

PAPER D8

MODERN INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Semester 5

Course Statement

Striving to transcend a nativist rejection of Indian writing in English and a Rushdie-esque denial of the strength and value of Indian writing in languages other than English, the need of the hour is to study the varied contributions of modern Indian writing through their translations into English, free from the anxiety *or* the hegemony of authenticity.

Course Objectives

This paper aims to

- give students a glimpse of the vast diversity of modern Indian writing in *bhasha* traditions;
- show students the polyphonic tumultuous richness of the 19th and 20th centuries, from peasant life in colonial India in Fakir Mohan Senapati's novel to the mythical reality of O.V. Vijayan's novel, from the reworking of a Mahabharata story in Girish Karnad's play to the myriad life-worlds of the poems and stories; and
- encourage, through the carefully selected poems, stories and prose selections, a deeper engagement with and a nuanced discussion of issues of history, memory, caste, gender and resistance.

Facilitating the Achievement of Course Learning Outcomes

Unit No.	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activity	Assessment Tasks
1.	Understanding concepts	Interactive discussions in small groups in Tutorial classes	Reading material together in small groups initiating discussion topics participation in discussions
2.	Expressing concepts through writing	How to think critically and write with clarity	Writing essay length assignments
3.	Demonstrating conceptual and textual understanding in tests and exams	Discussing exam questions and answering techniques	Class tests

Course Contents

Unit 1

Novel

Fakir Mohan Senapati, *Six Acres and a Third*, trans. Rabi Shankar Mishra, Satya P. Mohanty, Jatindra K. Nayak, and Paul St-Pierre (Penguin, 2006).

Unit 2

Novel

O. V. Vijayan, *The Legends of Khasak*, translated by the author (Penguin, 2008).

Unit 3

Drama

Girish Karnad, *The Fire and the Rain* translated by the author (OUP 2004).

Unit 4

Short Stories

- a) Premchand, 'Kafan', (The Shroud) trans. M. Asaduddin.
- b) Perumal Murugan, 'The Well', trans. N. Kalyan Raman.
- c) Arupa Patangia Kalita, 'Doiboki's Day', trans. Bonita Baruah.

Poems

- a) Rabindranath Tagore, (i) 'Where the mind is without fear', trans. William Radice;
(ii) 'It hasn't rained in my heart', trans. FakrulAlam.
- b) G. M. Muktibodh, 'Brahmarakshas', trans. Nikhil Govind.
- c) Thangjam Ibopishak, (i) 'The Land of the Half-Humans'; (ii) 'I want to be killed by an Indian Bullet', trans. Robin S. Ngangom.

Unit 5

Readings

- a) Rabindranath Tagore, 'Nationalism in India', in *Nationalism* (Delhi: Penguin Books, 2009) pp. 63-83.
- b) U. R. Ananthamurthy, 'Being a Writer in India', in *Tender Ironies*, ed. Dilip Chitre et al. pp 127-46
- c) Namvar Singh, 'Decolonizing the Indian Mind', *Indian Literature* Vol. 35 No. 5

(151) (Sept.-Oct. 1992) pp. 145-56.

d) Vinay Dharwadker, 'Some Contexts of Modern Indian Poetry', *Chicago Review* 38 (1992): 218-31.

e) Aparna Dharwadker, 'Modern Indian Theatre', in *Routledge Handbook of Asian Theatre*, ed. Siyuan Liu (London: Routledge 2016) pp. 243-67.

Essential Reading

Note: This is a literature-based course, and students will be examined on all the texts prescribed in Units 1 through 5. Therefore, all those texts are to be considered essential reading.

Teaching Plan

Paper D8 - Modern Indian Writing in English Translation

Week 1 -- Introduction to Paper D8: Modern Indian Writing In English Translation

Week 2 -- Unit 1 -- Novel:

Senapati *Six Acres and a Third*

Week 3 -- Senapati (contd..)

Week 4 -- Unit 2 -- Novel:

Vijayan *The Legends of Khasak*

Week 5 -- Vijayan (contd..)

Week 6 -- Unit 3 -- Drama:

Karnad *The Fire and the Rain*

Week 7 -- Unit 4 -- Short Stories:

(a) Premchand 'Kafan'

(b) Murugan 'The Well'

(c) Kalita 'Doiboki's Day'

Week 8 -- Unit 4 -- Poems:

(a) Tagore 'Where the mind is without fear' 'It hasn't rained in my heart'

(b) Muktibodh 'Brahmarakshas'

Week 9 -- Unit 4 -- Poems (contd.):

(c) Ibopishak 'The Land of the Half-Humans' 'I want to be killed by an Indian bullet'

Week 10 -- Unit 5 -- Prose Readings:

(a) Tagore 'Nationalism in India'

Week 11 -- Unit 5 -- Prose Readings (contd.):

(b) Ananthamurthy 'Being a Writer in India'

Week 12 -- Unit 5 -- Prose Readings (contd.):

(c) Singh 'Decolonizing the Indian Mind'

Week 13 -- Unit 5 -- Prose Readings (contd.):

(d) Dharwadker 'Some Contexts of Modern Indian Poetry'

Week 14 -- Concluding lectures, exam issues etc.

Keywords

Colonialism

Post-colonial

Decolonization

Translation

History

Memory

Caste

Class

Gender

Resistance