

Report on Guest Lecture: "Post-Colonial Reading: An Introduction"

MS Ramaiah College of Arts, Science, and Commerce

Department of English

Date: 18 May 2024

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Venue: Vishweshwaraiah Seminar Hall

- **Introduction**

The Department of English at MS Ramaiah College of Arts, Science, and Commerce organized a guest lecture titled "Post-Colonial Reading: An Introduction" on 18 May 2024. This event was part of the Student Development Programme (SDP) initiated by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Veena Devi R S, Head of the Department of English at NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

- **Speaker Profile**

Dr. Veena Devi R S is an accomplished academic with 16 years of teaching experience. She holds a Ph.D. from Bangalore University for her thesis titled "A Re-narration of the Critical Perceptions of English Romanticism and Kannada Navodaya." Dr. Veena is a certified student counsellor and a dedicated teacher deeply committed to student welfare and career advancement. She has delivered guest lectures at various reputed institutions and has published several research papers. As an expert in post-colonial studies, Dr. Veena provided insights into key concepts of post-colonial theory and presented samples of popular post-colonial readings.

- **Event Proceedings**

The event began at 2:00 PM with an opening address by Ananya from the 2nd semester BA. Kiruthiga of 4th semester BA, then provided a brief introduction to post-colonial reading. Dr. Veena Devi R S commenced her lecture by taking the audience "back in time" to a 1930s classroom, highlighting the nature of literature and education during British colonial rule in India. She discussed the role of I.A. Richards in institutionalizing English in India and the challenges students face with modern English examinations.

Dr. Veena touched upon the works of T.S. Eliot, structuralism, post-structuralism, and the influence of Frantz Fanon on decolonization and its psychological effects. The session included an analysis of Rudyard Kipling's poem "The Overland Mail," where Dr. Veena highlighted

Kipling's orientalist biases. Kiruthiga read the poem aloud, and the audience repeated it to enhance engagement.

Dr. Veena also discussed the concept of Commonwealth literature using the "tree model" and provided insights into conducting postcolonial readings. She made the session interactive by walking around with a microphone, encouraging questions from both students and teachers.

- **Interactive Session**

The interactive session featured thought-provoking questions from students and teachers. One student asked if there was any writing Dr. Veena had read before studying post-colonial theory that changed her perspective completely. Dr. Veena cited the example of the American writer Katherine Mayo and her work "Mother India." Another student inquired about the potential of postcolonial theories to recover and reinterpret lost or damaged literature from cultures impacted by colonialism, particularly African literature. Dr. Veena explained how post-colonial theory provides tools to critique and reclaim suppressed narratives, offering a deeper understanding of these cultures' literary heritage.

The session, lasting about two hours, was highly engaging despite the complexity of the content. Dr. Veena's dynamic approach and willingness to engage with the audience made the material accessible and interesting. Teachers, in particular, found the discussions stimulating and asked numerous insightful questions.



- **Conclusion**

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Sarvani B of the 4th semester, BA. Dr. Darsana, the English Department HOD presented Dr. Veena Devi R S with a beautifully crafted portrait by Loyumba. Dr. Darsana also expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the event.

