

QUEST

Journey to the Known and Unknown

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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Hello everyone,
We are thrilled to present the third issue of our department newsletter. As we compiled this issue, it became evident that we achieved our targets last year successfully. This edition showcases our activities and accomplishments from the past year.

We are optimistic that the upcoming year will be just as

fruitful. Our students are a source of pride for us. The success of a department is reflected in its students, and our ability to publish this newsletter annually is a testament to their hard work.

Congratulations to the editorial board and all contributors for their efforts.

Priyanka Sarmah
HOD, Department of English

From the Principal's Desk

I am glad to know that the Department of English, Pragjyotish College is publishing its newsletter "QUEST", issue no.3, 2023.

I strongly believe that this publication will serve as a mirror reflecting the creative pursuits of the students and faculties of the department and takes its philosophical views and activities far and wide.

My heartiest congratulations to the department along with its editorial team for their initiative. I wish "QUEST" is well read and appreciated by all.

Dr. Manoj Kr. Mahanta
Principal, Pragjyotish College





ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Pragjyotish College was established in the year 1954, and as English was a core subject, the Department of English was also established in the same year. Since its inception, the Department of English has been instrumental in imparting knowledge of the English language to students. Initially, only a general course in English was offered. However, from 1958 onwards, the major course in English was introduced to cater to the demands of the student's community. Currently, the Department has three sanctioned faculties and two other faculties (one full-time and one part-time). Every year, the department accommodates at least thirty major students, and every care is taken to nurture and enhance their capability of understanding English language and literature.

- Year of Establishment : 1954
- Number of Teachers : 9
- Routine Courses offered : HS and UG
- No. of Non - Teaching Staff : 2
- Add - on Courses offered : 1 (Certificate course for Spoken English)
- No. of Students Enrolled (Major Course) : 120



The Illuminators



Priyanka Sarmah

Associate Professor, HOD
MA in English Literature
Specialization in Indian English Literature



Dr. Avijit Kumar Dutta

Assistant Professor
MA in English Literature, M.Phil and Phd
Specialization in European Classical, English
Translation and American literature



Laltilanzuol Khawbung

Assistant Professor
MA in English Literature, M.Phil
Specialization in American Literature and
Gender Studies



Dr. Monali Ghosh Dastider

Assistant Professor
MA in English Literature
Specialization in Indian English Literature



Shyamolim Gauratra

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, M.Ed
Specialization in American and
Commonwealth Literature



Kabita Medhi

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, M.Phil
Specialization in American Literature



Pinaz Mirza

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, MA in Linguistics
Specialization in American Literature and
Field Linguistics



Shikha Das

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, M.Ed

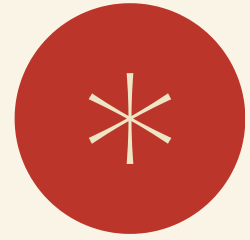


Abhijit Seal

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature
Specialization in American Literature



Faculty Spotlight



Priyanka Sharma, HOD, Associate Professor

Re-elected as the member of the governing body of Pragyotish College, February 2024, previously served in the same through the years 2015-2017.

Dr. Avijit Kumar Dutta, Associate Professor

Member of Editorial Group of Xahitya.org (An Online Magazine having ISSN No. 23215097).
Attended a Book Release Programme as 'Guest of Honour' (Organised by Government of Bangladesh).

Laltlanzoul Khawbung, Associate Professor

Successfully completed the "NEP 2020 Orientation & Sensitization Programme" under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP) of University Grants Commission (UGC) organized by MMTTC, Gauhati University. The course was conducted from February 19, 2024, to February 28, 2024, and was awarded 'A' grade in a follow-up assessment.

Dr. Monali Ghosh Dastider, Faculty Member

Dr. Monali Ghosh is awarded with the Doctorate Degree in "Representation of Food and Identity in Contemporary South Asian Literature", on 31st May, 2024. She successfully completed "Faculty Induction Programme" under Malivya Mission Teacher Training Center (MMTTC) Gauhati University. The course was conducted from January 24, 2024, to February 26, 2024 and was awarded 'A' grade upon completion of the said course.

Abhijeet Seal, Faculty Member

Contributed a research paper titled "Pseudo-Autobiographical Elements: Rethinking with Ernest Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms in ISBN edited book "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literature, Language, Education and Cultural Studies" published by the Department of English, PNGB Govt. Model College, Kakopathar, Tinsukia in February 2024.



Department throughout the Year

World Poetry Day Celebration



21st March, 2023; Digital Library :

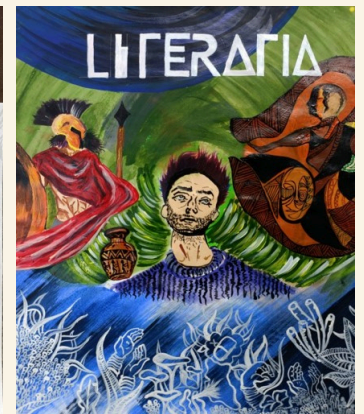
The Department of English has celebrated the World Poetry Day on 21st August in the Digital Library. The theme was "Always be a poet, even in prose." Garima Kalita Ma'am, Department of English from USTM was invited as the resource person for the event. Along with the celebration of the World Poetry day the department has also organized an Inter Departmental Poetry Competition to encourage creativity and writing skills and to build a community of Poetry enthusiasts. The department has been celebrating the World Poetry Day since 2021.

Intra-Departmental Extempore Speech Competition



31st March, 2023; Rusa Hall :

An intra-departmental Extempore Speech Competition was organised by the Department of English on 31st March, 2023 where students were encouraged to speak on various topics which were given on the spot. The Department teachers were the judges and after the competition they provided valuable tips to the students and encouraged the students to develop a better communication and cognitive skills.



The Department Publications; QUEST and LITERATIA



Awareness Program by Madan Mohan Borah



10th August, 2023; Language Lab:

A talk on Exploring Excellence in Academic and Beyond was delivered by an alumnus of the department, Madan Mohan Borah on 10th August, 2023. In this interactive session with his juniors, Madan Mohan Borah mentioned about effective professional etiquette in business administration.

Inter Departmental Dance Competition



25th August, 2023; College premise:

An Inter Departmental Dance Competition was organised by the Department of English on 25th August, to enhance the cultural aspect of students. The style selected for the competition was semiclassical. Many students participated from various departments and among them three students were awarded prizes and a Consolation prize was also given.

Plantation Drive in Pragati Pathshala



14th August, 2023; Shantipur:

The Department of English along with NSS (NATIONAL SURVEY SCHEME) of Pragjyotish College, arranged a plantation drive where the Department conducted an interactive session with the children of Pragati Pathshala to make them aware of the importance of plants in our life. Along with the plantation drive, a movie session and other fun activities were also organised.

The department of English has adopted the pathsala since 2019 and has been contributing for the welfare and development of the pathsala. The teachers, students and the alumni have also contributed for the overall development of the school.



The Paper Castle: Wall Magazine



Book Review Seminar



13th September, 2023; Digital Library:

To cultivate critical thinking skills, encourage literary analysis, and foster a culture of reading and scholarly discussion among students and faculty members, a seminar on book review was conducted by the Department of English on 13th September to aware the students about various book writing techniques. The Librarian of Pragjyotish College Shri Unindojoyoti Choudhury was the resource person for the event. He gave various tips regarding writing skills and the students were benefited by his talk.

Talk by Former Principal



14th October, 2023; English Department :

The Department of English conducted an awareness talk where the former Principal of Pragjyotish College, Dr. Dayananda Pathak, was invited as the spokesperson. He had an interactive session with the students and talked about the benefits of literature among students.

Short Story Competition



15th September, 2023; English Department :

The Department of English organised an Inter Departmental Short Story Competition to cultivate among students the importance of creativity and to improve their writing skills. The topics for the competition were given on the spot and the participants were free to write in English, Assamese and Hindi. The respective head of the departments were itself the judges for the event. At the end of the event, winners were announced and prizes were distributed to the deserving participants.

Movie Screening



9th November; English Department :

Time to time, the department has organised movie screening and open air classes for the students to make some changes in the traditional classroom settings and to help students understand complex themes, historical events, and literary works in a visually compelling manner. The movies related to the literature are presented to benefit and help students have a better understanding in the context of English literature.

Home Visit



10th November; 2023:

To establish a stronger connection between educators and students, understand their individual circumstances better, and provide personalized support to enhance academic and personal success, the Department of English has taken the responsibility of maintaining a supportive and friendly relationship with the students of the department and their families by visiting their families and understanding their living environment.

Alumni Meet



25th February, 2023; Language Lab:

The Department has organised an alumni meet for the former students on 25th February. On this meet the teachers and the former students recollected their moments together in the department and the college. Alumni took resolutions to work together for the betterment of the department.

Guardian Meet



25th February, 2023; RUSA Hall:

The Department has organised a guardian meet for the parents of the current students on 25th February. On this meet the teachers and the parents discussed about the overall development of the students and the problems faced by the students while studying in the college. The department took notes of the advice given by the guardian on the meet, simultaneously the guardians were informed about the students' progress.

Farewell of Daijee Kalita



25th February; 2023:

The students of the Department has organised a farewell program for their teacher Daijee Kalita on 22nd August. Daijee Kalita had been working as Assistant professor (contractual) in English Department for many years.



GALLERY



HALL OF FAME



**Hirak
Jyoti
Baishya**

- Special Awardee of Assam Engineering College - All Assam Level Dance Competition Footloose 2024
- Grand Finale Artist of Dreamworld Season 2 - All India Level Dance Reality Show



Papori Das

- 3rd Prize Folk Dance in National Multi Lingual Play, Dance and Music Contest
- Participated in Folk Dance, Classical (Sattriya) and Semi-Classical (Bhortal)



**Kaushita
Ghosh**

- National Level Dance Competition secured 3rd Prize in Classical and Folk Category
- National Level Drawing Competition secured 2nd Prize



**Ishika
Sarkar**

- 1st Prize in National Level Dnce Competition 2023



A Journey Through the Himalayan Majesty: Traveling to Tawang



By Pinku, Chinmoy, Amit, Shreyas
Photography by Chinmoy



Our journey commenced on the 26th of February, initiated by a spontaneous decision between me and my friends to explore the enchanting landscapes of Tawang. We quickly roped in our friends Amit, Nirmal, and Pinku, who eagerly agreed to join us on this adventure. With Gaurav's car ready to go, we set off around 4:30 PM, filled with anticipation for what lay ahead. As we embarked on our journey towards Tawang, nestled amidst the serene Himalayas, we felt an exhilarating rush of excitement coursing through my veins.

Tawang, a mystical enclave in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, India, is renowned for its breathtaking vistas, ancient monasteries, and vibrant cultural tapestry. After a brief stop in Nagaon for dinner, we resumed our journey and eventually arrived at Bhalukpong, the border between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, around 2:30 AM. However, our progress was halted by the police who insisted we obtain a permit before proceeding further. With no other option, we spent the night in our car near the border pass.

The next morning, on the 27th of February, we took care of the necessary paperwork to secure our entry permit. Finally, at around 8 AM, we were granted permission to enter Arunachal Pradesh. The roads ahead wound their way through lush valleys, dense forests, and cascading waterfalls, each bend offering glimpses of nature's magnificence. As we climbed higher into the Himalayas, the air grew crisper, and the landscape more majestic. Snow-capped peaks emerged from behind the clouds, captivating all who gazed upon them with





their enchanting beauty. We finally arrived in Dirang around 4 PM and promptly secured accommodation at Kalden Homestay. After settling in, we grabbed a quick meal of Maggi and ventured out to explore the local Dirang market in search of warm clothing for the chilly climate. Once we had acquired what we needed, we returned to our homestay where we enjoyed the conviviality of the owner. We sang and danced around the bonfire before retiring early around 11 PM, knowing we had an early start the next day for our journey to Tawang.

On 28th February, we rose with the sun and set out at approximately 6 AM. By 12:30 PM, we had reached Sela Pass, perched at an altitude of over 13,000 feet above sea level. The vistas from the pass were breathtaking, with snow-capped peaks stretching as far as the eye could see. Despite the biting cold and a light drizzle of snow, we couldn't resist taking a break to frolic in the snow, even fashioning two snowmen in the process. We resumed our journey and finally arrived in Tawang by 5 PM. Upon my arrival in Tawang town, we were enveloped by the warmth of its

residents and the serenity of its surroundings. The town exuded an enchanting old-world charm, with colorful prayer flags dancing in the breeze and traditional houses peppering the landscape. We secured two rooms at Hotel Dawa, freshened up, and set out to explore the local market. Venturing through the old market and the newer sections, we immersed ourselves in the vibrant atmosphere. The local markets offered a feast for the senses, with vibrant handicrafts, intricately woven textiles, and delectable local delicacies enticing us at every turn. The aroma of freshly brewed butter tea wafted through the air, offering a comforting reprieve from the chilly mountain climate.

The next morning, 29th February we woke up around 7 am, enjoyed a hearty breakfast, and then set off to explore the monastery. A visit to Tawang would be incomplete without paying homage to its most iconic landmark - the Tawang Monastery. Perched majestically atop a hill, this ancient monastery holds immense religious significance for Buddhists and stands as the largest in India. As we stepped

into the monastery, it felt like stepping back in time. We were mesmerized by its intricate architecture, adorned with colorful murals and housing sacred relics. The air was filled with a profound sense of serenity, and we found ourselves immersed in quiet contemplation amidst the rhythmic chanting of the monks and the gentle flickering of butter lamps.

The following day, 1st March, around 9:15 am, we set out on our journey back home. As my time in Tawang drew to a close, we found ourselves deeply contemplating the profound impact this trip had on me. The majestic beauty of the Himalayas, the cultural richness that enveloped the region, and the genuine warmth of its people had left an indelible impression on my soul, surpassing all expectations. As we reluctantly bid farewell to Tawang and embarked on our homeward journey, we carried with us more than just souvenirs. Tawang had not simply been a destination; it had been a transformative journey, leaving an enduring imprint on our hearts and souls.





The Heart Speaks in Verses: Poetry by Many

HER

Waking up with the sun's tender gaze,
With her gentle stroke across my face.
The feeling serene and content.

Making the day brighter with her smile
And the night warmer with her embrace.
A kindness, I could never thank
For the time had me anticipating for something else.

There she laid, frozen.
With pale lips and cold touch.
Losing all her warmth, like a winter's breath
And my losing her forever.

The void of her gentle imprint on my face,
The warmth that embraced me.
In the whispering wind, their essence now resides
Making me embrace the wind.

Gazing at the sky, a single star gleams
Giving me faith with its presence.
In every flicker, a whispered vow
For in that star, it is her whom I know.

– Harshita Soud
BA 3rd Semester

FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE

Without them, my world was crumbling. The ground
underneath my feet, falling. No flowers blooming, no
birds chirping, The precious part of me, Vanishing.

The tears, leaving my eyes,
Like the leaves leaving the trees in autumn. With their
last goodbyes,
That gets lost as they reach the bottom.

Thinking their absence
Is going to haunt me forever, It will make me feel lifeless
And I wouldn't smile, never.
And then I saw, the ground
That cracked open underneath my feet. Revealed a new
world,
Telling me that a new journey awaits.

It was just a chapter ending, Leaving all the broken
things. Letting the start of a new beginning, Mending
broken hearts
Like the emerging brand new seedlings.

- Zabin Sultana
BA 3rd sem





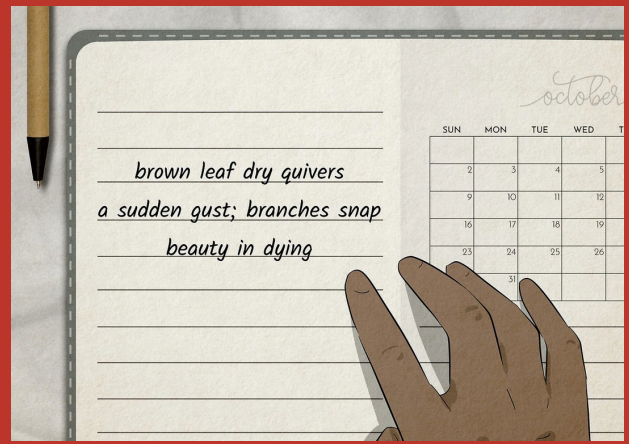
Unlocking Creativity

Exploring the Art of Haiku

By Hiya

What is a Haiku?

Haiku is an unrhymed poetic form consisting of 17 syllables arranged in three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively. The haiku first emerged in Japanese literature during the 17th century, as a terse reaction to elaborate poetic traditions, though it did not become known by the name haiku until the 19th century.



Brief History of Haiku

Sixteenth-century poets began experimenting with writing *hokku* on its own, without the *renga*. In the Edo Period (1603–1867), a reformist poet named Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694) developed and popularized a more relaxed and humorous form of *renga* called *haikai*. With greater ability for expression and variations in tone, Bashō and other reformist poets Yosa Buson (1716–1784) and Kobayashi Issa (1763–1828) found humour in describing seemingly mundane objects. During the Meiji Period (1868–1912), poets like Masaoka Shiki (1867–1902) further popularized the *hokku*. In the nineteenth century, *hokku* came to be known as haiku and was a fully independent form of poetry.

3 Rules of A Haiku Poem

1. The entire poem consists of just three lines, with seventeen syllables in total.
2. The first line and third line are five syllables.
3. The second line is seven syllables.

The Old Pond

Matsuo Bashō

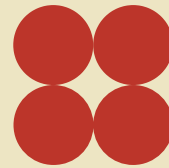
An old silent pond
A frog jumps into the pond—
Splash! Silence again.



Linguistic Relativity

EXPLORING LANGUAGE'S INFLUENCE ON THOUGHT

By Harshita



Linguistic relativity, also known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, is the idea that the structure of a language affects its speakers' world view or cognition. According to Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, language's structure and content have the power to direct one's thoughts by affecting how we comprehend reality. This idea implies that language usage patterns can determine a person's cultural approach and attitude towards various situations.

Linguistic Relativity theory suggests that the languages we pick up and use influence how we see the world – the perception of our surroundings, our sense of time, our memories, our behavior, and even our sense of self.

Perception

Each language has different words to describe the things around us and these differences change the way we perceive these things.

Sense of Time

Because languages are written in different directions, people who write left to right will perceive the sequence of events accordingly.

Memories

Language also affects our memories. It plays a crucial role in shaping how memories are formed, stored, and recalled, highlighting the intricate relationship between language and cognition.



Behaviour

Languages are often associated with culture, and with the context in which it was learned. As a result, those who speak various languages, access different parts of themselves.

Sense of Self

The words we speak also influence how we feel about ourselves.



Reel Insight

EXPLORING NEW MOVIES THROUGH REVIEWS

By Madhushreya

One of Makoto Shinkai's most famous works, "Your Name" was released on 26th of August, 2016 and is one of the most popular anime movies till date, surpassing many others to become the highest grossing anime film of all time, earning 37,761,685,706¥ (Rs. 21,09,35,07,707) worldwide with a budget of 370,000,000 ¥ (Rs. 206,707,160).

The story is about two characters, a modern-day, street smart, Tokyo resident named Taki and in contrast, a small town, sweet girl named Mitsuha. They frequently (and involuntarily) swap bodies, and while trying to figure out this phenomena, weather many storms together and eventually form a very deep, romantic bond.



Your Name

Director	Makoto Shinkai
Writer	Makoto Shinkai
Release Date	July 3, 2016
Running Time	107 Minutes
Country	Japan
Language	Japanese
Box Office	\$361 million

One of the prominent metaphors used in this movie is the Japanese legend of a red ribbon which connects people who are fated to be together. Mitsuha (the female lead) usually wears a red ribbon on her hair (along with her grandmother, who used to wear it in her youth), and this helps establish their bond early on in the movie. For this reason, it is generally labelled as a romance and while that label is accurate to some degree, it goes much deeper than that.

Despite its confusing nature, the Sci-Fi elements of this movie are very well thought out and executed. Shinkai choses to leave some things unexplained, but the search for answers and the plot twists are guaranteed to keep one hooked.





Nobel Laureates in Literature



Olga Tokarczuk (2018)

Country - Poland

Nationality - Polish

“for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as form of life.”

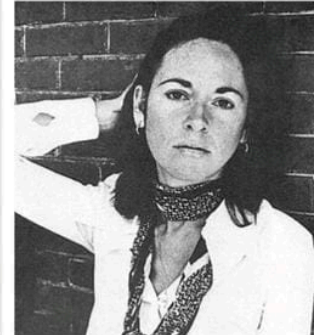


Peter Handke (2019)

Country - Austria

Nationality - Austrian

“for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience.”

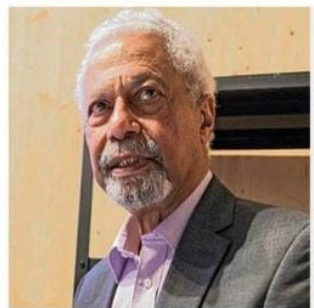


Louise Glück (2020)

Country - United States

Nationality - American

“for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal.”



Abdulrazak Gurnah (2021)

Country - United Kingdom

Nationality - British

“for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and

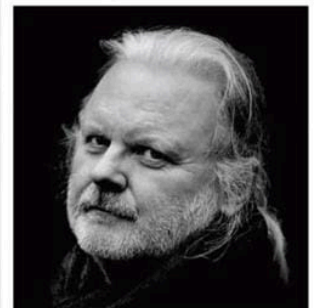


Annie Ernaux (2022)

Country - France

Nationality – French

“for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory.”



Jon Fosse (2023)

Country - Norway

Nationality - Norwegian

“for his innovative plays and prose which gives voice to the unsayable.”



EDITORIAL BOARD

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Priyanka Sarah, HOD

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Pinaz Mirza

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Harshita Soud, 3rd Sem

Zabin Sultana, 3rd Sem



THANK YOU

Glad to see you again in this issue.

Dear readers,

We are delighted to unveil the third edition of our annual newsletter, 'Quest,' proudly brought to you by the Department of English at Pragjyotish College. Within these pages, you will find a creative portrayal of the department's concepts, endeavors, and happenings, crafted with utmost care and artistic flair.

Our deepest appreciation extends to every student whose contributions have enriched this publication. We express gratitude to our esteemed faculty for their trust in our editorial capabilities, and the unwavering support of the editorial board has been pivotal in achieving this milestone. To all our readers, we extend our warmest regards, hoping that this keepsake not only garners your praise but also contributes significantly to the department's ongoing development.



FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD