another student to recreate the drawing without looking at the original. Afterwards, the students were told to compare the drawings and to see how different kinds of descriptions could enable them to make their message clear.

Overall, it was a lively session, more practical than theory, and the students enjoyed themselves and had a lot of fun in doing the task. The students were also given time to ask questions at the end and to discuss ideas related to the topic.



Faculty Members go on an Academic Visit to Los Angeles, USA

In July, 2016 five faculty members of English Department who are also the core committee members of the Critical Thinking Forum (CTF) participated in an exchange visit to Los Angeles, California, USA. This exchange visit was part of CTF's two-year grant project "Consciousness Raising of Pakistani Women on Contemporary Academic and Social Issues (2015 – 2017)" being carried out in collaboration with the Department of State, US Embassy, Islamabad. The purpose of the program was to provide an opportunity to CTF members to exchange ideas and learn from

the expertise of American scholars and interact with the American people (predominantly women) in academic as well as socio-cultural settings. Dr. Munazza Yaqoob (Founder, CTF & Project Director, IIUI), Ms. Farhat Meher (Lecturer, IIUI), Ms. Sofia Hussain (Project Assistant & Asst. Professor, IIUI), Ms. Sonia Irum (Lecturer & Coordinator, CTF), and Ms. Sara Rashed (Teaching/Research Associate, IIUI) were participants of the exchange Visit.

Below is the list of panel discussions during the Exchange Visit:

1. "Women in USA + Pakistan: Seeing Each Other and Expanding Our Vision"
2. "Visual Portrayals of Women: An Analysis of Pakistani and American Media"
3. "Pakistani Women: Religion and Peace"
4. "Observing Fashion in the Post-Feminist Era: Global Trends from Pakistan to the US"
5. "Creating Urban Green Spaces, From California to Islamabad"



PAPERS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Prof. Dr. Ayaz Presents a Paper at The New Global City: Presenting and Translating Cultures within a Worldwide Citizenry

Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar presented a paper titled, “Seeds of Conflict: How have Biblical Realism and Qur’anic Idealism Shaped Western and Muslim World Views?” in the first International IIUI-UNCW Partnership Conference on ‘The Global City: Presenting and Translating Culture within a Worldwide Citizenry’ in University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) during May 12-14, 2016. He presented a preliminary analysis of parallel narrative material found in the Bible and the Quran and literary critical study of characters and characterization in the Bible and the Quran, exploring how different values enshrined in the portrayals of these characters have been foundational in Western and Muslim traditions. He further traced the continuation of these values in the modern texts. The purpose of his study was to examine how Biblical and Qur’anic characterizations construct differing values for their respective communities, and the contemporary geo-political crisis this phenomenon has engendered.

Pakistani Fiction, and Feminist Ideology and Practice

A short discussion was held with Dr. Zia Ahmad in which he talked about Feminist practices in the fiction writings of various “Pakistani” writers. The session began with a brief discussion on *what* “Pakistani fiction” is and how a writer can be identified as “Pakistani.” Dr. Zia discussed various criteria and definitions as well as the problems that are found in creating such labels. He



also discussed various issues that can be found in the writings of these “Pakistani” writers and how the issues and intended audiences of these writers are different from those of their western counterparts. Finally, Dr. Zia elaborated on four major phases that can be identified in what he calls “Postcolonial Pakistani Feminist Fiction,” while reminding his audience about the problems found in labelling and creating boundaries. The session was short yet informative and was intended as an introduction for a larger and more detailed discussion that is still being planned.

Events and Activities Arranged by English Literary Society

1) Reading Circles

- “The Red Shoes” by Hans Christian Andersen (10th March, 2016)
- “The Snake” by D. H. Lawrence (12 April, 2016)
- “The Guest” by Albert Camus (21 April, 2016)
- “The Gift of the Magi” by O’ Henry (6 October, 2016)

ELS’ reading Circles are very popular among the students. This is where they get to express their views and discuss literary and popular texts without any interventions from the teachers’ side. The activity is also popular among teachers, who are known to frequent these sessions, and are sometimes given a chance to express themselves towards the end of the session. Three reading circles were held during the semester, with Dr. Sibghatullah Khan attending one of them as a guest participant.



2) Workshops on Academic Writing

- “On Writing a Paragraph” by Muhammad Munhib Shah (16 March 2016)
- “The Various Types of Paragraphs” by Babar Manzoor (14 April 2016)



Writing academic papers is a necessary part of the student's life. To help their fellows overcome the initial difficulties of this process, ELS arranged a workshop on academic writing. Two sessions of this workshop were held during the semester, the materials for which was prepared and presented by the students. The first session of the workshop was about paragraph structure, while the second one dealt with various paragraph types. The presentations and exercises were prepared by Muhammad Munhib Shah and Babar Manzoor, who are both students of the department.

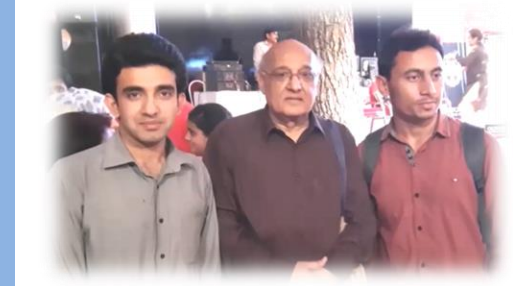


3) Study Tours:

- Oxford Literature Festival
- National Book Day Festival

The “Oxford Literature Festival” was held on the 15th, 16th, and the 17th of April, 2016, and it brought with it a large amount of writers, critics, and researchers from around the globe. The festival was held in Lok Virsa Museum, and many students from the department volunteered as organisers. Members of ELS also provided transport for students who were unable to attend. They also interviewed various writers and made sure that the students of the department are able to enjoy and benefit from the experience.

Another study trip was arranged for the National Book Day Festival, which was a national endeavour to raise awareness regarding the importance of books. The festival gave the people easy access to a large amount of texts which were being sold at a low price. It also brought together the country's poets, writers, and critics, who interacted with and discussed different concepts with the students.



4) Seminar: Modern Society and Poetry

ELS arranged a seminar with Dr. Ravish Nadeem on the 26th of April, 2016. In this session, Dr. Ravish discussed the importance of poetry in the context of globalisation and the fall of national culture. He discussed how the changing paradigms are affecting poets and how education and culture are involved in the post-colonial world. He also recited some of his own poetry, which was appreciated and praised by the students.



5) Seminar: Rediscovering Rūmī

On the 16th of May, 2016, ELS arranged a seminar on the poetic works of the Sūfī poet Jalaluddīn Rūmī. The speaker was Dr. Jawad Hamdani, who is the head of the Persian department, and who spent many years in Iraq in order to develop a deep appreciation of Persian literature. Dr. Jawad discussed various aspects of Rumi's poetry, comparing him with the South Asian poet Muhammad Iqbal, and explaining why the modern world is so interested in his work. He also recited some of Maulānā's poetry and explained a chapter from his Mathnavī Ma'navī.



6) Pakistani English Literature: a Discussion

A discussion was held with Mr Bilal Mushtaq on the issue of Pakistani Literature and

representation. Mr Bilal is the writer of the book “Writing Pakistan,” in which he has compiled various interviews which he had with Pakistani English writers. Mr Bilal discussed the issue of representation with the students, asking whether representation or dialogue is the purpose or the goal of the creative writer and whether the creative writer is supposed to consciously perform this act. The discussion took place on the 19th of December, 2016.

7) Seminar: Translating Poetry

A session was held with Mr Rashid Saleem on the 21st of December, 2016. In this session, Mr Rashid discussed various issues regarding translation and the impossibility of having a perfect translation. He also discussed his own translations of the poetry of Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson and recited some of the poems he had translated.

8) A Conversation with Akhtar Usman

A short discussion was held with Mr Akhtar Usman on the 27th of December, 2016. In this session, Mr Usman discussed various issues related to Literary Theory. He talked with students about how Theory primarily addresses the question of “how” and not of “what,” and also how it relates to the study of linguistics. He also critiqued some elements of Theory by linking it with the processes of capitalism.

9) Recreational Trips

ELS arranged a recreational trip to Abbottabad on the 30th of April, 2016. Accompanying the students were Mr. Farrukh Nadeem, Mr. Abdul Haseeb Khan, and Dr. Jawad Hamdani. The students went to the Shimla and the Harnoi mountains and had a memorable time with their friends and their teachers.



ELS on Social Media

- ELS now has its very own blog. Students who are interested in creative and critical writing, or who are interested in sharing their experiences and reflections, are invited to share their work online.

<http://englishliterarysociety.blogspot.com/>



- ELS has its own Facebook page which is followed by more than 1600 people. The page is managed by the students and all updates regarding activities and events are posted over there.

www.facebook.com/els.iiui

Wall Magazine

ELS also manages a Wall Magazine (or Wall Mag), where students can share their critical and creative works. Students who are interested in writing or who wish to share their reflections are encouraged to contact the ELS members and have their work posted on the Wall Magazine.

SUCCESS STORIES AT A GLIMPSE

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal Wins Laurel for the Department

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal, Assistant Professor in the department, brought fame and pride to the department by clinched the KLF-Coca Cola prize, awarded to the best non-fiction work, for her book “Rethinking Identities in Contemporary Pakistani Fiction”, published by Palgrave Macmillan. She received her award in person. The book discusses the post-colonial discourse, and



particularly, the role of Pakistani Fiction in English in negotiating with the global power skein after the fall of the Twin Towers. She was also invited to give a talk about her book in Islamabad Literature Festival 2016. The session was moderated by Ms. Muneeza Shamsie, a prolific writer and famous critic of Pakistani literature in English.



ALUMNI CORNER

Dr. Mustanair Ahmad, a proud alumnus of the Department, is Serving as Head of the Department of English at Hazara University, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Born in 1977, Dr. Mustanir Ahmad belongs to tehsil Gujar Khan of district Rawalpindi, where his father was a legal practitioner. He did his MA (2004), MPhil (2008) and PhD (2015) in the discipline of English from the Department of English at International Islamic University Islamabad. He started his career as a university teacher in 2004 at Iqra University, Islamabad Campus, right after the completion of his MA in English Literature from IIUI. He also had an opportunity to teach in his parent department at IIU on visiting/part-time basis.

The same year he joined Hazara University, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where, currently, he is serving as Assistant Professor. He assumed the responsibility of the Head of the Department of English in 2012. Dr Ahmad organized the First National Conference on Cultural and Biological Resources of Pakistan at Hazara University in collaboration with the HEC. He has published 11 articles based on his research in different areas of linguistics and literature. He is also a reviewer/consulting editor of three research journals. He has been appointed as member of the Board of Studies and member/subject expert of the Selection Boards of various Universities. He has also been appointed as evaluator/external examiner of M.Phil. and PhD theses at several universities of the country. He has supervised 11 BS students, whereas more than 25 students have completed their M.Phils under his supervision. He developed 5 PhD and 3 M.Phil. courses that are being taught at Hazara University. He was one of the pioneer members of English Literary Society at IIU. Besides Pakistan, Dr. Ahmad spent a great deal of time in the UK and had an opportunity to see both the systems as an insider. He recorded these experiences in his collection of poems that he published in the UK by the title “A Drop of Rain and Other Poems”.



Dr. Ahmad's area of interest is Postcolonial Studies, South Asian and Latin American Literature. He completed his PhD in February 2015 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar. The topic of his PhD thesis was “Magical Realism and Social Protest in the Works of Gabriel García Márquez”. The thesis was an effort to explore how and in what ways magical realism has been helpful to García Márquez, the famous Colombian fiction writer, in registering protest against exploitation, which is a major form of social injustice. The novelist's recourse in magical realism

has a definite and visible political edge and his work not only does make the reader question the so-called absolute nature of the real, but also reviews the borders of an unconsciously politicised ideology that (de-)shapes the very structure of his worldview. It was also an effort to demonstrate that García Márquez's fiction has overt political implications along with an undertone of protest against social injustice and that he achieved the desired intensity of protest by the means of magical realism, in which he incorporates and juxtaposes various elements derived from disparate sources, e.g. oral/folklore culture, myth, and stereotypes. To ultimately bring forth and enhance the themes, the disparity of sources is manifested in the very structure of his fiction and is further strengthened



by an essentially carnivalesque language founded on hyperbole, humour, and irony. It has been generalised that it is on the basis of these textual features that a magical realist text is able to challenge Western epistemology, proving the so-called rational as inconsistent and arbitrary in all respects. Dr. Ahmad is married and has a son.

MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Tamer Abd el-Hady

At the Student's request, the discussion has been reproduced in the form of a report.

Tamer Abd el-Hady is a student from Egypt. He originally came to Pakistan to teach in the Saudia School, but has now quit his job and provides home tuition in various subjects. He originally came to the department to enrol in a Language course, his intention being to improve his English and then to enrol in the Translation and Interpretation Department, but an unfortunate misunderstanding landed him in a bachelor class of English. Over time, Tamer warmed up to his subject, but he still faces issues because of his language. He shows an interest in translation and is also thinking of enrolling in a language course. About the department, he says that he finds it better than many of his local institutions. "Over here, teachers remember names of their students," he said. He was also pleased with how students can ask and discuss their problems with teachers and how teachers try to simplify and explain things clearly. "There is more chance to learn," he said. At the same time, he also mentioned that he found some teachers more helpful than others. "As a foreigner," he said, "some teachers think I'm Shakespeare!" However, he says, he has no intention of giving up and he refuses to lose spirit. We wish him the best for his studies and his career!



Fresh PhDs of the Department

The following scholars have successfully completed their PhDs in 2016:

Name of Scholar	Thesis Topic	Name of Supervisor
Mr. Khalid Mahmood	Analyzing Discourse of 'War on Terror' with reference to leading Pak-Anglo-American newspaper editorials: A Corpus Based Linguistic Study.	Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar
Mr. Liaqat Iabal	The Empire Translates Back: Locating Self-translators from Urdu to English.	Prof. Dr. M. Safeer Awan
Mr. Shahid Abbas	From Negation to Assertion?: A Post-Feminist Discourse Analysis of Bernard Shaw's Selected Plays.	Prof. Dr. M. Safeer Awan
Mr. Syed Kazim Shah	Designing Culturally Appropriate English Language courses in an Islamic Context.	Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar

'Ventilate': Writers' Corner

A Drop of Rain

The sea doth wash away all human sins...
(Euripides)

I know not for how long
We waited for rain. Outside,

It is the scorching heat of sun
Which makes us creep back into our dirty
holes;
Inside, it is suffocation, darkness and disgust.

The city life had always been like that:
Colourful dresses, shining boots, nice haircuts,
I still remember when some dim eyed people
moved in:
They had such strange looks with stiff necks
and lifeless
faces; they just walked around as if it were
their only job.

Life once danced here like devil. We,
With our cracked lips and bony hands,
Keep on praying for few drops of rain
To quench our ever increasing thirst and to
wash
the strange sense of Guilt which, however, did
not belong to us.
'It was them, you know; they did it all.'
Why everything is so dull and drab these days?

It is nothing but ash and dust and I am sick of
nightmares;
I sometimes see shadows walking in these
sleeping streets.
But I am quite sane, I am sure of it.

We stare at the blackened face of earth,
Which becomes even blacker in the night.

Something has rotten in the backyard,
probably:
I can't stand the hideous smell;
we must do something.

I was the last one among my family to remain
here:
Before the volcano had erupted, I too
Had asked myself to leave my ancestral place.

The only reservoir left is the nearby pond:
Once
Narcissus used to watch his reflection here.

Like roads run on the face of earth
Veins do on the dry palms of my hands;
It makes me feel strange when I look at them.
It will take just one drop of rain to rub away
This strange feeling from my eyes;
Just One Drop of Rain!

Mustanir Ahmad

Diary of a Modern Man

I

Sitting in the rocking chair,
Yelling for a cup of coffee,
I gathered some shattered dreams.

II

Thinking a long broken relationship,
Throwing away the boring newspaper,
I counted down the rounds of stairs.

III

Ventilate

How much can I

Ventilate.

Everything ? It's but impossible.

Battalions of blues and I'm only one—

One with many axes to grind,

Many irons in the fire.

It's getting too stuffy inside.

Can I drain all this out

Listening to the voice of my conscience,
Designing how to get promoted,
I remembered Icarus and his waxen wings.

IV

Taking down the daily expenses,
Thinking over the problem of existence,
I longed for a breath of relief.

V

Reading Miller's *Collected Plays, Volume One*,
Setting the alarm to wake me at 6,
I took my glasses off and slept.

Mustanir Ahmad

And vent it away

Do ventilate dear!

How can I

They are many, in fact:

Whence will I start?

My friends are fast

And kins are smart.

But go on nonstop,

Ventilate my dear!

Share your sorrows

To shave them off.

Spare yourself some space.

Living in the blues doesn't do,

And there's no braving it if you share.

Don't miss it out on your Lord—

His gracing you with reward

Wear smiles n' thank your God

Only then can you be your soul's guard.

Shaukat Ali Dab

On the 21st of March, 2017

A mother screamed
in the slick white hospital sky
and patter patter patter
went her tiny sons and daughters
to the pool of people
that splashed below

Muhammad Munhib Shah

When a Leaf was Crushed beneath my Feet

(First written for Victoria Hunters' online workshop)

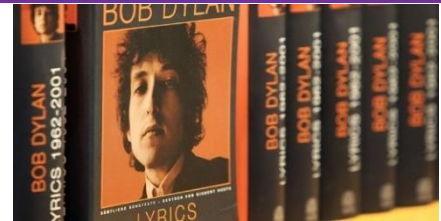
An autumn leaf cursed beneath my feet,
my leather boot
put a muddy icing on its face –
there it will lie and sob,
but who would care
to see the mess
I made of its face?
And when Zeus roars in the heavens
and sends his storm cloud army,
it'll be cleaned, bathed,
and dumped into a gutter

Muhammad Munhib Shah

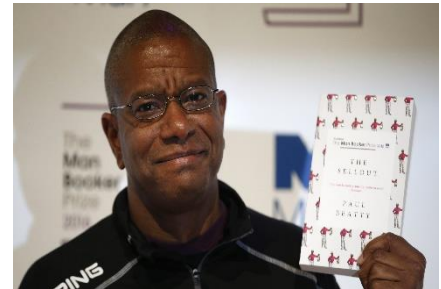
FROM THE WORLD of literature

International Prizes in Literature

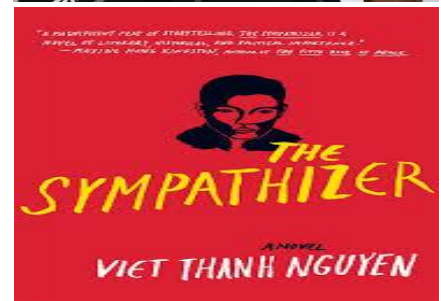
The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 was awarded to the American singer-song writer, Bob Dylan. He has made a tremendous contribution in creating an innovative expression in the American tradition of song writing.



The Man Booker Prize of 2016 was won by American writer Paul Beatty for his political satire, *The Sellout*. He is the first American ever to have won the prize.



The 100th Pulitzer Prize for Fiction of the year 2016 for Fiction went to *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen (Grove Press). *The Sympathizer* centres on a man struggling between two opposing minds. Set in 1975 Saigon, the novel follows a South Vietnam army captain who struggles to reconcile his political beliefs with his personal relationships.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Department of English is all set to launch its first quarterly research journal, 'Journal of Contemporary Poetics' (JCP). The journal would publish research work in the areas of language, linguistics, literature and cultural studies.
- Academic Council of the university has approved initiation of Distance Learning Program of MA (ELT) under the department of English. Further working is being carried out in this regard.

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/>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Nationwide

- Allam Iqbal Open University, Islamabad is going to hold an international conference on Contemporary Trends in English Language and Literature on 25-26 May 2017. Please see their official page for details: <http://ctell.aiou.edu.pk/>
- 3rd International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan is going to be held on 12-14 October, 2017. The conference is being organized by the Linguistic Association of Pakistan.
Website: <http://www.iclap.org/ICLAP2017/>
- 2nd IIUI-UNCW International Conference "The New Global City: Presenting and Translating Worldwide Cultures Within a Global Citizenry" will be held in October 2017. This time the conference is being hosted by International Islamic University, Islamabad.

Global

- The Asian Conference on Language Learning is going to be held in Kobe, Japan on 11-14 May, 2017. The conference is being organized by International Academic Forum (IAFOR).
Website: <http://iafor.org/conferences/acll2017/>
- International Research Conference on Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities is being held in Istanbul, Turkey on 15-16 May, 2017. The conference is being organized by Dignified Researchers in Social Sciences and Humanities.
- Website: <http://drhss.org/conference/143>

- A One Day International Conference on Poetry Studies is being organized by Interdisciplinary Research Forum (IDRF) in London, United Kingdom on 27th May, 2017.

Website: <http://poetry.irf-network.org>

- 8th International Conference on Language, Literature, Culture and Education 2017 will be held on 19-20 September, 2017 in Bali, Indonesia.

Website: <http://icsai.org/icllce8/>

LEARN!

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY WRITING

INTRODUCTION

While most of you have already had experience of essay writing, it is important to realise that essay writing at University level may be different from the practices you have so far encountered. The aim of this tutorial is to discuss what is required of an English Literature essay at University level, including:

1. information on the criteria in relation to which your essay will be judged
2. how to plan and organise an essay
 - o Planning an Essay o Essay Structure
 - o Independence and Critical Reading o Use of Secondary Material
3. advice on writing style
4. a final checklist

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?

In assessing essays, your tutors are asked to bear in mind:

- Relevance to the essay-subject as it has been set;
- A well-defined line of argument, with each stage clearly marked;
- Appropriate, economical, and accurate illustration;

- Mastery of the relevant background material (contextual, critical, theoretical), and evidence of independent and wide-ranging reading;
- Evidence of independent thinking about the subject, and, where ideas are taken from critics, ability to apply them to materials of the student's own choice;
- Crisp expression. Failure to stay within the maximum number of words set for written work will be penalised;
- Spelling, punctuation, grammar;
- Accurate and comprehensive referencing of sources and list of Works Cited.

HOW TO PLAN AND ORGANISE AN ESSAY

Planning an Essay Careful planning is the key to producing a good essay. Do NOT begin to write your essay the night before it is due to be submitted. You should allow yourselves time to consider, plan, write, rewrite and revise, and proof read your essay before its submission. The diagram and questions reproduced below will assist you in planning your essay.

ESSAY STRUCTURE

Your essay should present a discussion and a reasoned argument: it should not be a set of random reflections on the texts or topic you have chosen. This will require some planning and organisation of your material before you begin to write, to ensure that your argument is coherent and engages directly with the question asked.

A good introduction is often the key to a good essay. The first thing you should do is define any complex or potentially ambiguous terms in the question. This can also be one good way of effecting an introduction. Another is to consider why the question might be asked, what makes it interesting, or why it is relevant to the texts you are considering. You might also use your introduction to outline briefly your intentions in writing the essay: but remember that for a 1,000 or 2,000 word essay the introduction will necessarily be brief.

6 The body of the essay of the essay should relate to the issues you outline in your introduction. It also needs a coherent structure: if you have used your introduction to identify the key issues of your discussion, structuring the essay becomes easier, as you can address these issues in separate paragraphs. Make the links and transitions between paragraphs clear. Remember that every paragraph and sentence should contribute directly to your argument.

Your essay needs to strike a balance between argument and supporting evidence. Avoid unsupported generalisations. Stating that 'society is a patriarchy' or that 'evil is more interesting than good' without offering evidence to support the assertion is little different from claiming that 'the earth is flat' or 'tall people are more intelligent than short ones'. Even your more particular

points about texts or issues always need supporting evidence, often in the form of quotations from the texts. Remember that you may need to explain how your evidence supports your point.

Your essay needs a conclusion to avoid it petering out and losing its force. You might use the conclusion to draw together the threads of your argument, to re-visit the original question, or even to point towards new questions that your discussion has opened up. Whatever your conclusion, you should use it to step back slightly from the detail of the preceding argument to re-consider the wider picture.

INDEPENDENCE AND CRITICAL READING

The purpose of an essay is to develop and present your own thinking about the texts and issues raised by the question. All essays are likely to draw on ideas taken from others, whether from critical books, lectures or discussions. But clearly an essay is not intended to be simply an anthology of others' ideas: those ideas should only be introduced in order to form and advance your own argument, which is both the substance and the purpose of the essay. USE OF

SECONDARY (CRITICAL) MATERIAL

Critical books and articles are often useful in stimulating your ideas about the literature you are writing on. It is also important to develop some awareness of the ongoing critical debate about works and literary issues; sometimes you may even be asked to write about the critical or theoretical works themselves. But ideas and words from other writers should never simply replace your own, either directly, or in the form of paraphrase. Quoted or paraphrased thoughts and words from another critic should be included in the text of your essay only if you wish to say something about them. You may want to take issue with them, or to develop them, or to illustrate a particular view which you then discuss. It is not helpful to quote from or paraphrase critics simply because you think their words sound more authoritative than your own.

While you will often draw on other critics' ideas, you need to distinguish their words and opinions clearly from your own. Students should exercise caution and care in the use of paraphrase in particular. It is imperative that the reader should always be able to distinguish your voice and argument from that of the critics you cite. So, avoid simply ventriloquising critical arguments and conduct instead a critical engagement with them. For example, do not accept interpretations in critical works as matters of fact; demonstrate to the reader of your essay the ways in which you have produced a thoughtful response to the critics that you have employed.

If you do not ensure that there is no confusion in an essay about the origin of its arguments, you will find that your readers are unable to judge your arguments. You will also lay yourself open to a charge of plagiarism, which is a serious academic offence. (See the section on Plagiarism below).

Make sure your essay obeys these rules:

- Words drawn directly from another writer should always be put in quotation marks: it is not acceptable to offer them incorporated into the body of your essay as if they are your own, even with minor variations.
- If you either paraphrase a critic or other source, give a brief citation within brackets at that point (but see the cautionary note re paraphrasing above).

STYLE

University level essays should be written in a formal style and demonstrate your understanding of the codes of academic discourse as they relate to the study of English Literature. While there are variations between different disciplines, there are three main characteristics that are common to all academic essays. These are:

- An overriding concern to interpret and make meaning through the presentation of arguments;
- Careful attention to the marshalling of relevant and valid facts, examples and other kinds of evidence to substantiate or refute arguments and interpretations;
- A structure or organisational framework which has not been chosen arbitrarily, but is instead designed to present arguments and evidence in a coherent and logically appropriate form.

Clarity and expressiveness of language is obviously particularly important in essays on literature, and the development of an accurate and engaging writing style is one of the aims of a degree in this discipline.

FINAL CHECKLIST

- Have I completed the cover sheet correctly?
- Does my introduction: } Set the question/topic against a wider background? } Clarify my understanding of the question/topic? } Define key or problematic terms? } Outline the approach I will be taking?
- Does the main body of the essay: } Present my key points clearly? } Develop an argument in a logical sequence? } Systematically support key points and argument with evidence / examples? } Accurately cite all sources used, even if not quoted directly?
- Does my conclusion: } Bring together the main points? } Link back to the question/topic? } State clearly the conclusion(s) of my argument?

- Does my essay: } Read clearly throughout? } Make correct use of grammar, syntax and punctuation? } Include a list of all cited sources? } Conform to the word limit set for this assignment?

(Taken from the University of Edinburgh's Online Documents)

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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