



CSM's

Arts and Commerce College, Chakan



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One Day
State Level Seminar
On
'Criticism : New Approaches'

Organized by
Department of English

In association with
Savitribai Phule Pune University

(Under Quality Improvement Programme)

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Feminism and Feminist literary Criticism

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The idea of feminism dates back in 18th century, with the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's book 'A Vindication of the Rights of Women in' 1792. Virginia Woolf's 'A Room of one's own' published in 1929 and Simone De Beauvoir's 'The Second Sex' published in 1949 also discuss feminism and feminist ideas. The women's movement of the 1960 brought a full circle to feminism. The theory known as Feminist Literary Criticism is a product of 'Women's Movement' in 1960. Not only women but men philosophers also supported feminist theory. John Stuart Mill's 'The Subjection of Women' published in 1869 and Friedrich Engels's 'The Origin of Family' published in 1884 are good examples of feminist writing.

Image of women reflected in literature was considered to be a role model for women. The meek, submissive, inferior image of women and dominating, strong, superior men characters were the most important forms of socialization. Feminist criticism challenges such type of character display which captures cultural mind set in men and women leading to sexual inequality. Feminist criticism thus aims to expose the mechanism of patriarchy. Being female is a matter of biology but being feminine is a set of characteristics defined traditionally. According to Elaine Showalter, in late 1970s an attention of readers is shifted from 'androtexs' (books by men) to 'gynotexs' (books by women). Showalter also detects three distinct phases of women writing. Feminine phase (1840-1880) in which women writers wrote in accordance with the standards set by dominant men writers. They simply imitated male artistic norms. Feminist phase (1880-1920) in which radical and own positions are maintained. Though male influence is seen, women have their separate ideas and innovative experiences. Female phase (1920 onwards) in which women wrote a completely different and real life experiences of their own.

Feminist critical theory accepts the conventions of literary realism and considers literature in connection with women's lives and experiences evaluated against reality. Women, irrespective of caste, religion or nationality have to suffer in the patriarchal, male dominated world. Portrayal of women characters in fiction on the one hand attracts reader's sympathy and on the other hand they make a mindset of readers like that. Women are given

secondary treatment in society but more than that they are convinced to be inferior. In this connection feminist literary critical theory shows a link with psychoanalysis. Relationship of feminism with psychoanalysis is complex. Kate Millets 'Sexual Politics' published in 1969 Blames Freud for patriarchal attitudes. But Juliet Mitchell's 'Psychoanalysis and feminism' published in 1974 defends Freud. According to Mitchell there is a distinction between sex and gender, sex is biological matter while gender is a social construct. Simone De Beauvoir's 'The Second Sex' Published in 1949 starts with a sentence "one is not born a woman, rather one becomes a woman."

Almost all critical theories trace their roots to a single author who has established the particular critical theory. The feminist literary criticism is an exception. Its not associated with a single author but its feminist literary practices as an interdisciplinary study including history, sociology and psychology. Despite different feminist approaches to literary study, it shares some common beliefs. All feminist critics accept that the injustice of women's oppression must be eliminated. Feminist critics believe that gender becomes crucial factor in the interpretation of literary theory since literary history is shaped by androcentric biases. Feminist critics argue that all literary study is subjective and value driven. Feminist critics acknowledge their political agenda to redress the marginalization of women in literature. Feminist critics recognize that since literature reflects and shapes culture, it can help with to eliminate the oppression of women in the literature.

Feminist critics aim to do the following,

- Rediscovery of the texts written by women.
- Revalue women's experience.
- Challenge women's representation in literature as secondary entity.
- Examine and distinguish representation of women in literature by men and women.
- Recognize the role of language in socialization.
- Raise questions whether the difference in a man and a woman is biological or social.
- Apply psychoanalysis to explore the issues of male and female identify.
- State how women writers have been affected by patriarchal assumptions.

Arundhati Roy in her 'The God of Small Things' breaks all the conventions that a woman novelists were supposed to follow. The descriptions in her novel are bold enough for a woman novelist. Her protagonist Ammu elopes with an unknown man and gets into a wedlock. When her husband turns out to be a heavy drunkard, she returns to her hometown Ayemenem. At hometown she leads very miserable life with her twin Estha and Rahel. Ultimately she develops an illicit relation with Velutha- the paravan who too gets attracted to

Ammu. Love and sex relation between Ammu and Velutha is described very vividly by Arundhati Roy. It's a daring step for a woman writer to use the words and phrases like that. Three generations of Ayemenem family are seen changing their role with time. Mammachi, Ammu and Rahel are three representative women. Arundhati Roy makes her text autobiographical, in that she mentions her own real life experiences. Feminist literary criticism thus explores day by day and is used by almost all women novelists of the world.

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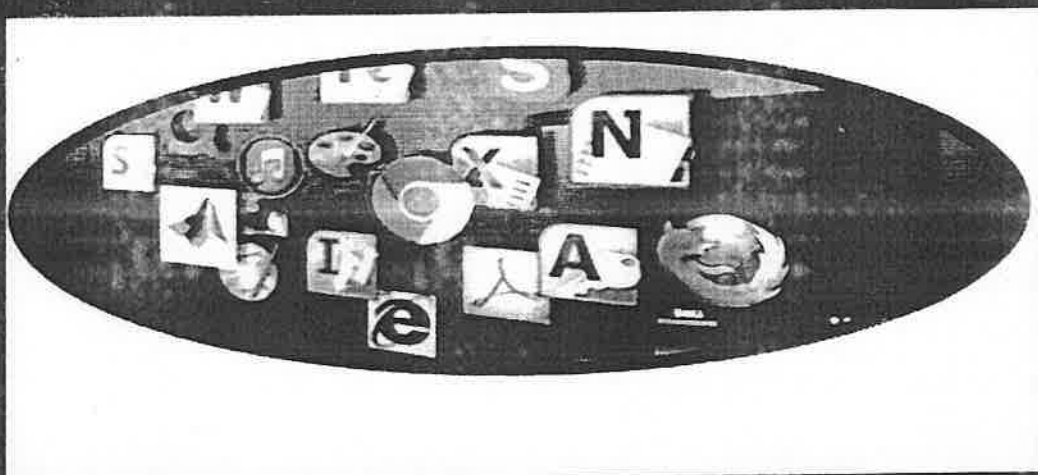


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on**

**Innovative Techniques and Technologies in the Teaching
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Under

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Dr. Somprasad Kenjale
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REVIEW OF RESEARCH

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TEACHING ENGLISH WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

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ABSTRACT:

Language is just a medium to convey communicate respond and appreciate. Teaching English with mass media and social media becomes not only interesting but challenging too Teaching of medium with media becomes enjoyable. It helps teaching all language skills inside as well as outside the classroom.

KEY WORDS: Media, Social media, viral mass media, interactions, forward, online upload, download, share criticism, appreciation, test, taste etc.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a medium and teaching language with another medium is like a fun. Mass media, Social media help in teaching English as a language and English as a literature. Traditional ways of teaching English were fruitful but there were limitations with internet, the media becomes so powerful that anything becomes viral in no time. Apart from the misuses or disadvantages of social media, English Teaching and Learning becomes enjoyable with social media. Its easy fast free and comprehensive. Books, Journals, Newspapers and Periodicals as a Print Media helped learning updates but with Internet, Facebook, Whatsapp,

Twitter, Messenger it becomes yet more and more living.

ENGLISH AS A LANGUAGE:

Teaching English as a language in India becomes easy day by day. In Pre-Independence and Post-Independence era only British English was accepted in India but in current times American English makes its own place. The varieties of British English and American English differ a lot. Vocabulary, Spelling and Grammar change according to these varieties. Traditionally British English was used as an official language in India. Received pronunciations were said to be standard but later especially with the development IT industry, American English came to be known as a popular variety of English. Software Languages use American Variety.

Now teaching English Language with Books, Notebooks and Blackboard is outdated. Activities are performed in Schools and Colleges. Technology is taken into consideration. Groups are formed according to learner's ability language laboratory software is developed which provides a facility to test all language skills of a learner. With a smartphones audio, video recording and using it an error detector becomes easy, one can record one's own speech and listen it for improvement. On internet we see everything is made available

YouTube provides ample videos to learn. Advance learners can upload their own and get a feedback. Whatsapp and give an opportunity to form groups of similar interest. Open ended questions can be shared with unknown scholars. Simply send messages, news, jokes and captions to one's vocabulary automatically. There are word games and riddles which teach keeping our interest intact. Sharing, Responding, Commenting, Taunting indirectly improves all skills. There is simple source of skills as listening and reading to develop the skills as writing and speaking.

ENGLISH AS A LITERATURE:

English literature was then taught to students in classrooms only but now anybody can read and enjoy literary pieces of own choice. Plays and recited poems can give better comprehension. Translation work helps a lot to encounter with word literature. Masterpieces famous and popular can be easily downloaded and enjoyed reading mere comments enrich our literary taste. Play, fiction, poetry, story and essay of any era is easily available. Analysis and translated versions are ready there. Literary schools and critical theories made own websites which group similar and identical literature. Uploading and downloading on internet gives an opportunity to new artists and writers. Anyone can express and share his ideas to masses.

It was a time in the history when being a writer or a poet was very difficult but now a common man can also compose his own lines and upload the same to masses. Translation works very fast on internet. One word is provided with its counterpart in almost all languages. Critical appreciation can be analysed and shared to many at a time. A quick response and feedback encourage the literary activities. Literature groups get a flavor of variety master pieces. Teaching English as literature becomes easy and enjoyable with social media.

CONCLUSION:

Mass media like newspaper, radio and television was serving the educational purpose very powerfully to teach English language and literature. Recent Social media makes the learning fun and easy, English language and literature reaches its peak with social media.

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