



# UMT

## ICSLA 2024

### International Conference of the School of Liberal Arts

University of Management and Technology Lahore

## Conference Theme

## PERIPHERAL EPISTEMOLOGIES: VOICING THE UNVOICED

Abstract Book  
&  
Conference Proceedings  
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International Conference  
of the  
School of Liberal Arts

*University of Management and Technology, Lahore*

**Abstract Book**

**&**

**Conference Proceedings**

**Conference Theme**

Peripheral Epistemologies: Voicing the Unvoiced

**Date and Venue**

18-20 April 2024

*UMT, C-II Johar Town, Lahore, Pakistan*

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## ICSLA 2024 Abstract Book & Conference Proceedings

### **Edited by**

Dr Nadia Anwar  
Dr Muhammad Asif

### **Compiled by**

Dr Muhammad Asif

### **Designed by**

OCM UMT

## Preface

Welcome to the first International Conference of the School of Liberal Arts (ICSLA-2024) on “Peripheral Epistemologies: Voicing the Unvoiced”, scheduled from April 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This three-day event aims to amplify marginalized narratives, particularly in the cultural, historical, literary and linguistic realms.

Our conference provides a platform for scholars, practitioners, and activists to explore the richness of vernacular languages, folk narratives, and indigenous cultures. Keynote speakers and publication opportunities in associated academic journals further enrich the conference experience.

By focusing on voices often neglected or silenced, we aim to encourage inclusivity, diversity, and dialogue within academic discourse. Through interdisciplinary discussions, we seek to illuminate the challenges faced by marginalized communities in preserving their cultural heritage and language. We invite contributions that investigate various aspects of peripheral epistemologies, including linguistics diversity, gender politics in literature, societal concerns and the impact of globalization on indigenous cultures.

With a focus on original research and innovative methodologies, ICSLA-2024 strives to contribute to the scholarly understanding of peripheral epistemologies and their significance in a globalized world. We look forward to engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and meaningful collaborations during this enriching conference.

We extend our gratitude to our sponsors, collaborators, and participants for their support. Together, let us embark on a journey of exploration and discovery, uplifting the voices of the unvoiced and contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of cultural diversity and social justice.

## Patron-in-Chief's Message:

### International Conference of the School of Liberal Arts

Universities play a vital role in facilitating intellectual exchange and nurturing innovative ideas. The School of Liberal Arts (SLA) at UMT takes immense pride in hosting the International Conference of the School of Liberal Arts (ICSLA-2024), themed “Peripheral Epistemologies: Voicing the Unvoiced”. This interdisciplinary and multilingual conference marks a significant milestone in our dedication to promoting inclusivity and diversity within academic discourse, especially in the domain of liberal arts.



ICSLA-2024 transcends conventional boundaries by providing a platform for researchers and scholars to explore marginalized narratives and knowledge systems often sidelined in mainstream academia. The conference theme resonates profoundly with UMT's core values of academic excellence and intellectual vibrancy. By amplifying these under-represented voices, we aspire to enrich our understanding of history, culture, society, anthropology, literature, and language.

The conference marks a special moment in Pakistani academia by bringing on board representations from all provinces of Pakistan and global voices through an array of interesting presentations, storytelling sessions, panel discussions, pre-conference book launch event, and theatrical performances rounded up by a unique cultural fest that aims to showcase Pakistan's rich cultural heritage.

As a catalyst for innovation and discovery through interdisciplinarity, multilingualism, and a focus on under-represented voices, hosting ICSLA-2024 positions UMT as a leader in promoting cutting-edge research, global connections and recognition, and diversity, the hallmarks of sustainable development goals. I am confident that

ICSLA-2024 will inspire groundbreaking research, encourage a more inclusive academic environment and bring the less-heard voices and epistemologies into mainstream academia. I urge all participants to actively engage in dialogue, share their knowledge, and embark on new avenues of scholarly inquiry.

Welcome to ICSLA-2024!

Prof Dr Asif Raza (T.I & H.I)

Rector

University of Management and Technology (UMT)

### Conference Chair's Message:

On behalf of the School of Liberal Arts at the University of Management and Technology, Lahore, I am honoured to welcome you to the International Conference of the School of Liberal Arts (ICSLA-2024) on “Peripheral Epistemologies: Voicing the Unvoiced”. This three-day event, taking place from April 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, promises to be a vibrant platform for scholarly interactions.



ICSLA-2024 represents a significant milestone in our commitment to nurturing inclusivity and intellectual diversity within academic discourse. This conference brings together a distinguished gathering of scholars, practitioners, and activists, from all provinces of Pakistan and abroad, to engage in critical discussions around the significance of “peripheral epistemologies” – the knowledge systems and narratives often relegated to the margins. This three-day conference is a unique event adorned with a pre-conference book launch event, performances, panel discussions, storytelling events, and a cultural fest in addition to plenary sessions and 60+ regular concurrent sessions. By focusing on vernacular languages, folk narratives, and indigenous cultures, we aim to illuminate the richness and complexity of human experience, encouraging a more comprehensive understanding of our shared world.

We are extremely grateful to Prof Dr Asif Raza, our esteemed Patron, whose invaluable support and leadership have been instrumental in realizing this conference. His dedication to interdisciplinary dialogue and academic excellence serves as an inspiration to us all. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the President of UMT for believing in our efforts and our esteemed keynote speakers and presenters, whose expertise will undoubtedly spark innovative thinking and transformative research in the years to come.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank our collaborators – Digitizing Folk Wisdom, Oxford University Press, Pakistan Academy



of Letter, Alkitaab Bookcafe, and local and international artists and professionals – for contributing into making this conference a huge success. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to UMT Offices; namely, ORC, OFE, OCM, OSSV, and OTE for their constant support and facilitation. Without exaggeration, the efforts and commitment of the ICSLA team from SLA have set a precedent for the future organizers of events that serve as a catalyst for meaningful dialogues pushing the boundaries of knowledge and intellectual exchange.

We extend our warmest wishes for a productive and enriching conference experience. May your participation at ICSLA-2024 be filled with stimulating discussions, fruitful collaborations, and lasting intellectual inspiration.

Dr Nadia Anwar

Chair, ICSLA-2024  
Acting Dean, School of Liberal Arts  
University of Management and Technology, Lahore

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Rector, University of Management and Technology

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- **Ms Kinza Iqbal**  
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## List of Papers

### Testimonials

### Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speech 1: From Ontology to Epistemology and Methodology: Discovering Possibilities of Indigenous Theory

*Prof Dr Safeer Awan*

Keynote Speech 2: Lives of Four Pioneering Women—Atiya Fyzee Rahamin, Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah, Abida Sultaan and Shireen Nana

*Ms Muneeza Shamsie*

Keynote Speech 3: Politics of Peripheral Voices in Pakistani Theatre: New Dimensions and Fresh Insights

*Dr Taimur Kayani*

Keynote Speech 4: Oral Histories, Digital Spaces and Marginalized Voices

*Dr Muhammad Hasan Zafar*

Keynote Speech 5: Trans Fabulations: Moving Beyond Peripheral Performance Epistemologies

*Dr Claire Pamment*

Keynote Speech 6: Remapping Palestine

*Dr Salah D Hassan*

Keynote Speech 7: “The Sorrows of Ancestral Abodes”: A Bioregional Reading of Nasir’s Nature Poetry

*Dr Munazza Yaqoob*

Keynote Speech 8: Valuing Voices from Presumed Margins: Dialectics on Gender and Islam in Pakistan

*Dr Muhammad Abdullah*

Keynote Speech 9: Navigating the Digital Nexus: Social Media’s Dual Role in Suppressing and Amplifying Peripheral Epistemologies

*Dr Sonia Irum*

## **Presentations**

Presentation 1: Peripheral Epistemologies: Redefining Global Indigenous Romance through Pankhaj Mishra's *The Romantics*

*Ms Sadia Tahira*

Presentation 2: Gazing Precarious Masculinities: Excavating Phallocentric Burden and Masculine Sentimentalism in *Circus of Life* (2019)

*Ms Shama Iqbal Hussain*

Presentation 3: Illusion to Subversion of Metanarratives: The Conundrum of Political Identity in Mohammad Hanif's Literary Journalism

*Ms Faiqa Rashid*

Presentation 4: Exploring Colonial Resilience in *What You Pawn I Will Redeem* through Narrative Intersectionality

*Mr Nafey ud Din*

Presentation 5: Compounding and Derivation in English and Pahari: A Comparative Study

*Ms Ushna Gul*

Presentation 6: Social Justice in Applied Linguistics: Towards an Equitable Society

*Ms Urooj Yahya*

Presentation 7: Language, Media, and War: A Linguistic Analysis of Gulf War-I as Media Hyperreality

*Mr Khalid Mahmood, Tamgha-i-Imtiaz*

Presentation 8: Manipulation of Country's Reputation in Pakistani Political Cartoons: A Thematic Analysis

*Dr Ghazala Kausar and Mr Muhammad Zulqarnain*

Presentation 9: The Signifying Afro-American Jazz: Exploring Kamau Brathwaite's "Soweto"

*Dr Bushra Siddiqui*

Presentation 10: Tracing Personal Trauma of Ahed in “They Called Me a Lioness”: A Palestinian Girl’s Fight for Freedom

*Ms Ayesha Zaaman*

Presentation 11: Traumatic Impacts on Poetry of North Waziristan: Resisting A Neo-Colonial Discourse

*Mr Haider Ihsan Dawar*

Presentation 12: *Returning to Haifa* in the Light of Necropolitics

*Ms Aeisha Altaf*

Presentation 13: Myth-Making and Magical Realism: A Study of Selected Pakistani Fiction

*Ms Anosh Rehman*

Presentation 14: Voices of the Void: Exploring Refugee’s Forced Displacement Beyond the Physical Border in Khaled Hussein’s *Sea Prayer*

*Ms Shanila Aziz*

Presentation 15: Use of Absurdity and Stereotype as a Technique of Humor in Muhammad Hanif’s *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti* (2011) and *Red Birds* (2018)

*Ms Maryam Munir*

Presentation 16: Tracing the Dionysian Aesthetic: An Analysis of the Surrealist Mode of Defamiliarization in the Selected Poetic Works of Federico Garcia Lorca

*Mr Hamza Mudassir*

Presentation 17: Literary Narratives of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict: A Comprehensive Analysis of Selected Novels from Israel and Palestine

*Lt Col Dr Assad Mehmood Khan*

Presentation 18: Beyond the Canvas: Iqbal Hussain’s Poignant Depiction of the Silent Struggles Faced by Women

*Ms Zahida Riaz and Ms Naheed Ashfaq Qureshi*



Presentation 19: Gender Construction in Legal Discourse: A Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis of Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 in Pakistan

*Ms Farkhanda Aziz*

Presentation 20: A Textual Study of the Peripheral Existence of the Unvoiced Women in *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Stetson

*Ms Hurriya Zahra and Ms Aasma Iram*

Presentation 21: Impact Assessment of a 5-Day Training Program on English Language and Job Skills for Transgender Youth

*Dr Muhammad Umer Azim*

Presentation 22: Natural Vs Grammatical Gender: Teaching Implications

*Mr Usman Ali*

Presentation 23: ChatGPT & ESL Teachers: Bridging Role of ChatGPT in Second Language Learning

*Mr Muhammad Riaz Khan and Ms Malaika Iqbal*

Presentation 24: Digitizing the English Language Learning Classrooms

*Mr Ahmad Hassan*

Presentation 25: Analyzing the Linguistic Landscape of Pakistan Amidst General Elections 2024: Contestation of Power and Linguistic Pollution

*Dr Samia Tahir and Ms Neelma Riaz*

Presentation 26: Commodification of Otherness: A Qualitative Analysis of Female Representation in Pakistani Advertisements

*Dr Tamsila Naeem*

Presentation 27: Pictures Say What Words Can't: A Visual Grammar Analysis of Pakistani Facebook Posts about Palestinian Issue

*Ms Zakia Mushtaq*

Presentation 28: A Tale of Two Politicians: A Comparative Discourse Analysis of Pre-poll Podcasts of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

*Ms Salma Aftab*

Presentation 29: Reconnoitering Khusrau's Ambilingual Translingualism in his Qawwali "Zihal-e-Miskeen"

*Dr Priya Avais*

Presentation 30: Exploring Subalternity in Rabbani's *Invisible People*

*Ms Samreen Ishaq*

Presentation 31: A Study of Food and Culinary Metaphors in Elif Shafak's *The Bastard of Istanbul*

*Ms Tayyaba Jawad*

Presentation 32: Myths, Subjugation and Resistance: Manifesting Subversive Performativity in Datta Bhagat's Play *The Whirlpool*

*Mr Muhammad Anees*

Presentation 33: Gender Representation in Media Discourse: An Interpretative Approach (CDA)

*Dr Amina Khalid*

Presentation 34: (Re)Marking Geographical Spaces and Detournement in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*: A Psychogeographical Study

*Ms Bisma Amjad*

Presentation 35: Language and Gender at the Workplace

*Ms Kishwer Nazli*

Presentation 36: Transcending Mediums: An In-Depth Exploration of Text-to-Screen Adaptation in the Intriguing Drama "Alif".

*Ms Roha Javed*

Presentation 37: From Script to Screen: Examining the Practical Application of Adaptation Theory in Hashim Nadeem's *Parizaad*

*Ms Iqra Imran*

Presentation 38: From Novel to Screen: A Comprehensive Study of Adaptation Theory in the Pakistani Drama “Dastan”

*Ms Maham Amir*

Presentation 39: From Text to Screen: Unveiling the Transformative Narrative of Aangan Inspired by Linda Hutcheon’s Adaptation Study

*Ms Swaira Khadim*

Presentation 40: From Paper to Screen: Unveiling Dramatic Elements of Adaptation in the Drama “Zindagi Gulzar Hai”

*Ms Aruj Shahid*

Presentation 41: The Dreams Written by Fantasy Writers: Exploring the Compensatory Aspect of Literature

*Ms Nayab Murad*

Presentation 42: Reconstruction of Socio-Cultural Binaries: A Comparative Analysis of Khalid Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner* (2003) and Kathryn Stockett’s *The Help* (2009)

*Mr Naik Muhammad*

Presentation 43: Dream as a Gateway to Collective Unconscious: The Jungian Approach on Ato’s Dream in *The Dilemma of a Ghost*

*Ms Minhal Sarfraz*

Presentation 44: Exploring the Subaltern Voices and Motifs in Raj Kamal Jha’s *If You Are Afraid of Heights*

*Ms Iram Israr*

Presentation 45: Nation, Ummah and Ego as Eastern Peripheral Epistemologies in Iqbal

*Dr Saira Akhtar*

Presentation 46: Posthuman Agency of Ghosts: Post 9/11 Politics and Ecology in Rajiv Joseph’s Play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*

*Dr Qurratulaen Liaquat*

Presentation 47: The Dreams Written by Fantasy Writers: Exploring the Compensatory Aspect of Literature

*Mr Saud Hanif*

Presentation 48: Spiritualizing Abuse: Ella, Kimiya, and New Age Spirituality in *Rumi's Daughter* and *The Forty Rules of Love*

*Mr Muhammad Munhib Shah*

Presentation 49: Effect of Flipped Classroom Teaching on Paragraph Writing Skills of Pakistani English Language Learners

*Dr Muhammad Nadeem Anwar*

Presentation 50: Impact of Padlet Application on Presentation Skills of Pakistani EFL Learners

*Mr Muhammad Zahid*

Presentation 51: A Comparative Study of Effects of Second Language Learning in Elite and Non-Elite Schools: Inequalities in Educational and Occupational Opportunities

*Ms Rameeza Omair*

Presentation 52: Unveiling the Horizon: A Comprehensive Review of ChatGPT's Impact in Health Science, Computer Science, Communication, and Culture through Altmetric Analysis in Dimensions

*Ms Ayesha Khan*

Presentation 53: Language Attitudes and Language Beliefs among Private University Academics in Lahore

*Ms Syeda Faiza Babar*

Presentation 54: Mirān Maa: Mother of Lyari

*Dr Naila Pervaiz*

Presentation 55: Romanticizing the Monster: A Postmodern Study of L.J. Smith's *The Vampire Diaries*

*Mr Jonathan Caleb Imdad*

Presentation 56: Deformity Unbound: Fostering Empathy and Understanding Through Children's Fiction

*Ms Aamna Khalid*

Presentation 57: Becoming the Other: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Mohsin Hamid's *The Last White Man*

*Ms Mahrukh*

Presentation 58: Intersectional Feminism: Navigating women's identity in Das's poem "An Introduction"

*Ms Sana Ejaz*

Presentation 59: Women of *Talism Hoshruha*: A Case of Historical Objectification

*Ms Manal Salman*

Presentation 60: A Comparative Ecocritical Reading of Selective Palestinian Short Stories

*Ms Nazneen Zahra*

### **Panel Experts**

Panel Expert 1 (Pashto Literature): Pashto Literature and Colonialism: A Critical Study of Pashto Literary Genres during the Colonial Period

*Dr Gulzar Jalal*

Panel Expert 2 (Balochi Literature): The Tradition of Resistance Poetry in Balochi Literature

*Dr Zia Ur Rehman Baloch*

Panel Expert 3 (Sindhi Literature): Silenced Narratives in Peripheral Literature: Rediscovering Voices: Sindh's Reclaim of Identity and Ownership of Mohen Jo Daro, Raja Dahir and Sindhu Darya (Indus River) in Sindhi Literature

*Dr Mubarak Lashari*

### **Storytelling**

### **Pre-Conference Book Launch Event**

### **Program Manual**

### **Words of Appreciation: Testimonials from Esteemed Speakers**

“Thank you for a terrific event, wonderful sessions, conversations, and great hospitality too”.

*Ms Muneeza Shamsie*

Author of *Hybrid Tapestries: The Development of Pakistani Literature in English* (2017)

“My utmost gratitude and appreciation for the efficient, tireless, and courteous organizers of the conference. I am also grateful to the keynote speakers and presenters for their enlightening talks”.

*Mr Sultan M Nasir*

Director General, Pakistan Academy of Letters

“Dear Dr. Nadia and the ICSLA team, please accept my huge accolades for arranging a meaningful and impactful conference. It was perfect in every sense. I hope all of you will follow up on the objectives of the conference. The debates raised there should result into some praxis in collaboration with other institutions. Thank you so much!”

*Dr Safeer Awan*

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, NUML Islamabad

“ICSLA 2024 was a huge success, heartiest congratulations! Thank you for your hospitality!”

*Dr Munazza Yaqub*

Professor, Department of English, International Islamic University Islamabad

“My sincere congratulations on such a successful event. Enjoyable conference!”

*Dr Sonia Irum*

Assistant Professor, Department of English, International Islamic University Islamabad

بہت ہی عمدہ اور کامیاب کانفرنس کے انعقاد پر پوری آرگنائزنگ ٹیم کو مبارک باد پیش کرتا ہوں جو علمی ادبی اور انتظامی طور پر بھرپور کانفرنس تھی۔ علاوہ ازیں طلبہ و طالبات کا اس قدر دلچسپی اور انہماک سے حصہ لینا اپنی مثال آپ ہے۔

ہم خود اکیلے آئے تھے پر بہت کچھ ساتھ لے کر جا رہے ہیں بہت سارا علمی و ادبی کھانوں diversity ادبی سرمایہ بہت ساری محبتیں، شفقتیں، عنایتیں، لاہور کی کے ذائقے، ڈاکٹر نادیہ، ڈاکٹر محمد آصف، نعمان، حمزہ اور یونیورسٹی کی مہمان نوازی کے ساتھ ساتھ بہت سے دانشور ادیب لکھاریوں اور اساتذہ کرام کے افکار و خیالات ہمارے ساتھ محو سفر ہونگے

*ڈاکٹر ضیاء الرحمان بلوچ*

علامہ اقبال اوپن یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد

“UMT Conference:

Selection of a logical theme, invitation to the experts on the topic, sharp and sensible team of English Department, leadership sensitivity, pleasant environment, keenness of the learners, and students, managerial facilitation and excellent coordination!

The credit goes to Dr Nadia Anwar and Dr Muhammad Asif who organised such a sharp team in the department.

Shabash to Numan, Hamza and Yasir.....”

*Dr Gulzar Jalal*

Head of English Department  
Edwardes College Peshawar

“It was really a pleasure and honour for me to be a part of such a wonderful conference where I learnt a lot. I got the opportunity to see such wonderful people and had the opportunity to listen to renowned writers, critics, and researchers. It was really a well-organized one under the able leadership of the Dean and all. Students/scholars were very active and curious which impressed me a lot”.

*Dr Mubarak Lashari*

Assistant Professor, Institute of English Language and Literature,  
University of Sindh, Jamshoro

“Despite my short stay, I could feel the warmth. Thank you UMT!”

*Dr Akhtar Aziz*

Assistant Professor, Department of English, International Islamic  
University, Islamabad

“Dear Dr. Nadia: I wanted to extend my sincere compliments to you and the entire organizing team for the outstanding success of ICSLA-2024 held at ILA. The quality of presentations, the vibrant discussions, and the seamless organization truly showcased the dedication and hard work invested by everyone involved. It was a fantastic opportunity for learning, networking, and collaboration, and I am grateful to have been a part of it”.

*Dr Ayesha Akram*

Assistant Professor, Institute of English Studies / University of the  
Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan



## Keynote Speech 1: From Ontology to Epistemology and Methodology: Discovering Possibilities of Indigenous Theory



*Prof Dr Safeer Awan*

Dean  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
National University of Modern  
Languages, Islamabad

Since the introduction and popularity of Western literary, critical, and social theory in our national curricula, research students remain hooked by its juicy debates and profound intellectual reach. To what extent are those theories, framed within and for Euro-American societies and systems, relevant to us? What are the possibilities to challenge them and what are the limitations that we encounter while thinking about and devising our indigenous theory? These pertinent questions need close attention in an age marked by the ideologies of decoloniality. Discovering the possibilities of challenging these adapted theories, and devising our own indigenous theoretical frameworks becomes essential today. It is needful to navigate the terrain of decolonial thought that comes with its inherent limitations, such as the deeply ingrained influence of Western paradigms and the potential resistance to dismantling established academic structures. This talk sets the stage for a nuanced exploration of the complexities surrounding the potential transformation of theoretical frameworks in the context of decolonial endeavours.

**Keywords:** Western theory, decoloniality, indigenous frameworks, academic structures, theoretical transformation

**Keynote Speech 2: Lives of Four Pioneering Women—Atiya Fyzee Rahamin, Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah, Abida Sultaan and Shireen Nana**



*Ms Muneeza Shamsie*

Author of *Hybrid Tapestries: The Development of Pakistani Literature in English* (2017)

<https://oup.com.pk/hybrid-tapestries.html>

Area Editor, Literary Encyclopaedia  
[www.litencyc.com](http://www.litencyc.com)

Bibliographic Representative (Pakistan)  
*Journal of Commonwealth Literature*

The speech will focus on the lives of four pioneering women—Atiya Fyzee Rahamin, Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah, Abida Sultaan and Shireen Nana. All of them published English language life writing whether memoirs or letters or both, which reveals their determined struggle for empowerment and self. All of them grew up in the colonial era and became Pakistanis at Partition. Their unusual, often rebellious lives, their literary family heritage, their choice of literary language and their engagement with the colonial, post-colonial and nationalistic construct need to be reclaimed and known more extensively than it is.

**Keywords:** Pioneering women, life writing, empowerment, colonial/post-colonial narratives, national identity

### Keynote Speech 3: Politics of Peripheral Voices in Pakistani Theatre: New Dimensions and Fresh Insights



*Dr Taimur Kayani*

Dean  
Directorate Flipped Classroom & ODL  
Director GIFT Language Center (GLC)  
Professor, Department of English  
GIFT University, Gujranwala

The research investigates the peripheral voices in parallel contemporary Pakistani theatre by revisiting the transcultural adaptations of Brecht and Sartre's literary works. It argues that the transcultural adaptations become a tool to raise the peripheral voices in Pakistan because it illuminates points of contention, raises questions, and problems and allows multiple perspectives to suggest answers to the contemporary issues. In this context, it is also a key issue and vigorous focus for dramatists and artists in storytelling due to its collaborative creative mode as a process, and continuing popularity as a product. In recognition of the above-mentioned issue, Brecht and Sartre's canonical literary work and its indigenization in Pakistan offer a valuable transcultural adaptation study because it was performed through a distinct dramaturgy and social philosophy in two different cultural contexts and historical frames of reference. As the foremost representative of Brecht's radical dramaturgy, in Pakistan since 1983, Ajoka theatre utilized these adaptations as socio-political spaces to challenge the dominant discourse on the rise of dictatorship, illegal immigration and capitalism. Similarly, GIFT Film & Theatre Company's play *Laali* (Urdu Translation of Kayani's *NO EXIT*) inspired by the social philosophy of Sartre provides a unique discussion on Illegal immigrants whose stories are rarely presented in mainstream Pakistani Literature. The study anchors the selected plays within their historical contexts, emphasizing the value of the plays themselves as historical documents. It addresses this gap by exploring and examining the political and social dimensions of these theatrical

adaptations considering Hutcheon's theory of adaptation and New Historicism. It confirms Hutcheon's assumption of historical intentionality that socio-political conditions also create the environment for adaptation and that the theory of adaptation should address that researched area of investigation. Secondly, it explored Brecht and Sartre's plays theatre adaptability to traditional Asian folk theatre and located distinct transcultural adaptation processes which made them new cultural products. Thirdly, the study conducted a new historicist study of selected plays and their adaptations with dictatorship, illegal immigration and capitalism as a historical context, which revealed thought-provoking findings that contradicted the previous research which labelled them as 'timeless pieces of literature'. The research reveals that Pakistani theatre's continuous engagement with Western work is highly productive. Pakistani theatre has gained a radical identity and an international reputation while Brecht and Sartre's canon has gained a new set of audience, dynamic Asian theatrical space and the opportunity to propagate their social and political philosophy. Finally, since the majority of the current research looks at political dimensions and social factors in Pakistan from the late 1970s onward that have contributed towards Pakistan's image as a terrorist land, particularly after 9/11, this provides a fresh look on the struggle of Pakistani nation as a vibrant, democratic and theatre loving nation.

**Keywords:** Peripheral epistemology, transcultural adaptation, contemporary Pakistani theatre, Brecht, illegal immigration

## Keynote Speech 4: Oral Histories, Digital Spaces and Marginalized Voices



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The film “Zindagi Tamasha” or *The Circus of Life* (2019, Busan & 2023, YouTube) by Sarmad Sultan narrates the tale of Rahat Khawaja, a middle-aged man who is devout in his Muslim faith and serves as a naat khwa’an, reciting poems in praise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), alongside his profession as a real estate agent. Despite societal expectations, Rahat possesses a passion for dance and music, elements deemed unacceptable for a devout Muslim, particularly one occupying the role of a naat khwa’an. Trouble ensues when a video of Rahat’s dance performance at a friend’s son’s wedding becomes viral. His daughter, Sadaf, a television producer, is deeply embarrassed by the video and confronts him. Flashbacks into Khwaja’s past reveal his innate inclination towards dance. This aspect of his character, perceived as feminine by society, renders him unacceptable, even to his daughter. This paper aims to explore the complexities arising from the conflict between Rahat Khawaja and societal norms, as well as his daughter, contextualizing it within the tradition of Urdu literature. Here, the portrayal of the tawaif (courtesan) has historically been a subject of moral discourse concerning social and religious morality.

**Keywords:** Oral histories, digital spaces, marginalized voices, societal norms, cultural identity

## Keynote Speech 5: Trans Fabulations: Moving Beyond Peripheral Performance Epistemologies



*Dr Claire Pamment*

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This presentation considers the long and repeated efforts to erase, criminalize, and/or peripheralize *khwaja sira-hijra-trans* performances, alongside performers' creative embodied insurgency upon these structures of control. In so doing, I ask what imaginative trans fabulations are opened by centering *khwaja sira-trans* performance epistemologies. The persistent but mutable "anti-performance discourse" (viz Jonas; Freeman) levied against *khwaja sira-hijra-trans* performers manifests in colonial criminalization, to postcolonial ethnography, Pakistan's protections of transgender rights legislature and social reform, and the recent surge of anti-trans backlash. In these contexts, performance offers a lens to engage with the shifting biopolitics of *trans-khwaja sira* bodies, and creative movement upon the regulatory scripts of class, religion, kinship, gender, sexuality, nation, and/or globalization. Drawing from over a decade of sustained ethnographic attachments and collaborative performance-making with *khwaja sira-trans* communities in Pakistani theatres, protests, *vadhais* and digital media, I engage with the aesthetic, affective, political, spiritual, and material dimensions of *khwaja sira-trans* performances. I think with Saidya Hartman's "critical fabulation", enacting storytelling and speculative narration as a means of exposing and redressing the fictions of seemingly impossible scripts, reimagining a world which is otherwise. *Khwaja sira* performance epistemologies—relational, sensorial, embodied and moving—enact trans fabulations, opening trans worlds of possibility and moving us beyond colonizing forms of knowledge production.

**Keywords:** Trans performances, *khwaja sira-hijra-trans*, creative insurgency, biopolitics, ethnography

## Keynote Speech 6: Remapping Palestine



*Dr Salah D Hassan*

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Geographic Palestine, historic Palestine and Mandate Palestine are different terms that have been used variously to refer to the same territory that was erased from Western maps in the wake of the 1948 UN partition plan. This paper takes up the question of erasure by discussing the land of Palestine as the original territory upon which Israel has been written. In effect, the territory of Israel-Palestine is a palimpsest and the “Palestine loss of land maps”, an instance of the simultaneous erasure and reassertion of geographic Palestine, reveals the original traces that Israel so desperately seeks to conceal.

**Keywords:** Palestine, erasure, UN partition plan, palimpsest, territorial dispute

## Keynote Speech 7: “The Sorrows of Ancestral Abodes”: A Bioregional Reading of Nasir’s Nature Poetry



*Dr Munazza Yaqoob*

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My presentation attempts to critically analyze Nasir Ahmad Nasir’s nature poetry to investigate how his poetry engages with his bioregion and gives insight into ecological challenges in the context of the environmental crisis as articulated in environmental theories and debates. From an ecocritical perspective, Nasir’s poetry challenges our cultural imaginaries, newly formed social identities, and notions of development by offering a distinctive perspective on the relationship between humans and nature. His poetry is deeply rooted in his indigenous culture and heritage, which he claims is still alive and preserved in our rural communities and is a crucial component of our social existence. From a bioregional perspective, he criticizes the encroachment of industry, technology, and culture and views going back to one’s roots as a way to preserve a cultural heritage that fosters coexistence between humans and the natural world. This perspective informs our understanding of the environment and our close relationship to it within the framework of mutual ecological interdependence for the planet’s health. The poet offers a socially and culturally contextualized understanding of the bio-inclusive notion of the interaction between humans and the natural world.

**Keywords:** Bioregion, ecocriticism, environmental crisis, indigenous culture, industrial invasion



## Keynote Speech 8: Valuing Voices from Presumed Margins: Dialectics on Gender and Islam in Pakistan



*Dr Muhammad Abdullah*

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New feminist initiatives with indigenous instruments to combat challenges faced by women are emerging from different geographical locations to suit their local socio-cultural environment. Pakistani female writers are challenging the stereotypical concept of Asian-Islamic-Femaleness through their free, forward-looking, unconventional portrayal of protagonists. On one hand, there is a need to listen to untold stories from history and second valuing voices from presumed margins. In pursuit of gender equality and social justice, it is imperative to lend an attentive ear to the narratives that have long been silenced or relegated to the margins of history. In this talk, I advocate for the recognition and appreciation of voices from presumed margins, particularly within the context of Pakistan, where issues of gender and Islam intersect in complex ways. By valuing these voices, we contribute to the collective goal of a world where gender ceases to be a determinant of social hierarchy. Drawing on feminist discourse and indigenous strategies, this study explores how feminine perspectives, often marginalized within patriarchal structures, possess the potential to foster connections and solidarity across diverse cultural landscapes.

**Keywords:** Feminist initiatives, gender equality, social justice, marginalized voices, indigenous strategies

## Keynote Speech 9: Navigating the Digital Nexus: Social Media's Dual Role in Suppressing and Amplifying Peripheral Epistemologies



*Dr Sonia Irum*

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This paper investigates the multifaceted influence of social media platforms on the dissemination and reception of peripheral epistemologies—those alternatives and often marginalised ways of understanding the world. As literature, film, customs and cultural items are manifestations of epistemologies, each form of expression carries and communicates knowledge, beliefs, and ways of understanding the world within a particular cultural or social context. In an era dominated by digital interconnectedness, this study scrutinises the dual nature of social media, exploring its capacity to suppress and amplify unconventional knowledge. The paper adopts an interdisciplinary approach, synthesising insights from literature, cultural studies, and media analysis. It uses case studies, content analysis, and theoretical frameworks to explain how social media promotes or marginalises peripheral epistemologies. The paper examines algorithms, user engagement patterns, and content moderation to reveal the complex dynamics that form alternate narratives online. Furthermore, the study examines how this phenomenon affects literary and cultural discourse. It examines how suppression can homogenise knowledge and how the amplification of varied viewpoints empowers. The ethics of information curating, narrative commodification, and democratic discourse will be discussed. The paper explores the complex relationship between social media and peripheral epistemologies to contribute to discussions about knowledge democratisation in the digital age. This literary study illuminates social media's dual role as gatekeeper and liberator of unconventional knowledge, inviting readers to consider how it can change literary expression and cultural understanding in our increasingly interconnected world.

**Keywords:** Social media, peripheral epistemologies, digital interconnectedness, content moderation, knowledge democratization

## **Presentation 1: Navigating Cultural Realms: Redefining Global Indigenous Romance through Pankaj Mishra's *The Romantics***

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This study explores indigenous romance literature through the lens of the hero's journey through post-colonial terrain, as exemplified in Pankaj Mishra's *The Romantics*. Focusing on protagonists akin to Mishra's Samar, the research examines the intricate interplay of cultural identity, global challenges, and self-discovery. Central to the analysis is the hero's quest to comprehend and reconcile his cultural roots in the ancient city of Benaras, echoing the universal yearning for connection. Indigenous romance narrative unfolds amidst those characters who grapple with personal connections while confronting broader cultural dilemmas. Mishra's work serves as an exemplary post-colonial romance hero's struggle to navigate cultural realms with the universal yearning for connection. The study integrates theoretical frameworks such as Homi K. Bhabha's 'Third Space', Gloria Anzaldua's 'Borderlands/La Frontera', and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's 'Land as Pedagogy' to provide an insight into the post-colonial cultural expedition. The paper aligns Samar's experiences with the transformative potential of peripheral epistemologies. Bhabha's 'Third Space' becomes a conceptual guide, aiding Samar in navigating the complexities of cross-cultural romance. Anzaldua's 'Borderlands/La Frontera' mirrors Samar's journey through liminal spaces where diverse romantic narratives intersect. Simpson's 'Land as Pedagogy' acquires a tangible form in Samar's connection with Benaras, emphasizing the profound intertwining of love and land within indigenous communities. As this research builds upon these theoretical insights, Samar's narrative acts as a powerful case study, redefining the idea of romance in indigenous literature. This paper advocates for a more inclusive, empathetic discourse. These concepts enrich the understanding of the hero's journey in indigenous romance literature, shedding light on cultural reclamation, identity negotiation,

and the hero's quest for meaning and space within a globalized world. Through indigenous romance literature, the hero's journey becomes a compelling exploration of self-discovery and cultural reconnection, inviting readers into a narrative space that transcends geographic and cultural boundaries.

**Keywords:** Peripheral epistemologies, indigenous romance literature, Pankaj Mishra, globalization, cultural dynamics, third space, land as pedagogy

### **Presentation 2: Gazing Precarious Masculinities: Excavating Phallocentric Burden and Masculine Sentimentalism in *Circus of Life* (2019)**

**Ms Shama Iqbal Hussain**

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Through the film narrative of Sarmad Khoosat's *Circus of Life* (2019, Originally titled as *Zingadi Tamasha*), the paper prompts to explore the critique of socially established notions of masculinity with its precariousness, provided with the mandatory performance of toxic masculinity in the Pakistani context. In the light of manhood theory, where hegemonic masculinity acts as a defense mechanism to cope with patriarchy, excavating the phallocentric burden of man, the social status is maintained only if the man asserts his power in society. This study highlights how the film's narrative problematizes masculinity through a schism between the protagonist's masculine desire to transgress and societal expectations that come along with the performance of masculinity, aided by the socially constructed ideologies controlling these overt desires. The research aims to expose these phallocentric burdens and male psychic struggles of the protagonist in Khoosat's (2019) film, for which the research is indebted to R. Connell's (1987) social constructivist theory of masculinity and Peter Schwenger's (1984) phallic critique. It further elucidates the ideations of 'gendering the man' and 'doing gender' to bring out sentimental masculinity that provides a neutral ground overlapping masculinity and the emotional baggage that comes with it. The research establishes the film's explication of 'homohysteria' and its social implication as a threat to hegemonic masculinity through ageing and senescence. The paper employs the qualitative

approach supported by masculinity studies to trace masculine sentimentalism as a motif to transgress from the traditional and socially imposed performance of masculinity. Conclusively, the research excavates Khoosat's narrative as a celebration of alternative masculinities highlighting the need for 'transforming masculinities', as coined by Victor J. Seidler (2006), by de-gendering the socially imposed performance of masculinity in Pakistani society through the intersection of masculine desires and sentimentalism.

**Keywords:** Precarious masculinities, phallocentric burden, masculine sentimentalism, homohysteria, masculine narrative studies

### **Presentation 3: Illusion to Subversion of Metanarratives: The Conundrum of Political Identity in Mohammad Hanif's Literary Journalism**

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The fame of Pakistani anglophone fiction during the last two decades has established the position of Pakistani novelists for presenting Pakistan to global readers, especially in the post-9/11 context. Simultaneously, some of them are engaged in producing nonfiction works focused on the sociopolitical milieu of Pakistan which do not get literary acknowledgement due to the peripheral existence of the genre in the literary trends of Pakistan. The present research analyses the peripheral voices of literary writers against the hegemonic powers at national and global levels to reveal the dynamics of political identity in the Pakistani context. Furthermore, the research undermines literary journalism (LJ) as a peripheral sub-genre of nonfiction which builds narratives of political identity but has remained unnoticed due to fiction and poetry-oriented literary trends in Pakistan. Mohammad Hanif's LJ in the form of five selected articles will be analyzed by the use of thematic analysis propounded by Braun and Clarke (2006). The conceptual constructs of 'capital', 'field' and 'habitus' from Pierre Bourdieu's Field theory (1993) are used to analyze the central and peripheral positions of different agents in the political field of Pakistan. The analysis of articles revealed that the political identity of Pakistanis has remained influenced by the metanarratives of powerful groups notably the Pakistani army,

politicians, and the USA. Hanif uncovers their hidden motives and educates the reader about the politics of power in full play in Pakistan by exposing the illusions created by the metanarratives of powerful agents. The research is significant in underscoring literary writers' contribution to breaking the illusion of metanarratives to bring forth the unheard voices of the masses.

**Keywords:** Literary journalism, political identity, metanarratives, illusion and subversion

#### **Presentation 4: Exploring Colonial Resilience in *What You Pawn I Will Redeem* through Narrative Intersectionality**

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This study analyzes Sherman Alexie's work *What You Pawn I Will Redeem*, focusing on the narrative's intersectionality-driven portrayal of colonial resilience and the complexities of Native American identity. Alexie's novel skillfully integrates cultural, social, and personal elements to offer a multifaceted view of the life of Native Americans throughout the postcolonial era. This study utilizes intersectionality and postcolonial theories to analyze the complex narrative structure of the story and its portrayal of the enduring effects of colonialism. This study employs a qualitative literary analysis to scrutinize Sherman Alexie's *What You Pawn I Will Redeem*. The methodology utilized is a close reading approach, which prioritizes theme analysis, narrative structure, and character development within the text. Intersectionality, presented by Kimberle Crenshaw has significant relevance in the evaluation of Sherman Alexie's *What You Pawn I Will Redeem*. This conceptual framework analyzes the connections and outcomes that contribute to the experiences of individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, genders, and races. It is crucial to comprehend the intricate nature of the protagonist, Jackson Jackson, within the framework of this research due to the intersectionality between the borders of identity and his status as a Native American who is homeless. Economic or ethnic factors do not just influence the person's interactions; rather, they result from intricate interactions among several influences of society.

Through this study, Alexie's creative works achieve a more profound comprehension of the intricacies linked to indigenous identity and resilience. The findings emphasize the need to use a comprehensive perspective to understand the intricacies of postcolonial Native American experiences. This study significantly enhances the fields of literary and cultural studies.

**Keywords:** Intersectionality, colonial resilience, Native American identity, Sherman Alexie, postcolonial analysis

## Presentation 5: Compounding and Derivation in English and Pahari: A Comparative Study

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Comparative analysis of the world's languages reveals that they have correspondence in various areas-ranging from total similarity to complete difference. Owing to morphological processes, compounding has recently received attention in linguistic typology and studies on linguistic universals (Fakih, 2015). As a common trend in research into the morphology of world languages, contrastive analyses are carried out in comparison to English. Pahari possesses distinctive morphological properties parallel to other languages across South Asia. Its morphology is characterized by processes such as derivation, reduplication, and compounding Khalique et al., (2022). This paper examines compounding and derivation as universal processes emphasizing English and Pahari. Using the framework of the 'Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis' (CAH) propounded by Lefer (2011), it concentrates on the similarities and differences of compounds and derivatives of English and Pahari as two processes of word formation. The researchers compared compounds and derivatives taken from both languages with a main focus on their semantic and morphological patterns and features. Primary data for this work were the tokens selected from the key informants in the case of Pahari and Oxford English Dictionary. On the whole, 60 tokens were randomly selected from Oxford and their Pahari equivalents were sought out from the discussion held with the informants. Qualitative and descriptive approaches were adopted to analyze the data. Major findings reveal that in the phenomena of compounds and derivatives in English and Pahari, there is perfect



harmony where the equivalents in both languages have a resemblance on the basis of semantics and morphological patterns. Other sets of tokens have partial harmony; some compounds and derivatives stand disharmonious on morphological and semantic grounds. The study will benefit researchers in the fields of comparative linguistics, English and Pahari morphology and semantics, and translation studies.

**Keywords:** Comparative linguistics, compounds, derivatives, word formation

## Presentation 6: Social Justice in Applied Linguistics: Towards an Equitable Society

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The more inclusive definition of language emphasizes how important it is in shaping our thoughts and perceptions making language-related inquiries essential for investigation of problems originating from sociocultural practices such as issues in equity and social justice. Research studies published within the AL domain that focus on and problematize discursive constructions and representations as well as language education consumed by or denied to marginalized communities demonstrate how applied linguistics addresses social justice issues in several ways. The proposed research synthesizes applied linguistics studies that have been published in the past ten years addressing the concept of social justice to examine how social justice issues have been covered in AL research and to pinpoint under-researched areas where AL research may offer insightful information and directions for future investigation. The study also aims to educate and bring awareness to aspiring researchers on the philosophical underpinnings, theories, and methods available to them to plan and execute research addressing gross inequalities and asymmetrical power relations using the applied linguistics foundational principles which allow researchers to problematize events taken as ‘the way of life’ to not only challenge the status quo but also to contribute positively to forming an equitable society.

**Keywords:** Applied linguistics, social justice, equity, marginalized communities, research synthesis



## Presentation 7: Language, Media, and War: A Linguistic Analysis of Gulf War-I as Media Hyperreality

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The Gulf War-I also termed as Operation Desert Storm, 1991 between Iraqi and coalition forces led by the USA altered the geo-political scenario of the world and the Middle East, neighboring countries, and the USA. The operation subsequently resulted in the debacle of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, 9/11 and Gulf War-II in 2003. This study is aimed at exploring the linguistic hyperreality of media fabricating that operation as a war and game changer in the world. A qualitative research approach and content-focused-synthesis methodology have been used for the study. The hyperreality model of Jean Baudrillard, a French sociologist has been applied as the theoretical framework. *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place*, 1991 authored by Jean Baudrillard has been sampled through purposive sampling technique. The study has found that the hegemonic hyper-real language of media led by CNN supported the coalition forces and portrayed a 'non-event' as 'an event'. This operation was a 'simulacrum', a journey towards reflecting reality, masking reality and hyperreality. It was a 'semiotic version' of war, not real but 'hyper-real'. The media language actually caused 'non-communication' and thus 'non-event'. The statistics of 100,000 Iraqi and a mere 400 coalition forces casualties also declare this war a 'non-event'. Moreover, that 'semiotic war' and 'electrocution' have left certain ongoing social and military aftershocks in the region. This study will be a beacon for the linguists and potent researchers in the multidisciplinary fields of linguistics, media, warfare, international relations, military and intelligence tentacles to explore the phenomena from different angles.

**Keywords:** Electrocution, gulf war, hyperreality, operation desert storm, semiotic version, simulacrum

## **Presentation 8: Manipulation of Country's Reputation in Pakistani Political Cartoons: A Thematic Analysis**

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Political cartoons are visual designs crafted to make commentary on the political events in the country. This study attempts to explore the manipulation of the country's reputation through linguistic modes of communication by highlighting the falsification of Pakistani political cartoons. The current study takes the five political cartoons from the two Pakistani newspapers, Dawn and Minute Mirror, from the year 2022. The study only analyzes the political cartoons portraying the Pakistani political leaders, parties, and events reported in Pakistan. The judgmental sampling technique has been used to take the data from the official websites of the selected newspapers. Five political cartoons that fall under the theme of manipulation of a country's reputation have been analyzed using the theoretical framework of Kress and Van Leeuwen's Theory of Visual Grammar (1996) and Van Dijk's sociocognitive approach (2006). The five political cartoons are codified on the basis of the theme being analyzed and the representation of the political event, which have been further explored through the lens of a theoretical framework. The current study found that cartoonists have manipulated the country's reputation through the use of representational, interactive, and compositional meaning-making processes, which are further supported by the discursive strategies of the sociocognitive approach. This study found that the manipulation of the linguistic meanings in the visual graphics of political events has caused harm to the reputation of the country "Pakistan" nationally and internationally. Furthermore, the present study found that the cartoonist's subjective portrayals and the social, cultural, and political mediation have caused serious complications for the reputation of the country.

**Keywords:** Linguistic manipulation, meaning-making processes, Pakistani political cartoons, country's reputation

## **Presentation 9: The Signifying Afro-American Jazz: Exploring Kamau Brathwaite's "Soweto"**

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The research investigates Kamau Brathwaite's "Soweto" through the notion of signifying Afro-American Jazz and its typographic elements. The study examines the interplay of language, rhythm and visual representations to uncover the multi-layered connotations in the poem. The concept of the signifying monkey as presented by Henry Louis Gates Jr. examines the complex Afro-American tradition of signifying, which comprises the use of wordplay, double entendre and cultural allusions. By signifying various cultural references, historical events and linguistic traditions, "Soweto" becomes a powerful act of resistance, reclaiming agency and identity for the marginalized. Furthermore, it also embodies the tradition of employing a signifying fusion of rhythmic patterns, linguistic techniques and visual elements to create a vibrant and dynamic Afro-American expression. Through an analysis of the poem's typographic Jazz, the study seeks to elucidate Brathwaite's inventive use of typography that echoes the accented rhythms of Jazz music. The poem's fragmented visual structure reflects the improvisational nature of Jazz, where words and phrases are compressed, stretched and rearranged to evoke a sense of musicality and spontaneity. Furthermore, the study examines Brathwaite's employment of the concept of signifying the traditional notions of language to challenge colonial narratives. The study explores the poem's linguistic, rhythmic and visual elements to gain a deeper understanding of Brathwaite's work and its contribution to the discourse on cultural expression, identity, and social justice.

**Keywords:** Signifying, rhythmic, linguistic, marginalized, cultural.

## Presentation 10: Tracing Personal Trauma of Ahed in “They Called Me a Lioness”: A Palestinian Girl’s Fight for Freedom

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This study aims to trace the impact of personal trauma on the character of Ahed in *They Called Me a Lioness: A Palestinian Girl’s Fight for Freedom* co-authored by Ahed Tamimi and Dena Takruri. Personal trauma is analyzed by employing the trauma theories of Cathy Caruth and Dominick LaCapra. The memoir narrates the real story of a Palestinian political activist, Ahed Tamimi who resists the violence of Jews done to Muslim communities living in Palestine. The novel is studied as an articulation of trauma that is triggered by violence and suppression of Israeli colonials. The novel depicts the historical decision of Britain to give Palestinian land to Jews that they occupied from the Ottomans. Colonial Apartheid of Jews is forcing Ahed Tamimi and her family to live under a system of laws enforced by the settlers. The personal trauma of Ahed is analyzed through Dominick LaCapra’s notions of “acting out” and “working through” as the ways of responding to certain traumatic situations proposed in *Writing History, Writing Trauma*. This research examines Ahed’s personal trauma as timeless, repetitious and unspeakable by using the psychoanalytical lens of Cathy Caruth’s *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History*.

**Keywords:** Personal trauma, acting out, working through, repetitious, unspeakable, timeless

## Presentation 11: Traumatic Impacts on Poetry of North Waziristan: Resisting A Neo-Colonial Discourse

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This research paper attempts to explore the dominant discourse developed by a neo-colonial state-Pakistan- in the first two decades

of the twenty-first century in North Waziristan Tribal District and the traumatic impacts of the neo-colonial discourse on the poetic language of the selected texts of *Da Matam Chagha* and *Za Aw Zanzeerona* by Sokhail Zaheer and Majboor Dawar Digan respectively. The research work magnifies the methods of neo-colonialism employed by the neo-colonial agents in the region – which exist in a subtle form as Kwame Nkrumah points out in his approach to the neo-colonial state to maintain the dominant discourse, War on Terror. This study also focuses on the traumatic impacts that resulted from the established discourse - War on Terror - in the locals. As per Cathy Caruth, the trauma of the events which happened under the cover of the mentioned discourse can be traced in the language of a victim. In the case of North Waziristan, a close textual analysis is adopted to trace the traumatic impacts which according to Cathy Caruth are evident in a literary language i.e. in the use of simile, metaphors, personification, and the theme and tone of the selected works by the two poets. Furthermore, this study highlights the anti-neo-colonial discourse that originates from the marginalized areas. In addition, this research paper utilizes Cathy Caruth's concept of trauma, Foucauldian concept of discourse, and Kwame Nkrumah's neo-colonial state and its mechanism for theoretical support of the arguments. As this research follows a qualitative paradigm, an in-depth textual reading of the texts is implemented as a research method for carrying out this study.

**Keywords:** Discourse; war on terror, neo-colonialism, traumatic impacts, North Waziristan, resistance

## Presentation 12: Returning to Haifa in the Light of Necropolitics

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This paper explores the concept of Necropolitics as elaborated by Achille Mbembe by using the text of Palestine's Children: Returning to Haifa and Other Stories. Mbembe elaborates his concept of Necropolitics in terms of the social, civil, and/or psychological death of a population caused by a certain sovereign power with control over their right to life. The trajectory of Necropolitics is discussed in

relationship to Foucault's concept of 'Biopower' and how the state-generated violence transforms the characters of Palestine's children from responsible civilians to figures of walking dead or held in an intermediate position between the living and the dead. The transformation takes place through state-controlled mechanisms which as per Foucault decide and divide people into those who must live and those who are forced to death. This bio power, being central to the concept of race divides people into many groups and sub-groups through power based matrix. The powerful groups expose the vulnerable groups to the cruelties of death and their central attention remains on the younger members of the race which is not state-favored. The objective of the research is to explore the dimensions of Necropolitics in relationship with Foucault's Biopower and how both operate to annihilate the non-favoured nation.

**Keywords:** Necropolitics, Biopower, Achille Mbembe, Foucault, Palestine's Children

### **Presentation 13: Myth-Making and Magical Realism: A Study of Selected Pakistani Fiction**

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The present study aims to analyze the language and thematic qualities through the co-textual study of the magical and mythical stories inscribed in literary texts in Pakistani fiction: *A Firefly in the Dark* by Shazaf Fatima (2018), and *The Smile Snatchers* by Raza Rabbani (2020). The research is conducted to analyze the selected texts that deal with stories based upon magical realities, dreaming qualities, stories of ghosts and gods, daydreaming, horror and myth, imagery and identity, and an amalgam of rational and irrational worldviews. The writers have proved to be the flag bearers of contemporary magical and myth-making literature. The co-textual study would have a deeper grasp of the historical context and aspects of magical realism and mythmaking inherent in the respective writings, according to the textual (single) and co-textual extensive accounts of the cultural narrative in bounded texts. The study has been carried out by developing an analytical framework from the existing theories of magical realism by Wendy B. Faris (2004) and Joseph Campbell's

theory of hero, mythmaking, and monomyth (Campbell, 1988). The goal of the current study is to investigate the historicity of myths that have been included in literary texts, as well as how historians-built myths and used dialect in a convincing and comprehensible manner. It may also open the door to a dialectical investigation of the language employed in magical and myth-forming literature from South Asia.

**Keywords:** Magical realism, mythmaking, Pakistani fiction, magic, identity, belief system, linguistic choices

### **Presentation 14: Voices of the Void: Exploring Refugees' Forced Displacement Beyond the Physical Border in Khaled Hosseini's *Sea Prayer***

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This study analyses the psychological, emotional and cultural impact of cross-border displacement on refugees during the war in Khaled Hosseini's *Sea Prayer* through the lens of Gloria Anzaldua's concept of 'psychological border' and Gayatri Spivak's theory of 'Can the Subaltern Speak?'. The study focuses on highlighting the trauma of displacement, the loss of home and identity, the challenges of survival during the journey, and the resilience and hope that sustain refugees in the face of adversity. The study contends the human cost of war and the urgent need for empathy towards refugees fleeing from conflict zones. A qualitative research approach and descriptive textual analysis research design have been used to carry out the analysis of data. Through this study, the unheard voices of Syrian refugees are brought to the forefront, offering insight into their struggles, resilience, and dreams for a better future. It also depicts not only the immediate dangers and hardships faced during displacement but also the long-term psychological and emotional toll on individuals and families. It develops a deeper understanding of the profound impact of war on individuals and families, as well as the crucial need for compassion, empathy, and action in addressing the global refugee crisis. Research findings establish a strong connection between the feeling of being voiceless and the agony of dislocation experienced by displaced individuals.

**Keywords:** Borders, cross-border displacement, resilience, subaltern, unheard voices

## **Presentation 15: Use of Absurdity and Stereotype as a Technique of Humor in Muhammad Hanif's *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti* (2011) and *Red Birds* (2018)**

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This qualitative research explores absurdity and stereotype as the techniques of humor used in Muhammad Hanif's *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti* (2011) and *Red Birds* (2018). In *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti* (2011), these techniques of humor are used to stereotype women in the patriarchal society of Pakistan, along with showing the absurdity of different characters. Various incidents of gender discrimination are also pointed out in a humorous tone using a stereotype as the technique of humor, along with absurdity. All these undertones of humor point out the underlying issues of corruption and immorality. In *Red Birds* (2018), stereotypes and absurdity have been used to show the stereotypical perception of Arabs as savages and a critique of the American forces who have waged a futile war on people living in a far-off desert. Textual analysis of data is carried out to identify the techniques of humor in this research, using the theoretical framework based on *An Anatomy of Humor* (2017) by Arthur Asa Berger. This research paper concludes that humor is generated by various techniques of humor, of which absurdity and stereotype are two important auctorial devices. In some incidents, humor can be generated by a single technique while at other times a combination of different techniques of humor creates a humorous effect. It also concludes that humor can be used effectively to tone down the severity of serious issues.

**Keywords:** Techniques, humor, absurdity, stereotype



## Presentation 16: Tracing the Dionysian Aesthetics: An Analysis of the Surrealist Mode of Defamiliarization in the Selected Poetic Works of Federico Garcia Lorca

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This research explores Federico Garcia Lorca's poetry from the perspective of his poetic thesis espoused in the lecture titled *Theory and Play of Duende*. Duende is regarded as the robust creative force that exudes in the artists' work without their control over it and leaves a trance-like effect on spectators. Understood by many cultural critics and writers as an artistic inspiration deeply rooted in Spanish soil, Duende has long been riddled with mystical abstraction and is a subject of scholarly misconception. The current study makes Duende accessible through Friedrich Nietzsche's concept of Dionysian Aesthetics from his book *Birth of Tragedy*. Inspired by the Greek god of Dionysus which stands for orgiastic energies, dance, and transgression, Dionysian Aesthetic is the manifestation of creative energies in the formal side of art. This study employs the concept of "Leaping" from "Leaping Poetry" to explore death in Federico García Lorca's poetry collections, *A Poet in New York* and *Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias*. Drawing on this technique specific to Spanish poetry, the research investigates how Lorca confronts mortality through the lens of "Leaping". This approach, characterized by associative jumps from subject matter to the unconscious while maintaining a focus on the poem's emotional core, offers the potential to reveal new insights into Lorca's exploration of death.

**Keywords:** Duende, Spanish poetics, leaping poetry, Dionysian aesthetics, death

## **Presentation 17: Literary Narratives of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict: A Comprehensive Analysis of Selected Novels from Israel and Palestine**

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This research study explores the profound influence of literary narratives from selected Israeli–Palestinian novels that have experienced periods of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction. The Israeli–Palestinian Conflict, has been a rich source of literary expressions that reflect the realities and complexities of these tumultuous times. This investigation analyses how literature, particularly novels, has played a pivotal role in shaping societies' perceptions, experiences, and collective memory navigating through the tumultuous phases of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction. The research will employ a multidisciplinary approach, integrating elements from literary studies, postcolonial theory, conflict studies, and cultural anthropology. A comprehensive and diverse selection of novels has been examined to gain a nuanced understanding of how novelists from conflict-affected nations have engaged with the themes of conflict, loss, trauma, healing, and reconstruction. The study begins by establishing a historical context, tracing the evolution of Israeli–Palestinian literature concerning the conflict. Special emphasis has been placed on understanding how novels have shaped the discourse surrounding conflict and its aftermath. Furthermore, the research explores the role of novels in fostering empathy and cross-cultural understanding among different communities affected by conflict. By examining how Israeli–Palestinian novelists have depicted the human cost of conflicts and the challenges of rebuilding societies, this study will highlight the potential of literature as a tool for reconciliation and social transformation. Moreover, this research aspires to offer insights into literature's transformative power in conflict-affected selected Israeli–Palestinian novels. Thus, illuminating the diverse literary responses to conflict and post-conflict realities aims to enrich understanding of the complex cultural, social, and political dynamics during these critical phases of the state's history. Therefore, contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the interplay

between literature, conflict, and post-conflict reconstruction, underscoring the significance of narrative representation in fostering healing, resilience, and peace within affected communities.

**Keywords:** Israel, Palestine, Literary narratives, Conflict, Post-conflict reconstruction

### **Presentation 18: Beyond the Canvas: Iqbal Hussain's Poignant Depiction of the Silent Struggles Faced by Women**

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Art has always been a powerful medium for storytelling, allowing artists to convey complex emotions and narratives through visuals. The significance of the study is to look at the women in red light area through the eyes of Iqbal Hussain's paintings, and signify their cry for help, and how they silently scream for the sake of their survival. Iqbal Hussain, the son of a woman belonging to the red-light area of Lahore, enlightens us through his painting regarding the struggle of women and their unheard voices. Thus, researchers came up with the question, what if they were dealt with the same respect, and given the same rights as others in the society today? The theory of Radical Feminism (1968) will be used to investigate the issue. The ignored civil and domestic rights of these women will also be addressed, and the societal stereotype being led by the male gender will be pointed out. These women will be discussed in this paper through the powerful and thought-provoking art of Iqbal Hussain which brings to light the epistemologies of women, shedding light on their experiences, perspectives, and narratives. From bold portraits to imaginative landscapes, the art invites us to reflect on the often-overlooked epistemologies of women, offering a fresh perspective on

the world we inhabit. The paintings helped us to understand the power it harnesses to give voice to women's experiences. Hussain's artwork delves into a multitude of themes, each carrying its weight in depicting the struggles faced by women. His art acts as a visual narrative, speaking volumes about the triumphs and struggles of the women of that area. This research will not only provide a deeper understanding of women's oppression but will also serve as a significant shift regarding their silent cries for help.

**Keywords:** Red light area, struggle, women, paintings, society

### **Presentation 19: Gender Construction in Legal Discourse: A Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis of Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 in Pakistan**

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This study aims at Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis of the Anti-rape Act 2021 Pakistan. The objectives of this study are to analyze lexico-grammatical patterns, the use of discursive strategies and to analyze the ideologies and power structures in anti-rape acts 2021. The significance of the study lies in its innovative approach of merging discursive strategies and feminist critical discourse studies to critically analyze the idea of gender construction in the anti-rape Act 2021. The present study is qualitative by nature and it involves the interpretation of the anti-rape act 2021 in Pakistan through the framework of Feminist Critical discourse analysis by Sara Mills (FCDA, 1995), Porreca Model (1984) and Halliday's Model of Transitivity (2004). The research aims to analyze the ways how gender is constructed through legislation in Pakistan. Data will be taken from secondary sources such as acts from the website of the Nation commission on the status of women. The study is qualitative and exploratory in nature. It aims to conduct a linguistic analysis of the anti-rape acts 2021 to explore discursive strategies embedded in syntactic structures and lexical choices. For this purpose, the study chooses lexical functional grammar as its method and further integrates it with the model of feminist critical discourse analysis. The study selects text from the anti-rape act 2021 for the analysis from the

website of the National Commission on the status of women's websites. The current research intends to adopt a multi-methodological research design to identify the several discursive strategies that worked to construct the ideology in anti-rape acts 2021. The thematic content will be used to identify the linguistic construction in terms of gender construction.

**Keywords:** Gender construction, FCDA, anti-rape act

### **Presentation 20: A Textual Study of the Peripheral Existence of the Unvoiced Women in Charlotte Perkins Stetson's *The Yellow Wallpaper***

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This study expounds upon the textual study of the peripheral existence of the unvoiced women in Charlotte Perkins Stetson's *The Yellow Wallpaper*. This study aims to explore the passive existence of women subdued under patriarchal voices. Their silences, unheard queries and suppressed voices are trapped and maneuvered in the periphery. This study signifies the controlling power of the male gender to subdue the women through their loud voices, grand words and socio-cultural history of their chauvinistic behavior. The pivotal focus of this research is to unearth the process of crossing the margins of female subjugation through the tags of madness, weakness, hallucinations and fantasies. The challenges to embracing freedom from the marginalized self are keenly excavated in this study. Raewyn Connell's theory of Hegemonic Masculinity has been applied as a framework to carry out this research. The study finds that the liberated self of women is a possibility unless she crosses the threshold of disillusionment to celebrate her emancipated self. This study has further implications for future researchers exploring female existence

beyond the margins of society to provide her with an audible voice. The contemporaneity of this study offers the centralization of the socio-psychic opportunities for both genders in this postmodern world.

**Keywords:** Periphery, margins, female, voice, existence

## **Presentation 21: Impact Assessment of a 5-Day Training Program on English Language and Job Skills for Transgender Youth**

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This research delves into the transformative potential of a targeted 5-day training program designed to enhance English language proficiency and job skills among transgender youth who have minimum qualifications of matriculation. Recognizing the multifaceted challenges faced by transgender individuals, especially in accessing education and employment opportunities, this study investigates the immediate and sustained impacts of a short-term intervention aimed at empowering this demographic in the realm of language and job readiness. Employing a pre- and post-training assessment model, the study utilizes quantitative and qualitative methods, surveys, and in-depth interviews, to gauge the effectiveness of the training program. The research evaluates participants' linguistic progress, self-perceived confidence levels, and acquisition of practical job skills over the course of the training. Results from this study are anticipated to contribute valuable insights into the feasibility and effectiveness of brief training initiatives for transgender youth. Additionally, the research seeks to identify the specific challenges faced by this demographic in the context of language acquisition and job skill development. Findings will inform educators, policymakers, and stakeholders about the potential impact of short-term interventions, guiding the design and implementation of future programs aimed at enhancing the socio-economic well-being of transgender youth through improved language proficiency and employability skills. Ultimately, this research aspires to foster inclusivity, resilience, and empowerment within the transgender

community, paving the way for more targeted interventions to address the unique needs of transgender youth in their pursuit of education and employment opportunities.

**Keywords:** Training, English language, transgender youth, job skills

## Presentation 22: Natural Vs Grammatical Gender: Teaching Implications

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The category of gender and its effects on speakers' perception carry implications on learners' comprehension, vocabulary acquisition and overall cognitive skills in foreign language learning. It is evident in the case of English and Pashto; the former with natural gender has no gender inflection of nouns, adjectives and verbs- apart from pronouns, while the latter has grammatical gender and employs gender inflection to all parts of speech. There lies a greater risk in perceiving English neutral, generic and impersonal terms as gender-specific, as well as, assigning wrong gender to nouns by Pashto speakers (Roşcovan, 2021). Guided by the pertinent notions postulated by the field of Feminist Linguistics, the problem was approached by drawing a comparison between these two languages as ST and TT. Primary data was obtained by designing and conducting a translation task. Gender- neutral English constructions were translated by 30 participants as Pashto L1 EFL learners purposively selected. The mismatch of ST and TT was evident in many ways in data analysis. It was found that most of the English generic and neutral terms were perceived as masculine when translated to Pashto including nouns, pronoun and pronominal references, metaphors, personifications and gender-related connotations. Moreover, few masculine nouns were treated as feminine and vice versa. Instances of such incongruities can be assigned to the influence of the prevailing patriarchy in learners' culture (Sanauddin, 2015). The study concludes that the mismatch in gender categories of ST and TT threatens learners' comprehension-ranging from slight to total miscomprehension. It therefore cautions ELT practitioners by drawing their attention to gender sensitivity while integrating translation tasks in EFL instructions. The study may

appear equally useful for the L1 learners of other languages possessing grammatical gender in EFL contexts.

**Keywords:** Gender perception, language learning, feminist linguistics, translation task, gender sensitivity

### **Presentation 23: ChatGPT & ESL Teachers: Bridging Role of ChatGPT in Second Language Learning**

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Pragmatic competence is a prerequisite for effective language communication. It is essential for second language learners to be able to understand implicatures, recognize and use language in context, use appropriate speech acts, and navigate the challenges of social contact. Even while past research examined many approaches to pragmatic instruction, the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) language models such as ChatGPT has opened up new possibilities for the development of pragmatic skills. This study uses a multidisciplinary framework, and content analysis has been used to examine the data. The primary section describes ChatGPT as a learning tool and outlines its advantages, which make it an invaluable tool for both teachers and language learners. These aspects include accessibility, personalization, immersive learning, and instant feedback. The study then goes on to examine ChatGPT's effects as a language-learning tool in the social realm. The findings suggest that ChatGPT can be an effective technique for fostering the development of pragmatic competence in second language learning scenarios when combined with human-led instruction and engagement. This research adds to the ongoing discussion regarding active learning and technologically assisted education by demonstrating the potential and drawbacks of AI language models regarding the transformation of the English language's pragmatic competence.

**Keywords:** Pragmatic competence, artificial intelligence, content analysis, SLA, interlanguage



## Presentation 24: Digitalizing the English Language Learning Classrooms

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Although existing literature largely highlights the negative effects of excessive smartphone use on university students' physical health, sleep, and mental well-being, a notable gap is a comprehensive quantitative analysis to address the problem and its root causes. This study uses a quantitative approach, collecting extensive data from both students and teachers to specifically focus on the reasons behind the natural use of cell phones in classrooms. Utilizing surveys, interviews, and behavioral observations, the research aims to quantify smartphone use while exploring the motivations that drive this behavior. Insights from educators will be valuable insights into how smartphone use affects the learning environment. This study aspires to provide empirical evidence for targeted interventions promoting the balanced integration of technology in higher education. This research adopts Pavlov's classical conditioning theory to analyze the relationship between environmental stimuli, specifically mobile phone use during classes, and conditioned responses associated with lower academic performance. By applying this framework, the study aims to provide insight into the structural associations between external cues and negative academic outcomes associated with phone habits in educational settings. The findings of the study indicate a substantial impact of smartphone use on the academic performance of students aged 20 to 24, contributing to inefficient daily schedules within this demographic. Data collection encompassed students from various universities in Lahore including FCCU, LUMS, and UMT, with participation from teachers in these institutions. The questionnaires used qualitative and quantitative questions to extract comprehensive information about the phenomenon.

**Keywords:** Students' academic progress, mobile phone usage, stimulus-response and neutral response, conditioned and unconditioned response

## **Presentation 25: Analyzing the Linguistic Landscape of Pakistan Amidst General Elections 2024: Contestation of Power and Linguistic Pollution**

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Linguistic landscape is the visibility and salience of words in public places (Sebba, 2010). The current study focuses on analyzing the linguistic landscape of Pakistan during General Elections 2024 which were held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The already existing linguistic landscape of Pakistan was bombarded with signboards and banners during the election season to showcase election campaigning. The election campaigning done by political parties could be termed as visual pollution in the linguistic landscape of Pakistan. Banners were seen pasted on top of each other, to secure more visibility than others. The data for this study was taken from the north and South of Punjab, Pakistan. The selected cities were Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Vehari. The researchers collected data by conducting photographic documentation of all major areas along with videography of the main roads of the selected cities. Multimodal discourse analysis (Norris, 2004) was used as the theoretical framework of the study, where it was observed how the concept of power hegemony is created by this excessive use of election campaigning. It was further discussed how this practice has created a kind of visual pollution, termed as linguistic pollution by the researchers. It is the presence of inappropriate, unwanted, or excessive use of language in public spaces. The results revealed how excessive election campaigning has added to visual pollution, more specifically linguistic pollution in the selected cities. It was revealed that the main roundabouts and the poles of streetlights of the selected cities were bombarded with election campaigning banners. This overcrowded display of election banners was seen as a site of contestation of power by the various political parties. They can be taken as ‘mini battlefields’ showcasing who becomes victorious by

putting their party's signboard on the forefront, surpassing all others in terms of visibility. In the light of multimodal discourse analysis, such poles and roundabouts are not just mere objects but actually instruments of showcasing power, projecting much more than the original purpose they were made or developed for.

**Keywords:** Linguistic landscape, visual pollution, linguistic pollution, multimodal discourse analysis, language and power

### **Presentation 26: Commodification of Otherness: A Qualitative Analysis of Female Representation in Pakistani Advertisements**

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This qualitative study aims to scrutinize representations of females as sexual objects in Pakistani TV ads through the postulates of Stuart Hall(1997). Some of the common features that have been witnessed in the selected ads are the representation of women as objects rather than subjects. They have been presented as a source of attraction, especially for men in different commodity ads. Twenty ads for different products are selected from YouTube. The selection of ads is made in accordance with the aim of the study; to look at the representation of females as sexual objects in the context of Pakistan TV ads. The selected ads are studied at three levels: representational, intentional and constructionist. The findings reveal that there is the commodification of otherness since females are reduced to mere objects of sex and males are presented in authoritative positions in different ads played on Pakistani TV channels. Accordingly, the study encounters well-established concepts of gender inequalities in the Pakistani context.

**Keywords:** Female commodification, otherness, Pakistani advertisement, Spectacle of the Other

## **Presentation 27: Pictures Say What Words Can't: A Visual Grammar Analysis of Pakistani Facebook Posts about Palestinian Issue**

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This research aims to find out what people want to convey through visual posts about Palestinian issues. This study also investigates how visual elements contribute to constructing visual design and transferring meanings. The theoretical framework for this research work includes the Grammar of Visual Design by Kress and Leeuwen (2006). Data is collected from Facebook posts during the timeframe of October 2023 to December 2023. Convenient sampling technique is used to collect and analyze Facebook posts which are about various approaches of common people about Palestinian issues. These posts are images and photo-shopped pictures without any text. The Visual Grammar analysis of the posts helps us understand what type of meanings, feelings and reactions common Pakistani Facebook users are sharing through pictures and which type of representational meanings, narrative meanings and compositional meanings are emerging from those visual designs.

**Keywords:** Visual grammar, visual design, visual elements, Facebook posts, representational meanings, narrative meanings and compositional meanings

## **Presentation 28: A Tale of Two Politicians: A Comparative Discourse Analysis of Pre-poll Podcasts of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**

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Podcasts have gained a reputation all over the world as a source of information and news. In Pakistan, there is also a noticeable increase in the viewership of podcasts in previous years – ranging from fashion and entertainment to economy and politics. This study aims to compare the linguistic strategies and rhetorical devices used for constructing reality by the prominent politicians of Pakistan during their digital campaigns for the General Election 2024. This study adopts the theoretical framework of discourse analysis guided by James Paul Gee. This framework focuses on the construction of seven areas of reality which are referred to as seven building tasks. The data for this study comes from the YouTube podcasts of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, released on the “The Centrum Media (TCM) Originals” a few days before the General Election in Pakistan. The methodology involves a systematic qualitative analysis of the data emphasizing the identification of key messages, overall tone, and language choices made by each politician in terms of identity, establishing connections, participation, and ultimately, the building of complex meanings. The findings of this study reveal that the two politicians generate mostly similar kinds of discourse through the inclusion of seven areas of reality. However, there is a distinct difference in the political ideology and electoral agenda of the two politicians. This study is significant in contributing to political communication by unravelling the intricacies of language as a tool for political persuasion. Future studies can extend the understanding of political communication through conducting comparative analysis in cross-cultural and cross-national contexts.

**Keywords:** Areas of reality, linguistic strategies, podcast campaign, political communication, political discourse

## Presentation 29: Reconnoitering Khusrau's Ambilingual Translingualism in his Qawwali "Zihal-e-Miskeen"

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This paper investigates the ambilingual and translingual stance adopted by Khusrau (1253-1325) in his acclaimed *qawwali* (a basic ritual song of Sufism in India) *Zihaal-e-Miskeen*'. Chinghiz Torkulovich Aitmatov (1984) describes translingualism as a process of writing in more than one language. Khusrau's translingualism is analyzed from the vantage point of 'yoking' i.e., using two languages in one verse. This framework is used in *Sufi* literature, through Yoko Mizuki's (2003) 'exophony' and Aitmatov's (1984), yoking which in the case of Khusrau involves the Persian language in the first verse while *Braj Bhasha* (a Western *Hindi* language) in the second. Coding by Braune & Clarke (2006) is used as the method to investigate translingualism weaved in the verses under analysis. Since research on translingualism is mostly done in the context of Western languages, this paper contributes to Eastern translingualism, with a *Sufi* point of view. It will also bring Western and Eastern corridors together for poets and writers from Eastern cultures who can use these findings to work on linguistic considerations of languages by producing translingual texts.

**Keywords:** Khusrau, translingualism, *qawwali*, thematic codes, yoking, exophony, ambilingualism

## Presentation 30: Exploring Subalternity in Rabbani's *Invisible People*

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The study explores the theme of voicelessness and marginalization faced by subalterns, within the context of Spivak's views on subalterns. The main argument centers on the subalterns' experience

of being voiceless, marginalized, and subjection to epistemic violence. Throughout their lives, these dominated members of society encounter injustice and inequality in every aspect. In *Invisible People*, Raza Rabbani vividly portrays the erasure of the marginalized groups' perspectives and their subjugation under the dominance of elite power. This study sheds light on the struggles faced by subalterns and the urgent need for their voices to be heard. The anthology explores subalternity through various stories, each depicting the powerlessness of subalterns and their lack of justice and support from authorities. The subalterns in these stories endure a profound sense of voicelessness, to the extent that death becomes the only means to escape their troubles. Their lives are devoid of justice and a conducive environment to thrive in. Women are forced into marriages and impoverished groups face a sense of futility, sacrificing their desires and needs. They even bear the consequences of others' crimes. The underlying reason for these problems is the lack of agency. The stories explicitly highlight the gender-based discrimination and denial of knowledge that contribute to the voicelessness of subalterns. Women are unable to advocate for their rights, and impoverished groups are denied justice by authorities. These brutalities ultimately lead to a sense of voicelessness, as subalterns are unheard by society and continue to face marginalization throughout their lives.

**Keywords:** Subalterns, epistemic violence, impoverished groups, subjugation, marginalization.

### **Presentation 31: A Study of Food and Culinary Metaphors in Elif Shafak's *The Bastard of Istanbul***

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The prominence of food in the scheme of life has always fascinated humans, implying something much more than merely being a necessity for survival. Their food manners act as markers of identity and provide a comprehensive insight into the behavior and motives of people's relative actions and reactions. Vis-à-vis the study of food and culinary activities as rhetoric facilitates like any other written and

spoken language that provides information about a society and its members. Due to the fact that food and culinary habits effectively persuade and influence people by stating to them their predecessors' techniques and practices, their interpretation (as rhetoric) informs about social affiliations just like any other cultural and religious practice. Cultural and traditional food practices are beneficial sources for investigating the temperaments of a specific social group and its structure. This paper presents a study of food and culinary metaphors in Elif Shafak's *The Bastard of Istanbul* (2007). These metaphors are studied as cultural, social and psychological expressions of two Turkish families, Kazanci and Armenian. The Kazancis feel pride and honor in displaying their culinary heritage at all traditional festivities and social get-togethers. On the other hand, the Armenian-diaspora are determined to stick to their culture and tradition. Their acculturation process is expressed via preparing and displaying traditional cuisine at cultural and social occasions. Association with the culinary heritage, "ashure", entertains as a connector and bridges the gap between Kazanci and Armenian-Diaspora.

**Keywords:** Food, culture, ashure, diaspora, affiliation

### **Presentation 32: Myths, Subjugation and Resistance: Manifesting Subversive Performativity in Datta Bhagat's Play *The Whirlpool***

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Political elements and collective values are the two key components that exist within every literary piece of writing that concerns minorities. Minor literature as a genre stands on its own because it is always in a narrow space and every individual matter is inserted into the political. The question of the individual becomes even more necessary, indispensable, and magnified microscopically because an entirely different story stirs within it. It is in this sense that the family triangle is connected to other commercial, economic, bureaucratic, and judicial triangles that determine its value. Every minor text will always be interpreted in the context of its political value because every minor text has, primarily, some form of resistance within it, towards the narratives that are created by the dominant class. The



primary text opted for this research paper is Datta Bhagat's play, *The Whirlpool*, which addresses the concerns and grievances of the minorities, and deals with political, social, and religious agitation in India. It exposes the abuse that the minorities suffer, especially Mahar, at the hands of the upper caste Hindus and presents an alternative narrative to the discourse produced by the upper class regarding the lower classes. Characters in the play manifest subversive performativity and create a space for questioning the already dominated discourses being produced and perpetuated by the upper-caste Hindus. This research paper uses the works of Max Weber, Robert Daliege, and Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar as background knowledge to critically investigate how Hindu religious myths play a major role in legitimizing the position of servitude for the lower caste Hindus in Indian society and the various ways in which the characters in the play pose resistance to the ideologies that are produced for the subjugation of the lower caste Hindus by the upper caste Hindus.

**Keywords:** Minor literature, subversive performativity, political resistance, Hindu religious myths, social subjugation

### **Presentation 33: Gender Representation in Media Discourse: An Interpretative Approach**

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This study intended to show through critical discourse analysis of primetime Pakistani TV advertisements how voice is employed to create female gender roles. The study is qualitative in nature. In the qualitative method, critical discourse analysis has been selected in which Fairclough's 3d model is used for data analysis. The reason for selecting the qualitative method is that the researcher can evaluate the issues and subjects in-depth and in detail as the data collected in this study is dependent on the human experiences which becomes more powerful and compelling. For this analysis, the data were collected from four (04) drama channels and twenty-five (25) advertisements which were selected through a random sampling technique. The

selected advertisements were analysed under certain headings which are text (description), interaction (interpretation), and context (explanation) to investigate the gender roles and identities created for the females through selected advertisements. This study deals with the social context which reveals to us that advertisements play a major role in marketing the products for the people and these advertisements are important as they also reflect and shape our society. This study also provides certain theories that people are biased in creating gender roles and through this, a distinction can be seen between male and female genders. The discourses discussed in this study are to look at the voice given to the females and how that voice is interpreted.

**Keywords:** Advertisement, discourse, explanation, gender, identities, qualitative text interpretation

### **Presentation 34: (Re)Marking Geographical Spaces and Detournement in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*: A Psychogeographical Study**

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This research paper marks the effects of geographical spaces on the main characters, Antoinette and Rochester, in *Wide Sargasso Sea* drawing on literary psychogeography using the concept of detournement by Guy Debord as presented in *Letterist International*, later adapted to *Situationalist International* in the 1950s. Detournement is the practice of subverting the original and bringing new opportunities using different tactics and methods. Its main concern is to prolong the problem through resistance to the environmental and behavioral influences that cause psychological suffering. The main character Antoinette navigates through different geographical boundaries, spaces, and places, as a protection from physical and emotional impairment and attempts to redefine her agency and identity while opening ways to new possibilities through detournement. This research attempts to remark on Antoinette's journey from Coulibri Estate to Mount Calvary Convent in Jamaica, and from Grandbois Estate to Thornfield Hall in England. The smaller

places of dwellings within the bounded spaces like towns (Spanish), gardens, houses, rooms, walls, and windows have also a pervasive influence on the minds of characters. The purpose of the research is to highlight the tactics of mimicry, dreaming, and manipulation using the natural landscape, and the violent action of setting the house on fire as tools to detourne the determined situations set for her by the social constraints of different geographical spaces. This study also breaks grounds to further investigate the selected novel through the lens of Eco-criticism and cognitive appraisal theory.

**Keywords:** Psychogeography, detournement, geography, space

### Presentation 35: Language and Gender at the Workplace

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This study was designed to explore what kind of gender and language issues existed in the workplace and how workplace discourse plays a key role in this regard. Furthermore, the objective of this study is to provide fruitful implications by following these, the issues regarding gender and language can be minimized at the workplace through appropriate workplace discourse. With reference to this, this study found that several kinds of language and gender issues existed in the workplace and in order to tackle such issues, authors of the field have stated several kinds of theories that followed to minimize such issues. Further to this, this study found that language and gender, both are interrelated terms and at the workplace, both terms play a significant role in the development of the organizational culture. More precisely, language issues are often elaborated when supervisors, leaders or senior-level managers use inappropriate language at the workplace and further create discrimination at the workplace, this will lead the individuals to exhibit a low level of productivity and consequently, the organizational goals will not be accomplished. The study is significant because it suggested that the gender and language field is associated with several other disciplines like management, and human resources, therefore, future researchers should link these two paradigms with the concepts of the other fields, this will provide new insights and studies will be more generalizable.

**Keywords:** Language and gender, workplace discourse, organizational culture, discrimination, productivity

## Presentation 36: Transcending Mediums: An In-Depth Exploration of Text-to-Screen Adaptation in the Intriguing Drama “Alif”

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The purpose of this study is to identify and describe the process of the transition of textual content into some visual representation in Pakistani drama *Alif* (2019). Adopting Linda Hutcheon's (2006) theoretical stance on Adaptation studies, this paper focuses on an adaptive process, by evaluating its effectiveness and accuracy in transforming the written content into a real storyline. *Alif* (2019) which is an award-winning and unique Pakistani series based on a novel by Umera Ahmed, is selected for analysis in this study. This study seeks to uncover the adaptation process sequentially, mainly focusing on its central and structural components. The study also undergoes audience perception analysis which significantly contributes to the understanding of the intricacies and monumental feats involved in the transformation from one medium to another. This transformation from the medium of paper-to-screen is done with the help of translations. A good example of this transformation is 'Alif meaning "Allah" received by the public in the middle of the series and criticized to a high level. This work focuses on the development of an understanding of the adaptation process in the context of Pakistani dramas, especially with reference to the Screen adaptation of *Alif* (2019). The study proves that storytelling is a part of the adaptation process, and the screen literature evolves and transforms by using this tool of telling and retelling stories. This paper can be used to add to the discussion of storytelling dynamics in modern media by reviewing this elaborate process, which has many dimensions of the written text and visual interpretation.

**Keywords:** Text-to-screen adaptation, cinematic translation, literary-to-visual transformation, narrative fidelity, cultural interpretation, socio-cultural influences, audience reception

### **Presentation 37: From Script to Screen: Examining the Practical Application of Adaptation Theory in Hashim Nadeem's *Parizaad***

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This research focuses on the adaptation of the Pakistani drama serial “*Parizaad*” (2021) from *Hashim Nadeem's* novel through the framework of adaptation theory by Tolstoy. Examining the portrayal of disability in the television adaptation and its impact on cultural attitudes in Pakistani society, the study aims to understand the choices made in adapting themes, plot, characters, and narrative style. The theoretical framework draws from adaptation theory, which views adaptations as creative reinterpretations rather than mere copies of originals. The analysis reveals dynamic shifts in storytelling, emphasizing the importance of understanding the potential for diverse connections with the narrative and its characters. The research explores how the TV show, while departing from *Parizaad's* childhood swiftly, engages viewers in a captivating puzzle, encouraging active interpretation and emotional involvement. This study contributes to the broader understanding of adaptation processes and their implications on audience experiences.

**Keywords:** Fidelity, reader-response theory, disability portrayal, creative interpretations, cultural attitudes Engagement, inner monologue, observer's lens, media representation, story transformation

### **Presentation 38: From novel to screen: A Comprehensive Study of Adaptation Theory in the Pakistani Drama “*Dastan*”**

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This research critically examines the adaptation process of the Pakistani drama “*Dastan*” (2010) through the lens of adaptation theory. The study navigates linguistic limitations and defines the

scope of the adaptation process, providing insights into the intricacies of transforming source material into a televised narrative. Through a literature review, the research aims to establish a theoretical foundation for understanding adaptation theory in the context of television dramas, identifying gaps that “*Dastan*” (2010) seeks to address. The theoretical framework outlines the paradigm that underpins the study, emphasizing its relevance to the identified research questions. Methodologically, linguistic tools are employed to analyze the adaptation process, with a justification of the chosen linguistic methods and tools. The research design offers a concise overview of each chapter, demonstrating the researcher's awareness of the study's structure and flow. In conclusion, the research highlights its contribution to the broader discussions within the subject area, emphasizing its role in filling existing gaps in the understanding of adaptation theory in Pakistani television drama.

**Keywords:** Adaptation fidelity, creative reinterpretation, linguistic transformations, radical transformations, narrative analysis, cultural attitudes, perspectives of reader-response, adaptation theory

### **Presentation 39: From Text to Screen: Unveiling the Transformative Narrative of Aangan Inspired by Linda Hutcheon's Adaptation Study**

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This article explores the application of Linda Hutcheon's seminal work, “A Theory of Adaptation”, (2006) in the Pakistani drama *Aangan* (2019), The screen adaptation of Khadija Mastoor's novel of the same title. The analysis delves into the modes of engagement employed by the adaptation, considering Hutcheon's concepts of “telling”, “showing”, and “interactive” modes. It scrutinizes the adaptation process as both a product and a dynamic process, evaluating the delicate balance between faithfulness to the source material and the introduction of innovative elements. The article also investigates the motivations behind the adaptation, the intentions of the adapters, and the reception of the drama by the audience. Challenges and critiques faced by *Aangan* (2019) are explored, along with an examination of its evolution over time and its contemporary

appeal. The article concludes by reflecting on drama's overall success as an adaptation, offering insights into its impact on the cultural and television landscape.

**Keywords:** Linda Hutcheon, fidelity, innovation, adaptation process, cultural aspects, impact

#### **Presentation 40: From Paper to Screen: Unveiling Dramatic Elements of Adaptation in the Drama “Zindagi Gulzar Hai”**

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*Zindagi Gulzar Hai* (2012) by Umera Ahmed, a powerful story of affection, cultural standards, and self-revelation, goes through an intriguing variation from text to screen. We have seen *Zindagi Gulzar Hai* (2012) from the lense of Henry Jenkin's (2006) theoretical perspective. Jenkin's hypothesis (2006) underscores cultural insight and the assembly of media. In the variation of *Zindagi Gulzar Hai* (2012) on two mediums, these ideas manifest through the audience's commitment to the account, cooperative conversations, and the combination of different narrating components. The participatory culture is clear as the crowd effectively deciphers and shares their point of view on the person's predicaments and cultural issues investigated through the show. The aggregate knowledge arises through web-based gatherings, where the audience cooperatively investigates and examines the plot complexities, character inspirations and cultural subjects. The union of media is exemplified by transformation's capacity to traverse across various stages, like TV, real-time features, and web-based entertainment. Fans add to the story's development by constructing fan fiction through reviews of their favorite works, making a piece of fine art, and participating in the web-based discourse, which exhibits a unique transaction between the first work and the crowd's response towards it.

**Keywords:** Culture, media, screen adaptation, intertextuality, *Zindagi Gulzar Hai*, trans-mediation and negotiation.

## Presentation 41: Renegotiating Kitsch and Rhizome: A Post-Identitarian Perspective on Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *The Festival of Insignificance*

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This research aims to trace the patterns of Kitsch and Rhizome in Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (1984) and *The Festival of Insignificance* (2016) to interpret aesthetic and identity marginalization, identity metamorphosis, and post-identitarian rhizome in postmodern (con)texts. To explore the relationship between Kitsch and marginalization, and the metamorphosis of rooted identity into post-identity, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari's concepts of deterritorialization, reterritorialization, and rhizome, and Catherine A. Lugg's concepts of kitsch and resistance and subversion. Of kitsch together supply a theoretical framework to this study. In the selected novels, Kundera's characters exhibit nomadic strains that go from the peripheries to the centre and from there to new peripheries. This shifting of centre and periphery not only dismantles the binary but creates yet another binary. Focusing on the renegotiation of Kitsch, I argue that political kitsch promotes marginalization. Lugg's perspective on subversion and resistance against kitsch helps rationalize the impacts of political kitsch on aesthetic and identitarian marginalization. Broadening this milieu to the identitarian context, this research aims to analyse the centre/periphery and rooted/rootless binaries and subsequently conceptualizes post-identitarian Rhizome. Through textual analysis of the selected texts, the study attempts to explore the renegotiation of kitsch to develop a debate on identity in postmodern (con)texts. Hence, the major purpose of this research is twofold: to explore the relationship between political kitsch and marginalization, and the shift from rooted identity to post-identity to explore the emergence of rhizomatic identity in the postmodern era. The study will contribute to the debates on post-identity with reference to kitsch and rhizome to renegotiate the underpinnings of these concepts and rationalize post-identity.

**Keywords:** Kitsch, rhizome, post-identity, postmodernism, post-migration



## **Presentation 42: Reconstruction of Socio-Cultural Binaries: A Comparative Analysis of Khalid Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* (2003) and Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* (2009)**

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This research aims to view *The Kite Runner* (2003) and *The Help* (2009) from the perspective of deconstruction theory by Jacques Derrida to reconstruct the socio-cultural binary opposition between Hazaras and Pashtuns, and Black and White people in the selected texts respectively. The concept of binary opposition exposes the differences between two things and produces a new concept which can be accepted by many readers. The problem which is discussed in this research is the binary opposition of the characters in the selected texts. For Derrida, the socio-cultural norms carry a hierarchical arrangement where one is superior to the other. The Hazaras and the Black people have been depicted as cowards, Lier, disloyal, untalented, unimaginative, unskillful, and unsophisticated, but the concept of binary opposition inverts the table that the Hazaras and the Black people are skilful, imaginative, truthful, brave, loyal, sophisticated, and talented in the selected novels. The comparative analysis method will be used to bring forth similarities between American and Afghani literature. This research is based on textual analysis and descriptive design as it specifically deals with explanation, analysis, and findings. Thus, the binary opposition of Hazaras and Black people has proven that they are not subjugated in Afghan and American society.

**Keywords:** Deconstruction, the whites, the Pashtuns, binary opposition, the Hazaras, the blacks

### **Presentation 43: Dream as a Gateway to Collective Unconscious: The Jungian Approach on Ato's Dream in *The Dilemma of a Ghost***

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The research explores Ato's dream in *The Dilemma of a Ghost* by applying the Jungian concept of collective unconscious. Ato's dream of travelling to Elmina or Cape Coast reveals the deep symbolism ingrained in these historically notable places connected to the transatlantic slave trade. The researcher aims to apply the theory of Jungian collective unconscious, an inherited part of the psyche rather than developed on an individual basis. In the light of Jungian archetypes, the dream evolves into a symbolic investigation of Ato's psychology, signifying a metamorphosis into the collective unconscious. These instincts are present from birth and are ancestral recollections that are unlearned drives and impact people psychologically (Jung, 1936, p. p99). The application of Jungian theory to the suppressed historical traumas and shadow parts of the collective unconscious will help the researcher explore what lurks under the surface of Ato's dream. Thus, the coast in the play acts as a barrier between the conscious and unconscious domains, and the historical background of the dream forces Ato to face his own darkness and integrate suppressed parts of his inherited past. This research will evaluate Ato's journey in the dream as a reflection of the Jungian idea of collective unconsciousness in the Ghanaian context.

**Keywords:** Ato, dream, collective unconscious, slave trade, psyche

## **Presentation 44: Exploring the Subaltern Voices and Motifs in Raj Kamal Jha's *If You Are Afraid of Heights***

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This study focuses on subaltern silences and examines the idea of enunciation in Raj Kamal Jha's *If You Are Afraid of Heights*. The purpose of this study is to explore the language of identity, its formulating process, and silences in a postcolonial milieu. It explores the representational motifs like "Height", "Girl in Red Dress", "Cry", "Crow," and "Dreams and Synchronicities", and their impact on the character's inner turmoil, self-construction, their search for recognition and redemption within the postcolonial discourse. Gayatri Spivak is researched for her contributions to understanding the concept of identity as self and Indian subaltern voices.

**Keywords:** Subaltern; motifs; self-identity; post-colonial language

## **Presentation 45: Nation, Ummah and Ego as Eastern Peripheral Epistemologies in Iqbal**

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Concepts of nationalism and Ummah in relation to Ego have always been the focus of nationalist thinker, poet and philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Nationalism is not only the voice of the centre but rather a voice of the margin and periphery as well. Concepts of nationhood and nationalism give a nuanced understanding of nationalist, peripheral and epistemological goals which lead to analysis of geographical peripheries. Whatever defines us as a nation is not only the authority of the centre but marginalized voices as well and paradoxically this territorialization of the nation on the very ideology of the periphery, somehow, transcends beyond the nationalist mainstream geographical boundaries. For taking into consideration the national and peripheral voices, I will choose the poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in translation, by discussing his concepts of nation and Ummah as a voice of margin. The translated versions of his poetry by A. J. Arberry and R. A. Nicholson give us a deep understanding of the nationalist tendency and appeal of his translated versions of poetry which is not only regional but also transcends beyond the nationalist boundaries. Sometimes, he also appears to be talking about carnival human sub-layers of consciousness and its recognition through the Ego, which is not solely an Islamic ideology but rather invoking general human psychology as a peculiar unvoiced realm. Humanity needs to recognize itself through self-transformation by means of constant upward movement and continual growth which knows no stasis. The free will of man does not enslave him to static notions of destiny where he is destined to accept the fated notions of reality; rather he is the maker of his destiny. When he goes through the process of self-recognition by finding *Khudi* (*Ego*) which means when he finds himself and by finding himself, he finds the Creator and then all forces of creation come forward to contribute to his struggle and conspire to fight for his goals as he finds all forces of nature at his disposal and service. The translated versions of Iqbal help a comparative literature student to look for not only a historicized, indigenous aspect of the poet, his nation and Ummah but also a growing tendency towards universal human psychological needs in the form of upward movement of Ego that looks for fresh possibilities in the world by invoking Free Will. The poetry of Iqbal in Persian language shows us more a philosophical aspect of the poet and this angle has global and universal appeal.

**Keywords:** Nationalism, periphery, margin, voicing the unvoiced, nation, ummah, ego. free will

## Presentation 46: Posthuman Agency of Ghosts: Post 9/11 Politics and Ecology in Rajiv Joseph's Play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*

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Ghosts have emerged as some of the most powerful characters and motifs in various dramatic traditions. Nevertheless, they have never been given ample attention in terms of their post-anthropocentric function in the speculative discourse of a dramatic text. Rajiv Joseph's play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (2009) configures a surreal landscape where ghosts of animals, tyrants, rape victims, and American soldiers philosophize about the ecology, ethics and politics of the contemporary era. By drawing on the insights of Cultural/Critical Posthumanism (Herbrechter 2013), and Political Posthumanism (Miah 2009; Braidotti 2013), this paper argues that it is the agency of ghosts (not human characters) which carves out the onto-epistemological trajectory of post 9/11 milieu and establishes the posthuman and post-anthropocentric thrust of Joseph's play. This research critically analyzes the human and nonhuman ghosts as signifiers of post-traumatic (Kirss 2013, 19), cultural (Brogan 1998), historical and political (Bennett and Royle 2016, 160) hauntings. This paper makes three main claims. First of all, it argues that the ghost of a *Bengal Tiger* in this play (killed during the American invasion of Baghdad) is the text's central character and moral compass who explicates the contemporary politics of species and races. It also highlights that the burnt topiary garden in this play is a ghost of a once beautiful and green garden which amplifies the destruction of ecospheres by human-waged wars. Lastly, it asserts that the ghosts of dead humans: Uday Hussein (a sadist tyrant), Hadia (a girl raped by Uday Hussain), and Kev (an American soldier) are posthuman/posthumous manifestations of the fault lines in contemporary socio-historical and cultural politics. Hence, this play can be categorized as an example of posthuman theatre where the nonhuman actors not only dominate the stage but also divulge the planetary repercussions of the wars waged by humans.

**Keywords:** Posthuman agency, ghosts, Post-9/11 politics, ecology, Rajiv Joseph

## **Presentation 47: The Dreams Written by Fantasy Writers: Exploring the Compensatory Aspect of Literature**

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Despite myriad attempts to understand by thinkers including Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Erich Fromm and the like, dreams are still an enigmatic phenomenon. However, those attempts have been so profound that they have transcended the field of Psychology, finding their way into literary studies. It is to say that the academic endeavours towards the conceptualization of dreams have provided multiple theoretical frameworks which help in studying literature. This paper dilutes Jung's notion of dreams as a compensatory phenomenon, the role of literary writers in society (a doctrine held commonly in literary studies), and Fromm's concept of rationality in dreams to cook a preliminary theoretical framework to study fantasy fiction. This study considers fantasy as a written dream and contemplates a hypothesis that the writers may write fantasy to compensate for their society's prevailing consciousness. What and how are the aspects that these writers are trying to compensate for? As an endeavor to answer this question, I argue that fantasy fiction carries anticipatory elements which, if focused closely, can help understand the propagation of contemporary society's consciousness. Thus, this highlights the quality of an author to create prognosis in their works as well as the significance of fantasy fiction in the current era.

**Keywords:** Dreams, fantasy fiction, prognosis, Jung

## **Presentation 48: Spiritualizing Abuse: Ella, Kimiya, and New Age Spirituality in Rumi's *Daughter* and *The Forty Rules of Love***

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Kimiya's tale, which has very little in terms of historical precedence, is developed by Maufroy and Shafak into a complete tale involving

romance and spirituality. This study seeks to evaluate the consequence of Shafak's and Maufroy's unrooted spirituality by analyzing their tales of Kimiya and Ella. It argues that Ella's tale in Shafak's novel is more akin to Kimiya's than Rumi's in the novel and that the two authors' depiction of Rumi spiritualizes what is essentially a tale of abuse. Given that this depiction is mostly fictional, with much of their material being misaligned with the historical sources, it argues for a more critical reading of "Rumi" among the English reading populace, both in terms of engagement with the historical sources and in terms of not accepting uncritical and unrooted forms of spirituality.

**Keywords:** Abuse, Rumi, spirituality, Sufism, tasawwuf

### **Presentation 49: Effect of Flipped Classroom Teaching on Paragraph Writing Skills of Pakistani English Language learners**

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The flipped classroom pedagogical approach has been receiving acceptance in recent years. The objective of the current study is to investigate the impact of flipped instruction for teaching paragraph writing on Pakistani intermediate-level English language learners studying in public-sector colleges in Lahore. Besides, the study also analyzed the perceptions of learners about flipped classroom interaction. The study employed a quantitative experimental research design. The instruments used for the current study were paragraph writing tasks against pre-and post-tests and a closed-ended survey questionnaire. The samples ( $n = 60$ ) of the study were selected through random sampling techniques from two public-sector colleges in Lahore, Pakistan. The participants were subsequently distributed into the flipped classroom group (FCG) and the traditional classroom group (TCG), with an equal number ( $n = 30$ ) of participants in each group. The former group received paragraph writing input in the flipped classroom, while the latter was taught in the traditional classroom. Pre- and post-tests of both groups were taken before and after 6 weeks of treatment to ascertain the effect of blended learning. Immediately after the treatment, the participants in the flipped classroom group were administered a closed-ended questionnaire to

gauge their perceptions of the flipped mode of learning. The findings of the study indicated that the flipped classroom group (FCG) outperformed the traditional classroom group (TCG). Moreover, the participants taught through blended learning perceived the flipped mode of learning as interesting, motivating, and engaging. The study had both academic and pedagogical implications.

**Keywords:** Paragraph writing, flipped classroom, Pakistani English learners, blended learning

### **Presentation 50: Impact of Padlet Application on Presentation Skills of Pakistani EFL Learners**

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Contemporary classrooms are equipped with digital technology and teachers compete to introduce new resources or supplement existing ones. Padlet, a contemporary tool, is effective in ESL and EFL contexts. Teachers use various technological tools to achieve their intended learning objectives. Nonetheless, the objectives of the current study were to analyze the impact of Padlet on the speaking skills, i.e., the English presentation abilities, of Pakistani university-level EFL learners. The study utilized a quantitative, one-shot experimental design with pre-and post-tests. The participants ( $n = 25$ ) of the study, i.e., the students, the instructor ( $n = 1$ ), and the evaluator ( $n=1$ ), belonged to a private-sector university. The research instruments used for data collection were presentations of the respondents against pre-and post-tests, presentation rubrics for evaluating the presentations, and a closed-ended questionnaire. During one month of treatment, the experimental group practised presentations with the assistance of Padlet. The findings of the study demonstrated that Padlet as a technological learning tool improved the presentation skills of the novices in the experimental group. It not only improved their grades but also enhanced their motivation, autonomy, and interest. The study had theoretical, academic, and pedagogical implications.

**Keywords:** Padlet, Pakistani EFL students, technology, presentation skills, speaking skills



## **Presentation 51: A Comparative study of effects of second language learning in elite and non-elite schools: inequalities in educational and occupational opportunities**

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This research attempts to analyse the socio-educational effects of second language learning and development through different categories of schools in Pakistan. For this purpose, the study was conducted with Intermediate and A-level ESL learners associated with elite and non-elite schools in Lahore. Through a mixed method approach, teachers contributed to a survey along with students' focus groups to understand Bourdieu's class theory in a Pakistani context. The findings suggest that there is a marked difference in the linguistic skills of the students coming from high and low socioeconomic backgrounds from their respective schools. Besides, the findings consolidate the existing social-class hierarchy with respect to students' linguistic competence to position themselves in a society facing discrimination. I recommend that an integrated system with uniform language policies in the education field is vital for homogenous educational and professional opportunities in Pakistan.

**Keywords:** Socio-educational, elite and non-elite schools, language education, educational apartheid

## **Presentation 52: Unveiling the Horizon: A Comprehensive Review of ChatGPT's Impact in Health Science, Computer Science, Communication, and Culture through Altmetric Analysis in Dimensions**

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Drawing on a Generative AI concept, the use of a large language model (LLM) Chatbot (i.e., ChatGPT) is recognized as a significant trend by practitioners and academics. Furthermore, there has been a growing trend to explore the literature on the use of ChatGPT in different domains. Prior research focused on its role in a single

context, with the rapid growth of the use of Generative AI. Yet, there is little knowledge of antecedents and outcomes, as well as future research directions toward the use of ChatGPT in different contexts. Thus, this comprehensive systematic literature review into the expansive impact of ChatGPT across diverse academic domains, including Health Science, Computer Science, Communication, and Culture. Employing Altmetric Analysis within the Dimensions framework, the study systematically selects and categorizes articles from reputable journals and conferences within a specific timeframe. Data collection relies on the Dimensions database, complemented by Altmetric scores, providing a comprehensive understanding of the online attention and engagement garnered by ChatGPT-related research. Qualitative and quantitative analyses are employed to unravel the multifaceted influence of ChatGPT within each academic domain. The study identifies overarching themes, trends, and the nuanced ways in which ChatGPT is utilized and discussed within the scholarly landscape. The study's scope may be constrained by data availability within the Dimensions database, potentially excluding relevant articles. The reliance on Altmetric scores may not fully capture the qualitative aspects of academic impact, and the qualitative analysis is subjective and contingent on the researcher's interpretation. This research provides valuable insights into ChatGPT's scholarly impact, contributing to understanding its influence in Health Science, Computer Science, Communication, and Culture. The study acknowledges and navigates through inherent limitations to comprehensively explore ChatGPT's role within the evolving scholarly landscape.

**Keywords:** ChatGPT, Generative AI, computer sciences, systematic literature review, health sciences

### **Presentation 53: Language Attitudes and Language Beliefs among Private University Academics in Lahore**

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This research aims to investigate the language attitudes and linguistic beliefs among private university academics in Lahore. It delves into the intricate interplay between Pakistan's national and its official language, investigating their influence on the language behaviors of private university teachers in Lahore. Employing Spolsky's national language policy theory (2004), the study focuses on female English academics working in private universities. The research sample includes 50 female English academics working in eight private universities in Lahore. The research uses an explanatory sequential approach; the quantitative data collection through an online survey was followed by short interviews of 10 randomly selected participants. The findings of the study reveal slight signs of linguistic biases towards the three prevalent languages in Lahore i.e. Urdu, English and Punjabi. Future researchers can benefit from this research to study the language attitudes and language beliefs among either Urdu or English academics working in government universities. Comparative analysis between the current and future research endeavors promises to enrich this field further.

**Keywords:** Language beliefs, language attitudes, English academics, national language policy

## Presentation 54: Mirān Maa: Mother of Lyari

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Sufism goes far beyond the set patterns of *shariah*-bound Islam that is very much in practice. Women have been one of the most important parts of the mystical tradition of Islam right from the beginning. Unfortunately, they have been silenced and marginalized and as such remained almost unheard in the history of Sufism throughout the Islamic world. Their male counterparts made sure to project them almost as a non-existent entity in this tradition and otherwise. Having said that, Mirān Maa, a female virgin saint of Lyari, Karachi, is one of the few exceptions as she occupies a significant position in the history of Lyari. Residents of Lyari give her immense importance in

their lives. The shrine is one of the few shrines which are entirely run by women right from the beginning and is famed for its *karāmāt* like getting unmarried girls married, having kids for the childless, malnourished children becoming healthy after drinking the water left over by the birds in the courtyard of the shrine, etc. Though Lyari is a part of the city famous for its criminal gangs, no one in history has ever tried to disrespect the shrine of Mirān Maa. The present study is an attempt to highlight the significance of this female shrine which was built on the land reserved specifically for Miran Maa by *Pirān-i-Pīr*, Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani.

**Keywords:** Women sufi, silencing, marginalization, unheard voices, lyari

### **Presentation 55: Romanticizing the Monster: A Postmodern Study of L. J. Smith's *The Vampire Diaries***

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This research examines the impact and influence of postmodernism on the representation of classic monsters in modern times. The major area of this study aims to argue that fiction in the postmodern age has romanticized conventional villains and portrayed a positive outlook of orthodoxically evil characters. The exploratory element of the research is fulfilled by using the qualitative method for the study. According to Jean Francois Lyotard's postmodern theory, the postmodern condition is characterized by an "incredulity towards metanarratives". This means that the postmodern mindset rejects the idea that there is a single, universal truth and instead acknowledges the existence of multiple, context-dependent, relative, and subjective truths. This helps to explain why Smith portrayed monsters in a positive light. The study further substantiates the idea that people's perceptions in the postmodern era are influenced by this attractive representation of monstrous beings. The gruesome and violent acts of monsters are celebrated to accommodate the rebellious attitude towards social norms and traditions. Consequently, it argumentatively gives rise to the feelings of subjectivity and undermines the role of absolutes in the contemporary age. It rejects the traditional narrative

of the monster and validates the actions of the other through postmodern rhetoric.

**Keywords:** Postmodernism, romanticization, absolutism, traditionalism

### **Presentation 56: Deformity Unbound: Fostering Empathy and Understanding Through Children's Fiction**

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In the enchanting realm of Children's Literature, stories have been woven since ancient civilizations to entertain and instruct young minds. This literary genre, rooted in moral lessons and values, has evolved to encompass a diverse range of ideas and voices. Recent years have witnessed a growing awareness of the imperative to foster diversity and inclusivity in Children's Fiction about differently abled characters with unique perspectives often misunderstood. This research will follow the qualitative method for the exploration of R. J. Palacio's *Wonder* (2012) and *Auggie & Me* (2014) through the lens of Crip Theory. While looking at the diverse characters and their representation, this study will extend its scope to challenge societal norms and stereotypes, with a central emphasis on subversion of ingrained implications of existing norms. The design for this work will incorporate characters transcending stereotypes and embracing fluid identities, defying fixed labels while challenging societal constraints. It will unravel the complex acknowledgement that disabilities are not exclusively a product of genetic determinism but rather illuminate roles played by societal and familial contexts. By shedding light on the potential of Children's Literature to defy conventional expectations, and characters' resistance against ableist biases, it encourages the reconfiguration of societal attitudes, the findings of this research will highlight the genre's enduring relevance in shaping young readers' perceptions and understanding of the world.

**Keywords:** Ableism, differently-abled, cripistemology, disability, resistance

## **Presentation 57: Becoming the Other: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Mohsin Hamid's *The Last White Man***

**Ms Mahrukh**

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Mohsin Hamid's latest novel '*The Last White Man*' is a story of racial metamorphosis which highlights various socio-political and personal aspects of racial discrimination. This paper attempts to study Hamid's contribution to the larger discourse of racism through Anders's transformation into a 'black man'. By using Ruth Wodak's Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA) to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), this study aims to explore how language choices and discursive practices participate in the changing power structures in Anders's world. It also analyses the role of identity in the "(re)production of power relations in society". The rationale behind choosing the DHA as the theoretical model to conduct this research lies in the fact that this approach "displays an interest in identity construction and in unjustified discrimination". It takes into account historical, cultural and racial dimensions whilst analysing a text, and also integrates an 'insider view' from a victim of such discrimination. The insider view in Hamid's novel is that of Anders, whose first-person, subjective experience provides the foundation for this research.

**Keywords:** Discourse; racism; power; discrimination; CDA

## **Presentation 58: Intersectional Feminism: Navigating Women's Identity in Das's Poem "An Introduction"**

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This research paper explores the perspective of intersectional feminism while navigating women's identity concerning Kamala Das's Poem 'An Introduction'. By identifying complex layers of female identity in a male-dominated society, this study reveals the

challenges that Das faces to societal norms and particularly the cultural expectations and gender roles given to a woman by society. It explores the work in a feminist aspect as well as linguistic choices and cultural influence embedded in Das's poetry to decode the multifaceted layers of women's identity. The focus revolves around resistance to social norms, empowerment of women, and complex women's identity by looking at it with a feminist lens. The research also analyzes the strong use of language to give a powerful message of empowerment and liberation. It also explores the confessional point of view of Das's poetry and how it has a profound impact on the feminist literary landscape. Beyond the feminist aspect, this research paper also explores ever living shade of Das's voice as well as her literary impact on the representation of feminine voices in literature. Through its substantial scope, the research aims for an extensive understanding and exploration of the intersectional feminist dimensions across Das's poetry further leading to contemporary discussions on culture, gender, and identity. The study is conducted through qualitative methodology using content analysis to deepen the understanding of intersectional feminism and its role in female identity.

**Keywords:** Intersectional feminism, identity, gender roles, cultural influence, empowerment

### Presentation 59: Women of Talism Hoshruha: A Case of Historical Objectification

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This research discovers the role of the female bodies in the romantic and fantasy tales of Hoshruha: The Land and the Tilism (2009). *Tilism Hoshruha* is the largest fantasy epic in the world, which stands out as a shining example of oral traditions. An extensive collection of heroic tales and star-crossed romances, it tells the grand stories of dauntless heroes embarking on perilous journeys, encountering deadly villains, treacherous foes, demons, trolls, and jinns. The language of the epic is used with such finesse that even today the stories exude multilayered explanations to the stories. These fanciful stories are often highly allegorical and can be read as commentaries on

contemporary political and social issues of their time. It explores how language used for the female body, propels the plot and enhances the narrative structure of the stories. Within the text, the female body is both revered and condemned and idealized for its sensuality and grace. This objectification results in the commodification, dissection, and regulation of women's bodies, reducing them to objects for male consumption. In *Hoshrubah*, the depiction of the female body as a catalyst for the story's progression highlights the intricate dynamics of gender and sexual politics within the narrative. This research aims to analyze the stories linguistically using the framework of the Panopticon theory to investigate various ways in which references to the female body contribute to the richness of the narrative structure in *Hoshrubah: The Land and the Tilism* (2009). To support the argument, feminist theories of the panopticon and the male gaze and objectification are employed, asserting that the female body in *Hoshrubah* is diminished to a vulnerable site – a place where politics is carried out. Overall, this research aims to explore the language through which a story is spun where the female body is objectified

**Keywords:** Male gaze, panopticon theory, talism hoshrubah, linguistic analysis

### Presentation 60: A Comparative Ecocritical Reading of Selective Palestinian Short Stories

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The research paper aims to analyze Refaat Alareer's *Gaza Writes Back* from an Ecological perspective and trace the connection between human beings and the land. The chosen stories include "L for Life", "One War Day", "The Story of the Land", "Spared", "We Shall Return", "Please Shoot to Kill" and "The Old Man and the Stone". The stories are selected from an anthology based on the issue of land, the physical damage to the environment, the after-effects of war and displacement in Gaza and Palestinians' deep affiliation with their homeland. The research is carried out by making use of an Ecocritical approach in the light of Serpil Oppermann's "Eco criticism: Natural World in the Literary Viewfinder" which presents



the interrelations between literary texts and ecological concerns and emphasizes the significance of eco-literary discourses. Simon C. Estok's "Ecocriticism in An Age of Terror" has also been employed that argue that the context of terror in which ecocriticism works cannot be ignored and the environmental deterioration is a tragedy that leaves strong physical and psychological impacts on the human and non-human world due to terrorism and war. The methodology of the research is qualitative and evaluates the selective stories by using the method of textual analysis. The purpose of the study is to locate the connection between the characters and the land by investigating their attitude and psyche about their homeland. The objective of the research is to depict how these stories reflect the degradation of the land, the natural resources and the environment and its effects on human life. The paper examines their experiences of the occupation and the destruction of their lands and homes through the tales which are geographically rooted in Palestine. The stories depict the damage and pollution of the physical world due to war and bombardment carried out by Israel in Palestine. The eco-critical reading of the narratives reflects the deep affinity shared by human beings with their places through the symbols and images of trees, plants and stone. The research reveals that the land symbolises their identity and a sense of self which is why its deterioration and loss have impacted their lives strongly.

**Keywords:** Ecocriticism, eco-literary discourse, Palestine, Israel, war, displacement, identity

### **Panel Experts**

#### **Panel Expert 1 (Pashto Literature): Pashto Literature and Colonialism: A Critical Study of Pashto Literary Genres during the Colonial Period**

**Dr Gulzar Jalal**

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Edwardes College Peshawar  
Former Member Board of Governors  
Director Honorary/Member Board of Governors  
Pakistan Academy of Letters

The paper is about the critical study and development of Pashto literary genres in the colonial context. Gandhi (1998) observes that texts are implicated in their economic and political contexts. The focus of discussion is the growth of Pashto literary genres like short stories, novels, drama and poetry and the presentation of dominant themes like colonialism, marxism, feminism, psychoanalysis and social reforms. A critical approach reflects that, since anticolonial responses used to be quite obvious, therefore, Pashto language and literature passed through very harsh and hard times during the British Raj. The writers were threatened and put into prisons, and their works were confiscated, but they continued their contribution to the literary assets. A specific style was adopted for resistance, opposition and suppression. History reveals that the colonizers not only controlled and exploited the materials and human resources of the colonized but also, in order to prolong their occupation, resorted to social and ideological engineering of the colonies, through colonial discourse. The controlling strategies were embedded mostly in the system of education, culture, literature and languages. However, Pashto writers targeted the field of culture, history, art, literature, language, social conventions and political reforms in their literary creations through anticolonial discourse. This Pashto literature is now an integral part of Pakistani literature with the spirit of an ideology and philosophy.

**Keywords:** Pashto literary genres, colonial period, resistance

## Panel Expert 2 (Balochi Literature): The Tradition of Resistance Poetry in Balochi Literature

*Dr Zia Ur Rehman Baloch*

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The roots of Balochi literature delve deep into history, resonating with resistance and romance since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Poets such as Shay Mureed, Balach, and Beeburg laid their foundation. Over the centuries, luminaries like Mast Tawakli, Jam Durrak, Rahm Ali Mari, and Chagah Buzdar enriched this legacy, leading to the contributions of modern giants like Gul Khan Naseer, Azad Jamaldeni, Murad Sahir, Syed Hashmi, GR Mullah, Mubarak Qazi, Munir Momin, and Manzoor Bismil. In this paper, Balochi Resistance Shayari will be discussed. It will explore how Baloch Poets demonstrate Resistance and Progressive Shayari in their poetry. Through poetry and prose, these literary figures passionately critique and resist entrenched tribal and feudal systems, societal injustices, wealth disparities, capitalist exploitation, and the subjugation of women's rights. Their works serve as a dual testament to both the complex socio-political landscape and the indomitable spirit of the Baloch people, intertwining a profound love for their homeland with steadfast defiance against all forms of oppression.

**Keywords:** Balochi literature, resistance poetry, progressive Shayari, societal injustice, defiance

### Panel Expert 3 (Sindhi Literature): Silenced Narratives in Peripheral Literature: Rediscovering Voices: Sindh's Reclaim of Identity and Ownership of Mohen Jo Daro, Raja Dahir and Sindhu Darya (Indus River) in Sindhi Literature

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Epistemologically, Sindh has been identified and imposed an identity of the colonial powers i.e. Aryans, Arabs, English, Post-Partition Powers etc., with regard to its contemporary and historical origin in official narratives. The existing narratives and voices are ideologically at work to uphold the discourse supporting the powers. However, Sindhi literature is driven by other narratives and creates the other-side discourse through its cultural and literary traditions. In such cases, the literature produced in the Sindhi language speaks volumes contrary to the imposed voices, though, marginalized hitherto. The novels/fiction/poetry produced to talk about the origin and the cause of the destruction of *Mohan-Jo Daro* are different from the power narratives like its identity of *Moen Jo Daro* (the mound of dead) ignoring the heirship of *Mohan* (religionizing) and depicting it as dead wretchedly. Furthermore, its pessimistic approach created with regard to Raja Dahir and his negative character origin is linked with *Moen-Jo-Daro* negatively. Similarly, the case of the Indus River, Sindhu Darya, is ignored at large in the official or power-owned narrative as a waste of water at Sindhi Samoond (Sindhi Sea, which is colonially depicted as the Arabian Sea ignoring the local identity of Sindhi Sea), especially, when the river reaches and flows to the Sea forgetting that the river has been continued existence of the Indus Valley Civilization in thousands of years. This paper tries to explore the voices of the indigenous people throughout their historical evolution and survival in the literature that has been ignored in the mainstream discourse in the power corridors.

**Keywords:** Sindhi literature, silenced narratives, identity reclamation, Mohan Jo Daro, Indus River

## Showcase of Documentary: Weavers of Folklore

*Dr Akhtar Aziz*

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## Storytelling: *Tilism-e-Hoshruha*

*Dr Farukkh Nadeem*

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The International Conference (ICSLA-2024) organized by the School of Liberal Arts at the University of Management and Technology (UMT) in Lahore provided a vibrant forum for scholars and enthusiasts to participate in wide-ranging discussions on the digitization of traditional knowledge and the investigation of literary heritage. This three-day conference assembled academics, researchers, and professionals from various fields to explore the transformative capacity of digital humanities in safeguarding cultural legacy, promoting global collaboration, and honoring the diversity of human stories.

The final session of day 3, moderated by Ms Mah-e-Nao, focused on the *Digitization of Traditional Knowledge* and its importance in the modern era. The panel, consisting of Dr Akhtar Aziz and Dr Farrukh Nadeem, both highly respected scholars from the Department of English at the International Islamic University, Islamabad, provided thoughtful insights on this topic.

Ms Mah-e-Nao started the session by emphasizing the significance of digitizing traditional stories and legends to maintain global interconnectedness and safeguard cultural heritage. She stressed the role of digital humanities in disseminating cultural narratives globally, thereby promoting mutual understanding and appreciation among diverse communities.

Dr Akhtar Aziz, leveraging his extensive experience as a Co-Principal Investigator of the Digitizing Folk Wisdom Project, offered valuable insights into the significance of sharing folklore as a method of cultivating harmony among diverse cultures. He highlighted the transformative potential of storytelling in bridging cultural divides

and fostering cross-cultural dialogue. Through the presentation of two videos titled “Weavers of Folklore”, Dr Aziz showcased the inherent richness of cultural narratives and emphasized the necessity of making them accessible in the digital era to ensure their ongoing relevance and vitality across generations.

Dr Farrukh Nadeem delved deeper into the multidisciplinary character of digital humanities and its capacity to surpass geographical limitations. He expounded on how the digitization of traditional knowledge not only functions as a means to preserve cultural legacy but also facilitates academic research, allowing for a more profound examination of cultural narratives.

The second worthy guest, Dr Farrukh Nadeem captivated the audience with his fascinating retelling of tales from *Dastan-e-Ameer Hamza*, a renowned epic narrative in South Asian literary tradition. Through his oral storytelling performance, Dr Nadeem skillfully immersed the listeners in a world of enchantment, filled with fairies, witches, wizards, and a magical universe that kept the audience captivated until the very end. The students actively engaged with the stories, demonstrating their appreciation with enthusiastic applause. He also talked about the traditional teaching methodologies used in academia where aesthetics are not considered imperative to learning and hence remain ‘unvoiced’. Dr Nadeem spoke about the digitization of traditional knowledge and literary traditions, celebrating the richness of human narratives and underscoring the significance of preserving cultural heritage in an increasingly interconnected global landscape.

At the end of the session, he enthusiastically sung Noon Meem Rashid’s renowned poem, “Jahan Zaad”, in response to the audience’s request, captivating the listeners and receiving thunderous applause.

ai jahāñ-zād,  
nashāt us shab-e-be-rāh-ravī kī  
maiñ kahāñ tak bhūlūñ?  
zor-e-mai thā ki mere haath kī larzish thī  
ki us raat koī jaam girā TuuT gayā  
tujhe hairat na huii!  
ki tere ghar ke darīchoñ ke ka.ī shīshoñ par  
us se pahle kī bhī durzeñ thiiñ bahut  
tujhe hairat na huii!

Lastly, Dr Nadia Anwar, the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, awarded the souvenirs to the guests and conveyed her appreciation to all the participants and organizers, emphasizing the collaborative nature that defined the conference. The event was widely acclaimed as a successful endeavor, leaving a lasting impact on all attendees and reinforcing the importance of safeguarding and celebrating cultural heritage in our dynamic world.

### **Panel Discussion: Celebrating Contemporary Pakistani Vernacular Literature in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

in collaboration with

**Pakistan Academy of Letters**

**Session Chair:** Mr Sultan Muhammad Nawaz Nasir

**Panelists:** Dr Gulzar Jalal, Dr Zia Ur Rehman Baloch, Dr Mubarak Ali Lashari

**Moderator:** Mr Muhammad Numan

This panel discussion at the International Conference of Liberal Arts finds new interventions in the ways of celebrating, reclaiming and globalizing the tradition, resistance and struggle in the unvoiced voices of Pakistani vernacular literature. Further, it differentiates between vernacular and indigenous works of literature which are slightly different and conceived differently in different circumstances. Indigenous means in-born culture and indigenous literature refers to literature that has no cultural, economic or political traces or impact of colonization on its language or thought process. On the contrary, vernacular means everyday language or jargon of people and vernacular literature refers to native literature, but the jargon of these literatures stays in cultural, political and economic transformations in the postcolonial era. Significantly this triangulating trajectory has greatly affected the language, themes, and recognizing patterns immensely. This way, the session acknowledges its enrollment in a series of conference panel discussions not only in Pakistan but across South Asia to find ways, vernacular literatures beg to differ through their poetic and political negotiations.

Literature in the Pashto language traces its deep roots in pre-colonial times and recognizes its indigenous voice since then. Particularly focusing on genre development, Dr Jalal ponders upon

the ways genres developed in pre-colonial times and shared its history of the last few centuries. Highlighting the thematic transition in Pashto literature, he states that the impact of colonial and postcolonial eras has marked a shift from being indigenous to being vernacular of Pashto literature. These marks have witnessed new cultural, political and religious threads that are brought to life which later have provided blood to the pulse of resistance narratives in Pashto literature since 1947.

Dr Baloch shares a reflection of resistance and love in classical Balochi poetry. He highlights the ways and forms in which this thematic juxtaposition is woven together in cultural and political contexts. Examining the role of resistance and love poetry that drives the same thought that develops edges of two different epistemologies, he alludes to modern Baloch poetry that observes resistance as a dominating theme after the creation of Pakistan along with the absence of love and its metaphor in the form of flowers, birds and human body. From Gul Khan Naseer to Mubarak Qazi, Balochi poetry maintains its canonic status as monothematic literature. He highlighted the ways and forms in which the resistance is portrayed in modern Balochi literature along with the circumstances responsible for it.

Dr Lashari finds roots of indigenous voices in classic Sindi literature particularly focusing upon the ones that reflect the augmentation of the metaphor of Sindhi history and culture particularly. Later, he refers to four gems of Sindhi culture and history: Mohen Jo Daro (the mound of dead), Raja Dahir and Sindhu Darya (Indus River) in Sindhi Literature along with three works published with the same titles: *Sindhu* by Yar Muhammad Chandio, *Mohen Jo Daro* by Ali Baba, *The Dead River* by Abdul Qadir Junejo and another text, *Dahir*. He shares the metaphorical triangulation in postcolonial Sindhi literature that responds to pre-colonial existing/indigenous narratives of these historical metaphors in the postcolonial era.

All panelists have enlightened the audience with new ways of understanding and exploring Pakistani vernacular voices thematically and theoretically. In concluding remarks, Mr Nasir, Director General, Pakistan Academy of develops a bridge and brings hope of reunion with this difference to new interventions, contestations and constellations. This way, he gives significant recognition to Pakistani vernacular literary narratives in our academics and research.



## Pre-Conference Book Launch Event

*Sponsored by Alkitaab Bookcafe*

The pre-conference book launch event is a kickstart to the full-fledged three-day international conference titled “Peripheral Epistemologies: Voicing the Unvoiced”. It is a privilege for Alkitaab Bookcafe to sponsor and host budding authors to commence the international conference with literary zeal. Alkitaab Bookcafe is an edupreneurial venture that was conceived by Dr Nadia Anwar back in 2019 during COVID-19. It aims to provide a vibrant space for teachers, researchers, students, and scholars to gather and share their ideas and research. It is a de-hierarchized liminal space where everyone is acknowledged as an individual irrespective of their academic qualification or professional position.

The founders of Alkitaab feel that within the context of the fast-paced digital world, the love for reading books among the young generation is dying, while the adult population with the love of books struggles to find avenues to satisfy their intellectual needs. Hence, Alkitaab provides a literary space for all individuals connected to reading, writing and literary activities. Since its inception, Alkitaab has hosted various literary events i.e. book launches, interpretive reading competitions, poetry recitals, book discussions, and grand mushairas.

Continuation and promotion of such literary events is the motto of Alkitaab and its focal person, Dr Nadia Anwar, has played a vital role in inspiring the young talent to carry forward the legacy of producing and disseminating literary knowledge. Dr Anwar is the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and the CEO of Alkitaab Bookcafe. Her academic excellence, critical insight and literary vision have been the driving force behind all the successful events. She has envisioned providing a vibrant space to readers, writers, literary scholars, and budding authors alike. That is why, by aligning the book launch event with the conference, four worthy authors have been invited whose debut works need appreciation and acknowledgement. Their works invite the students and readers to delve deeper into the creative realm of literature and critically explore the nuanced spaces offering insightful experiences.

The details of the authors and their work(s) are as follows:

### Author 1: Mr Ahmed Sheikh

Mr Sheikh is a senior executive with over 20 years of experience working for leading companies across the globe. He is a computer engineer and also has a degree in clinical psychology. He is a leading psychologist with focus on areas in couple therapy, depression, positivity and logotherapy. He is a prolific poet and his debut work *In Search of Her Soul* has been published by Dastaan. His poetry mirrors the experiences of life and it is a reflection of sensitivity and keen observation towards beauty in all forms.

### Author 2: Ms Syeda Khair-ul-Bariyah

Ms Syeda Khair-ul-Bariyah is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Forman Christian College, Lahore. Her work titled *Peregrination of the Soul* is a stage play that highlights the idea of character building within a literary work. It proposes that the foundations of a strong character require constant efforts by the individual, along with efforts from those around him, to foster overall personality development. Learning from mistakes, dips and falls in life ultimately shapes a person's approach towards life as well as enhances his positive character traits.

### Author 3: Ms Huma Aslam

Ms Huma Aslam is a lecturer and writer. She is an M.Phil. Scholar from Kinnaird College, Lahore. She is currently working at Mukabbir College Gujrat. Her debut work titled *Amicable Nature of Lahore* is an ode to the beautiful memories and experiences that shaped her journey during her stay in Lahore.

### Author 4: Isabel Ayesha Khalid

Ms Isabel Ayesha Khalid is a young and passionate writer and a BS English Literature student at the University of Education, Lower Mall Campus, Lahore. She has produced around 10 books including poetry and novels. Her work is published and available at Amazon. Ayesha is associated with the Ghamidi Center of Islamic Learning and has different projects with the Al-Mawarid Institute. Her works revolve around mysticism, philosophical quests, and the existential journey of individuals. She writes poetry both in English and Turkish language.



# **CONFERENCE PROGRAM ICSLA 2024**



## **THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS**

**Conference Theme  
PERIPHERAL EPISTEMOLOGIES: VOICING THE UNVOICED**

**18-20 April 2024**

**UMT, C-II Johar Town, Lahore, Pakistan**



**Pre-Conference Book Launch**

**17 April 2024**

**01:00 pm to 05:00 pm**

**Organized by**

**School of Liberal Arts in Collaboration with Alkitaab Book Cafe**

**Pre- Conference Book Launch Program**

**Chair: Dr Nadia Anwar****Host and Moderator: Ms Amina Mehmood****Venue: Hakim****Saeed Hall**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Title of the Book</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
12:00	Arrival of Guests and Registration		
01:00	Recitation from the Holy Quran and National Anthem	Recitation and Translation	Recitation Ms Ayesha Abbas Translation Ms Iram Israr
01:10	Introductory Video of Alkitaab Bookcafe		
01:15	Welcome and Introduction to the Pre-Conference Book Launch	Address by Dean SLA	Dr Nadia Anwar Dean School of Liberal Arts University of Management and Technology, Lahore
01:25	Address of the Chief Guest	Note of the Chief Guest	Prof Abid H. K. Shirwani Chief Adviser Innovation University of Management and Technology, Lahore
01:40	Author 1	In Search of Her Soul	Mr Ahmed Sheikh Psychologist Head of Customer Experience, JazzCash <i>asaheedsh@gmail.com</i>

02:15	Author 2	Peregrination of the Soul	Dr Syeda Khair-ul-Bariyah Assistant Professor Department of Chemistry Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore <i>skbariyah@gmail.com</i>
02:50	Author 3	Amicable Nature of Lahore	Ms Huma Aslam Lecturer Mukabir College, Gujrat <i>humaaslam546@gmail.com</i>
03:25	Author 4	Nostalgia	Ms Isabel Ayesha Khalid Scholar BS English Literature University of Education, Lower Mall Campus <i>s03229472@gmail.com</i>
04:00	Question and Answer Session	Open Question and Answer Session with the Audience	
04:15	Presentation of souvenirs to the guest authors.		By Chief Guest
04:30	Closing Remarks by the Host	Note of Thanks	Ms Amina Mehmood Lecturer Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Management and Technology, Lahore
<b>04:45</b>	Refreshments		

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM****DAY ONE: APRIL 18, 2024 (Thursday)****Inaugural Session****Chair: Dr Nadia Anwar****Moderator: Dr Bushra Siddiqui****Venue: Hakeem Saeed Hall**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
8:00	Registration		
9:30	Recitation from the Holy Quran and National Anthem	Recitation and Translation	Recitation Ms Ayesha Abbas Translation Ms Iram Israr
9:45	Welcome and Introduction to the ICSLA 2024	Conference Chair's Note	Dr Nadia Anwar Acting Dean, School of Liberal Arts University of Management and Technology, Lahore
10:00	Keynote Speech 1	From Ontology to Epistemology and Methodology: Discovering Possibilities of Indigenous Theory	Prof Dr Safeer Awan Professor/Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities National University of Modern Languages Islamabad
10:20	Address of the Program Chief Guest	Celebrating Unvoiced Traditions of Pakistani Languages and Literature	Mr Sultan Muhammad Nawaz Nasir Director General, Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad



10:40	Virtual Address by Dr Najeeba Arif	Collaboration of PAL and ICSLA 2024	Dr Najeeba Arif Chairperson Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad
10:50	Message by the OUP Representative [ICSLA sponsor]	OUP Pakistan’s Role in Promoting Language and Literature in Pakistan	Mr Muhammad Ammar Zaid Assistant Manager Sales, Oxford University Press, Pakistan
11:00	Address by the Patron	Rector’s Address	Prof Dr Asif Raza (T.I & H.I) Rector University of Management and Technology
11:20	Token of Gratification	Souvenir Distribution	Dr Bushra Siddiqui
11:30	Closing Remarks by the Moderator	Note of Thanks	Dr Bushra Siddiqui
11:30-11:40	Tea Break		
Plenary Session I			
Session Chair: Dr Safeer Awan		Moderator: Ms Sobia Ilyas	Venue: Hakeem Saeed Hall
Time	Activity	Topic/Agenda	Presenter
11:45	Introductory Note	Introduction to the Panel and Session Chair by the Moderator	Ms Sobia Ilyas
11:50	Keynote Speech 2	Lives of Four Pioneering Women—Atiya Fyzee Rahamin, Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah, Abida Sultaan and Shireen Nana	Ms Muneeza Shamsie Author of <i>Hybrid Tapestries: The Development of Pakistani Literature in English</i> (2017) <a href="https://oup.com.pk/hybird-tapestries.html">https://oup.com.pk/hybird-tapestries.html</a> Area Editor, <i>Literary Encyclopaedia</i> <a href="http://www.litencyc.com">www.litencyc.com</a>

			Bibliographic Representative (Pakistan) <i>Journal of Commonwealth Literature</i> <a href="https://journals.sagepub.com/home/jcl">https://journals.sagepub.com/home/jcl</a>
12:10	Keynote Speech 3	Politics of Peripheral Voices in Pakistani Theatre: New Dimensions and Fresh Insights	Dr Taimur Kayani. Dean - Directorate Flipped Classroom & ODL Director GIFT Language Center (GLC) Professor, Department of English GIFT University, Gujranwala
12:30	Keynote Speech 4	Oral Histories, Digital Spaces and Marginalized Voices	Dr Muhammad Hasan Zafar Assistant Professor Department for Media Studies, Art and Design Lahore School of Economics, Lahore
12:50- 12:55	Concluding Remarks and Question and Answer Session	Concluding Remarks by the Chair	Dr Safeer Awan Professor/Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities National University of Modern Languages Islamabad
2-3 pm	<b>Lunch and prayer</b>		

CONCURRENT SESSION A			
Theme: Silenced Narratives in Peripheral Literature: Rediscovering Voices			
Session Chair: Dr Muhammad Asif		Moderator: Ms. Shabana Zafar	Venue: Saleem Asghar Hall
Time	Activity	Topic/Agenda	Presenter
03:00	Presentation 1	Navigating Cultural Realms: Redefining Global Indigenous Romance through Pankaj Mishra's <i>The Romantics</i>	Ms Sadia Tahira Lecturer (English) Punjab Higher Education Department <i>sadia.tahira789@gmail.com</i>
03:15	Presentation 2	Gazing Precarious Masculinities: Excavating Phallocentric Burden and Masculine Sentimentalism in <i>Circus of Life</i> (2019)	Ms Shama Iqbal Hussain Lecturer, Center for Languages University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>shamaiqbalhussain@gmail.com</i>
03:30	Presentation 3	Illusion to Subversion of Metanarratives: The Conundrum of Political Identity in Mohammad Hanif's Literary Journalism	Ms Faiqa Rashid Faculty National University of Modern Languages, Lahore Campus <i>faiqanuml@gmail.com</i>
03:45	Presentation 4	Exploring Colonial Resilience in <i>What You Pawn I will Redeem</i> through Narrative Intersectionality	Mr Nafey ud Din MPhil-EL, DELS, SLA <i>nafey12345@gmail.com</i>
04:00	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		

<b>Concurrent Session B</b> <b>Theme: Linguistics Diversity and Inclusion: Unearthing Hidden Narratives</b> <b>Session Chair: Dr Tabassum Saba</b> <b>Moderator: Dr Priya Avais</b> <b>Venue: MC-01</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
03:00	Presentation 5	Compounding and Derivation in English and Pahari: A Comparative Study	Ms Ushna Gul COMSATS University Islamabad Campus, Islamabad <i>ushnagul555@gmail.com</i>
03:15	Presentation 6	Social Justice in Applied Linguistics: Towards an Equitable Society	Ms Urooj Yahya NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi <i>uroojyahya19@gmail.com</i>
03:30	Presentation 7	Language, Media, and War: A Linguistic Analysis of Gulf War-I as Media Hyperreality	Mr Khalid Mahmood, Tamgha-i-Imtiaz PhD English (Linguistics) Scholar Department of Linguistics and Communications University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>teflmate@gmail.com</i>
03:45	Presentation 8	Manipulation of Country's Reputation in Pakistani Political Cartoons: A Thematic Analysis	*Dr. Ghazala Kausar Assistant Professor National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad <i>gkausar@numl.edu.pk</i> *Mr Muhammad Zulqarnain MPhil English (Linguistics), Department of English (Graduate Studies), National

			University of Modern Languages, H-9 Islamabad <i>nain13682@gmail.com</i>
04:00	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<div>Concurrent Session C</div> <div>Theme: Memoryscapes and Trauma Beyond Local Capitals</div> <div>Session Chair: Dr Shafaat Yar KhanModerator: Ms Rida SarfarazVenue: MC-02</div>			
Time	Activity	Topic / Agenda	Presenter
03:00	Presentation 9	The Signifying Afro-American <i>Jazz</i> : Exploring Kamau Brathwaite's “Soweto”	Dr Bushra Siddiqui Assistant Professor Department of English and Literary Studies University of Management and Technology Lahore <i>bushra.siddiqui@umt.edu.pk</i>
03:15	Presentation 10	Tracing Personal Trauma of Ahed in “They Called Me a Lioness”: A Palestinian Girl’s Fight for Freedom	Ms Ayesha Zaman PhD Scholar University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>f2023094001@umt.edu.pk</i>
03:30	Presentation 11	Traumatic Impacts on Poetry of North Waziristan: Resisting A Neo-Colonial Discourse	Mr Haider Ihsan Dawar MPhil Scholar Department of English Forman Christian College University, Lahore <i>haiderihsan738@gmail.com</i>

03:45	Presentation 12	<i>Returning to Haifa</i> in the Light of Necropolitics	Ms Aisha Altaf Graduate Student University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>aeisha.altaf@gmail.com</i>
04:00	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<b>Concurrent Session D</b>			
<b>Theme: Poetics and Politics of Gender and Resistance in Vernacular Literature</b>			
<b>Session Chair: Dr Ayesha Akram</b>		<b>Moderator: Mr Muhammad Numa</b>	<b>Venue: MC-03</b>
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
03:00	Presentation 13	Myth-Making and Magical Realism: A Study of Selected Pakistani Fiction	Ms Anosh Rehman Lecturer University of Sargodha <i>anoshrehman09@gmail.com</i>
03:15	Presentation 14	Voices of the Void: Exploring Refugee's Forced Displacement Beyond the Physical Border in Khaled Hussein's Sea Prayer	Ms Shanila Aziz Lecturer Minhaj University, Lahore <i>shanilaaziz.eng@mul.edu.pk</i>
03:30	Presentation 15	Use of Absurdity and Stereotype as a Technique of Humor in Muhammad Hanif's <i>Our Lady of Alice Bhatti</i> (2011) and <i>Red Birds</i> (2018)	Ms Maryam Munir Independent Scholar Minhaj University, Lahore <i>maryamunir899@gmail.com</i>
03:45	Presentation 16	Tracing the Dionysian Aesthetic: An Analysis of the Surrealist Mode of Defamiliarization in the Selected Poetic Works of Federico Garcia Lorca	Mr Hamza Mudassir Government College University, Lahore <i>hamzamudassir013@gmail.com</i>

04:00	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<b>Concurrent Session E</b>			
<b>Theme: Translating Aesthetics and Theory in Unvoiced Literary Narratives</b>			
<b>Session Chair: Dr Faiza Zaheer</b>		<b>Moderator: Dr Amina Khalid</b>	<b>Venue: 1N-11</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
03.00	Presentation 17	Literary Narratives of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict: A Comprehensive Analysis of Selected Novels from Israel and Palestine	Lt Col Dr Assad Mehmood Khan Independent Scholar Government Service <i>assadphdir@gmail.com</i>
03:15	Presentation 18	Beyond the Canvas: Iqbal Hussain's Poignant Depiction of the Silent Struggles Faced by Women.	*Ms Zahida Riaz Graduate Student University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>riaz.zahida2000@gmail.com</i> *Ms Naheed Ashfaq Qureshi Assistant Professor Center for Languages University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>naheed.qureshi@umt.edu.pk</i>
03:30	Presentation 19	Gender Construction in Legal Discourse: A Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis of Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 in Pakistan	Ms Farkhanda Aziz Faculty University of Education <i>farkhanda.aziz@ue.edu.pk</i>
03:45	Presentation 20	A Textual Study of the Peripheral Existence of the Unvoiced Women in <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i> by Charlotte Perkins Stetson	*Ms Hurriya Zahra Faculty Member

			Government Associate College for Women, Baddomalhi Narowal <i>suhaad.sozin@gmail.com</i> *Ms Aasma Iram Faculty Member National University of Modern Languages, Lahore <i>airam@numl.edu.pk</i>
04:00	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<b>Concurrent Session F</b>			
<b>Theme: Language, Education and Marginalized Communities (I)</b>			
<b>Session Chair: Dr Saqib Goraya</b>		<b>Moderator: Dr Tamsila Noreen</b>	<b>Venue: 1N-12</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
03:00	Presentation 21	Impact Assessment of a 5-Day Training Program on English Language and Job Skills for Transgender Youth	Dr Muhammad Umer Azim Government Graduate College Township, Higher Education Department Punjab <i>mumerazim@gmail.com</i>
03:15	Presentation 22	Natural Vs Grammatical Gender: Teaching Implications	Mr Usman Ali Lecturer GC Gulabad Lower Dir, KPK, Pakistan <i>usman.unique88@gmail.com</i>
03:30	Presentation 23	ChatGPT & ESL Teachers: Bridging Role of ChatGPT in Second Language Learning	*Mr Muhammad Riaz Khan Lecturer University of Layyah, Layyah <i>riazdasti@ul.edu.pk</i> *Ms Malaika Iqbal Graduate Student



			University of Layyah, Layyah <i>malaikaigbal1479@gmail.com</i>
03:45	Presentation 24	Digitalizing the English Language Learning Classrooms	Mr Ahmad Hassan Undergraduate Student Forman Christian College University, Lahore <i>251687467@formanite.fccollege.edu.pk</i>
04:00	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<div>Plenary Session 2</div> <div>Session Chair: Dr Nadia Anwar    </div>			

		<b>Director GIFT Language Center (GLC) Professor, Department of English GIFT University, Gujranwala</b>
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**DAY TWO: APRIL 19, 2024 (Friday)**

<b>Plenary Session 3</b>			
<b>Session Chair: Dr Nadia Anwar</b>		<b>Moderator: Ms Sobia Ilyas</b>	<b>Venue: Hakeem Saeed Hall</b>
9:30	Recitation from the Holy Quran and National Anthem	Recitation and Translation	Recitation Ms Ayesha Abbas Translation Ms Iram Israr
9:40	Introductory Note	Introduction to the Panel and Session Chair by the Moderator	Ms Sobia Ilyas, Head CFL, SLA-UMT
9:45	Keynote Speech 7	“The Sorrows of Ancestral Abodes”: A Bioregional Reading of Nasir's Nature Poetry	Dr Munazza Yaqoob Associate Professor Department of English Faculty of Languages and Literature International Islamic University, Islamabad
10:05	Keynote Speech 8	Valuing Voices from Presumed Margins: Dialectics on Gender and Islam in Pakistan	Dr Muhammad Abdullah Assistant Professor Department of English Government College University, Lahore
10:25	Keynote Speech 9	Navigating the Digital Nexus: Social Media's Dual Role in Suppressing and Amplifying Peripheral Epistemologies	Dr Sonia Irum Assistant Professor Department of English International Islamic University, Islamabad

10:45	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
11:00-11:20 Tea Break			
Concurrent Session A			
Theme: Voices of the Unheard: Linguistic Activism & Advocacy/Colonial Legacies in Language			
Session Chair: Dr Bisma Butt		Moderator: Ms Faiza Abid	Venue: MC-01
Time	Activity	Topic/Agenda	Presenter
11:30	Presentation 25	Analyzing the Linguistic Landscape of Pakistan Amidst General Elections 2024: Contestation of Power and Linguistic Pollution	*Dr Samia Tahir Faculty Department of Humanities and Sciences, SEECS, NUST, Islamabad samia.tahir@seecs.edu.pk *Neelma Riaz Faculty Department of Humanities and Sciences, SEECS, NUST, Islamabad neelma.riaz@seecs.edu.pk
11:45	Presentation 26	Commodification of Otherness: A Qualitative Analysis of Female Representation in Pakistani Advertisements	Dr Tamsila Naeem Assistant Professor Department of Linguistics and Communication University of Management and Technology Lahore tamsila.naeem@umt.edu.pk
12:00	Presentation 27	Pictures Say What Words Can't: A Visual Grammar Analysis of Pakistani Facebook Posts about Palestinian Issue	Ms Zakia Mushtaq Lecturer Department of Linguistics and Communications School of Liberal Arts



			<i>samreenishaq02@gmail.com</i>
12:00	Presentation 31	A Study of Food and Culinary Metaphors in Elif Shafak’s <i>The Bastard of Istanbul</i>	Ms Tayyaba Jawad Assistant Professor Himayat e Islam Khawateen College Lahore <i>tayyabakoko@gmail.com</i>
12:15	Presentation 32	Myths, Subjugation and Resistance: Manifesting Subversive Performativity in Datta Bhagat's Play The Whirlpool	Mr Muhammad Anees Graduate Student Forman Christian College University Lahore <i>243964636@formanite.fccollege.edu.pk</i>
12:30	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<b>Concurrent Session C</b>			
<b>Theme: Oral Histories, Digital Spaces and Marginalized Voices (I)</b>			
<b>Session Chair: Dr Fatima Syeda</b>		<b>Moderator: Dr Bushra</b>	<b>Venue: 1N-12</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
11:30	Presentation 33	Gender Representation in Media Discourse: An Interpretative Approach (CDA)	Dr Amina Khalid Assistant Professor Department of Linguistic and Communication University of Management and Technology Lahore <i>amina.khalid@umt.edu.pk</i>
11:45	Presentation 34	(Re)Marking Geographical Spaces and Detournement in Jean Rhys’s <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> : A Psychogeographical Study	Ms Bisma Amjad Graduate Student University of Management and Technology <i>bisma.amjad424@gmail.com</i>

12:00	Presentation 35	Language and Gender at Workplace	Ms Kishwer Nazli NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi <i>kishwernazli00@gmail.com</i>
12:15	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Concurrent Session D</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme: Silenced Narratives in Peripheral Literature: Rediscovering Voices (I)</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair: Dr Gulzar Jalal</b>                      <b>Moderator: Ms. Minaam Butt</b>                      <b>Venue: 1C-14</b></p>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
11:30	Presentation 36	Transcending Mediums: An In-Depth Exploration of Text-to-Screen Adaptation in the Intriguing Drama “Alif”.	Ms Roha Javed BS English Literature Scholar, Department of English University of Management and Technology Sialkot <i>040awaisbaig@gmail.com</i>
11:45	Presentation 37	From Script to Screen: Analyzing Adaptation Strategies in Hashim Nadeem’s <i>Parizaad</i>	Ms Iqra Imran BS English Literature Scholar, Department of English University of Management and Technology Sialkot <i>igraimrann1@gmail.com</i>
12:00	Presentation 38	From novel to screen: A Comprehensive Study of Adaptation Theory in the Pakistani Drama “Dastan”	Ms Maham Amir BS English Literature Scholar

			University of Management and Technology Sialkot <i>mahamamir0108@gmail.com</i>
12:15	Presentation 39	From Text to Screen: Unveiling the Transformative Narrative of <i>Aangan</i> Inspired by Linda Hutcheon’s Adaptation Study	Ms Swaira Khadim BS English Literature Scholar, Department of English University of Management and Technology Sialkot <i>talhagujjar374@gmail.com</i>
12:30	Presentation 40	From Paper to Screen: Unveiling Dramatic Elements of Adaptation in the Drama “Zindagi Gulzar Hai”	Ms Aruj Shahid BS Scholar University of Management and Technology Sialkot <i>21009119041@skt.umt.edu.pk</i>
12:45	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<b>Concurrent Session E</b>			
<b>Theme: Silenced Narratives in Peripheral Literature: Rediscovering Voices (II)</b>			
<b>Session Chair: Dr Sameer Ahmed</b>		<b>Moderator: Mr Shahan Pervaiz</b>	<b>Venue: 1C-15</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
11:30	Presentation 41	Renegotiating Kitsch and Rhizome: A Post-Identitarian Perspective on Milan Kundera’s <i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> and <i>The Festival of Insignificance</i>	Ms Nayab Murad Lecturer in English Higher Education Department, KPK MPhil. English Literature

			National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad <i>nayabmurad3@gmail.com</i>
11:45	Presentation 42	Reconstruction of Socio-Cultural Binaries: A Comparative Analysis of Khalid Hosseini’s <i>The Kite Runner</i> (2003) and Kathryn Stockett’s <i>The Help</i> (2009)	Mr Naik Muhammad Lecturer Cadet College Kohlu, Balochistan <i>naikmuahmmad@gmail.com</i>
12:00	Presentation 43	Dream as a Gateway to Collective Unconscious: The Jungian Approach on Ato’s Dream in <i>The Dilemma of a Ghost</i>	Ms Minhal Sarfraz Graduate Student University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>s2023310017@umt.edu.pk</i>
12:15	Presentation 44	Exploring the Subaltern Voices and Motifs in Raj Kamal Jha's <i>If You Are Afraid of Heights</i> .	Ms Iram Israr Graduate Student University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>s2023310002@umt.edu.pk</i>
12:30	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
1-3 pm	Jumma Prayer and Lunch		
Concurrent Session F			
Theme: Digitizing Folk Wisdom in the 21st Century (I)			
Session Chair: Dr M. Umer Azeem		Moderator: Ms Rida Sarfaraz	Venue: 1C-16
Time	Activity	Topic / Agenda	Presenter
03:00	Presentation 45	Nation, Ummah and Ego as Eastern Peripheral Epistemologies in Iqbal	*Dr Sadia Nazir Lecturer University of Agriculture Faisalabad Burewala Campus



			<i>Sadia.nazir@uaf.edu.pk</i> *Dr Sadia Akram Assistant Professor Government College University Faisalabad <i>sadia_akram1@hotmail.com</i> *Dr Saira Akhtar Head of English Department Govt College Women University Faisalabad <i>sairaakhter@gcwuf.edu.pk</i>
03:15	Presentation 46	Posthuman Agency of Ghosts: Post 9/11 Politics and Ecology in Rajiv Joseph's Play Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo	Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat Associate Professor Department of English Forman Christian College University Lahore <i>qurratulaen@fccollege.edu.pk</i>
03:30	Presentation 47	The Dreams Written by Fantasy Writers: Exploring the Compensatory Aspect of Literature	Mr Saud Hanif Lecturer Forman Christian College University <i>saudhanif@fccollege.edu.pk</i>
03:45	Presentation 48	Spiritualizing Abuse: Ella, Kimiya, and New Age Spirituality in <i>Rumi's Daughter</i> and <i>The Forty Rules of Love</i>	Mr Muhammad Munhib Shah PhD Scholar International Islamic University, Islamabad <i>munhibshah96@gmail.com</i>
04:00	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		

<b>Concurrent Session G</b> <b>Theme: Language, Education and Marginalized Communities (II)</b> <b>Session Chair: Dr Ummara Shaheen</b> <b>Moderator: Ms Sidra Haroon</b> <b>Venue: MC-01</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic / Agenda</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
03:00	Presentation 49	Effect of Flipped Classroom Teaching on Paragraph Writing Skills of Pakistani English Language Learners	Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Anwar Associate Professor Higher Education Department <i>unique.studies57@gmail.com</i>
03:15	Presentation 50	Impact of Padlet Application on Presentation Skills of Pakistani EFL Learners	Mr Muhammad Zahid Associate Professor of English Government Shalimar Graduate College, Lahore PhD Linguistics Scholar Riphah International University, Lahore (RILL) <i>zahidmian89@gmail.com</i>
03:30	Presentation 51	A Comparative study of effects of second language learning in elite and non-elite schools: inequalities in educational and occupational opportunities	Ms Rameeza Omair Faculty Lahore School of Economics <i>rameeza80@gmail.com</i>
03:45	Presentation 52	Unveiling the Horizon: A Comprehensive Review of ChatGPT's Impact in Health Science, Computer Science, Communication, and Culture through Altmetric Analysis in Dimensions.	Ms Ayesha Khan Independent Scholar University of Management and Technology Lahore <i>F2021084023@umt.edu.pk</i>
04:00	Presentation 53	Language Attitudes and Language Beliefs among Private University Academics in Lahore	Ms Syeda Faiza Babar Early Career Researcher

			University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>syedafaizababar@gmail.com</i> Ms Naheed Ashfaq Qureshi Assistant Professor Center for Languages University of Management and Technology, Lahore <i>naheed.qureshi@umt.edu.pk</i>
04:15	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
<b>Moderator: Dr Bushra Siddiqui</b>			<b>Play</b>
<b>05:00 PM-06:30 PM</b>			<b>Venue: Hakeem Saeed Hall</b>
		<b>“A Cup of Tea”</b>	<b>Mr Usman Ali</b> <b>Dean School of Social Sciences</b> <b>Superior Group of Colleges for</b> <b>University</b> <b>Mandi Bahuddin Campus</b>

**DAY THREE: APRIL 20, 2024 (Saturday)**

<b>Panel Discussion: Celebrating Contemporary Pakistani Vernacular Literature in the 21st Century</b> <b>Conducted by the Pakistan Academy of Letters</b> <b>Session Chair: Mr Sultan Muhammad Nawaz Nasir</b> <b>Moderator: Mr Muhammad Numan</b> <b>Venue: Hakeem Saeed Hall</b>			
9:30	Recitation from the Holy Quran and National Anthem	Recitation and Translation	Recitation Ms Ayesha Abbas Translation Ms Iram Israr
9:40	Introductory Note	Introduction to the Panel and Session Chair by the Moderator	Mr Muhammad Numan
9:45	Panel Expert 1 (Pashto Literature)	Pashto Literature and Colonialism: A Critical Study of Pashto Literary Genres during the Colonial Period	Dr Gulzar Jalal Head of English Department (BS) Edwardes College, Peshawar Former Member Board of Governors Director Honorary/Member Board of Governors Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad
10:15	Panel Expert 2 (Balochi Literature)	The Tradition of Resistance Poetry in Balochi Literature	Dr Zia Ur Rehman Baloch Assistant Professor Balochi Language and Literature Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad
10:35	Panel Expert 3 (Sindhi Literature)	Silenced Narratives in Peripheral Literature: Rediscovering Voices: Sindh's Reclaim of Identity and	Dr Mubarak Lashari Assistant Professor

		Ownership of Mohen Jo Daro, Raja Dahir and Sindhu Darya (Indus River) in Sindhi Literature	Institute of English Language and Literature University Of Sindh Jamshoro
11:05	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		

### Sessions

<b>Session A1</b> <b>Theme: Digitizing Folk Wisdom in the 21st Century (II)</b> <b>Session Chair: Dr Amina Khalid</b> <b>Moderator: Dr Priya Avias</b> <b>Venue: 1C-14</b>			
11:10	Presentation 54	Mirān Maa: Mother of Lyari	Dr Naila Pervaiz Visiting Assistant. Professor Habib University, Karachi <i>naila.pervaiz@ahss.habib.edu.pk</i>
11:25	Presentation 55	Romanticizing the Monster: A Postmodern Study of L.J. Smith's <i>The Vampire Diaries</i>	Mr Jonathan Caleb Imdad Lecturer Department of English Forman Christian College University Lahore <i>jonathanimdad@fccollege.edu.pk</i>
11:40	Presentation 56	Deformity Unbound: Fostering Empathy and Understanding Through Children's Fiction	Ms Aamna Khalid PhD Scholar Institute of English Studies University of the Punjab <i>aamnakhali9@outlook.com</i>
11:55	Presentation 57	Becoming the Other: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Mohsin Hamid's <i>The Last White Man</i>	Ms Mahrugh Undergraduate Student

			Institute of English Studies University of the Punjab <i>mahrukhasmat172@gmail.com</i>
12:10	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
12:20-12:40	Tea Break		
<div>Session A2</div> <div>Theme: Challenges to Feminine Voices in Unvoiced Literature (I)</div> <div>Session Chair: Dr Bushra Siddiqui      Moderator: Ms Sumera Shan      Venue: 1C-15</div>			
Time	Activity	Topic / Agenda	Presenter
12:45	Presentation 58	Intersectional Feminism: Navigating women’s identity in Das’s poem “An Introduction”	Ms Sana Ejaz Student School of Liberal Arts University of Management and Technology <i>F2023310009@umt.edu.pk</i>
01:00	Presentation 59	Women of <i>Talism Hoshruha</i> : A Case of Historical Objectification	Ms Manaal Salman Undergraduate Student Forman Christian College University Lahore 22- <i>10128@formanite.fccollege.edu.pk</i>
01:15	Presentation 60	A Comparative Ecocritical Reading of Selective Palestinian Short Stories	Ms Nazneen Zahra Graduate Student Department of English and Literary Studies

			University of Management and Technology Lahore <i>nazneen.zahra11@gmail.com</i>
01:30	Question and Answer Session, Certificates Distribution and Concluding Remarks by the Chair		
2-3 pm	Lunch and prayer		
Session Moderator: Ms Mah e Nao Venue: Hakeem Saeed Hall			
03:15	Introduction to the Session by the Moderator		Ms Mah e Nao
03:20	Showcase of Documentary: Weavers of Folklore		Dr Akhtar Aziz Co-Principal Investigator Digitizing Folk Wisdom Project Department of English International Islamic University, Islamabad
03:30- 04:10	Storytelling: Tilism-e-Hoshruha		Dr Farrukh Nadeem Assistant professor Department of English International Islamic University, Islamabad

**CONCLUDING CEREMONY****Moderator: Dr Bushra Siddiqui****Venue: Hakeem Saeed Hall**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Presenter/Responsibility</b>
4:30-4:35	Recitation from the Holy Quran	Recitation Ms Ayesha Abbas Translation Ms Iram Israr
4:40-5:00	Dean's Concluding Remarks and Note of Thanks	Dr Nadia Anwar Dean School of Liberal Arts University of Management and Technology Lahore
5:00-5:30	Certificate and Souvenir Distribution	





























### Words of Appreciation: Testimonials from Esteemed Speakers

Thank you for a terrific event, wonderful sessions, conversations and great hospitality too.

*Ms Muneeza Shamsie*

Author of *Hybrid Tapestries: The Development of Pakistani Literature in English* (2017)

My utmost gratitude and appreciation for the efficient, tireless, and courteous organizers of the conference. I am also grateful to the keynote speakers and presenters for their enlightening talks.

*Sultan M. Nasir*

Director General, Pakistan Academy of Letters

Dear Dr. Nadia and the ICSLA team, please accept my huge accolades for arranging a meaningful and impactful conference. It was perfect in every sense.

*Dr Safeer Awan*

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, NUML Islamabad.

اپنی لینا حصہ سے انہماک اور دلچسپی قدر اس کا طالبات و طلبہ ازیں۔ علاوہ تھی کانفرنس پور بھر پر طور انتظامی  
- بے آپ مثال

، محبتیں ساری بہت سرمایا ادبی و علمی سارا بہت ہیں رہے جا کہ لے ساتھ کچھ بہت پر تھے آئے اکیلے خود ہم  
اور حمزہ، خان، نعمان آصف ڈاکٹر، نادیہ ڈاکٹر، ذائقے کے کہانوں اور diversity کی لاہور، عنایتیں، شفقتیں  
ہمارے خیالات و افکار کے کرام اساتذہ اور لکھاریوں ادیب دانشور سے بہت ساتھ ساتھ کے نوازی مہمان کی یونیورسٹی  
ہونگے سفر محو ساتھ

بلوچ الرحمان ضیاء ڈاکٹر

آباد اسلام یونیورسٹی اوپن اقبال علامہ