

GROWING TERRAINS
Recent Developments in English Language
and Literature in 21st Century

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Dinesh Kumar

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 **Pacific Books International**

**Growing Terrains: Recent Developments in English
Language and Literature in 21st Century**

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Foreword

It gives me immense pleasure to write the Foreword of the book “*Growing Terrains: Recent Developments in English Language and Literature in 21st Century*” edited by Dinesh Kumar.

Dinesh Kumar has been working as an Associate Professor and Head, P.G. Department of English at Dyal Singh College, Karnal, India for the last 18 years. He is the sole author of four books: *George Orwell’s Social Vision: A Critical Study* (2019); *Voices in Literature* (2020), *Feministic Ethos in Pre-Independence and Post-Independence Indian Literature* (2021, Lambert Publication, Germany), *Reflection of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar’s Ideology in English Literature: A Critical Evaluation* (2023).

Besides, he has also edited nine books: *English Language as Mediator of Human-Machine Communication*; *Drops of Intensity*; *Studies in Modern English*, *Mapping Feminism: Unearthing Women’s Existence in the World Nexus*; and *Literature in English: Critical Appreciations*, and *Colonial to Postcolonial: A Trajectory of Literatures from Indian Subcontinent, World Literature through the Lens of Postcolonialism Perspectives: A Critical Study*. and *English Evoked: 21st Insights into English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*, and *Global Voices: Innovations in English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*.

Dinesh Kumar has more than 50 research papers to his credit in various National and International Journals both in India and abroad. His thrust areas of research comprise Feminism, Dalit literature, Comparative literature, Commonwealth literature and Post-modernism.

He has attended 47 National and 30 International conferences in India as well as in abroad and attended more than 25 Faculty Development Programs in India and outside. Besides, he has also contributed 30 (thirty) book chapters on different topics-feminism, eco-feminism, translation studies, Dalit literature, linguistics and postcolonialism in different books published with ISBN number.

As an Associate Professor, Dinesh Kumar has also delivered more than 27 extension lectures on different genres: poetry, plays, fiction. He has also chaired 25 Technical Sessions in various conferences. Since 2015 Dinesh Kumar is also rendering his services as an active member of the editorial boards (editor and reviewer) of different National and International journals.

English literature as a subject is studied with a view to enhance and empower the students. It is always believed that language is very much a part of a history and literature, a reflection of the culture. The challenge for Literature educators today is to constantly think of ways to connect the subject to real-life issues for their students. Literature teaches us humanity-to be sensitive and empathetic towards others and it even helps us to make connections between the literary texts and the real life situations. This helps students to see how the key concepts and ideas they learn in the literature classroom quite evident in other cultures are and contexts.

Besides, there has been a rise in experimental forms of storytelling, with authors incorporating multimedia elements such as videos, images and hyperlinks into their works. Global literature has become more prominent in the 21st century as authors from diverse cultures and countries gain recognition and impact of the literary landscape. Literature in the

21st century has gone through significant changes in its evolution, showing its dynamic and ever-changing art form that continues to push boundaries and challenges traditional notions of storytelling.

Creative non-fiction, as a popular genre in the 21st century, is creating new styles, skills and techniques in the literary arena. It has also developed a crafty style and techniques in poetry, fiction and drama to explore fictional truth. Avoiding fabrication and manipulations of facts, it focuses on realism in the society.

In this type of genre, the author formulates the content by taking into consideration the opinions, observations memory, experiences and testimonies. The author of non-fiction deals with the objective details as he/she takes into consideration both sides of any aspect without any biasness.

In other words, the readers find a harmonious blending of reality and fact by reaching on a logical argument. We also find an amalgamation of other aspects too: style and substance; scene and information; style and information with all combined to in convey the truth to enthrall and entertain the readers.

Climate Fiction is another literary innovation in the field of English literature during the 21st century. It is a term which was coined by Dan Bloom, a journalist. Climate Fiction concentrates on the narratives of climate changes and its harmful consequences on human beings in near future. The readers' imagination is always haunted by the issues related to environmental changes. *Carbon Dreams* by Susan M Gaine is an exploration of destruction of human instigated by climate changes. J.G Ballard's *The Wind from Nowhere* is an illustration of rapid changes taking place in the environment, and *The*

Drought deals with the ruined created by the environment.

Flash Fiction is a new and latest advancement and progress in the field of English literature during the 21st century. Having its origin in the ancient Greek fables, myths and parable, Flash Fiction is a significant trend in contemporary period through the works of O'Henry, Franz Kafka, Italo Calvino, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortazar, Isak Dinesen, Robert Walser and Yosumari Kawabata. Somerset Maugham, Arthur C. Clarke, Ray Bradbury and Kurt Vonnegut also accelerated the pace of this genre in the present time.

As a modern fictional genre, Mythopoeia has been one of the most popular and dominant trends in the 21st century. Mythopoeia means creating fictional mythology. It has its origin in J.R.R. Tolkien's poem in 1930s. The author uses mythology and creative art of myth-making by rejecting rationality based on Science and technology. He, further, suggests that Mythopoeia narrates spiritual and fundamental truths. Consequently, due to enormous contribution made by like C. S. Lewis, H. P. Love Craft, Lord Dunsany (Edward Plunkett), George MacDonald, it evolved as a separate genre. Sometimes it is also termed as fantasy or science fiction.

Young Adult Literature emerged as a different form of literary genre in 21st century, especially for adolescent readers. (Age 12 to 18) Having inconsistency in this term, Young Adult Literature narratives focus on the protagonist's evolution from youth to adulthood. Among the various features of Young Adult Literature comprise- mystery, thrill, and romance to horror and, last but not the least, the ups and downs of the teens. Imbued with realistic details in the first person narration, the credit of writing Young Adult Literature goes to Maureen Daly who recounts her personal

experiences in her work, *The Seventeenth Summer in 1942*. In this work, she deals with diverse issues of teenagers-romance, heartbreak, smoking, drinking and angst.

Emergence in the field of English literature in the form of hypertext fiction, interactive fiction and video games coupled with literary narrative approaches, Digital Literature is a new type of genre that is developing leaps and bounds. Digital Literature is not printed rather expressed through media, art, images, sound, video and hyperlinks.

Visual imagery plays a prominent role in Digital Literature through similes. Being an effective literary trend in 21st century, the popularity of Digital Literature has gone viral in recent times. Due to enormous use of internet and media, Digital Literature is developing in different forms- E-books, novels and poems which are available to fill the void as it as a direct access to world libraries and book stores.

Literature through video games is another significant upcoming trend in electronic literature. It is gaining currency in the present day literary productions. It is sometimes different from Digital Literature. It is a fact that video games in the present century are becoming successful in the adaptation of literary narratives. In the literature presented through video games, there is the demand of interactivity through the players. The chief advantage of this literature is the liberty inbuilt to explore the game and the story in individual terms.

The exception feature that separates the video game literature from other types of literatures is that the players become the co-producers of the game through interactivity. In the video game of Dante's *Inferno*, the player is Dante and the game presented as the Templar knight. He explores the entire area of

(x)

hell to rescue Beatrice from Lucifer and to defeat all his enemies. In Andrzej Sapkowski's work, *The Witcher*, the role of protagonist is played by the player who has to be co-creator to progress with the story narratives. All this throw ample light on the fact that literature evolves along with the cultural taste of society.

English language, with its millions of learners, has become a global phenomenon. Culture is the dominating factor that affects and links the people all around. Because of diverse cultures all around, there are numerous challenges and opportunities that the English learners are facing in the wake of globalization.

In the 21st century, significant advancements and growth can be perceived in the field of English language. Various factors are responsible for shaping and evolution of English language-digital media, migration of population and cross cultural communication. Due to excessive adoption of internet and smart phones and social media, language has undergone radical and drastic changes. It is also responsible for new forms of communication-text messaging, social media posts which, further, give rise to new linguistic forms to convey one's ideas and emotions. Wide spread globalization and migration has also helped the people to come close to each others. Consequently, new dialects and new language varieties are emerging day-by-day. Spanglish is such a variety, a mixture of Spanish and English.

In 21st century, technology has profoundly affected teaching and learning of English. Online language learning has opened new avenues and vistas to get the knowledge of English accessible and, thereby, has broadened their culture horizons. A group of leading scholars in socio-linguistics and language policy examines trends in language use across the world to

find answers to these questions and to make predictions about likely outcomes.

In many countries around the world, social distancing measures have limited human interaction during the couple of previous years. However, people still recognise that our ability to connect with each other is one of the most rewarding aspects of the human experience.

Typically learners have two choices – either choose a language that lots of people speak, like English or Spanish, or focus on a less common language such as Japanese. In the latter case, language fluency enables learners to stand out with a specific skill set that not many people have – this can often lead to hiring bonuses and increased salaries

Undoubtedly, the ability to communicate in another language enables us to immerse ourselves fully within new and different cultures. It opens up (and opens us up to) the arts, culture, food and history of the people who speak that language. In doing so, our newly-developed language skills help build understanding which, in turn, supports increased acceptance, empathy and tolerance.

Speaking in your new language lies at the heart of every learner's experience. Often you will be paired with a stranger to practice a particular piece of grammar or asked to stand in front of the class to outline your opinion on a key topic. These are great ways of building your confidence and growing outside of your comfort zone.

Literature and language continue to evolve in response to globalization, technological advancements, and shifting artistic dynamics, there's a dire necessity understand the implications of these trends for literary production, verbal diversity, and artistic representation.

Critical approaches encompassed in the chapters of this book represent a rich tapestry of perspectives, encompassing English literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies. These varied lenses provide contributors with unique tools to interrogate literary texts, revealing hidden truths and challenging established norms within grand-narratives and canonical discourses. By embracing multiple perspectives, contributors engage in dynamic and interdisciplinary dialogue, enriching our understanding and knowledge of literature, grammar and translation practice.

Besides, the book seems to serve the scholars who are keen to understand and interpret literature from different perspectives in the sphere of English language and translation. All the articles contributed by different academicians, teachers and scholars will be highly beneficial and will stimulate the readers' intellectual abilities. The writings assimilated in this anthology will also benefit the readers in the sense of instruction and information. From that angle, the readers will find the practical utility of the researchers presented in this collection.

It is important to note that the chapters in this collection epitomize a synthesis of intellectual rigor and scholarly inquiry, showcasing the dedicated endeavors of contributors from diverse academic domains. Each chapter presents distinctive viewpoints and insightful analyses that enriches our comprehension of the intricate dynamics within literary and cultural studies. Serving as gateways to varied realms of literary exploration, these chapters beckon readers to embark on a voyage of critical inquiry and intellectual discovery alongside the authors.

In prefacing this collection of original articles on English literature, and linguistics, I do believe, the

(xiii)

present book will be a catalyst for further exploration and discussion within academic circles and beyond. May the ideas encapsulated within these pages kindle curiosity, stimulate deep reflection, and enrich the perpetual pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

I wish him all success in his mission and hope that he will continue his literary interest for his own intellectual development as well as for those who are interested in literature, language and translation.

Dr. Victoria Albert

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Acknowledgements

Growing Terrains: Recent Developments in English Language and Literature in 21st Century primarily speaks of my own experiences as a teacher of English literature, language and linguistics. As an academic endeavour, the present anthology stands as a beacon guiding readers through the labyrinthine corridors of English literature, linguistics and translation studies in the 21st century. This book is not merely a collection of articles, but also serves as a testament to the enduring power of literature and language to inspire, challenge and illuminate.

Expressing gratitude is a fortunate opportunity, yet it poses a considerable challenge. There is a risk of overlooking individuals who have been a source of inspiration and have significantly contributed to the completion of one's work.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable help and guidance that I received from various persons and sources in the pursuit of this book.

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(xvi)

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(xx)

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World Literature through the Lens of Postcolonial Perspectives: A Critical Study

English Evoked: 21st Century Insights into English Literatures, Linguistics and Translation Studies

Global Voices: Innovations in English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies

Contents

<i>Forewords</i>	<i>(v)</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>(xv)</i>
<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>(xvii)</i>
<i>Editorial Board</i>	<i>(xix)</i>
<i>Recent Publications</i>	<i>(xxi)</i>
	<i>Pages</i>
1. An Overview of M.H. Abrams' Essay 'The Deconstructive Angel' — <i>Dr. Anshu Chaudhary</i>	1
2. Eco-critical Perspectives in Frank Herbert's <i>Dune</i> <i>Anushka Singh; Dr. Archana Sharma</i>	13
3. Cinematic Sisterhood: The Journey of Feminism in Indian Films — <i>Syed Nafisa Parveen; Dr. Sujitha Chandrakala</i>	33
4. Examining the Transformation of Self in Bharti Mukherjee's Diasporic Fiction — <i>Dr. Gurpreet Kaur</i>	54
5. A Study of Semiotic Encryption in the Plays of Manjula Padmanabhan — <i>Dr. Neelam Hooda</i>	65
6. Exploring the Void: Unraveling Existential Dilemmas through Communication and Non-Verbalism in Samuel Beckett's <i>Waiting for Godot</i> — <i>Simran Kamboj</i>	78

7. Critiquing British Colonialism in India: A Study of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* 95
—Dr. Anju Mehra
8. The Oppression of Black Women and Colonization in the Selected Works of Tsitsi Dangarembga 108
—Dr. Jasmeen Kaur; Monika Mehra
9. Marriage, Gender, and Class Mobility in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* 119
—Dr. Deepti Sharma
10. Major Trends in Indian Writing in English: A 21st Century Viewpoint 128
—Azad Singh
11. Role of Fate and Flaws in Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge: The Life and Death of a Man of Character* 139
—Pamposh Ganjoo
12. Minority Voices as Depicted in the Films of PA. Ranjith and Vetrimaran 149
—Dr. E. Justin Ruben; Dr. A. Santha Devi
13. Eco-criticism: A Study of 21st Century Indian Literature 161
—Dr. L Sangeetha
14. Digital Storytelling: A Holistic Method for Language Learning in the 21st Century Classroom 171
—Dr. Gurleen Ahluwalia
15. Genre Genesis of American Short Stories: A Poetic Aspect 183
—Oksana Babelyuk