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“Little boxes, conditioned, to hatch butterflies”: H. D.’s Androgynous “Etymological Alchemy” in *Trilogy*

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Abstract

The paper explores H. D.’s “elasticity of language” as she plays with masculine and feminine forms in *Trilogy* (1946). It argues that H. D.’s modernism blurs the boundaries between gendered ways of using language. In combining the male and female deities, H. D. obliterates the binary structure and consequently creates a fluid gap between the two. It is in this liminal space that a more elastic language becomes possible, and indeed H. D.’s poetic words take on an androgynous quality as they oscillate between a more masculine and feminine style of writing. H. D. is concerned with both the fixed definition of a word and also how a single word may be inflated to encompass a variety of meanings. Thus, through the examination of H. D.’s use of “etymological alchemy” in her amalgamation of the male and female deities, one may observe how she creates a sense of harmony through the elasticity of an androgynous language.

Keywords

Liminality, androgyny, transcendental imagination, deconstruction, phonetics, word and language, mythology, etymological alchemy.

The Seen and the Unseen: Power Play in Malayalam Cinema

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Abstract

Cinema's appeal in the modern age is self-evident. It holds special appeal because it forms an important site to study the power relations in the society. The various principles behind the operation of power in the human world are dealt with by many philosophers of whom Michel Foucault holds a unique position. Based on his famous discussion on the architectural wonder Panopticon, the principles of power mechanism are brought out and proved through two important films which are milestones in Malayalam film industry, Padmarajan's *Aparan* and Sameer Thahir's *Chappa Kurishu*.

Keywords

Cinema, power, Foucault, Panopticon, Malayalam cinema, *Aparan*, *Chappa Kurishu*.

Traversing the Critical Oeuvre of Edward Said

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Abstract

It will now be around eleven years, since Edward Said passed away on 25 September 2003. Illuminating the world of critical discourse, playing the political activist, incessantly crossing disciplinary boundaries, Said the global intellectual, tried to make the world a better place by his interventions. This paper attempts to interrogate and travel through his oeuvre, in order to resuscitate his memory, especially in the wake of heightening Israel-Palestine conflicts.

Keywords

Humanism, identity, music.

Abandoning the Rifles in Favour of Camera: Ecocritical Reading of the Photographic Hunting Narratives of Corbett and Anderson

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Abstract

There is no doubt that wildlife films and documentaries have made important contributions to environmental campaigns. But critics often claim that nature programming may misrepresent its objects in various ways, substituting error for ignorance. The way the relationship of the viewer to the wildlife is constructed may be problematic, narrowing our experience of nature, and the visual relation is further distorted by overemphasis on violence and sex. Nature programming in this way may be little better than “eco-porn.” The concern for ecology and the threat that the continuous misuse of our environment poses on humanity has recently draw our attention to those almost forgotten thinkers who, in a rational, reflective mode, provided important insights into the human-nature relationship in India. The focus in this essay is to explore the ways in which the deceptively simple form of the hunting story allows Corbett and Anderson to develop a remarkably nuanced and complex style in which their environmentalism seems to arise as a re-fashioning of the importance of hunting narratives. The hunting narratives of these two Anglo-Indian jungle writers would appear to please the arm-chair naturalists and wildlife enthusiasts of the present, to be consumed alongside a whole array of visual commentaries of wildlife films telecast through the *Discovery* and *National Geographic* channels worldwide. However they consist of a whole field of discovery in themselves, of firsthand accounts of encounter with the non-human world, socio-historical documents of environmental writing practised prior to theorising with a view to enhance ecological wisdom.

Keywords

Wildlife, photography, observation, picturesque, shooting.

Life and Self in Fragments: Undertones of Modernity in Shyamaprasad's *English*

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Abstract

Modernity is a cultural condition which evolved to become a way of life in the post-war world. The most distinctive feature of modernity is the increasing interconnection between globalising influences and personal dispositions. Cinema, which taught society to catch up with the speed of its flickering scenes, holds a mirror up to the motley crowd around the world. The "New Generation" Malayalam movies explore the trials and the tribulations of the modern selves, which arise out of the change in society, with inexplicable dexterity. The recent striking film to join the bandwagon is *English* (2013). Directed by Shyamaprasad, the film is a take on how a group of deterritorialised individuals get engulfed by the modern society they are part of. This paper is an attempt to analyse the movie with the sociological theories of Anthony Giddens, Pierre Bordieu and Henri Lefebvre along with the psychoanalytic theories of Giles Deleuze and Felix Guattari.

Keywords

Modernity, cinema, reflexivity, space, fragmentation.

Discourse as Graduated from the Word

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Abstract

This paper explores how discourse structure is cascaded from processes emerging at the word and graduating through various levels of hierarchy to affect both the purpose of text and the meanings therein. At the heart of the argument is the interface of morphology with discourse and the variant influences that underpin these two fields. The major illustrative argument made is in the interpretive manner of discourse texts as underscored by various morphological operations. The paper will argue that through such interpretation, discourse structure emerges whilst at the behest of morphology. The theoretical position taken in the paper is that such an interface of morphology and discourse can best be examined through an inferential theory of communication in this case, Relevance theory. It is important and theoretically necessary to put to scrutiny current theories of communication to the test using local languages. Hence, the language of illustration for these arguments is Lubukusu, a Bantu language found in Kenya. The choice of language is intentional owing to the robust morphology that the language possesses. Further, Babukusu speakers in the language group referred to as Luhya, are numerically superior to other dialect groups within Luhya, but scholarship in the area of discourse is curiously marginal. This paper intends to address such a disparity.

Keywords

Inferential theories, Relevance theory, discourse, morphology, levels of hierarchy.

Meta-cognitive Skills and Its Impact on Learning Achievements in Mathematics

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Abstract

Meta-cognition is one of the latest buzz words in educational psychology. Meta-cognition enables us to be successful learners and has been associated with intelligence. Activities such as planning, approaching a given learning task, monitoring comprehension and evaluating progress towards the completion of a task are meta-cognitive in nature. Because meta-cognition plays a crucial role in successful learning, it is important to study meta-cognitive activity and development to determine how students can be taught to apply their cognitive resources better through meta-cognitive control. The objectives of the study were to determine the differences in meta-cognitive skills of the students in relation to gender and management variations, to assess the difference in textual and non-textual skills in Mathematics with reference to gender and management variations, and to establish relationship between meta-cognitive skills and learning achievement of Senior Secondary School students in Mathematics. The sample for the study included 100 students of Class XI from four Senior Secondary Schools of Gangtok, Sikkim selected on simple random basis. Tool used for data collection was Meta-cognition Inventory Tool (Govil, 2003) for assessing meta-cognitive skills. The findings of the study are that there exists no significant difference in meta-cognitive, textual and non-textual skills of the students in relation to gender variation, but there exists significant difference in relation to management variation.

Keywords

Meta-cognition, textual skills, non-textual skills, learning achievements.

Government Intervention and Safe Reproductive Practices in Less Developed Regions: The Indian Experience of *Janani Suraksha Yojana*

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Abstract

Janani Suraksha Yojana is an ambitious programme by Government of India with the objective of improving maternal health. It was launched in 2005. Under this programme, women have been encouraged in the practice of three ante-natal checkups and having institutional delivery through the assistance of conditional cash transfer. The particular objective of this paper is to analyse the impact of this programme on safe reproductive practices, the practice that could reduce maternal and child mortality. The study used institutional delivery as a proxy of safe reproductive practices. Using secondary data from various literatures, government reports, and surveys the study reiterates the importance of organisational enabling factors like well designed government programmes on the decision in respect of safe reproductive health.

Keywords

Reproductive health, rural women, institutional delivery.

Social Exclusion and Education System as a Structured Source: A Study among the Students in Professional Colleges in Kottayam District, Kerala

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Abstract

Education is considered to be a powerful agent of economic development and social justice in Independent India. It is believed to be a great liberative force for bringing about social mobility and social homogeneity. But since the last two decades, there have been a number of educational reforms that pose a direct threat to the mission of educational opportunity. One of the important structured sources of inequality in education is the graded provision of different qualities of education to students with differential abilities to pay. In India caste roughly coincides with class and the SCs and the other marginalised groups constitute the socially and economically backward sections of the society. The students especially from disadvantaged sections are in turn excluded from the “high status jobs.” The present study, conducted in the professional colleges in Kottayam, reveals that differential accessibility to quality education leads to the social exclusion of SCs and other marginalised groups in the present society.

Keywords

Social exclusion, education, structured source, cultural capital, professional colleges.

Psychosocial Perspective of Traditional Medicine in India

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Abstract

Traditional medicine system, also known as indigenous medicine, comprises medical knowledge systems that were developed over generations within various societies before the era of modern medicine. The system fully engrossed and interrelated with the psychological and social well-being of the diseased person, makes the present article of paramount significance because the main objective of the paper is to highlight the psycho-social perspective of traditional medicine system of India in general and of the tribal people in particular. The present paper, in this context, attempts to explore the perception and causes of disease and illness, psycho-social views hidden under traditional medicine system, and the social role of healers among the Gond tribes of Simdega district of Jharkhand in particular and tribal societies in general. The paper concludes by suggesting the positive inclusion of this system by the Government of India and also to make earnest efforts for its institutionalisation along with other prevalent medical systems in India.

Keywords

Disease, illness, spirit, supernatural, traditional healers.

“From the Eyes of the *Bhojanmatas*”: A Sociological Study of Mid Day Meal Scheme in the Himalayas

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Abstract

The present study is a sociological exploration of the perceptions of *Bhojan Matas* or cooks of the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in 25 government primary schools from rural and urban pockets of Chamba block of Tehri district of Uttarakhand. Economic deprivation was the overriding cause for choosing this employment. MDMS was cited as being beneficial for both the children, especially the destitute, and their parents. In their daily quest to prepare quality meals rich in nutrition, taste, and variety in schools, the cooks faced obstacles such as inadequate and delayed payment of honorarium, water scarcity and insufficient government funds. Despite its weaknesses, the MDMS in Uttarakhand is providing a unique platform for bringing about economic empowerment among women who are the backbone of the scheme. The government must prioritise the case of the cooks, lend an ear to their silent voices, and address their problems. Their appeasement is essential because their work is closely connected with the nutrition, health, and well-being of children.

Keywords

Bhojanmata, nutrition, empowerment, health, children, poverty, midday meal, Uttarakhand, hunger, cooks.

Bio-Control of *Radopholus Similis* in Ginger Using *Pasteuria Penetrans*

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Abstract

The burrowing nematode *Radopholus similis* is a migratory endoparasite causing significant damage and yield reduction in ginger. A mycelial endospore forming bacterium *Pasteuria penetrans* is endoparasitic to *R.similis*. *R.similis* is highly pathogenic to ginger. It penetrates and migrates through the roots of ginger to affect the cortical tissues resulting in the destruction of roots and rhizome. Infested areas are seen as water soaked lesions. Plants infested by *R.similis* display poor growth, yellow discoloration, wilting and eventually die. Results showed significant decrease in growth characters such as plant height, leaf area index, fresh and dry shoot and rhizome weight. The weight of shoot was found to be reduced by 29% in *R.similis* infested plants. *P.penetrans* showed a marked growth enhancement in the case of shoot weight (27%). Root and rhizome decay was prominent in *R.similis* treated ginger. The bio-agent *P.penetrans* reduced the nematode population significantly. Among non-chemical management methods, bio-control is gaining importance due to its eco-friendly nature.

Keywords

Burrowing nematode, *Radopholus similis*, *Pasteuria penetrans*, ginger, bio-control.