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Strategies and Challenges of Communicating Gender Information in a Non-Gender Marking Language: The Case of Kiswahili

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Abstract

It has been often observed that Kiswahili language is non-gender marking. This is unlike languages such as French, Spanish and German which are marked for gender (Mgullu 1999, 181; Ashton 1944, 42). This situation presents a problem in regard to referencing especially in casual conversation. This paper seeks to demonstrate two things: first, the strategies employed in conveying gender information and second, some of the challenges accompanying the identified strategies. It is argued in this paper that in Kiswahili, proper nouns, social roles, common nouns and social deixis are some of the most frequently used strategies in communicating gender information. However, each of these poses certain challenges. The paper is largely based on the Neo-Gricean approach proposed by Levinson (1987).

Keywords

Gender information, gender marking, Kiswahili, nouns, deixis, neo-Gricean.

Pearl S. Buck's *My Several Worlds*: A Multicultural Autobiography

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Abstract

Pearl S. Buck was the fourth woman writer to get the Nobel Prize for Literature. She was a humanitarian who spent her lifetime totally committed to the cause of East-West understanding. This paper looks at Buck's autobiography *My Several Worlds* concentrating on how she was truly multicultural. She belonged to two worlds that were poles apart, and yet she was able to bridge the gap with her writings on these worlds and their cultures.

Keywords

Pearl S. Buck, autobiography, multicultural, multiculturalism.

Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*: A Post-modern Perspective

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Abstract

Post-modernism opens up a domain for the reading of a text from contradictory and multiple points of view in an age of fragmentation and pluralism. It rejects the idea of metanarratives which are constructed and reinforced by hegemonic power structures to discourage dissemination of power and plurality of perspective. The present paper takes into account Nathaniel Hawthorne's grand work *The Scarlet Letter* and shows how grand narratives like *The Scarlet Letter* attempt to subvert the possibility of heterogeneous human existence, thus reinforcing a patriarchal paradigm and making a politically correct statement. This reading unravels the juxtaposition of the individual narrative of an adulterous Hester against hierarchal and Meta narratives of power embedded in ecclesiastical authorities. It shows through her tale of expulsion and punishment how such personal narratives are discouraged. Besides focusing on the characters of this novel, this paper also subjects the letter "A" to a reinterpretation because of its equally powerful presence as its characters. This letter has been highlighted with its multiple meanings and is celebrated as an indeterminate symbol, thus conforming to the post modernist notion of plurality of perspective.

Keywords

Post-modernism, metanarratives, discourse, power structure, knowledge, deconstruction, hegemony, plurality, indeterminacy.

Impact of Globalisation on Women's Work: Indian Perspective

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Abstract

Women are involved in tedious, repetitious, monotonous work. Their lower wages are attributed to their secondary status in the labour market. Globalisation, even though offers unprecedented opportunities for women, has also created new and unique challenges. It has increased gender inequality. Globalisation is influencing women in multiple ways. Commodification of women is reinforced through several services and entertainment sectors. The immediate impact of globalisation is most visible in status of labour, production processes and the work culture. Various trends in labour market such as "sub-contracting," "home based," and "piecemeal" works are becoming rampant. They engage labourers at low wages providing insecure job condition. Dearth of labour laws, ignorance, and lack of enforcement of the labour codes in practice allow for the exploitation of women. There is a need to strengthen legal system which can protect women labourers. Access to legal services should be simple. There is also need to have more gender-sensitive policies.

Keywords

Globalisation, capital, multinational companies, cheap labour, sexual harassment.

Views of Students on Pharmacy Education: A Study

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Abstract

Pharmacy education is one of the professional courses which got a new dimension with the changing time and has shown significant growth in comparison with pharmacy and engineering education. Though the aim is high, the institutions offering pharmacy education fail to create necessary environment in producing the right quality output. As such the present study is aimed at exploring the views of respondents on various factors that influence the success of pharmacy education such as placement, laboratory facilities, infrastructure, availability of course material etc. A random sample of 150 student respondents studying pharmacy programme in different colleges located in Nellore and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh have been selected for the study. The study is aimed at identifying the relative importance of the factors, in addition to getting opinion of sample respondents about their perceptions and expectations along with the gap on each of these factors. An analysis on the satisfaction of respondents shows that they have a low satisfaction on pharmacy education. An appropriate statistical test such as Chi-square test of significance has been used to test the hypothesis. The test reveals that there is no significant difference of opinion on the satisfaction of the respondents in terms of gender, area of residence, and place of location.

Keywords

Education, infrastructure, pharmacy, placement, quality.

Impact of Social Networking Sites on Social Capital

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Abstract

Social capital has impact on both the individual (micro) and collective (macro) level, and its quantification therefore involves phenomena on both levels of analysis. On the collective level, social capital is often taken to be represented by norms, trust, and social cohesion. On the other hand, social capital as an additional pool of resources for the individual, which may be helpful for the individual's goal attainment, can be defined as individual capital. Social networking sites, promoting social capital formation or diminishing it, is a very interesting topic for research. The present paper will analyse the concept of social capital and social networking sites along with impact of social networking sites on social capital.

Keywords

Social networking, social capital.

Status of Sharecroppers in West Bengal: A Class Centric Analysis

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Abstract

The plight of the people belonging to the lower stratum of class hierarchy has had the attention of the Marxian literature for a long time. Considering peasant as a very important political entity, it opens up the question of the land relation to a specific type of mode of production. Thus, land reform remains as a key agenda in socialist thinking. However, in the era of neo-liberalisation this reform programme lost its importance both in theory and in practice. This paper tries to highlight the importance of such structural change programme in class centric analysis in agriculture. The paper is purely theoretical in nature. The tool adopted is only tabular representation of data collected from primary survey in the district of West Bengal, the state having illuminating performance in this regard. It is observed that the set of state policies regarding land reforms has indeed affected the feudal class structure and prepares the tempo for transformation in class processes in agriculture. The major direct threats appear in this process are increasing bills of non-land inputs in the post green revolution period.

Keywords

Land reform, bargadar, land ownership, class structure.

Women Workforce Participation in Sikkim

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Abstract

This paper deals with the status of work participation of women in Sikkim. The data presented in the *Statistical Journal 2013*, by the Department of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation, Government of Sikkim and the Census Data 2001 and 2011, Government of India have been used for the present analysis. The study tries to bring out the work participation rate in the four districts of Sikkim. It is an attempt to give inter-district comparison of female workers and male workers and district wise female and male work participation rate. The present research outcomes may benefit in analysing the reasons for less participation of women as main workers in the state.

Keywords

Gender, work participation, women.

Public Healthcare System and Service Gaps for the Disabled in India

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Abstract

India is a developing country and so is its healthcare system. Among its 1.25 Billion people, there are around 75% of the population who are yet to avail the minimum health care and it worsens in the case of disabled people. Development generally refers to the inclusive growth in all areas of Human development where as it is a sad fact that healthcare for the common masses is side lined in the name of development. Fortunately the private sector is coming to the aid of the public but not without the side effects of debt on already sunk poor families. All is not lost though, several attempts were made to reform the healthcare to make it affordable, it was not adequate to reach the masses and the disabled were not even in the picture. This paper throws light on the root cause of the plight of the disabled when comes to the public healthcare and the adaptable measures to mitigate the service gaps and increase the usability to maximize the efficiency for greater benefit.

Keywords

Healthcare, regulation, rehabilitation, conselling.

Role of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act towards Alleviating Poverty in India

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Abstract

Poverty is deprivation of political, social and economic freedom and right . Poverty is also treated as lack of information, awareness. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005) is a bold experiment in providing a minimum livelihood security to rural households through public works based employment programme. The Act can go along way towards protecting rural households form poverty and hunger. The act can help to break the dictatorship of the private employer, right to social security of rural poor, empowering rural women and curbing gender discrimination,creation of durable assets, active and revitalise the institution of local governance, give voice to the rural people, to make them aware of their rights and to live with dignity. This article looks at how NREGA plays an important role towards alleviating poverty.

Keywords

Poverty alleviation, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, women's empowerment, livelihood security, dignity, democratic institution, rural women, participation, right to work.

Stress Management in Plastic Industry: An Analytical Study in Nandyal

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Abstract

Stress is an inevitable part of today's modern life style. In this fast changing world, no individual and profession are free from stress. The nature of work has gone through drastic changes over the last century and it is still changing at whirlwind speed. The environment in which professionals work has changed. Social, political, economic, intellectual and professional trends have combined to increase stress and distress alternatives. The jobs stress has touched almost every professional starting from an artist to a surgeon, or a top executive to a normal employee. Other than the professionals, normal people like housewives, children, students, and senior citizens also are not exceptional to stress. In many job situations, a high level of stress is an integral and largely unavoidable part/component. The role expectations of an individual are increasing in their multiplicity, variety, and complexity. Everybody attempts to outperform one another to reach the top. In this competitive environment, in most situations when a person is incongruent with the demands of the job, or when an obstacle exists to the fulfilling strong needs or values, high levels of stress is produced. Stress is a mental, emotional or physical reaction resulting from an individual's response to environmental pressure and similar stimuli. Stress is generally believed to have a deleterious effect on health and performance. But a minimum level of stress is necessary for effective functioning and peak performance.

Keywords

Stress, distress alternatives, behaviour, commitment.

Safety Issues of Street Foods in Visakhapatnam

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Abstract

The practices followed by the street food vendors in food preparation and serving were observed. They were categorised into various hazards as follows—microbiological, physical and chemical: a) displaying food without lids or covers, b) handling food with hand, c) keeping cooked food for long time without temperature regulations, d) serving plates washed in small amount of stagnant water, repeatedly, without soap, e) washing area very untidy due to spilling of food from used plates and dirty water stagnation, f) accumulation of garbage, g) unhygienic maintenance of work surface with all vessels cluttered and spilling of food on and around vessels while serving, h) untidy appearance of the vendors, and i) overheating oil and its reuse. The education of consumers has to be taken up by the nutritionists and dietitians, since the unhealthy practices followed by the vendors give rise to hazardous gastro-intestinal problems.

Keywords

Street foods, food safety, contamination, vendors, consumers, hazards, infections.