

Issue 02

Department of English and Literary Studies

ABSTRACT BOOK

2021-2022



Estd. 1990

Institute of Liberal Arts
University of Management and Technology

ISBN: 978-969-9368-86-8

©2022 The right of the editorial material and the abstracts of the authors are in accordance with the copyrights ordinance 1962 of Pakistan. Author(s) are solely responsible for statements of fact and opinion. Nobody at the Department of English and Literary Studies is liable for the texts produced by authors.

All the rights reserved. No part of the Department of English and Literary Studies Abstract Book 2020 may be reprinted or reproduced intentionally or unintentionally without the permission in writing from the Chairperson, Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Management and Technology, C-II Revenue Society, Johar Town, Lahore.

Table of Content

DESCRIPTION	Page
Research Interests of Supervisors	7
Preliminaries	11
PhD English (Literature) Abstracts	12
Colonial Encounters Revisited: Eliade, Devi and Indian Feminism	13
A Paracolonial Comparative Exegesis of Post 9/11 Pakistani and Indian Anglophone Diaspora Fiction	14
MPhil English (Literature) Abstracts	15
The Crisis of Identity and Retention of Identity in Kamila Shamsie's <i>Burnt Shadows</i>	16
Diaspora and Diasporic Imagination in <i>Maps for Lost Lovers</i> by Nadeem Aslam	16
Examining Counter Discursivity in Arundhati Roy's <i>The Ministry of Utmost Happiness</i>	17
<i>Sparks of Phoenix</i> : Najwa Zebian's Discursive Articulation of Resilience, Rejuvenation, and Third Space Feminism	18
Racial Discrimination in Gwendolyn Brooks and Margaret Walker's Selected Poetry	18
Finding the Middle Ground in <i>Mornings in Jenin</i> and <i>To the End of the Land</i>	19
Rewriting Iranian-American Hybridity through Humour: A Postcolonial Study of Firoozeh Dumas' <i>Funny in Farsi</i>	20
Subalternity and Otherness in African American Identities: A Spivakian Reading of Morgan Jerkins' <i>Wandering in Strange Lands</i>	20
Self-destruction as a Form of Resistance in <i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison and <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> by Jean Rhys	21
Transnationalism and the Paths to Violence: Religious Identities and Displacement in Fatima Bhutto's <i>The Runaways</i>	22
Diasporic Trauma in <i>The Map of Salt and Stars</i> by Zeyn Joukhadar: An Exploration of Interconnected Identity Crisis and Hybridity	23
Post-Pastoral as a Theory of Social and Ecocritical Resistance: A Critical Narrative Analysis of Indigenous and Indigenized Narratives in Tara June Winch's <i>The Yield</i>	23
Ideological Subjugation in Arundhati Roy's <i>The Ministry of Utmost Happiness</i>	24
<i>Exit West</i> and <i>Home Fire</i> : Terror of War, Trauma of Migration, Violence and Homelessness	25

Subalternity and Otherness in Pakistani Patriarchal Identities: A Spivakian Reading of Bapsi Sidhwa's Novels	26
Racial Belligerence in Socio-Political Context: The Impact of Colonialism in <i>No Time Like the Present</i> by Nadine Gordimer	26
Politics of Representation and Marginalization in <i>I am Malala</i> by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai	27
BS English (Literature) Abstracts	29
Feminist Aesthetic as Resistance: A Textual Analysis of Adrienne Rich's and Sylvia Plath's Selected Poems	30
Alicia's Trauma and Silence in Alex Michaelides' <i>The Silent Patient</i> : A Psychoanalytic Study	30
Adaptation of Gender Representation in Bram Stoker's Novel <i>Dracula</i> (1897) and Netflix Series "Dracula" (2020)	31
Feminist Slavery and Fertility Control: Is Atwood's <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> a Possibility?	31
A Marxist Critique of Sabyn Javeri's <i>Nobody Killed Her</i>	32
A Case Study on Pedophilic Literature: Perceptions, Critique, and Stigmatization	33
A Marxist Study of <i>Moth Smoke</i> by Mohsin Hamid	34
Examining the Effects of Female Beauty Standards in <i>The Skin I'm In</i> through Social Identity Theory	34
Uncovering Eroticism: An Exploration from Classical to Contemporary Literature	35
An Account of Toxic Masculinity as Portrayed in Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House"	36
Trauma in Partition: Oral Narratives in Urvashi Butalia's <i>The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India</i>	36
<i>Train to Pakistan</i> by Khushwant Singh from the Lens of Just War Theory	37
Dawn of Humanity: A Critical Study of <i>Blindness</i> by José Saramago	38
Discernment of Subalternity in <i>Maps for Lost Lovers</i> by Nadeem Aslam	38
Exploration of Daud Kamal's <i>Before the Carnations Wither</i> from the Lens of Mysticism	39
Bapsi Sidhwa's <i>The Pakistani Bride</i> through the Lens of Islamic Feminism	39
Diagnosing the Unassimilated Wounds of Partition Trauma: A Study of Khushwant Singh's <i>Train to Pakistan</i> and Saadat Hassan Manto's "Khol Do"	40
Cinematic Adaptations of Henrik Ibsen's "The Doll's House"	41

Blackness as a Social Construct in Toni Morrison’s <i>God Help The Child</i> and Anne Petry’s <i>The Street</i>	41
Marginalization of Women in Ismat Chughtai’s and Sana Munir’s Selective Works	42
The Role of Fairytales in English Literature	43
Colonialism and Racism in <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe and <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> by Maya Angelou	43
<i>Malekith</i> by Gavin Thorpe as a Tragic Novel with Respect to Aristotelian Theory of Tragedy	44
A Cross-Cultural Comparison of the film “Aisha” (2010) and the novel <i>Emma</i> (1815) by Jane Austen	45
Tracing Repercussions of Trauma in Mian Raza Rabbani’s <i>The Smile Snatchers</i>	45
A Socio-Cultural Analysis of the Figures of Fairy and Giant in the Selected Fairy Tales of Pakistan and United Kingdom	46
American Dream and Social Mobility in <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by Fitzgerald	46
Psychological analysis of Esther in Sylvia Plath’s <i>The Bell Jar</i> through the lens of Gender Performativity Theory	47
Tracing the Effects of Trauma in Manto’s Short Stories	48
Deconstructing Hybrid Identities: An Exegesis of Bapsi Sidhwa’s <i>The Bride</i>	48
Stuck in a Liminal Space: An Interpretation of <i>Midnight’s Children</i> by Salman Rushdi	48
Analyzing the Hegemonic Representation of Class and Culture in Mian Raza Rabbani’s Short Fiction	50
Everyday Patriarchy in Light of Tehmina Durrani’s <i>My Feudal Lord</i>	51
Analyzing the Narrative Techniques: A Structural Analysis of Alice Munro’s <i>Dear Life</i> and Sara Suleri’s <i>Boys Will Be Boys: A Daughter’s Elegy</i>	52
An Eco Feminist Analysis of Jane Austen’s <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	52
An Eriksonian Analysis of Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Fall of the House of Usher” and Edogawa Ranpo’s “The Human Chair”	53
<i>12 Years a Slave</i> : A Memoir of Slavery, Violence, and Bondage	54
The Deceptive Representation of Female Characters in Textual Literature, Fairytales, and Modern Visual Media	54

An Analysis of Ongoing Sociopolitical Disruption in Indo-Pak Region in the Context of Film “PK”	55
Feminism in Virginia Woolf’s “A Room of One's Own” and “Three Guineas”	56
The Role of Trauma, Alienation and Self Awareness in Margaret Atwood’s <i>Cat’s Eye</i>	57
Dystopian Analysis of <i>The Selection</i> by Kiera Cass	57

Research Interests of Supervisors

Dr Nadia Anwar is Associate Professor and Chairperson at the Department of English and Literary Studies, and Dean at the Institute of Liberal Arts, University of Management and Technology, Lahore. She completed her PhD in Nigerian drama from The University of Northampton, UK in 2015. Her principal research lies in the field of Postcolonial English literatures and Nigerian theatre and drama in particular and adaptation studies, critical discourse analysis, and pragmatics in general. As an active academic and administrative faculty member, she has remained engaged with many academic, research related, and extracurricular activities during her professional career. She has one research monograph and many research articles to her credit.

Dr Muhammad Waqas Sajjad is an Assistant Professor and Head, Centre for Foreign Languages at the Institute of Liberal Arts, University of Management and Technology, Lahore. He completed his doctoral research on Deobandi-Barelvi discourses in Pakistan at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. His primary areas of focus include the history of Islam in South Asia, the roles of religious institutions and *ulama*, engagements between and within religious traditions, and the use of art for religious messaging.

Dr Fatima Syeda is serving as the Professor of English and as Chairperson at the department of English at FC College University. She has completed her PhD in English Language & Literature from University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan with a research on *Men as Victims of Violence in Partition Fiction*. Her fields of interest are Masculinity Studies, South Asian Literature in English, & Modern Drama.

Dr Naveed Rehan holds a PhD in English and the Teaching of English from Idaho State University, an MA in English from Montana State University, and an MA in French Language and Literature from the University of the Punjab. She has written on D. H. Lawrence, British modernism, aestheticism, and creative nonfiction, among other things. Her PhD dissertation, entitled "Passionate Struggle into Conscious Being: D. H. Lawrence and Creative Nonfiction" (2011) investigates the craft of writing through Lawrence's nonfictional works.

Dr Aamir Aziz earned his PhD in English Literature from LUCAS institute Leiden University The Netherlands in 2014. He is working as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of English Studies in University of the Punjab Lahore, Pakistan. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*. His research interests include American Literature, Cultural Studies and Modern Critical Theory.

Dr Waqar Azeem is an Adjunct Lecturer, Binghamton University. His areas of interest include American and Asian-American Literature since 1945, Post-9/11 Literature, Contemporary Critical Theory, Higher Education Administration among others. He is a Fulbright PhD Scholarship Grantee 2014-19.

Dr Naila Sahar is an American Association of University Women's International Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies at University at Buffalo, State University of New York. She did her PhD in English as a Fulbright scholar (2013-2018) from the

same University. The topic of her PhD dissertation is “Reimagining Muslim Women: Gendered Religious Life and Resistance in the Age of Islamophobia”. Her research interests include Feminist studies, Gender studies, Gendered Religious Nationalism, South Asian Studies and Postcolonial Studies. Her work has appeared in *Journal of International Women's Studies*, *Wagadu: A Journal of Transnational Women's & Gender Studies*, *South Asian Voices*, *South Asian Review*, *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*, and edited volumes of Routledge. She is Assistant Professor in the English department at Forman Christian College (A chartered University), Lahore.

Dr Furqan Tanvir is an Assistant Professor at Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. He has a PhD in English Literature from University of the Punjab, Lahore. He served at the University of Management and Technology from 2013-2020. His research interests include English literature and critical discourse analysis.

Dr H.M. Zahid Iqbal has a PhD in English Literature from the University of Management and Technology, Lahore. He has teaching experience of around 11 years and currently, he is working as Assistant Professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, The University of Lahore, Lahore, where he teaches Advanced Research Methods and Pakistani Anglophone Literature to PhD and MPhil English classes. His research work has been published in many local and foreign research journals such as *SAGE Open*, *New Horizons* and *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*.

Ms Sobia Ilyas is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Management and Technology, Lahore. Her areas of interest include Postcolonial Literature, Postmodern Fiction, The Theatre of the Absurd and Translation Studies. Besides being an MPhil in Applied Linguistics, she also holds a master's degree in English Literature and is currently enrolled as a PhD Linguistics scholar at the University of Lahore. She has a number of research publications credited to her name.

Ms Amina Qadeer is a Lecturer at the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Management and Technology, Lahore. Her research interests center on the concept of identity and its political, social and cultural construction in the South Asian community as well as feminism and its scope in modern times, particularly in South Asian communities.

Mr Shahan Pervez is a lecturer at the Department of English and Literary Studies at UMT, Lahore. He completed his MPhil in English Literature from UMT. He supervises BS and MPhil thesis. His current research interests include creative nonfiction in Pakistan and tracing connections between literature and philosophy. He has written five creative nonfiction books, all of which are accessible on Amazon.

Ms Warda Abbas is currently working as a lecturer at the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Management and Technology. She has done her MPhil in English Literature from Government College University, Lahore. Her research interests are Postcolonial Literature, South Asian Literature and Literary Theory and Criticism. Her article "Imagined Communities: An Exegesis of National Schizophrenia in Ben Okri's *Incidents at the Shrine*" has

been published in an international journal. Her teaching expertise include but are not restricted to Romantic Poetry, Twentieth Century Novel, and Pakistani Literature.

Ms Fizza Rehman is a lecturer at the University of Management and Technology. She has been teaching for over 4 years at various reputed institutions. Her research interests include Postcolonial Literature, Philosophy, Sufi Literature, Politics of Nationalism and Psychoanalysis.

Ms Anum Rashid is a former lecturer at the Department of English and Literary Studies, UMT, Lahore. She has done MPhil in English Literature from Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. Her areas of interest include Sufism and subcontinental literature. She is currently doing a Quran course from Al Huda International Welfare Institute.

Ms Sobia Talat is a lecturer in English Literature and Linguistics at the National University of Modern Languages, Lahore, where she currently teaches Woman Writing, Socio & Psycholinguistics, Business Communication and Professional Speech, and Indigenous Literatures. She has completed her MPhil in Applied Linguistics from UOL and has Masters in English Literature and Indo-Pak History from Punjab University. Sociological impacts on the literary and linguistic fields are among her study interests. She has previously edited and created useful articles for renowned literary websites. Her diverse interests include critical pedagogy, project-based learning and professional development, among others.

Ms Rabaha Arshad is a postgraduate researcher at the University of Glasgow, UK. Prior to joining the University of Glasgow in October 2020, she had been working in Pakistan and taught at Kinnaird College for Women, The International School of Choueifat and Beaconhouse National University in Lahore as well as mentoring online at CARLA, The University of Minnesota in the US. She joined the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Management and Technology, Lahore in January 2020 where she served as a lecturer. Her research interests include children's literature, literacy education and postcolonial writings.

Ms Maryam Raza is a Lecturer at the Institute of English Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Raza has done her MPhil in English Literature from Kinnaird College for Women University. She has presented her research papers at both local and international level. She also has a range of publications, both in local & international journals. Her current research interests are film studies, visual arts, narrative & mythmaking. In addition to that, Raza has published her poems internationally and locally which explore the genre of Confessional poetry with overt strands of philosophical thought.

Ms Naomi Justin John is employed as a Lecturer at the Department of English Language and Literature at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore. She is also the advisor of Ewing English Society and member of the Search Committee of the English department. Her additional responsibilities include thesis supervision, session moderation during conferences, organization of Forman Literary Festival and training and support for course-integrated digital oral history projects under AMICAL's Digital Liberal Arts (DLA) Programs. She holds an MPhil degree in Applied Linguistics from UMT and her research areas include language and machine translation, semantics and pragmatics, and communication pedagogy.

Mr Muhammad Saleh Habib is a Lecturer at the Department of English Language and Literature at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore. He completed his MPhil in English Literature from FCCU, Lahore and graduated with a Magna Cum Laude and as a Gold Medalist in 2019. He graduated with a Baccalaureate with Honors in English Literature and Mass Communication in 2016 from FCCU. He has been actively Teaching since 2019 and has a wide range of corporate industry experience in Advertising, Marketing, Content Development and Content Creation as well. His research interests are in Theatre of the Absurd, Existential Philosophy and Literature, Philosophy of Literature, and Literary Theory and Criticism. His genre interests include Modern and Post-Modern Poetry and Drama.

Ms Asfa Zia is currently serving as a lecturer at the department of English at FC College University. Her research interests include but are not limited to Gender and Sexuality. Fictional works including Diasporic identities and Queer narratives are subjects that specifically lie in her domain of expertise. Her published articles have various streaks of feminism and marginalized identities.

Ms Samra Hafeez served as a Lecturer at the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Management and Technology, Lahore from 2019 to 2022. She completed her MPhil in English Literature from University of Management and Technology, Lahore, and MA English Literature at University of the Punjab. Her research interests include creative nonfiction, Pakistani literature, postcolonial literature and feminist studies.

Preliminaries

I am immensely pleased to launch the second issue of the book of theses abstracts produced at the Department of English and Literary Studies (DELS), Institute of Liberal Arts, University of Management and Technology, Lahore. These abstracts have been acquired from the research work of successful graduates of PhD English Literature, MPhil English Literature, and BS English Literature programs, currently run at the department.

The collection is made to keep a record of the amount, quality, and trends of research produced by the researchers under the guidance and with the academic support of their supervisors, both from the department and externally resourced. It is expected that this body of abstracts will allow easy access to faculty, current and prospective students, and researchers and scholars from around the world to a variety of topics and content produced by our graduates. The department takes pride in making an impactful contribution to the existing body of literary studies, strengthening its interdisciplinary connections, and enhancing the theoretical scope of the field.

The abstracts presented in this book emphasize various avenues, genres, and dimensions of research including historical narratives, gender studies, psychoanalysis, philosophy, adaptation studies, horror and gothic literature, postcolonialism, paracolonialism, queer studies, ecocriticism, pandemic literature and post 9/11 discourse among others. The nature of research, as readers will notice, has become increasingly multidimensional and contemporary at the department. The students have been able to both contextualize and globalize their research parameters by juxtaposing modern theoretical perspectives and contemporary literary texts. They have worked with classical, Euro-American, and African Anglophone texts as well as on various facets of modern South Asian and diaspora literature.

It is important to mention that each abstract published in the book has been reviewed by the editor but only from the point of view of the mechanics of language ensuring that no change is made in the content and structure finalized by the researchers and their supervisors.

I am grateful to all the researchers, their supervisors, and resource persons who worked together to produce varied perspectives and ideas and new concepts to enrich literature and promote a healthy research culture at the department. Finally, I am grateful for the institutional and administrative support without which this book may not have reached its audience.

Editor
Dr. Nadia Anwar
November, 2022

PhD English Literature Abstracts



PhD English (Literature)

1. Title: Colonial Encounters Revisited: Eliade, Devi and Indian Feminism

Researcher: Hafiz Muhammad Zahid Iqbal

Supervisor: Dr Nadia Anwar

Abstract

This is a study of colonial encounters as articulated in the novels *Bengal Nights: A Novel* and *It Does Not Die: A Romance* written by Mircea Eliade and Maitreyi Devi respectively. By revisiting these texts through Nirmla Menon's critical insights on Bhabha's hybridity discourse and Elisabeth Jackson's conceptual parameters of Indian feminism, the aim is to reinterpret the novels as emancipatory praxis that both the writers long for in their (post)colonial narratives. Besides, this rereading of the novels is garnered from Bhabha and Spivak's respective postcolonial theories, to contribute to the existing scholarship on postcolonial studies. Specifically, as a postcolonial female writer faced with her own unflattering portrait in Eliade's colonial novel, Devi re-inscribed the events of her past, and it is in this re-interpretation of the past that one finds Menon's idea of 'interrogative hybridity' and Jackson's Indian feminism. Devi as a representative of subaltern Indian women has recorded her resistance to patriarchy, colonialism, gender inequality and societal and domestic violence against women. Inspired by Western hegemonic discourse and as a representative of European colonialism in India, Eliade's Eurocentric line of thought renders the others, specifically Indian women, as uncivilized and primitive creatures in the novel. The standard of sanity/rationality is Europe and its peripheries are merely the copiers of the great values coming from this fountainhead of civilization and culture. I maintain that these celebration-cum-confrontation based novels are productive sites for the novelists to articulate their corresponding views of the phenomenon of the colonization of the subcontinent.

Keywords: Hybridity, Postcolonial Feminism, Indian Feminism, Colonial Encounters, Imperialism

2. Title: A Paracolonial Comparative Exegesis of Post 9/11 Pakistani and Indian Anglophone Diaspora Fiction

Researcher: Ayesha Parveen

Supervisor: Dr Nadia Anwar

Abstract

This thesis compares post 9/11 Pakistani and Indian diaspora Anglophone fiction by excavating the fictional response to ever-changing international political scenario and its impact on both the countries after 9/11. Pakistan and India, who are neighbours with a troubled history, have been evolving as nation-states in different directions since independence, which also paved the way for different literary trajectories for their literature written in English. Whereas early post-partition writings are replete with the fictional representation of the 1947 partition and assertion of unique national identities confronting British legacy; post 9/11 fiction explores issues like the impact of war on terror on identity and ethnicity, individuality and hybridity, religion and culture, challenges faced by the contemporary diaspora, and the problematization of a sense of belonging in a transnational globalized world. This thesis aims to compare the identity formation of the characters as presented in Indian and Pakistani post 9/11 diaspora Anglophone fiction by employing James Marcia's theory of identity development. The impact of post 9/11 terror on Indian and Pakistani diaspora in a globalized and transnational world is discussed by highlighting their evolution from directionless ambivalent subjectivities to decisive individuals. Through this debate, it is explored how the Indian and Pakistani fictional discourse is shaped by the international political happenings. The characters' journey from the perusal of the postcolonial American dream to post 9/11 refraction of dreams is embedded in paracolonialism to excavate their sense of belonging in an age of simulacra fraught with multiplicity of signifiers. Based on the analysis, the study concludes that the contemporary world resonates with multiple forms of terror and is in need of a humane cosmopolitan vision which may resuscitate human respect defiled by new forms of apartheid across the globe in the post 9/11 times.

Keywords: Paracolonial, diaspora, Pakistan, India, 9/11, fiction, identity development



MPhil English Literature Abstracts

MPhil English (Literature)

1. Title: The Crisis of Identity and Retention of Identity in Kamila Shamsie's *Burnt Shadows*

Researcher: Rabia Arshad

Supervisor: Ms Rabaha Arshad

Abstract

This study seeks to explore the theme of identity crisis faced by the characters of the contemporary fiction writer Kamila Shamsie's novel *Burnt Shadows* and how they struggle hard to retain their identities either cultural or religious. Kamila Shamsie is a Pakistani British writer who herself lives in diaspora and has the first hand experience of the problems of immigrants and people living in diaspora. She portrays the same in her epic novel which covers more than half of the century where the characters undergo historical and personal events and lose their genuine identities. This study also sheds light on the postcolonial aspect of the novel related to the quest of identity. With the increase of immigrants, hybrid nations, and countries with different cultural diversities, the question of identity has surfaced. Subsequently, the researcher explores this question by using textual method and applying Stuart Hall's theory of "Cultural Identity and Diaspora". Hall very aptly says that identity is the least well-understood concept that is never fixed. It is not a transparent and indisputable concept and is constantly in process of production which never stops. All the characters in the novel keep on changing their identities. They have fluid identities and adapt in their new cultures and situations but keep on struggling consciously to retain their identities too. Hiroko, Sajjad, Raza and Harry James Burton are the main characters who suffer the identity crisis most and retain their identities too in the globalised world.

Keywords: Postcolonial, Identity, Retention, History, Culture, Displacement, Migration,

2. Title: Diaspora and Diasporic Imagination in *Maps for Lost Lovers* by Nadeem Aslam

Researcher: Hina Zahid

Supervisor: Dr Naila Sahar

Abstract

Representation of diasporic imagination in contemporary South Asian fiction is a thriving field of research. With the intention of contributing to this field, this thesis explores and recounts the diasporic community through critical appraisal of Pakistani-British writer Nadeem Aslam. He attempts to gauge the living standards of South Asian immigrants in his second novel *Maps for*

Lost Lovers, which is the primary text of this research. The study throws light on the subject of diaspora, which is an entity that is looked at with suspicion and fascination. It seeks to analyze how the diasporic community (which connotes concepts such as land of loneliness or wilderness), in the novel, tries to relocate itself as a minority. Their identities have always been questioned which Homi K. Bhabha calls as impure or split identities, and they seem to rebuild a novel space, a “third space of enunciation” (Bhabha 37). The nature of this research is qualitative and content analysis has been chosen as a research tool. Additionally, the whole novel has been discussed from the perspective of Homi K. Bhabha’s theory of hybridity, ambivalence, third space and mimicry that are closely interlinked. Furthermore, “theory of Othering” is also applied as a supporting framework which will provide a comprehensive detail on how Diasporas as colonized subjects bring sustainability in the characters’ lives.

Keywords: Diaspora, Ambivalence, Hybridity and Identity, Third Space, Mimicry, Othering

3. Title: Examining Counter Discursivity in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

Researcher: Nabeel Ahmed Minhas

Supervisor: Dr Nadia Anwar

Abstract

The research intends to examine Arundhati Roy’s discourse in her novel, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. It aims to analyze the linguistic significance of the selected text and its role in countering the established social discourses. This study explores how the author's use of particular words challenges and undermines the existing dominant social structures. It also evaluates how Arundhati Roy uses persuasive language to make the downtrodden sections i.e. transgenders, Dalits, and Kashmiris in Indian society reject marginalization. It is a qualitative research which employs Norman Fairclough’s Three-Dimensional Model along with the principles of Critical Discourse Analysis. Speech Acts and Persuasive Linguistic Devices will be used to analyze the linguistic significance of the selected excerpts from the text. The analysis of the text reveals that Arundhati Roy’s unapologetic and powerful language allowed her characters to realize their potential and consider themselves a valuable part of Indian society.

Keywords: Arundhati Roy, Marginalization, Transgender, CDA, Counter discourse

4. Title: *Sparks of Phoenix*: Najwa Zebian's Discursive Articulation of Resilience, Rejuvenation, and Third Space Feminism

Researcher: Kanwal Zaffar

Supervisor: Dr Naila Sahar

Abstract

This thesis is an attempt to make critical discourse analysis of Najwa Zebian's poems and prose. The research sheds light on the mental, physical and spiritual torture that the poet underwent at the wake of dislocation from her parent land and dispossession of her mental and physical belongings. By deploying research method of Feminist critical discourse analysis, Zebian's poetry is analyzed on three levels: personal, socio-cultural and normative. This analysis helps elucidate tools and sites of resistance against gender disequilibrium in society; sexist and phallogocentric discourse and homelessness. Resistance is perpetuated by means of self-love, finding a home in the self, and exploring artistic potential while staggering in liminal spaces.

Keywords: Resistance, Dislocation, Dispossession, Liminal spaces, Discourse, Homelessness, Disequilibrium

5. Title: Racial Discrimination in Gwendolyn Brooks and Margaret Walker's Selected Poetry

Researcher: Neelam Abbas

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Waqar Azeem

Abstract

Racism is the practice of showing discrimination and prejudice towards a different race based on the idea that one race is superior to the other in terms of power and supremacy. Racism is often directed towards a race when it comes into interaction with the superior race. It is explained well in the case of immigration, when people leave their country and move to another place, either willingly or by force, and face othering, alienation, marginalization and dislocation. From the study of Afro-African poets' fight against racism we come to know what the Blacks went through when they came into contact with a superior race of the White Americans. The purpose of this research is to explore racism in the poetry of Afro-American poets Gwendolyn Brooks and Margaret Walker. The research relies on the Critical Race Theory of W. E. B. Du-Bois. In Brooks and Walker, we clearly see the protest against racial discrimination faced by the Black

people living in America. The purpose of this study is to analyze the mistreatment of the Black community by the White Americans who consider themselves superior. This thesis specifically focuses on Du Bois' concept of "Veil" and "Double-Consciousness" along with Edward Said's orientalism and black/white binaries. The thesis concludes that the Black community has suffered a great deal in America on the basis of racism originating from the color of skin. As a way forward, the thesis proposes a transnational discourse that takes into account the racial identities at equal level. Transnationalism enables a cross-border mobility that encourages interconnectivity between different people, cultures, societies and races.

Keywords: Transnationalism, Afro-Americans, Black Community, Racism, White Americans

6. Title: Finding the Middle Ground in *Mornings in Jenin* and *To the End of the Land*

Researcher: Ayesha Khalid

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Waqar Azeem

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the narratives of the two-opposing people—Israelis and Palestinians—as shown in David Grossman's *To the End of the Land* and Susan Abulhawa's *Mornings in Jenin*. Abulhawa and Grossman have presented the effects of the Israel-Palestine conflict on the day-to-day lives of the people of both nationalities. This study scrutinizes the identity issues and trauma of the characters and argues that the personal and national identities mutually affect each other. Moreover, this research employs the contemporary trauma theory as developed by Cathy Caruth to understand the role of trauma in the construction of identities. Additionally, this thesis employs transgenerational trauma theory to explicate how trauma of the past generations haunts the later generations and forms the identities of the latter. Employing Giorgio Agamben's theory of extraterritoriality, this thesis explores the possibility of connecting the people of both nationalities despite their differences. This research analyzes different events in the texts as well as in history to show how 'the Other' and 'the situation' are viewed differently by the two communities. Looking at the conflict from both perspectives may help in coming to an agreement that could be acceptable to the nationals of Israel/Palestine.

Keywords: Palestinian-Israeli conflict, contemporary trauma theory, extraterritoriality, identity, transgenerational trauma

7. Title: Rewriting Iranian-American Hybridity through Humour: A Postcolonial Study of Firoozeh Dumas' *Funny in Farsi*

Researcher: Nisar Ahmed

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Furqan Tanvir

Abstract

This study aims at analyzing Firoozeh Dumas' memoir *Funny in Farsi* (2003) as a postcolonial text in order to bring into focus the importance of the cultural hybridity that both subverts and reinvents the dichotomy of the east and the west in today's socio-political world. It studies the ambivalence of Dumas' identities as an Iranian-born girl whose family migrated from Iran to America in her childhood owing to the socio-economic upheaval caused by the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979. The study is contextualized by some significant keywords of contemporary theory, particularly Homi Bhabha's ideas of dislocation, hybridity, and mimicry. It is contended here that Dumas uses humour as a powerful device for humanizing the ethnicity of a Muslim diasporic community in America, thereby introducing the peculiarities of her culture and mixed religious and linguistic traditions to her readers in a manner that both entertains them and prompts them to take note of her rather painful challenges of belonging to a marginalized community. It will also be seen how the impact of Dumas' humour deconstructs itself to betray an epistemological machinery in which the east/orient is assigned the subordinate position of a cultural other. It will be noted how Dumas' admiration of the American culture at the expense of the Iranian culture hints at a partiality that can be attributed to the neo-colonial tendencies of authors whose status as the spokesperson of the eastern, especially Muslim, nations should be questioned. The study will employ the approach of qualitative discourse analysis for regarding the text as an enactment of complex cultural practices.

Keywords: Diaspora, Hybridity, Mimicry, Humour, Stereotype, Liminality

8. Title: Subalternity and Otherness in African American Identities: A Spivakian Reading of Morgan Jerkins' *Wandering in Strange Lands*

Researcher: Suriya Noor

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Waqas Sajjad

Abstract

This research analyzes Morgan Jerkins' memoir *Wandering in Strange Lands* (2020) in the light of Gayatri Spivak's postcolonial theories of subalternity and otherness. Arguing against the myths legitimized by colonial discourses that only represent slave/master and black/white divisions in the framework of domination and subordination, it shows how Jerkins' memoir projects an alternative vision of the social and political marginalization of African Americans by drawing attention to the attempts of the Black population to develop a voice of their own. Their suppression at the hands of the white community gives way to some terms and conditions of resistance – in keeping with the Spivakian ethic – as they attempt to relocate some remnants of their history and culture not only in spite of but because of the voicelessness that the dominant discourses force on them. The postcolonial theories of Spivak represent the common problems of marginalized people that never get fully registered in mainstream society. The study demonstrates how Blacks are trying to turn their voicelessness into a condition of resistance through different means in the 21st century America. Through her memoir, Jerkins is trying to project that the marginalization of Black African Americans is linked with the eradication of historical narratives that is necessary for awarding them an identity of their own.

Keywords: Marginalization, Voicelessness, Afro-American community, Resistance

9. Title: Self-destruction as a Form of Resistance in *Beloved* by Toni Morrison and *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys

Researcher: Shumaila Javed

Supervisor: Dr Fatima Syeda

Abstract

This research intends to examine Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea* to assert that the protagonists of both the novels resist racial violence and exploitation through the self-destructive acts of death. Sethe's attempt of killing her children and putting an end to her life and Antoinette's act of committing suicide by burning the Thornfield Hall are not just manifestations of their disturbed psyches but are the acts stimulated by the inhuman treatment they received at the hands of their exploiters. This research attempts to establish that these self-destructive acts are the outcome of racial differences, loss of identity and sexual exploitation that Antoinette and Sethe had suffered throughout their lives. To render them voiceless, these

characters are misrepresented and associated with madness by the white oppressors in the selected texts. This research employs Spivak's concept of subaltern from her essay "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in which she fights the case of the unheard. Morrison, through the character of Sethe, explores the painful experiences of the marginalized black women in the American slave system. Sethe prefers death to slavery, both for herself and her children. Jean Rhys also gives the reasons behind Antoinette's self-destructive act of suicide. Antoinette is both racially and sexually exploited by the colonial and patriarchal authorities that lead her into choosing death as the ultimate solution for herself. Through textual analysis, this research explains the painful experiences of the selected female characters who resist through their choice of self-immolation in the face of colonial violence and oppressive lives.

Keywords: Resistance, Self-destruction, Loss of identity, Sexual exploitation, Racial discrimination.

10. Title: Transnationalism and the Paths to Violence: Religious Identities and Displacement in Fatima Bhutto's *The Runaways*

Researcher: Muhammad Abis Raza

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Furqan Tanvir

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to qualitatively analyze Fatima Bhutto's novel *The Runaways* (2018), in order to study the intricacies of the socio-political and cultural realities that lead many young people from around the world to be indoctrinated by fanatical religious organizations that preach resort to militancy as the ultimate solution to the problems of the world. The study contends that, given the complexities of transnational migrations today, one must be warned against a naïve dismissal of religious fanaticism as a simple regression toward primitive barbarism because the factors responsible for its popularity in the contemporary world include the search for a meaningful life that may or may not have its origin in an urge for spirituality. It will be seen how, as the novel traces the lives of its three protagonists, they find themselves on a rallying platform of a revolutionary Islamist organization, apparently pursuing a common militant end even though the worlds of their experiences are dramatically different from each other's. The significance of this study lies in the fact that it draws attention to the highly controversial issue of

perspectives that variously dub Jihadist ventures as either terrorism or the most dignified attempts of righting the world's wrongs.

Keywords: Fanaticism, Militancy, Terrorism, Jihad, Ethnic identity, Transnationalism

11. Title: Diasporic Trauma in *The Map of Salt and Stars* by Zeyn Joukhadar: An Exploration of Interconnected Identity Crisis and Hybridity

Researcher: Nighat Yasmeen Akhtar

Supervisor: Dr Aamir Aziz

Abstract

This thesis discusses the problematics of home in accordance with the Syrian diasporas with reference to Zeyn Joukhadar's novel, *The Map of Salt and Stars*. In the course of this study, it is revealed that the text celebrates the duality of home both as a physical entity and also as a cognitive space in relation to the diasporic subjects who encounter several journeys across multiple lands in search of peace and harmony. The research also elaborates the interconnected temporality of the past and the present under the light of Bhabha's concept of temporality which further highlights the history of Syria as a peaceful country unlike the contemporary war-ravaged territory. The history helps the diasporic subjects not only in the identification process but also makes them able to stand firm in the precarious circumstances by getting hold of their inner voices. In the host lands, culture and identity become negotiated depending on the location which positions the diasporas in the third space. Thus, the research through the representation of multiple dislocations, that are not just geographic but are also historical and linguistic, reveals the unstable and dynamic side of diasporic identity and culture.

Keywords: Syrian Diaspora, Cognitive space, Interconnected temporality, Third space, Dislocation

12. Title: Post-Pastoral as a Theory of Social and Ecocritical Resistance: A Critical Narrative Analysis of Indigenous and Indigenized Narratives in Tara June Winch's *The Yield*

Researcher: Rabia Saleem

Research Supervisor: Dr Nadia Anwar

Abstract

This study aims to locate and justify post-pastoral presence and usage in indigenous and indigenized narratives given in Tara June Winch's *The Yield*. It seeks to investigate the subversive quality of indigenous and indigenized narratives that employ one or more post-pastoral elements to challenge colonial discourses and empower native culture. This research employs a hybrid theory using CDA and NA as a method of interpretation. It explores how and in what way post-pastoral has helped the indigenous and indigenized narrative challenge and resist colonial discourses that exploit native land and people. The primary aim of this research is to showcase post-pastoral literary form, which subverts the binary logic of colonialism to highlight its exploitative and oppressive tendencies. This has been accomplished by examining the indigenized narrative presented in the primary text, whose transition from a colonizer's narrative to a self-rejecting colonizer's narrative is marked by the presence of post-pastoral elements. This study also locates post-pastoral elements in the indigenous narratives to justify its subversive quality, which not only challenges the exploitation of natives but also resists unfair ownership and exploitation of native people and landscapes. This has been carried out by investigating the Aboriginal narrative given in the primary text, which is shown to subvert colonial control in the presence of one or more post-pastoral elements. Both narratives are examined by focusing on themes of dispossession of culture, land, and religion/spirituality, all of which are the main concerns of postcolonial ecocriticism. Thus, this study aims to showcase post-pastoral as a theory of social and ecocritical resistance, which is being used to highlight resistance narratives in Aboriginal literature with respect to the field of postcolonial ecocriticism.

Keywords: Post-pastoral, Postcolonial ecocriticism, Resistance narratives, Indigenous and indigenized narratives

13. Title: Ideological Subjugation in Arundhati Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

Researcher: Rehan Bano

Research Supervisor: Dr Naveed Rehan

Abstract

This research aims at analysing Arundhati Roy's novel, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. It intends to examine the factors that help the Indian society in marginalizing the powerless and underprivileged classes. This study traces four factors i.e. social, religious, economic and

political that play their part in social, religious, economic and political bifurcation within the Indian society. Arundhati Roy uses apt language to expose the concomitance of these factors in making lower Hindu classes, Muslims and Kashmiri people subjugated. This research is qualitative and it uses “Ideological State Apparatuses” and “Repressive State Apparatuses” by Louis Althusser’s and “Post-Secularism” by Jurgen Habermas. The textual analysis discloses that Arundhati Roy’s appropriate and pertinent language permits her characters to stand against the suppression and reveal the agenda of making Hindu upper class superior to Dalits and Muslims and socially established genders superior to the transgenders.

Keywords: Subjugation, Transgender, Dalits, Kashmiris, Ideological State Apparatuses, Repressive State Apparatuses

14. Title: *Exit West and Home Fire: Terror of War, Trauma of Migration, Violence and Homelessness*

Researcher: Muhammad Nadeem

Supervisor: Dr Naila Sahar

Abstract

This study aims to analyze Mohsin Hamid’s *Exit West* and Kamila Shamsie’s *Home Fire* to explore terror of war, trauma of migration and violence by applying Jeffrey Charles Alexander’s *Trauma a Social Theory* as research framework. Traumatizing factors are analyzed and traumatized characters are indicated in the analysis. Catastrophes of war and migration lead to panic and create concerns, agony and pain; the intensity of these tragic and painful emotions severely attacks human minds and leads towards trauma. This study explores traumatizing effects of war and migration: the horror and terror which put the migrants at constant sufferings and uneasiness. Refugee crisis, difficulties of migration, war victims and problems of resettling are analyzed with reference to trauma theory. The major traumatizing factors are terror of war, trauma of migration, homelessness and violence. The findings of this study indicate that terror, sufferings and trauma are mental states. Trauma depicts refugees’ sorrows and agony due to war, terrorists’ attacks, and loss of home and family. This thesis attempts to unveil the role of militants in the destruction of peace.

Keywords: Migration, Trauma, Refugees, Terror, Homelessness, Terrorism

15. Title: Subalternity and Otherness in Pakistani Patriarchal Identities: A Spivakian Reading of Bapsi Sidhwa's Novels

Researcher: Aqsa Sanaullah

Research Supervisor: Ms Amina Qadeer

Abstract

The research aims to look at the resistance of women in Pakistan along with questioning the patriarchal structures of the Pakistani society. Bapsi Sidhwa's *The Pakistani Bride* (1990), *The Crow Eaters* (1979), *Ice-Candy- Man* (1988), *An American Brat* (1993) and *Water: A Novel* (2006) have been selected. The study seeks to examine the way Sidhwa explores feminist tropes in her fiction, showing the vitality of her female characters which helps them shape their identities. The purpose of this research is to deconstruct women's identity in an entangled patriarchal society that denies women their birthrights. The research also explores a Spivakian perspective and its scope in modern Pakistani society. The study seeks to look at concepts, such as the questions of marginalization, subjugation and discrimination through which Sidhwa's women learn the nature of stereotypes associated with their gender. The research shows both violent and subtle ways, in which the sexual exploitation is manifested in order to control and restrict women.

Keywords: Patriarchal structures, Marginalization, Pakistani Literature, Sexual exploitation

16. Title: Racial Belligerence in Socio-Political Context: The Impact of Colonialism in *No Time Like the Present* by Nadine Gordimer

Researcher: Shanila Aziz

Supervisor: Dr Aamir Aziz

Abstract

This research aims to explore the socio-political situation of post-Apartheid South Africa through the text *No Time Like the Present* written by Nadine Gordimer in 2012. The study is based on realistic and contemporary issues of South African Society in the era of President Jacob Zuma who was elected in 2009. This research attempts to externalize the dehumanization of the marginalized natives of South Africa as an outcome of colonialism in their country. It also reveals how corruption has demoralized different public institutions i.e. education, telecommunication, defense department, medical field, municipal services etc. under the slogan

of democracy. As literature reflects life and the contemporary issues existing in society, the novel, similarly, portrays that the New South Africa emerges with new conflicts. The contradiction between reality and expectations after colonization has caused frustration among the natives. The new conflicts and challenges have led the Rainbow nation to new socio-economic and cultural problems based on covert expressions of race and class contradictions. The strands which are coded for analysis are violence, racism, poverty, moral and social corruption, xenophobia, crime rate/ lawlessness and negative psychological impact of apartheid, experienced during the post-Apartheid era. The research concludes that the New South Africa which sought a new non-racial future, beyond the deadly consequences of the apartheid regime, could not be enfranchised completely.

Keywords: Post-Apartheid era, Xenophobia, Dehumanization, Corruption, Violence, Racism, Lawlessness

17. Title: Politics of Representation and Marginalization in *I am Malala* by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai

Researcher: Hassan Khan

Supervisor: Ms Amina Qadeer

Abstract

The research aims to explore Malala Yousafzai's autobiography *I Am Malala* in terms of its politics of representation and marginalization. This autobiographical account is based on the events of the author's life in years spent in Pakistan, particularly the time when the Taliban had controlled Swat valley and the events which followed afterwards. The research intends to put this memoir in a postcolonial context where Taliban will be compared with the colonizers because the former wanted to take control of not just the Swat Valley, but the areas around as well. Similarly, the British colonial masters came to the subcontinent to oppress the local inhabitants. For this purpose, the theory of subalterns by Gayatri Spivak will be used. She is of the view that even if the subalterns speak their voice is not heard deliberately. They are not able to represent themselves. Malala's experience in Swat was not very pleasant, which in a way symbolizes marginalization of women under the sway of such oppressed forces. Within this perspective, marginalization of Malala serves as a symbol for all the people who were affected by Talibanization in Swat. In a way, the research will shed light on the marginalization of

women in Pakistan, since some people in Pakistan call it a myth. Moreover, the research aims to investigate whether or not this memoir is based on the Western agenda as it is perceived. There are serious question marks on Malala's representation. In this regard the theory of Subalternity by Spivak serves as a firm ground to substantiate the argument.

Keywords: Subaltern, Postcolonial, Feminism, Talibanization, Marginalisation



BS
English
Literature
Abstracts

BS English (Literature)

1. Title: Feminist Aesthetics as Resistance: A Textual Analysis of Adrienne Rich's and Sylvia Plath's Selected Poems

Researcher: Javeria Rashid

Supervisor: Mr Muhammad Saleh Habib

Abstract

The study deals with aestheticism by keeping in view the theoretical lens of feminism. The feminist aesthetic movement serves as a ground to explore Sylvia Plath's and Adrienne Rich's concerns in their poetry. Gender roles somehow limit women to the spheres of art and philosophy and they are taken for granted but the feminist aesthetics provides a way to transcend all boundaries by allowing women to think and write freely. This paper contends how androgyny works in Rich's and Plath's poetry and how their poetry is influenced aesthetically by gender roles. Society has diminished women's identity but the feminist theoretical framework offers women a chance to build their own identity and standards in society. Writers have resisted the traditional roles and raised their voices aesthetically against the violence they have faced. Feminist aesthetics challenges the philosophy of beauty, art, and sensory experiences which help us to find out aesthetics in poetry even where there is no philosophy.

Keywords: Feminism, Aestheticism, Androgyny, Resistance, Gender roles

2. Title: Alicia's Trauma and Silence in Alex Michaelides' *The Silent Patient*: A Psychoanalytic Study

Researcher: Aima Kamran

Supervisor: Mr Muhammad Saleh Habib

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the famous novel *The Silent Patient* by the 20th century British-Cypriot author Alex Michaelides, highlighting its representation of silence and a woman's act of violence against her own husband. *The Silent Patient* replicates the actual psychoanalysis theory, specifically Professor Franz Rupert's trauma theory. The focal point of this thesis is to study why people resort to violence and when things get nasty and ugly they become silent as revealed in the novel. The work mainly emphasizes the struggle and Alicia's trauma which she experienced

during the period in which she chose to remain silent. The research explores the elements of Psychoanalysis through a woman's act of violence against her own husband and a young therapist who is obsessed with uncovering her motive.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, Conflict theory, Violence, Silence, Psychological thriller, Trauma

3. Title: Adaptation of Gender Representation in Bram Stoker's Novel *Dracula* (1897) and Netflix Series *Dracula* (2020)

Researcher: Fatima Ashraf

Supervisor: Mr Muhammad Saleh Habib

Abstract

Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* (1897) is considered the most modern vampire myth in literature. The thesis analyzes the characters' representation and the intriguing changes in Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* (1897) compared with its 2020 adaptation by Netflix. Furthermore, the research explores the additions, reductions and modifications that have taken place in the *Dracula* series as compared to the novel. The prominent characters of the novel and series are compared to each other; the ways in which characters are represented in the novel and are portrayed in the series. The main character of the novel *Dracula* is portrayed by Stoker in such a way that his character not only shows vampiristic features but also shows his interest in mundane matters. The events in Stoker's novel are symbolic of how the human mind functions and how paranoia affects the human psyche, particularly in the context of Stoker's characters.

Keywords: Vampires, Adaptation, Human psyche, Paranoia

4. Title: Feminist Slavery and Fertility Control: Is Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* a Possibility?

Researcher: Ayesha Mushtaq

Supervisor: Mr Muhammad Saleh Habib

Abstract

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood is a feminist novel that highlights the issues of female fertility. The novel is set in a dystopian fictional society in the 1980s, a society where the issue of female fertility carries weight. Since the issue discussed in the novel is speculative, the question arises whether or not such a situation may occur in the future. This makes one wonder if

a similar situation is even possible? The novel centers around matters such as women of higher class were unable to give birth, so they enslaved women who were already mothers and used them as forced surrogates. The primary text *The Handmaid's Tale* provides the content for this thesis, while doctors (gynecologists) are consulted to see if they think infertility will lead to surrogacy in future. Surrogacy is very common in the people of elite class. Hence, the aim of this research is to analyze whether Atwood's novel is merely a work of fiction or such a practice is possible. Would society accept this and make it a tradition? Or would it just remain a fad practiced by the elite? The biblical concept of the Handmaids is also explored. A few Christians are also consulted for the Biblical information regarding women as a breeding tool and if the Puritans lied about this? Whether buying women is allowed in Christianity or not?

Keywords: Fertility, Colonization. Slavery, Feminism, Commodity, Sex slavery, Patriarchy, Gender equality, Gender oppression

5. Title: A Marxist Critique of Sabyn Javeri's *Nobody Killed Her*

Researcher: Anum Zahra

Supervisor: Mr Muhammad Saleh Habib

Abstract

The study intends to scrutinize the socio-political, cultural, and historical dimensions of Pakistani society depicted in *Nobody Killed Her* by Sabyn Javeri through Marxist lens. Applying close reading analysis method, this study has attempted to unfurl distinct contours of sufferings that go beyond the barriers of caste and class and to decipher socio-political, cultural, and historical dimensions of Pakistani society accentuated in the novel. The study excavates how the novel substantiates the miseries that cut across generations and the barriers of caste, class, and social status. The findings of the study reveal that the novel gives prominence to the kernel issues of Pakistani society such as class system, identity crisis, dehumanization and coercion based on social class, depreciation of moral values, and political conspiracies. The novel also ascertains how characters are caught in the traditions of 'haves' and 'have-nots'. It also weighs the economic exploitation of the characters and how conserving social status becomes unthinkable without money. The novel serves as a politico-psychological thriller about two passionate, enthusiastic, and politically ambitious women, whose lives are intertwined and they are in a mesh of murky politics. Upon reading the novel closely, an assassination plot may appear wild to

Pakistani imagination, but the probability of it cannot be denied within the context of the Subcontinent.

Keywords: Pakistani society, Politics, Culture, Marxist criticism, Thriller

6. Title: A Case Study on Pedophilic Literature: Perceptions, Critique, and Stigmatization

Researcher: Khoula Asad Khan

Supervisor: Mr Muhammad Saleh Habib

Abstract

Pedophilia is a psychological issue that has plagued the mindsets of many predators but has not been publicly addressed by many. It is the leading cause of child molestation, abuse, and even rape all across the globe. Pedophilic literature explores not only the aspects, or process of pedophilia, but helps the readers explore the minds of those suffering from this disorder. It not only helps in the documentation of what and how everything happens, but also enlightens us about the future consequences, mental trauma/s it causes, and the psychological prospects of it. As the title implies, this thesis will be a case study on Pedophilic literature from a general perspective by using 7 popular pedophilic novels. These include *120 Days of Sodom* by Marquis de Sade, *Demons (Devils)* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov, *Nobody Heard Me Cry* by John Devane, *The End of Alice* by A.M. Holmes, *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara, and *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell. Apart from the case study, a sub-research will be conducted to know how pedophilic literature helps in the formation of different opinions about pedophilia, the type of criticism pedophilic literature has been subjected to, and the causes of stigmatization of this issue in Pakistan. The reason for conducting this research is to highlight the social context in which pedophilia is perceived, and to highlight the causes of why it is becoming such a problem, especially in Pakistan. Since it is a two-part research, the triangulation method will be used. Qualitative methodology will be used to analyze the books, and quantitative analysis will be used in surveying the affected people.

Keywords: Pedophilic literature, Trauma, Psychosexuality, Social stigmatization, Psychosocial criticism

7. Title: A Marxist Study of *Moth Smoke* by Mohsin Hamid

Researcher: Izzat Ullah

Supervisor: Ms Asfa Zia

Abstract

This thesis is based on the textual analysis of Mohsin Hamid's Novel *Moth Smoke* from a Marxist perspective. This analysis is primarily focused on human behavior and the role of wealth and power in comparison to talent, intelligence and friendship or love. The ideology that supports such incidents and part of society is very well described and proven in Karl Marx's theory of Marxism. The tale of the deprived and oppressed finds a voice in Marxist philosophy, which pleads its case by denying and resisting the bourgeoisie influence, dominance, and might in the fiscal, political, and capitalistic realms. The aim of the research is to look at the sociopolitical and economic circumstances depicted in Mohsin Hamid's novel *Moth Smoke*. It then goes on to examine the characters' reactions as well as Mohsin Hamid's vision. The study's next prime impact is to address the socio-political concerns that have had negative implications for the middle class. This research seeks to raise consciousness of how the working class has struggled for its survival, as well as how they have fought for its rights. The analysis indicates that the social and political system favors the bourgeoisie while undermining the vulnerable and destitute. The solution lies in reducing the concentration of power and authority and restoring equilibrium by including the periphery in the sociopolitical and economic center.

Keywords: Marxism, Survival, Class system, Socio-political hierarchy

8. Title: Examining the Effects of Female Beauty Standards in *The Skin I'm In* through Social Identity Theory

Researcher: Faroza Hayat

Supervisor: Ms Asfa Zia

Abstract

The study examines characters who due to their own uncertainties indulge in the perception of We and They as delineated in *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake through the lens of Social Identity Theory proposed by Henri Tajfel and John Turner. The two mental processes social-identification and social-comparison are interlinked. Social Identification talks about how we as humans have ranked our identity into two groups: the Out-groups and the In-groups. We adopt

the identity of one specific group which gives us the sense of belonging. We use the Us vs Them mentality which reckons the sense of pride, honor and comfort in one group to make them feel special and worthy. Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs model is taken as an example for analyzing the Social Identity Theory. Moreover, the idea of adding Phallus will give new insights to the word beauty as well as the study. The themes such as self-denial and self-acceptance, the power image of beauty, patriarchal hold in setting beauty standards, social comparison and social identification would be discussed under the umbrella of Social Identity Theory. This research is based upon textual analysis consisting of qualitative methodology. Research articles, historical letters, documents, essays and novels are used as research materials. It is a time constrained project which could give new insights to the concept of beauty in future.

Keywords: Social Identity theory, Social identification, Social comparison, In-groups vs Out-groups, Appearance, Beauty

9. Title: Uncovering Eroticism: An Exploration from Classical to Contemporary Literature

Researcher: Zainab Humayoun

Supervisor: Ms Asfa Zia

Abstract

Distilling explicit sexual imagery even in legitimate sexual relationships is depreciated and prohibited in the initial Western literary canon. This is in line with primitive mentality and religious principles which offered no flexibility to shelter the obscene nature of sexuality. This thesis explores the revolution in the fluency of sexual repertoire in the advanced European culture by examining William Shakespeare's language. The audacity of Shakespeare to indulge in the hints of desire and sexual eroticism keeping in view the disciplinary constitution of society is brave of his times. Similarly, Ismat Chughtai's audacity to uncover the same element of desire in her short story "Lihaaf" is a rebellious act of contemporary times. The thesis sheds light on the explicitness of sexual culture by critically observing the progressive literary journey across the globe by taking two extremely contrasting geographical landscapes. The research is not conducted on a grand scale, yet aims to contrive the theoretical framework of Queer Theory with thesis statement as it too is neither supportive nor defensive of any particular gender but critiques the discourses which promote hetero-normativity.

Keywords: Homosexuality, Desire, Sex, Hetero-Normative, Queer Studies, Transgression

10. Title: An Account of Toxic Masculinity as Portrayed in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*

Researcher: Maha Shahbaz

Supervisor: Ms Asfa Zia

Abstract

This study is based on the analysis of *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen in the light of socialist feminism and 'the second sex'. It aims to highlight toxic masculinity portrayed by Ibsen and its impacts on women in the form of subjugation and marginalization. The impacts of toxic masculinity on women in Victorian society will be discussed along with factors causing it. The study will focus on the sufferings of women caused by men's dominant psyche and toxic masculinity. Moreover, it will cover the practical inclusive socialist feminist approach towards this misogyny. The role of misogyny in creating a gender bigoted society and treatment of women as a second sex will be analyzed. 'Socialist Feminism' and 'The Second Sex' by Simone de Beauvoir are used as theoretical frameworks. Socialist feminism combines capitalism with patriarchy as seen in the selected play. Qualitative method of research is used for the study and the play is used as the instrument of this research. The findings of study aim at highlighting toxic masculinity and its causes.

Keywords: Toxic masculinity, Socialist feminism, Second sex, Marginalization, Gender prejudice

11. Title: Trauma in Partition: Oral Narratives in Urvashi Butalia's *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India*

Researcher: Maheen Waseem

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Waqas Sajjad

Abstract

The research has been conducted to highlight the aspect of trauma at the time of Partition specifically through the oral histories of Partition survivors. Butalia's 1998 text has been used as a primary text and with respect to secondary text different research papers, reports, articles and opinions have been considered in the research. The overall content of the thesis highlights many perspectives of Partition through both fiction and non-fiction narratives of Partition literature.

But the main focus of this research is to shed light on the oral histories of Partition survivors that are specifically mentioned in the non-fiction narratives and which have been based upon different interviews from Partition refugees and specifically from the last generation after Partition in Butalia's book. The paper includes an in-depth study of Butalia's book and for this, qualitative research method has been applied. The book significantly projects aspects of trauma and feminism. Though there are many narratives which are highlighted in the Partition history, oral histories and oral narratives have not been highlighted much, especially with respect to trauma. Butalia's book gives a new approach to Partition literature and personal trauma of Partition survivors.

Keywords: Pakistan, India, Oral narratives, Partition trauma, feminism, Partition survivors

12. Title: *Train to Pakistan* by Khushwant Singh from the Lens of Just War Theory

Researcher: Mehr Mohsin Sibtain

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Waqas Sajjad

Abstract

This thesis aims to scrutinize the theme of partition in *Train to Pakistan* (1956) by Khushwant Singh. As a famous partition literary writer, Khushwant Singh has penned down the reality of both nations during and post partition. Being an unbiased narrator, he has openly unveiled the barbaric and animalistic attitude of people. He highlights the religious disputes between Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus living in a village for hundred years and depicts the chaos and bloodshed after the declaration of a separate homeland. However, the incidents and stories presented by Khushwant Singh portray the violation of some basic war principles. Under the paradigm of War Theory, a famous war theorist, Alexander Moseley introduced the Just War Theory in which he further proposed three main laws of a war, i.e. *Jus Ad Bellum* (reasons for war), *Post Ad Bellum* (ethics after war) and *Just in Bello* (war rules). Put together, under the category of *Just in Bello* he introduced three major principles like Discrimination, Proportionality and Responsibility. As partition of 1947 was nonetheless a war, it can be observed how these principles were violated by the people from both sides. This thesis tends to analyze the reasons behind the partition chaos. It will further explore the implication and violation of these basic rules by analyzing the plot and characters in the book and the actual situation at the time of partition. It further aims to study the

religious dispute and clash between peace-living people that how it was sabotaged by the political conspiracies of the people.

Keywords: Partition, Violation, Discrimination, Proportionality and responsibility

13. Title: Dawn of Humanity: A Critical Study of *Blindness* by José Saramago

Researcher: Muhammad Ibraheem

Supervisor: Ms Maryam Raza

Abstract

The thesis aims to explore the inhumane nature of the characters in José Saramago's novel *Blindness* with reference to the State of nature philosophy advocated by Thomas Hobbes. The objective of the thesis is to gauge how the humans react in the times of crisis: whether they showcase humanity and help others or they begin to show inhumane and selfish behavior. The study shows that humans, by nature, are self-centered. Another objective of this research is to relate the novel with the current Global Pandemic, Covid-19. The thesis highlights the evil nature of humans especially in tough circumstances when they are left unchecked and on their own. It reflects the bygone societal models proposed by Hobbes. Future researchers can explore the devastating effects of inhumane behavior of the individuals and bad governance in the form of a case study. It is a qualitative and inter-disciplinary research.

Keywords: Inhumane behavior, Fatal disease, Global pandemic, Selfishness

14. Title: Discernment of Subalternity in *Maps for Lost Lovers* by Nadeem Aslam

Researcher: Murad Ahsan

Supervisor: Ms Maryam Raza

Abstract

The research aims to explore Subalternity proposed by Gayatri Spivak in *Maps for Lost Lovers* by Nadeem Aslam. The objective of the research is to unravel the streaks of hybridity and alienation in second-generation residing in the Diaspora. The notion of subalternity discusses identity exploration, cultural hybridity, and insights of immigrants who struggle within their fluidity of identity. The study fills the gap in research by unmasking cultural subalternity in Aslam's novel which has not been critically studied in such a manner hitherto. It targets the multicultural society where immigrants face racial stereotypical notions and internalize their

individuality. Subalternity and Cultural Hybridity, with a specific focus on conservative fundamentalism in a naturalized hypocritical culture, is the tool for this research paper. The study highlights the significance of Post-Colonial literature, which manifests the lack of identity in immigrants residing abroad as a minority. It is qualitative research with a specific focus on the grounded theory. It is non-inter disciplinary research.

Keywords: Diaspora, Cultural identity, Subalternity, Alienation, Post-Colonial literature

15. Title: Exploration of Daud Kamal's *Before the Carnations Wither* from the Lens of Mysticism

Researcher: Syeda Tathir Zahra

Supervisor: Ms Maryam Raza

Abstract

The research aims to explore Gerald James Larson's theory of Mysticism in Daud Kamal's collected poems, *Before the Carnations Wither*. The objective is to explore the facets of Daud Kamal's poetry through images, symbolism, and themes used from the lens of mysticism and spirituality. The study highlights the poetry of Daud Kamal as a canvas rich of mysticism. Along with facets of tradition, culture, partition, and history, the focus is on the writing style, images, and themes. The study fills the gap in research on *Before the Carnations Wither* which has hitherto not been deconstructed and critically analyzed via Mysticism. The study highlights the significance of Daud Kamal's writings from different perspectives of culture, history, and religion. The future researchers can explore various other domains of Mysticism in the collection of poems and they can further explore the realistic theoretical framework in Daud Kamal's poetry. It is a qualitative research with a special focus on grounded theory. It is not an interdisciplinary research.

Keywords: Mysticism, Realism, Spirituality, Pakistan Literature, Poetry, Daud Kamal

16. Title: Bapsi Sidhwa's *The Pakistani Bride* through the Lens of Islamic Feminism

Researcher: Areej Shahzadi

Supervisor: Ms Maryam Raza

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to illustrate various aspects of domestic abuse perpetrated on women in order to govern their lives in society, especially in patriarchal societies, as depicted in Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *The Pakistan Bride*. Domestic violence has been a major impediment to women's advancement and prosperity. As a well-known novelist, Sidhwa strives to illustrate all facets of marital abuse in order to bring the latent negative impact of marriage on women's lives to light. She refutes the spiritual notion of marriage, in which women are tormented by various social codes imposed by male members of society, based on her realistic knowledge of problems encountered by women in a patriarchal culture. She discusses oppressed and double-colonized Pakistani women, portraying them as victims of patriarchal culture who face various national and domestic problems and are forced to suppress their identity in order to sync with the society and culture. This study makes an effort to present moral rules and methods used by men for decades to regulate women through so-called holy marital relationship and to compare it with Islamic teachings and orders. This thesis aims to investigate and highlight the female status in society from an Islamic point of view that is manipulated by society. The study seeks to reveal how patriarchal cultures enslave and oppress women mentally, morally, and socially. Sidhwa has depicted Pakistan's gender-based class hierarchy quite accurately. It is a qualitative research with specific focus on grounded theory.

Keywords: Feminism, Marital abuse, Patriarchy, Pakistani women, Islam

17. Title: Diagnosing the Unassimilated Wounds of Partition Trauma: A Study of Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* and Saadat Hassan Manto's "Khol Do"

Researcher: Mashal Mumtaz

Supervisor: Ms Maryam Raza

Abstract

The study aims to probe Cathy Caruth's Trauma Theory in Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* and Saadat Hassan Manto's "Khol Do". The objective of the research is to unveil the gruesome archives of traumatic happenings of partition through a comparative analysis of Sundari in *Train to Pakistan* and Sakina in "Khol Do". Another objective is to unfold how trauma has influenced Singh and Manto to rewrite the history of partition. The study underlines the significance of trauma in shaping actions and individual and religious and national identities. The critical study

traces individual encounters of characters with bleak conscious and poignant memories. The thesis impregnates the gap in research on *Train to Pakistan* and “Khol Do” which have not been dissected and scrutinized before as a means of catharsis from trauma residing in the South Asian human subconscious. Psychoanalysis, with explicit emphasis on Cathy Caruth’s Trauma Theory, is the secondary source for this research paper. The study heightens the significance of trauma as an event which fragments human consciousness but is ripe with the potential to be shaped by language. Future researchers can question the idea of partition by exploring trauma in other post-partition literary texts of South-Asian writers and draw a comparative analysis with the aforementioned texts.

Keywords: Trauma, South-Asian Literature, Partition, Psycho-analysis, Post-colonial, Catharsis

18. Title: Cinematic Adaptations of Henrik Ibsen's *The Doll's House*

Researcher: Maham Naseem

Supervisor: Ms Samra Hafeez

Abstract

Social identity and ideology are the necessities in the process of adaptation. The process of adaptation demands in depth exploration to represent cultural aspects inherent in any piece of literature. By applying the theoretical framework of adaptation by Linda Hutcheon, this study portrays a practical approach to articulating ideas about what author holds in his story. This study interrogates how different pieces of literature are being adapted and how cultural implication and representation work differently in this process. Ibsen’s play *A Doll’s House* has been adapted frequently and every adaptation presents a unique notion of culture with respect to the particular locality which further emphasizes the nature of the audience adhering to that particular culture.

Keywords: Adaptation, Linda Hutcheon, Cultural Study, Drama, Contextual differences

19. Title: Blackness as a Social Construct in Toni Morrison’s *God Help The Child* and Anne Petry’s *The Street*

Researcher: Beenish Asif

Supervisor: Ms Samra Hafeez

Abstract

This thesis analyses two novels, *The Street* by Ann Petry and *God Help the Child* by Toni Morrison. It focuses on the idea of Subalternity. In the White community, subalterns are specifically oppressed by the concept of Blackness. This paper examines the hardships, which are faced by the characters of the selected novels as well as how the ideology of Blackness has developed over time. Particularly, in America, Black Lives Matter movement has caused a totally new mindset about the Black people. Under the lens of Socialist Feminism, a different view point of Blackness has emerged. By reading the situations and conditions experienced by the heroines of the two texts written by both African American writers, who represent the historical themes of racial discrimination, an attempt has been made to develop a meaningful understanding about Blackness.

Keywords: Blackness, Identity Crises, Socialist Feminism, Racial injustice, Racial discrimination

20. Title: Marginalization of Women in Ismat Chughtai's and Sana Munir's Selective Works

Researcher: Fatima Ijaz

Supervisor: Ms Samra Hafeez

Abstract

This thesis explores the portrayal of female characters from different eras. Short stories written by Ismat Chughtai “Chauthi ka Joda”, “The Mole”, “The Homemaker” and Sana Munir “Unfettered Wings” will be discussed in this regard. Social exclusion is not new in South Asian literature. Ismat Chughtai sheds light on the muted groups of society. Sana Munir also takes over this discussion by portraying modern women’s muteness. The aim of this research is to compare the writings from different eras from the perspective of muted group theory because it presents the idea of marginalized groups who are muted and excluded through the use of language. This research was introduced by Edwin Ardener and Shirley Ardener and further evolved by Cheris Kramarae. This study will discuss submissiveness, muteness, oppression and women as commodities in the patriarchal society. It concludes that women of pre-partition to post-partition are not only oppressed but also have been marginalized. Ranting is still the same but with modern problems.

Keywords: Social exclusion, marginalization, patriarchy, muted group, feminism, submissiveness, commodity, oppression, pre-partition, post-partition.

21. Title: The Role of Fairytales in English Literature

Researcher: Muhammad Adeel

Supervisor: Ms Samra Hafeez

Abstract

Fairytales transform imagination into imaginary characters that are developed to communicate any abstract idea or message to the readers. The use of this form of fiction provokes learning and imagination among the readers. This study explores different ways through which the medium of fairytales invokes thinking in the readers. These stories help the readers to connect their imagination with real-world scenarios. As a result, this study's purpose is to highlight the imaginative perspective incorporated in fairy tales. Hence, the research aims to determine the role of fairytales in English literature by using the structuralist theory. It results in a better understanding of the mechanism that invokes learning in the readers of these fairytales. Moreover, the structuralist theory determines the jargon and structure of the manuscript, which helps the reader think in a particular way and find a connection between literature and the social context of his existence.

Keywords: Fairy tale, Structuralist theory, Imagination vs Reality, Folklore, English Literature, Wonder tale

22. Title: Colonialism and Racism in *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

Researcher: Umme Habiba

Supervisor: Ms Samra Hafeez

Abstract

This research, by applying the theoretical framework of Frantz Fanon's theory (as proposed in *Black Skin, White Mask*), demonstrates the ideas related to colonialism and racism. In his work, the writer placed a great significance on language. He apprehended that people having black skin exist in two modes: firstly, when they are around black ones and secondly, the other when they are with whites. The 19th century is marked as an era when European powers manipulated many

countries including Asia and Africa. Most of the time. Their intention was the acquisition of natural resources. This research will focus on Maya Angelou and Chinua Achebe. Both the writers immortalized the history in a way that it should not be forgotten and they made sure that both the world and every human being of color know that they and their voices are worthy and never to be silenced. Angelou and Achebe depict the complexities of race that are featured in their work. The main intention of research is to solve the nodes to find out the actual situation of the Black people around the globe and white people took the lead on black ones and became superior. The research also focuses on the situation of the Black people; how they are still so hopeless, so impenetrable to human thought, neither could they breed in a human way nor are they getting support as a White people.

Keywords: Imperialism, Hybridity, Identity Crises, Unfairness, Oppression, Capitalism

23. Title: *Malekith* by Gavin Thorpe as a Tragic Novel with Respect to Aristotelian Theory of Tragedy

Researcher: Wazima Rameen

Supervisor: Ms Warda Abbas

Abstract

This thesis aims to prove the fantasy novel *Malekith* as a tragedy with the help of Aristotelian theory of tragedy. In order to prove this novel *Malekith* a tragedy, this study incorporates some of the elements from Aristotelian theory of tragedy: Tragic Flaw, Hamartia, Catharsis, external and internal conflicts of the tragic hero, feelings of pity and fear in the audience, peripeteia, discovery and catastrophe of the tragic hero. There are certain aspects that make it different from fantasies like *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This novel personifies elves as human beings as well as depicts kingdoms of elves, wars, lust for throne and bloodshed which make it a unique fantasy novel. Malekith is provoked by his ambitious mother, Morathi, to become the king by using wrongful ways. He uses his ambition to obtain the throne which causes his downfall. The plot of the novel starts with exposition, leads towards the rising action, climax, falling action and finally towards the resolution of the play.

Keywords: Tragedy, fantasy world, kingdom, Hamartia, Catharsis, Catastrophe

24. Title: A Cross-Cultural Comparison of the film “Aisha” (2010) and the novel *Emma* (1815) by Jane Austen

Researcher: Saeed Falak Sher

Supervisor: Ms Warda Abbas

Abstract

This study intends to compare the movie “Aisha” (2010) by Rajshree Ojha and the classical novel *Emma* by Jane Austen. By comparing the characters and events of these two narratives, it will explore how the book and its modern adaptation share the recurring elements of culture under the Jungian concept of Archetypes. It aims to cover the gap between the nineteenth and the twenty-first century by showing the elements of culture and how the institution of marriage and class difference are still so contemporary. “Aisha” (2010) is a modern edition of a hit classical novel, *Emma* by Jane Austen. Like other Austen’s novels, *Emma* also highlights the theme of marriage and matchmaking. This appears as a pattern in the movie which depicts the recurring norms of a different society, age and culture. This concept is based on Jung’s ideas presented in his book *The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious* (1959) in which he clearly states that a man needs to be conscious of the archetypes which are rooted in human life. The study compares two different cultures shown in the movie and the book by presenting a contrast between the images portrayed in England and India. These images are a result of the collective conscious and show the common elements or patterns between two very different cultures i.e. Indian and English culture and different ages.

Keywords: Recurring patterns, Archetypal images, Symbols, Trauma

25. Title: Tracing Repercussions of Trauma in Mian Raza Rabbani’s *The Smile Snatchers*

Researcher: Samaia Amjad

Supervisor: Warda Abbas

Abstract

This research tends to study child trauma and its effects on childhood with reference to Raza Rabbani’s novella *The Smile Snatchers*. It discusses that child trauma serves as an unerasable memory associated with traumatic experience and the way it remains a part of their unconscious permanently. This study tends to argue that child trauma cannot be expressed but can be identified in the behavioral patterns in childhood that may vary from other normal children. It

would also incorporate the basic perception of childhood and how trauma ravages the blissful childhood period, leaving the victims in eternal abyss. The aim of this study is to highlight the aftermath of traumatic experiences in childhood and to highlight how children suffer and continue to suffer, both physically and mentally. The study aims to validate how a single experience can lead to a permanently disrupted childhood and impose a similar outlook on life as well. Using the post structural approach of trauma studies by Cathy Caruth, the researcher will explore the novella from the lens of trauma theory, and its effects on childhood and growing ages.

Keywords: Trauma, Trauma theory, Childhood, Traumatic experience

26. Title: A Socio-Cultural Analysis of the Figures of Fairy and Giant in the Selected Fairy Tales of Pakistan and United Kingdom

Researcher: Javeria Batool

Supervisor: Warda Abbas

Abstract

This research explores the figures of Fairy and Giant in the selected Short Stories of Pakistan – “Prince Bairam and the Fairy Bride”, “Syedani Bi”, “The Brave Princess” – and United Kingdom – A visit to Fairyland”, “Sleeping Beauty” and “the selfish Giant” – by applying Memetics on the mythical creatures. The method implies that one considers these creatures a meme (the unit of a cultural artifact) and hence believes in its evolution. The research will follow the cultural and social significance of these creatures while touching upon the geographical and social factors that play an important role in their characterization. This research discusses how these creatures are morphed in different narratives influenced by the culture and its ideals. The purpose of the research is to prove the characters of Giants and Fairies as memes and discover the evolution that occurs with a cultural shift. It is a qualitative research which analyses primary texts through secondary texts available on the theory of memetics.

Keywords: Fairy, Giant, Memetics, Socio-cultural Narrative, Pakistan, United Kingdom

27. Title: American Dream and Social Mobility in *The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald

Researcher: Maryam Ashraf

Supervisor: Ms Amina Qadeer

Abstract

American novel *The Great Gatsby* is a perfect epitome of American Dream, reflecting the era of the 1920s after World War I when people began to dream of success, wealth and pursuit of happiness through social mobility. The dream of the future (American Dream) was the consequence of Capitalism, which brought materialism with it. The research is conducted with the support of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* along with Karl Marx's notions about Capitalism. The research aims to analyze how materialistic approaches can no longer advance humanity within the context of the novel *The Great Gatsby*. The objective of the research is to explore the attitudes of numerous characters, from different socioeconomic classes. The aim of the research is to assess the scope of the dreams and desires of the characters within the context of the American Dream and the farfetched promises it entails. Using the Marxist approach, this research fills the gap in literature based on the theory of capitalism as it deals with the aspects of upward social mobility in the novel *The Great Gatsby*. Forthcoming researchers can question the idea of materialistic approach by exploring social mobility in literary works of other writers of American Literature. It is a qualitative research focusing on a grounded theory.

Keywords: Capitalism, American Dream, social mobility, materialism

28. Title: Psychological analysis of Esther in Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* through the lens of Gender Performativity Theory

Researcher: Khushnood Fatima

Supervisor: Ms Amina Qadeer

Abstract

The paper aims to explore Sylvia Plath's novel *The Bell Jar* through the lens of Judith Butler's theory of "Gender Performativity". Butler states that society specifies men and women's gender by their repeating acts and behavior. Esther is uncomfortable with her gender; thus she does not allow herself to be defined by limited characteristics. Esther's discomfort with her gender makes her feel isolated and alienated from her society. In terms of feminism, at many points of the novel, she hides her real name depicting the identity crisis in feminism faced by Esther. This idea was upheld with Judith Butler's thoughts and the exemplification of parallel restrictions portrayed in gender roles and gender norms. With respect to Butler's statement, eventually, Esther ends up with aggravation towards even the basic common acts of both genders. This

research proves that she wants to break the societal and patriarchal notions and standards which were impossible to do. So, she is ultimately trapped in the darkness of the bell jar. The extreme suffocation in the bell jar leads her to attempt suicide, as she was left with no more hope and any aim in her life. The societal expectations from women are so long-listed and rigid. Hence, as the result of standing against those norms, Esther only attains dissatisfaction and those restrictions convert into ultimate depression and despair. This paper manages Butler's view of gender performativity which proposes that gender identity is unstable and faces gender crisis by considering Esther's psychology.

Keywords: Gender, gender performativity, identity crisis, patriarchal notions, psychology, feminism

29. Title: Tracing the Effects of Trauma in Manto's Short Stories

Researcher: Maha Fatima

Supervisor: Ms Fizza Rehman

Abstract

The current research takes into consideration Sadat Hassan Manto's short stories regarding the Subcontinent's partition. The purpose of this study is to reveal the psychological trauma narratives and war memories in Manto's damaged characters. Manto, a partition eyewitness, played a significant role in highlighting the brutality of partition with brutal honesty, reflecting all those events that propagated violence, murders, rapes, abducting, abusing, psychological scars, horrible emotionality, and the depressing social culture during the partition in his short stories. This research provides a detailed review of psychological trauma and war memories in Manto's selected short tales, highlighting those instances of sorrow that result in the victims of partition's unwritten recollection of the tragedy. Freud's trauma theory is used to explain the pre-partition trauma by Sadat Hassan Manto in this research. The research states that trauma is a two-fold term that refers to mental experience and ties an external incident to particular after-effects on a person's psychic world.

Keywords: Trauma, Pre-partition, Lost identity, Psychological scars

30. Title: Deconstructing Hybrid Identities: An Exegesis of Bapsi Sidhwa's *The Bride*

Researcher: Ain Imtiaz

Supervisor: Ms Fizza Rehman

Abstract

Hybridity is the concept widely highlighted by Homi K. Bhabha in his book *The Location of Cultures*. He descriptively analyses the concept of Hybridity and the other terms i.e. mimicry and ambivalence. Hybridity is about a person being at two places at once; overlapping cultures allows a person to generate “in-between space”. This concept is utilized and applied to *The Bride* written by Bapsi Sidhwa in which she highlights the cultural diversities. Relocation of the characters to heterogeneous cultures creates a third space. Lahore is exotically depicted as one region in Pakistan. As a static city, it is compared with the mountains and tribal areas of Pakistan; the difference of norms and cultures within a country would be analyzed in the research. The study examines the characters and displacement from their root culture. Along with the protagonist the minor characters are also straddling between two cultures. The study tends to explore the identity crisis of characters, the effect of hybridity over marriage, and gender roles along with the hybridity found in cultures. The study delves deep to find out that hybridity exists in Qasim, Carol, and Zaitoon. Binaries of self/other, superior/inferior, urban/villager are exposed in the research. The diversity of Kohistani culture, Lahori culture along with Punjabi culture, and the remains of British culture in Lahore, are highlighted in the study. Cultural imperialism resulting in creating a “third space” is discussed thoroughly as well. The evolution of characters after leaving their mother culture and adjusting to the values of a foreign land is the main focus of this research.

Keywords: Dichotomies, Alienation, Identity crisis, Hybridity, Cultural imperialism, In between Space

31. Title: Stuck in a Liminal Space: An Interpretation of *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdi

Researcher: Sonia Shabbir

Supervisor: Ms Anum Rashid

Abstract

The research paper posits to explore the characters stuck in the disheveled and disoriented space between incidents in the novel, *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie. The characters in the novel are neither black nor white, neither good nor bad; rather, they're in a grey area. This grey

area is a liminal space in which the characters are stuck. The paper shall explore this liminal space and identify the reasons behind the characters' being stuck. The post-independent state of India is one in which the people living, face many issues, due to which their identities are usually shattered and broken. They fail to escape this space of liminality, this place where everything is stuck, the characters can neither go back to the past glory nor look forward to a stable and bright future. In this paper, the theory of liminality will be discussed and applied to the primary text. The theory of post-colonialism and many of its constituents will also be discovered. Post-colonial concepts such as identity crisis, rootlessness, hybridity and decolonization will also be applied to the text. Theories such as Homi K. Bhabha's "Hybridity" and Edward Said's "Orientalism" will also be referred to while exploring the text through the primary lens of liminality and 'Third Space.

Keywords: Liminality, Liminal Space, Post-colonialism, Identity Crisis, Hybridity, Orientalism, Third Space

32. Title: Analyzing the Hegemonic Representation of Class and Culture in Mian Raza Rabbani's Short Fiction

Researcher: Zainab Hameed

Supervisor: Ms Anum Rashid

Abstract

This study aims to provide an insight into the culturally conditioned, downtrodden, and neglected side of the society as portrayed in the short story collection *Invisible People* by Mian Raza Rabbani through the lens of Antonio Gramsci's idea of Cultural Hegemony is a constituent of Karl Marx's theory of Marxism. This research presents a case study of the ruling class ruling through coercion and consensus. It depicts betrayal, misery, and deprivation of the abandoned class at the hands of the elites in a collection of 11 evocative, fable-like stories. The beliefs and cultural values of the ruling class then become the cultural norms and depict the whole society including the underprivileged, from their perspective. The same scenario can be observed in the mentioned text. The world view of a person from the ruling class -the author, becomes the voice of the poor. Moreover, as Rabbani himself belongs to an elite family, occupying a position of power, yet illustrating the underprivileged- This ignites a further debate on the dominant ideology of the society. The scenario of a socially privileged person providing an insight into the

harsh realities of the underprivileged provides us with the opportunity to access the work under the umbrella of Marxism, Repression, and class structure as it tackles the same subject.

Therefore, the degree of cultural conditioning class structure, repression, feminism, and power dynamics are the points that will be discussed under the umbrella of these theories.

Keywords: Cultural Hegemony, cultural conditioning, class structure, Marxism, power dynamics, repression.

33. Title: Everyday Patriarchy in Light of Tehmina Durrani's *My Feudal Lord*

Researcher: Hafiza Summiya Tariq

Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Waqas Sajjad

Abstract

This research study aims to discuss the debasing of women in the country. Issues regarding oppression, social class differences related to Pakistani women in the autobiographical memoir *My Feudal Lord* by Tehmina Durrani will be discussed. It focuses on the way women live in a socially barred situation, in which they feel pain and are let down from time to time. This research is qualitative and uses textual method of analysis. *My Feudal Lord* depicts the plight of Pakistani women in a male dominated culture. The theoretical foundation of this study rests on Deniz Kandiyoti's "Bargaining with Partriarchy", that also connects with post-colonial feminism, Muslim and the Western feminism, Barkty's feminist point of view, as well as feminist ideas of French feminist Julia Kristiva. The selected memoir targets the hypocrisy of ruling elites in the country that showcase their women and consider them as objects. There is a constant patriarchal pressure on Pakistani women which Tehmina Durrani has tried to showcase. The current study provides a clear depiction of how far women have progressed in terms of basic rights. Furthermore, the memoir's portrayal of feminism and portrayal of feminism go hand in hand. Sexual harassment and violence against women, challenges to women's identity, and high level political influence are all examined in this study.

Keywords: Pakistani culture, Muslim women, Agency, Feminism, Sexual harassment

34. Title: Analyzing the Narrative Techniques: A Structural Analysis of Alice Munro's *Dear Life* and Sara Suleri's *Boys Will Be Boys: A Daughter's Elegy*

Researcher: Zaira Batool Taqvi

Supervisor: Ms Warda Abbas

Abstract

The present study aims to analyze the narrative techniques employed by two female writers: Alice Munro, a Nobel Laureate, and Sara Suleri, a Pakistani fiction writer. The current study applies five codes of Barthes on Sara Suleri's memoir *Boys Will Be Boys: A Daughter's Elegy* and Alice Munro's *Dear Life*. Both the writers have written their stories with autobiographical touches, revealing the bonds of love and hate, loss and longing within a family. Thus, it can be read as Life-Writing, or creative non-fiction which blurs the line between autobiography and fiction. The proairetic code has analyzed how the writers have preceded the plot and action of their stories. The hermeneutic code has unfolded the puzzling actions and enigma as embedded in the stories. The semantic code has analyzed the texts in the context of the extended, suggestive, and additional meaning of the narrative. The symbolic code has given the textual interpretation in terms of the polarities and antitheses which allow multivalences and reversibility. It pertains to the use of antithesis, paradoxical, binary polarities, and the contrasting elements of both texts, where new meaning arises out of opposing and conflicting ideas. The cultural code has given them ideas about how both the female writers have employed and shared common knowledge of the world and governed references made to entities of science, literature, culture, history, and art. By analyzing the selected works through the codes, the present study gives a structural analysis of the selected narratives.

Keywords: Structural Theory of Five codes of Narrative, Barthesian codes, Narratology

35. Title: An Eco Feminist Analysis of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*

Researcher: Samreen Arshad

Supervisor: Ms Amina Qadeer

Abstract

The study explores the critical issue of ecofeminism, a subcategory of Eco criticism, in Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*. Karen Warren in her essay, "The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism" has clearly defined the world and environment as composed of several hierarchies and binaries. Eco criticism deals with the idea of the relation between human and non-human objects. In the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen has incorporated several natural images and assimilated her characters with those natural aspects that are truly intriguing. The

novel also contains several images which are entirely feminist and eventually they have a true impact on the characters and their expressions. The paper intends to carry out an ecofeminist study which will explore the relationship of the characters with their environment and both the entities are responsible for each other's survival.

Keywords: Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism, Nature, Patriarchy

36. Title: An Eriksonian Analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" and Edogawa Ranpo's "The Human Chair"

Researcher: Aamina Nadeem

Supervisor: Ms Amina Qadeer

Abstract

The intertwining of horror, mystery, and suspense has a macabre impact on human emotions. As a human being every human can feel the presence of fear in body and mind. Stories, novels and audio/visual content which contain fear, suspense, and mystery can cause serious psychological issues. The main focus of the research is to highlight the impact of horror and mystery on humans and the gothic and macabre elements on human consciousness. Sometimes reading or watching horror content can cause serious damage to the brain. By examining Poe's and Ranpo's short stories with the help of Erikson's Psychosocial theory, the research will reveal the results of gothic fiction on the human mind and also disclose how to overcome them. The research will also analyze the characters in both short stories and see how they suffer in the story.

Keywords: Macabre, Psychosocial, Human consciousness, Gothic, Suspense, Mystery

37. Title: *12 Years a Slave: A Memoir of Slavery, Violence, and Bondage*

Researcher: Abdullah Khan

Supervisor: Ms Amina Qadeer

Abstract

The research paper focuses on the subjects of slavery, violence and bondage faced by men of color (especially men of black color) during the American Civil war with reference to *12 Years a Slave* (1853), a slave narrative by Solomon Northup and revised by David Wilson. The author's personal life as a free black man from the North, captured and forced into bondage in the pre-Civil War South is told in Solomon Northup's novel *12 Years a Slave*. It is a symbolic

condemnation of "chattel slavery," or human bondage. Northup's account of the atrocities he suffered—and those he was compelled to inflict—serves as a reminder to future generations about the moral consequences of bondage. The aim of this research paper is to explore the key themes of slavery and its different types in the light of African American community. The objective of this paper is to explore the above-mentioned themes with respect to John DeGruy's theory of Posttraumatic slavery syndrome (PTSS). PTSS is defined as "a condition that exists when a population has experienced trauma over several generations as a result of centuries of slavery and is still experiencing institutionalized oppression and racism today." This research addresses the physical, mental, and socio-emotional effects of institutionalized oppression faced by African Americans over the course of an extended period of time till the present day. This study is qualitative in nature, with a focus on the memoir *12 Years a Slave*, which serves as our primary source.

Keywords: Black slavery, violence, bondage, chattel slavery, trauma

38. Title: The Deceptive Representation of Female Characters in Textual Literature, Fairytales, and Modern Visual Media

Researcher: Tooba Butt

Supervisor: Ms Naomi Justin John

Abstract

The role of representation in textual literature and visual media has always been of much importance; yet it faces all sorts of debates and criticism when it comes to the representation of female characters. Through literary texts, such as novels and tales the readers try to find themselves in those stories, identifying with the characters and their roles in society. Since the beginning of the 17th century, women started to identify themselves with the likes of Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte's characters but there were never enough female writers, thus keeping the progress of female literature, media and its impact, several steps behind. Fairytales are also one of the main sources of such literature, from verbal to written texts, told and written by men to the masses; however, these stories impacted little girls and women the most. This study will trace the origins of classic and much-beloved fairytales, their adaptation by mainstream visual media such as Disney, and the female characters' ever-evolving roles.

Keywords: Representation, Fairytales, Visual media, Text, Disney

39. Title: An Analysis of Ongoing Sociopolitical Disruption in Indo-Pak Region in the Context of Film “PK”

Researcher: Anwar Ul Haq

Supervisor: Ms Naomi Justin John

Abstract

This study demonstrates that “PK”, an Indian blockbuster film, offers three potent themes, i.e., (a) theme of self-acclaimed custodianship of religion; (b) theme of religious bigotry; (c) theme of lack of critical thinking in religious beliefs, which provide useful explanations on the nexus between current wave of religious extremism and sociopolitical disruption in the Indo-Pak region. To conduct this thesis, a qualitative methodological approach has been considered to direct the research process, and thematic analysis is applied to discuss the subject matter from various thematic dimensions. The results of this study showed that in the Indo-Pak region, so-called religious custodians are instrumental in propagating false narratives, misinterpretation of religious symbols, and meanings to achieve personal interests or interests of exclusive groups. Further, the results of this study also revealed that religious bigotry is quite high in the Indo-Pak region, and it is one of the major causes of religious intolerance, extremism, and socio-political conflicts. Lastly, in this study, it has been discovered that critical thinking in religious matters is quite low both in India and Pakistan. This lack of critical thinking is noticeably conducive to the development and escalation phases of socio-political disruptions in the Indo-Pak region. The findings are in alignment with the themes depicted in the PK movie. Owing to these finds, this study recommends that the number of movies related to real-life issues such as “PK” needs to be increased so that people can get useful insights or get educated from Bollywood movies other than getting entertainment. Further, it recommends that there is an absolute necessity of critical thinking in religious matters in the Indo-Pak region so that people can understand the ills of religious custodianship and religious bigotries. Lastly, it also recommends that Pakistani cinema also needs to focus on real-world issues and for this purpose, the support of government and the private sector to the cinema industry is very essential.

Keywords: PK; Self-acclaimed custodianship of religion, Thematic analysis, Socio-political conflicts, Religious bigotry, Critical thinking

40. Title: Feminism in Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own" and "Three Guineas"

Researcher: Muhammad Zohaib Asghar

Supervisor: Ms Sobia Talat

Abstract

Woolf has invariably dealt with the societal issues explicitly related to women's way of living. Her major focus is on feminist movement which she presented in all her writings. "A Room of One's Own" and "Three Guineas" are contemplated as pioneer works. Being discontented with the tendentiousness towards women, Woolf's woman-based outlook of liberation is shown in these two works. This study is conducted to shed light on the subject matters of the writer's works and how both essays are linked with women's liberation. Woolf deals with themes corresponding to mental emancipation, financial liberation, and a female's relationship with her husband, brother or friend. For example, Woolf scrutinizes the estrangement of women from the public sphere or educational institutions and their incapacity to get equal opportunities and distribution of wealth as compared to men. In "Three Guineas", she confronts the revolting fascism by advocating a form of thoroughgoing political activism. The researcher uses investigative/logical reasoning in both these works to divulge entanglements, stumbling blocks, curtailments and feminist issues uplifted by Woolf centuries ago. The study also depicts the changes that have occurred in the traditional values over the course of the last 20 to 50 years.

Keywords: Feminism, Gender discrimination, Fascism, Patriarchal society, Gynocritics

41. Title: The Role of Trauma, Alienation and Self Awareness in

Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye*

Researcher: Ahsan Ali

Supervisor: Ms Sobia Talat

Abstract

Literature has a significant impact on human life, and its language has the ability to convey the inner world of humans. Memories, retrospection, introspection, foreshadowing, and flashbacks that are colored by wounds, trauma, and pain of gender disparity have a lot of space in literature. Margaret Atwood has done an excellent job in raising these problems. In her writings, she criticizes the social, cultural, and political ties that bind a female character. In her works, she aspires to achieve self-awareness, identity, and self-confidence while depicting the sufferings

and misery of female characters. This research focuses on the protagonist's childhood relationship, victimization, alienation, and rehabilitation in Atwood's novel *Cat's Eye*. It applies postcolonial theories of othering and cultural resistance to Elaine's (protagonist's) displacement and alienation. The emphasis then turns to Elaine's character development, with Abraham's objective approach serving as the theoretical framework. This research concludes that *Cat's Eye* reflects othering and character growth throughout the novel. Finally, Elaine transforms into an independent young woman who, as an adult, lets go of her past (trauma).

Keywords: Othering, Trauma, Oppression, Character development

42. Title: Dystopian Analysis of *The Selection* by Kiera Cass

Researcher: Abid Hussain

Supervisor: Ms Samra Hafeez

Abstract

This thesis intends to explore the elements of dystopia in the fictional country of Illea as depicted in *The Selection*. The dystopian world in the selected novel will be studied as an image of a flawed society which rules with injustice and oppression and the citizens are controlled by the government and abide by the rules laid out by the royals. The country discriminates against people on the basis of caste and suppresses the lower castes to a life of misery. This research highlights the miserable life of the lower castes which sets the mood of dystopia in the novel *The Selection*. The concept of dystopia which has been presented by Keith Booker in his book will be applied in this study. The paper uses the lens of dystopian impulse to scrutinize and elaborate the working mechanism that makes a government unjust and oppressive. The study will apply the dystopian theory to highlight the practices of class discrimination and the circumstances that lead to such practices.

Keywords: Dystopia, Injustice, Oppression, Freedom, Caste, Discrimination

