

VEERASHAIVA COLLEGE, BELLARY

A REPORT ON UGC SPONSORED TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE: CURRENT TRENDS – 24TH & 25TH

February 2012.

Conducted by Dept. of English

The two day national seminar on ‘Indian English Literature, Current Trends has begun with the Inaugural session on 24th February 2012 morning at 10 Am in Seminar Hall. The Inaugural function was chaired by Sri. Allum Gurubasavaraj, Prisident, V.V. Sangha, Bellary. The honourable Vice Chancellor of V.S.K. University, Bellary Dr. Manjappa Hosamani has inaugurated the Seminar. In his address, Vice Chancellor appreciated Veerashaiva college, Bellary for conducting a national seminar on Indian English Literature for the first time in Bellary. He appealed the gathered delegates to deliberate how Indian English Literature can be utilized in the curriculum of the University, so that the student community can receive it with enthusiasm and learn English language through it. The key note address was delivered by Prof. Amith Kumar, Head, Department of Comparative Literature, and School of Inter-disciplinary Studies, the English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad. His key note address with PPT presentation mapped broadly what is going on in the area of Indian English Fiction. His presentation itself is a model for many of the delegates in writing research papers. His step by step analysis, dividing his presentation in to definite areas and then explaining in depth, quoting appropriate quotations from critics like Meenakshi Mukharjee shows his serious nature of presentation. Undoubtedly, it is scholarly, informative and also controversial. His way of connecting the contemporary realities with the motives of writing fiction in English and other

literature was interesting. The use of vocabulary and concepts and interlinking them is commendable. Though he has taken certain extreme positions and attributed middle class, brahminical tendencies to the big trio of Indian English Literature and calling Salman Rushdie and Vikram Seth as international babus are debatable. His main theme of presenting Indian reality to the western audience according to their taste by Indian English Writers because of ‘ Booker Mania’ and other motives is certainly not acceptable, but seems to be meaningful. As an alternative, he stressed the need of significant attention to be given to Indian Regional Literature, where we can find representation of Indian reality. The key note address has generated lively discussion among the delegates. The Vice Chancellor has also participated in the discussion. We have provided copies of the key note address given by Prof. Amith Kumar to all the delegates. Sri K. M. Maheshwara Swamy, Vice President of V.V. Sangha addressed the gathering. Sri Allum Gurubasaraj in his presidential address wished the seminar a great success.

In the afternoon session, Prof. Shivareddy, a popular modern Telugu poet from Hyderabad has shared his views on the path of creating poetry. He felt, it is impossible to write pure poetry. The poet is embedded in his ethos of his times and also in his life. Beyond that creating poetry is impossible. His recitation of his poems filled the gap between analysis of Amith and synchronization of Shiva Reddy.

At the end of the day, Vachana Gayana was arranged for the entertainment of delegates. The vachanas were sung in Kannada by an artist Sri Doddabasavanagouda Gavayigalu. Some of these Vachanas were recited in English by our students Niharika and group of B.Sc., IV semester. The translation in oral media compared with translation in written media has its own emerging trend. The significance of Indianness in regional literature is rightly stressed through this cultural fete of vachana gayana.

Coming to the paper presentation session, these are the most fruitful and meaningful. The sessions are planned to give maximum presentation time for the delegates and also time for the discussion on every paper. Two parallel sessions were run on two day. Around sixty papers were presented in the Seminar. The young Lecturers were encouraged to present the paper and they have got enormous experience this seminar by participating and presenting papers and also actively taking part in the discussion. The paper presented were on various issues like, Drama, Poetry, Translation, Criticism, Feminism, Dalit Literature and Diaspora. The whole Indian English Literature from 18th century renaissance to the present time is reviewed, reevaluated by the delegates. Many young women scholars focused on women writers and issues concerned to women rights. A session was devoted to the women issues chaired by Dr. Gopal Reddy.

The paper presenters, delegates, resource persons are from various states of south india, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In the second day morning Dr. Kannan from Dharwad had a plenary session on “Response to Nationalism in Indian English Literature and shift in Perspective”. I am happy to say that the total registration crossed 150 and in all 60 papers were presented. Each and every session went on fruitfully, satisfactorily and meaningfully.

The valedictory function was conducted at 4 pm on 25th February 2012 as the last session. It was presided by Dr. R. Maregoud, Principal, Gr – I, Veerashaiva College, Bellary, the valedictory address was given by Sri Sanganakal Himanthraj, Treasurer, V.V. Sangha, Bellary. In his valedictory address, he traced the development of Indian English Literature from the times of colonialism. Sri Janekunte Sannabasavaraj, Chairman, Veerashaiva College, Bellary attended the function as Chief Guest. The certificates were distributed to all the delegates at the end of the valedictory function.