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The Earnest Humour of Environmental Literature: David James Duncan's *The River Why* as Parodic Narrative of Environmental Conversion

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Abstract

The prolific contemporary novelist and environmental essayist David James Duncan, from the Pacific Northwest in the United States, provides an unusually interesting case study in the use of humour as a means of conveying an ecological message to readers. While it is much more common for environmental writers to rely upon the rhetorical modes known as “jeremiad” (fiery warnings about global climate change, pollution, extinctions, and a host of other problems) or “rhapsody” (celebrations of nature’s beauty and complexity), comedic strategies offer special promise in securing readers’ attention and interest. Duncan’s 1983 novel *The River Why* employs an elaborately parodic mode of humour, mirroring Saint Augustine’s classic 4th-century-A.D. spiritual autobiography in narrative structure, plot details, and other elements, as a way of teasing readers toward greater environmental sensitivity. This article, an example of the field known as “ecocriticism” (ecological literary criticism), contextualises Duncan’s work in the tradition of American environmental literature, particularly focusing on the novel’s unique use of parodic humour.

Keywords

Environmental literature, ecocriticism, humor, David James Duncan, Saint Augustine

Representing the Gendered Subaltern in Postcolonial Kenyan Literature: Marjorie Macgoye's *Coming to Birth*

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Abstract

The paper focuses on how the gendered subaltern has been presented in Kenyan literature through the novel by a writer who, aware of herself as an intellectual and as a “foreigner,” being an immigrant from Europe like Karen Blixen before her, and therefore a member of the female “elite,” unlearns her privilege and manages to integrate into Kenyan society well enough to be accepted as *Nyarloka* (daughter from abroad). Her understanding of the Kenyan society from below enables her to successfully present through her text the figure of a gendered subaltern in Kenya. The paper will use critical approaches postulated by Gayatri Spivak in her work on the gendered subaltern.

Keywords

Postcolonial studies, cultural studies, gendered subaltern, Kenyan literature, feminism.

A Journey Beyond Postcolonialism: An Overview

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Abstract

Postcolonialism is an analysis and a critique of the complex discursive and cultural formations that persist even today as the legacy of Western imperialism. This paper tends to establish the fact that before analysing the taxonomy of contemporary postcolonial theory, one needs to address the issue of the hyphen. Post-colonial (with the hyphen) is no more than a temporal category, indicating a state of affairs that came after the demise of colonialism. Though still used by some theorists, it has increasingly given way to the neologism “postcolonial” (without the hyphen) which gestures towards an epistemic category comprising the complex, revisionary, hybrid consciousness that emerged through the intersection of Eurocentric and non-Western cultures as corollaries of imperialism. Through an overview of postcolonial studies the paper would attempt to interrogate the discursive strategy adopted to justify colonialism operated on the basis of a series of binaries in perspective of literary and theoretical texts.

Keywords

Colonialism, Postcolonialism, Post Postcolonialism

Adopting Adapted Literature: A Comparison of the Narrative Techniques as Used in the Novel Form and the Film Adaptation of Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*

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Abstract

This paper aims at comparing the techniques of narration used in the Sri-Lankan Canadian novelist Michael Ondaatje's Booker Prize winner *The English Patient* (1992) and its cinematic adaptation, winner of nine Academy Awards, Anthony Minghella's *The English Patient* (1996), seeking how far are they similar or different and what purpose does their use serve in these two narrative forms. The paper also seeks to compare how any changes purge the screenplay of the novel's preoccupations and instead replace them with the fields generated by the film. The paper proposes an analysis of the various minor narratives that make up the grand body of these two narrative forms. A study of the process of editing, especially refocusing dialogues and reordering the scenes, and an analysis of the extensive use of polyphony in the film are also central to the premise of the paper.

Keywords

Adaptation, narrative techniques, narratology.

Phonology of Borrowed Lexicon in Standard Kiswahili

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Abstract

Standard Kiswahili has borrowed various lexical items from many diverse languages. As a result of this borrowing, Standard Kiswahili is at times (erroneously) seen as an admixture language born out of mixing different languages.¹ The purpose of this paper is to show that while Standard Kiswahili has borrowed just like many other languages have, the loan words undergo various adaptation processes that give them a fundamentally Kiswahili and Bantu structure (Iribemwangi 2012a, 13). In the adaptation, various strategies are applied and these include substitution, insertion and deletion of both consonants and vowels. These strategies do not just lead to nativisation of borrowed lexicon but they do also lead to the realisation of the preferred syllable structure. Although Standard Kiswahili has largely maintained its syllable structure, nonetheless, it has had to accede to a few new structures. Using the P-rules and, to a lesser extent, the MP-rules as espoused in Natural Generative Phonology, this paper shows that any rules and structures in a language remain the only rules and structures to the extent that no new rules and processes have entered a language at a given time. Otherwise, the rules of any language are very dynamic and are perpetually prone to change as is exemplified using Standard Kiswahili data.

Keywords

Borrowing, loan words, adaptation, Standard Kiswahili, substitution, insertion, deletion, vowels, consonants.

Lifelong Learning in Higher Education: Towards Paradigms

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Abstract

Lifelong Learning is the learning for acquiring and updating knowledge, skill, aptitude, interests, qualifications etc. without any formal restrictions of education and runs throughout life. Lifelong Education, on the other hand, is a view of education, which is institutionalised, normative and prescriptive, and facilitates Lifelong Learning with ample choices for the learner. Lifelong Learning has two distinct perspectives--humanistic and economic. It originates from the Faure report "Learning to Be" and evolves through Delors Report, Hamburg Declaration on Lifelong Learning, EU Memorandum of Lifelong Learning, Declaration of Belem, etc. Lifelong Learning assumes significance under the premises of learning as a continuum, as universal, up-to-date and against the backdrop of demographic parameters, demographic dividend and the emerging survival threats to human life. Educators prefer the term Lifelong Education to Lifelong Learning since it is distinctly intentional as compared to the casual, unintentional approach to learning. In India a paradigm shift to Lifelong Learning in Higher Education was initiated by the UGC during the XI Plan. In Higher education it may be diversified into Quality Improvement Programme, Professional Education, Continuing Education, Compensatory and Academic Services, Translation and Interpretation, Prior Learning and Assessment Programme, Technology-Assisted Lifelong learning, Research, Consultancy, Career Guidance and Counselling, etc. It can be elevated to the educational intervention for social justice.

Keywords

Lifelong learning, lifelong education, humanistic perspective, economic perspective, Faure report, Delors report, Belem framework, demographic dividend, global discourse, paradigm.

Effect of Self-Regulation Training on Academic Skills of Tertiary Education Entrants

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Abstract

The students who join for various courses in tertiary education after higher secondary education have their own goals, and if they are regulated properly for attaining academic skills, that will make productive outcomes in the higher education. The present study shows the effect of a self-regulation training programme on the academic skills of these learners. The researcher developed a design of self-regulation training programme and the experimental group of the sample has undergone the training. Then self-regulated learning scores and academic skill scores were collected from the experimental group and control group using appropriate tools. The differences in the scores were calculated and results indicated that the self-regulation training is capable of fostering academic skills of learners. This necessitates the fact that teachers should think of self-regulation as the key mechanism for producing desirable behavioural changes in the learners.

Keywords

Self-regulation, academic skills, tertiary education, learning issues, self-reinforcement, self-monitoring.

An Assessment of Security Threats in Bangladesh: The Case of External Powers

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Abstract

This research briefly assesses “interventionism” of Pakistan and China (in Bangladesh) and the emerging templates of radical Islam aided and sponsored by Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI), exploiting Bangladesh and its territory as an alternative base for the continuance of Pakistan’s proxy war against India. This undercover master plan is aimed at keeping India’s North East region in a state of strategic destabilisation, concomitantly drawing away pressure along the India-Pakistan border. Furthermore, the research scoops out the “China factor” and examines how China has converted Bangladesh into a Military Equipment Client State, posing a direct threat to India’s already fragile North-East states.

Keywords

Interventionism, religious fundamentalism, Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI), proxy war, strategic destabilisation, military equipment client state

Stock Market Efficiency : A Test on Weak Form Efficiency in the Indian Stock Market

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Abstract

Stock market efficiency has an influence on the investment strategy of an investor because efficient markets will provide ready financing for worthwhile business ventures and drain capital away from corporations which are poorly managed or producing obsolete products. Efficiency in this context means the ability of the capital market to function so that prices of securities react rapidly to new information. Such efficiency will produce prices that are appropriate in terms of current knowledge, and investors will be less likely to make unwise investments. The study confirms the random nature of return series and weak form efficiency of the Indian Stock Market during the study period. It can be concluded that one cannot use past returns to predict future returns, an implication which can be characterised as market efficiency

Keywords

Informational efficiency, efficient market hypothesis, random walk, investment strategy, risk, monthly market return, weak form efficiency.

Employee Productivity in Indian Commercial Banks

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Abstract

The performance of commercial banks in terms of their employee productivity has been a subject matter of considerable interest and discussion among the bankers, academicians, economists, RBI and the government. It is apparent that a strong and viable banking sector in India has emerged and banks that do not perform will not survive for long. Enhanced productivity in banking can result in greater and more appropriate innovations, improved profitability as well as greater safety and soundness. Maintaining continued viability and productivity can be considered as the greatest challenges before banks during this decade. Therefore, investigation and measurement of efficiency and productivity in the banking sector have always been areas of interest for economic research. The objective of the paper is to measure the trends in employee productivity of Indian commercial banks from 1996 to 2010. This study evaluated the employee productivity of 48 commercial banks which are classified under four groups that are State Bank Group, Nationalized Banks, Old Private Sector Banks and New Private Sector Banks. The study concluded that amongst the four categories of banks, the employee productivity remained highest in case of New Private Sector Banks during the period under study.

Keywords

Commercial banks, nationalisation of banks, banking system, bank sector reforms, employee productivity, branch productivity, operational profitability, spread, burden deposit per employee, advances per employee.

Value Addition of Recipes Using Available but Neglected Green Leafy Vegetables

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Abstract

The study was conducted to incorporate easily available but neglected green leafy vegetables in three most common Indian recipes viz. *Mathri*, *Zhunka* and *Sambar wadi*. The main aim of the study was to standardise and evaluate sensory properties of such recipes prepared by incorporating Bengal gram leaves, tamarind leaves, drumstick leaves and cauliflower leaves, in the experimental products. Sensory evaluation was conducted using six human panellist coded as J1 to J6 and it was conducted on three consecutive days in three trials (T1, T2 and T3). The *Mathri* prepared from Bengal gram leaves was acceptable for all the attributes. The *Mathris* prepared from tamarind leaves and drumstick leaves were acceptable for appearance, colour and texture while they showed significant difference for taste, flavour and acceptability. The *zhunka* prepared from all the leaves showed insignificant difference for all the attributes. *Sambar wadi* prepared from Bengal gram leaves was acceptable for all the attributes. *Sambar wadi* prepared from tamarind leaves was not acceptable for texture and taste as an attribute, while all other attributes were acceptable. Similarly *Sambar wadi* prepared from drumstick leaves and cauliflower leaves were not acceptable for taste as an attribute, while they were acceptable for rest of the attributes. For *Zhunka* and *Sambar wadi* recipes, highest energy was provided by tamarind leaves *Zhunka*, and tamarind leaves *Sambar wadi*. Iron content of all the three recipes were highest in cauliflower leaves. All the three recipes prepared from Bengal gram leaves cost more than other recipes because they are seasonal and are to be purchased from the market. In respect of cauliflower leaves, they are available throughout the year in the market and freely available. While drumstick and tamarind leaves are to be procured from the trees in the nearby areas. Hence no cost is involved in respect of cauliflower, drumstick and tamarind leaves.

Keywords

Green leafy vegetables, Bengal gram leaves, tamarind leaves, drumstick leaves, cauliflower leaves.

Microstructure and Magnetic Properties of NiFe_2O_4 and $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ Nano Particles Synthesised by Sol-Gel Method

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Abstract

Polycrystalline nickel ferrite and gamma ferric oxide nano particles were prepared by sol-gel self combustion technique using metal nitrate precursors. This is one of the simplest techniques which have advantages over conventional methods because of the low temperature processing. Formation of phase pure ferrite particles were confirmed by X-ray diffraction and transmission electron microscopy. Average particle size of the ferrite nano particles formed is found to be less than 30 nm. Magnetic properties of the resulting nano particles were measured using vibrating sample magnetometer. The saturation magnetisation for the ferrite particles obtained is less than that of the bulk sample.

Keywords

Nickel ferrite, gamma ferric oxide, nano ferrites, sol-gel method

On $g\alpha$ -closed Sets

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Abstract

Nakaoka and Oda have introduced minimal open sets and maximal open sets, which are subclasses of open sets. After them many authors worked in their view and defined minimal open sets and maximal open sets for different types of open and closed sets. Recently first of the present paper defined and studied about minimal vg -closed sets and maximal vg -open sets as well as minimal vg -open sets and maximal vg -closed sets. In this direction the present paper introduces a new variety of minimal open sets and maximal open sets using $g\alpha$ -open and $g\alpha$ -closed sets. The object of the present paper is to study the notions of minimal $g\alpha$ -closed set, maximal $g\alpha$ -open set, minimal $g\alpha$ -open set and maximal $g\alpha$ -closed set and their basic properties are studied.

Keywords

$g\alpha$ -closed set and minimal $g\alpha$ -closed set, maximal $g\alpha$ -open set, minimal $g\alpha$ -open set and maximal g -closed set

Rate Adaptive Technique for Congestion Avoidance in Wireless Ad-Hoc Networks

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Abstract

Congestion control mechanisms play a key role in managing network traffic. Over the past few years many research works have been done in regard to congestion control mechanisms in wireless networks. Researchers have developed many algorithms for congestion control. Each algorithm has its own advantages and disadvantages. Different algorithms are applicable for different scenarios. In this paper we propose a rate adaptive method based on node priority and packet size for controlling the network congestion. The algorithm calculates the various rates at which data should be sent by a particular node at different instants of time such that congestion in the network is avoided.

Keywords

Wireless ad-hoc networks, congestion control, node priority