

Post Colonial Writings: New and Emerging Concerns

Dr. Kamala Naiker, Head of Literature, Language and Communication Department at UniFiji was part of a two day international e-conference on “Post Colonial Writings: New and Emerging Concerns” from 20th to 21st August 2021.

The conference was jointly organized by Departments of English of Bar. Sheshrao Wankhede Mahavidyalaya (BSWM), Mohpa Rajkumar Kewalramani Kanya Mahavidyalaya (RKKM), Nagpur Vasantrya Naik Government Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (VNGIASS) from Nagpur India.

Dr. Naiker presented on ‘Reading Indian Feminism in the Post-Colonial Context’.

Speaking at the first plenary session, Dr. Naiker, as a Resource Person, highlighted on the works on Bharti Mukherjee.

“So Reading Indian Feminism in the Postcolonial Context will focus on how a Calcutta born Indian American writer Bharti Mukherjee through her creative works addresses and explores in depth the social, political and historical context of colonialism, decolonization, feminism, race, hybridity, migration, neocolonialism, and globalization,” she said.

Dr. Naiker said that the academic discourse on postcolonial literature was characterized by a continuous process of debates on a variety of issues, reassessments of theories and redefinitions of terms.

“The term postcolonial literature refers to writings produced after the political independence of various countries which were formerly subject to European colonial rule. Most of this literature written by authors in their home countries or in diaspora deals with issues of colonial experience or decolonization. Famous postcolonial writers like Jean Rhys, Anita Desai, and Bharti Mukherjee represented interrelations between the colonizer and the colonized,” she said.

Furthermore she emphasized that discrimination against women was a potent force of unevenness in the twenty-first century across the world.

“The growing threat of divisiveness in the world is seeing the faces of colonial-imperialism and influencing gender politics symptomized by global dissatisfaction with intercultural ties. The modern women of letters herald a new morality – morality not confined to physical purity. It requires accommodation of individual desires for self-fulfillment. Their attempt is to bring about a change in social milieu where woman is accepted as equals, in all respects, to man in impartial sharing of rights, opportunities and also responsibilities in the procedure of evolution

of human association. Feminism in the postcolonial context has brought about an insistent and searching exploration of the role and status of woman in society,” she said.

Dr. Sudhir Nikam, of the Mumbai University, reviewed that Dr. Naiker made an exhaustive survey of different facets that are associated with the concept of post colonialism.

“She started right from the derogatory terms used by various Western philosophers about the literature written by Postcolonial writers and she also challenged the way this term has been used in literature. She has also expressed through her presentation, the predicament of the Western and Eastern intellectuals regarding the term of post colonialism and post colonial writing. Dr. Naiker has focused on the identity crisis by the women characters in the novels of Bharti Mukherjee,” he said.

Dr. Nikam congratulated Dr. Naiker for making a brilliant presentation on ‘Reading Indian Feminism in the Post-Colonial Context’