REYONO journal of interdisciplinary studies



St Thomas College Kozhencherry Kerala, India-689641

CONTENTS

Ecocritical and Ethical Reading of Selected Hymns of Vedas from India and Bemba Religious Poetry from Zambia Bandana Sinha Kumar	03
Voicing the Unheard: A Study of Saadat Hasan Manto's "Toba Tek Singh" and Jhumpa Lahiri's "A Real Durwan" Sneha Elcy Jacob	17
Re-reading Amish Tripathi's <i>Scion of Ikshvaku</i> in the New Historicist Perspective Arya Pradeep	25
Arabi Malayalam: An Alternate Literary Movement in Kerala Shifana P. A.	35
Ecofeminism in Sara Joseph's <i>Othappu:The Scent of the Other Side</i> and <i>Mattathi</i> Maneesha Maria Varghese	44
A Comparative Study on Productivity of Indian Commercial Banks Roni Jain Raju and Benson Kunjukunju	52
A Study on the Perception of Bank Employees on Corporate Social Responsibility Nithin Venugopal and Benson Kunjukunju	69
Numerical Solution of Fuzzy Differential Equations Using Rational Block Method Susan George	79

Ecocritical and Ethical Reading of Selected Hymns of Vedas from India and Bemba Religious Poetry from Zambia

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Abstract

Nature and ethics are at the centre of the Vedas and Bemba religious poetry. Bemba is a Zambian language. The emergent human cultures have shaped and in turn been shaped by local ecosystems. Ancient Hindu scriptures depict that man was one with nature. Human culture was shaped by the ecosystem. Vedic hymns showcase that human beings were in sync with their environment. Bemba religious poetry too has at its centre ethics and nature. Ancient ways were more conducive towards green living. "Save the earth" was the motto of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in 1992. Instead "serve the earth" would have been more appropriate. There is a difference between these two attitudes. In the first case, reason is the final authority deciding the human action and plan. In the second case, a higher realm is accepted which cannot manipulate and to which one should listen. Ecocultures retain or strive to regain their connections with the environment, and thus improve their own resilience. This paper explores the ecocritical aspects of these poems.

Keywords

Nature, Ecocriticism, Earth, Vedas, Bemba oral poetry.

Voicing the Unheard: A Study of Saadat Hasan Manto's "Toba Tek Singh" and Jhumpa Lahiri's "A Real Durwan"

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Abstract

The Partition of 1947 divided the Indian subcontinent into India and Pakistan. Apart from many factual representations, the historic event of Partition has had literary representations too. While most of these literary works sing praises for the Partition heroes celebrating their zest, forgotten are the common man who were left at the receiving end. Only little has been recorded about the brutalities and afflictions they underwent. Saadat Hasan Manto and Jhumpa Lahiri in their short stories "Toba Tek Singh" and "A Real Durwan," respectively, however, take a different stance from the mainstream, to critique the futility of the Partition. Thus, they have been successful in making the unheard voices heard.

Keywords

Partition, dislocation, exile, power, unheard voices.

Re-reading Amish Tripathi's *Scion of Ikshvaku* in the New Historicist Perspective

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Abstract

Amish Tripathi is a new Indian literary figure who uses mythology with a touch of modernity. Through his fictional work *Scion of Ikshvaku*, Tripathi retells the story of Lord Ram in a different perspective. *Scion of Ikshvaku* uses many of the contemporary incidents to convey certain ideas. History blends with new issues in this book and hence the scope of reading it from the perspective of new historicism. This paper analyses how mythology is reinterpreted with contemporary social problems and traces the new historicist elements in *Scion of Ikshvaku*..

Keywords

Ramayana, re-reading, mythology, New-historicism.

Arabi Malayalam: An Alternate Literary Movement in Kerala

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Abstract

Arabi Malayalam is a dialect used by Mappila Muslims of Northern part of Kerala. The rise and development of this dialect was in fact a choice made by the Mappila community, when they faced immense crisis of both the identities of Arabic and Malayalam. This language induced the production of a compatible stream of knowledge, accessible to a community which was struggling under the tramples of landlord-colonialist nexus. The anti-supremacy nature of ArabiMalayalam literature made it a poetic counter theory, and at the same time, the elaborate loans of words and expressions from neighbouring languages like Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Tulu etc. made it the currency of across-the-border cultural transactions. In this study, the author would look at how Arabi Malayalam functioned as an alternative literacy movement, especially in the juncture of communal rejection of English education, through an analysis of Arabi Malayalam literature.

Keywords

Arabi-Malayalam, Kissappattu, Malappattu, Mappila, Padappattu.

Ecofeminism in Sara Joseph's Othappu: The Scent of the Other Side and Mattathi

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Abstract

Ecofeminism is a branch of feminism that sees environmentalism and the relationship between women and the earth, as foundational to its analysis and practice. The ecofeminist thinkers draw on the concept of gender to analyse the relationship between humans and the natural world. Ecofeminist theory asserts that a feminist perspective of ecology does not place women in the dominant position of power, but rather calls for an egalitarian, collaborative society in which there is no one dominant group. Ecofeminist analysis explores the connections between women and nature in culture, religion, and literature and addresses the parallels between the oppression of nature and the oppressions of women. Ecofeminism emphasises that both women and nature must be respected. The present paper tries to make a comparative study on the ecofeminist aspects in the novel *Othappu: The Scent of the Other Side* and *Mattathi* by Sara Joseph. This paper tries to demonstrate how the writer maps the identities like caste, community, and region along with gender identity. Through these two novels the author attempts to redefine spaces with an aim to reclaim male territories and expand them as women's spaces.

Keywords

Ecofeminism, marginalisation, Mattathi, gender, domestic space.

A Comparative Study on Productivity of Indian Commercial Banks

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Abstract

The important indicators of resilience of an economic system as well as of any organisation can be summarised as productivity and efficiency. As commercial banking sector is an important sector in an economy for augmenting economic growth, it is very much imperative to assess its productivity and efficiency. Such an analysis becomes particularly significant in Indian banking scenario since the banking sector has been undergoing various far reaching structural reforms since 1991. In the present study, to analyse the bank productivity tools like average, standard deviation, co-efficient of variation and exponential growth rate have been used for analysing the data. The time period selected for the study is 2005-2006 to 2017-2018 and commercial banks are divided into Nationalised Bank, State Bank Group, Old Private Sector Banks, and New Private Sector Banks. The analysis brings into light that Bank productivity of State Bank Groups was much superior as compared to other groups. With the increase in competition in banking industry, banks should explore every possibility for improvement and increase the productivity.

Keywords

Commercial banks, productivity, economic growth.

A Study on the Perception of Bank Employees on Corporate Social Responsibility

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Abstract

The economic development of a country is dependent on the financial system which consists of mainly commercial banks, non-banking finance companies, insurance sector, pension funds etc. Banks are one of the major stakeholders in the Indian financial system which account for over 80 per cent of for its fund. CSR of a business refers to what a business does over and above the statutory requirement for the benefit of the society. Commercial banks in India have taken up CSR activities seriously as the Reserve Bank of India has advised all commercial banks operating in India to set aside at least one per cent of their net profits for CSR activities. The main purpose of this research article is to analyse the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities carried out by Indian commercial banks and the perception of bank employees on the benefits of CSR initiatives by commercial banks. The study also aimed to identify the major issues which need immediate attention of Indian commercial banks on CSR initiatives.

Keywords

Corporate social responsibility, CSR, commercial banks, bank employees.

Numerical Solution of Fuzzy Differential Equations Using Rational Block Method

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Abstract

In this paper, the approximate solution of first order fuzzy differential equation with initial conditions is evaluated using rational block method. A block predictor-corrector formula is also introduced in which a modified form of 2-point block backward differentiation formula is used as corrector formula to solve a fuzzy initial value problem where Runge-Kutta method is used as predictor formula. A comparison between these methods is done through numerical example.

Keywords

Fuzzy Differential Equations, Rational Block Method, Block Predictor-Corrector Method, 2-point Block Backward Differentiation Formula, Runge-Kutta Method.

Form IV

Statement about ownership and other particulars of REYONO journal of interdisciplinary studies

1. Place of publication St Thomas College

Kozhencherry.

2. Periodicity of publication Half-Yearly

3. Printer's Name K.C.Zachariah

Nationality Indian

Address Principal, St Thomas College

Kozhencherry

Pathanamthitta Dist. - 689 641

Kerala.

4. Publisher's Name K.C.Zachariah

Nationality Indian

Address Principal, St Thomas College

Kozhencherry

Pathanamthitta Dist. - 689 641

Kerala.

5. Editor's Name Dr Asha Susan Jacob

Nationality Indian

Address Associate Professor

Dept. of English
St Thomas College
Kozhencherry

Pathanamthitta Dist. - 689 641

Kerala.

6. Names and Addresses of individuals K.C.Zachariah

who own the periodical Principal, St Thomas College

Kozhencherry

Pathanamthitta Dist. - 689 641

Kerala.

I, K.C.Zachariah, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Kozhencherry (Sd/-) 31-07-2018 K.C.Zachariah