



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Pritha Biswas (Registration Number: 1444102), PhD scholar at the School of Arts and Humanities, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Friday, 19 January 2024 at 11.30 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

Title of the Thesis	:	Understanding Nonsense Verse: A Study of Select Works of Sukumar Ray
Discipline	:	English Studies
External Examiner (Outside Karnataka)	:	Dr A Joseph Dorairaj Professor Department of English Gandhigram Rural Institute Gandhigram Tamil Nadu - 624302
External Examiner (Within Karnataka)	:	Dr Rekha Datta Associate Professor College of Journalism and Mass Communication Dayananda Sagar University Bengaluru Karnataka
Supervisor	:	Dr John Joseph Kennedy P Professor Department of English & Cultural Studies School of Arts & Humanities CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru - 560026 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05 January 2024


Registrar

ABSTRACT

Among all the literary genres that have been created and cultivated over the ages, Nonsense verse perhaps emerges as one of the most challenging one to comprehend. Nonsense verse often employs subversion (language, syntax, logic etc.) as its tool and often leaves the readers in state of confusion. A look into the limericks of Edward Lear would bear testimony to this fact. As readers and researchers, the quest for meaning has unravelled many literary and philosophical pursuits. One such possibility, therefore, could be the attempt to comprehend and critically analyse the very unique literary genre termed as Nonsense verse. From the multiple understandings and debatable definitions of different verse forms, one unique and rare genre, evolves in the form of nonsense poetry. Following the cue, this thesis purports to seek sense and meaning from what is generally labelled as "nonsense". It depicts that it is the functionality of existing, creative stylistics, in language and understanding, and the text's contextual placement that bring out the sense in nonsense. Just as Edward Lear mastered this art form in the west, Sukumar Ray took up and crafted out this genre in India, though he wasn't the only one.

The thesis traces the evolution of nonsense verse in India, literary and folk to understand the possible functionality of this genre, as it exists in India and as the study would show, the writer with the maximum contribution to this evolution, was Sukumar Ray. Therefore, as understanding the evolution and functions of Indian nonsense verse becomes the object of the study, an in-depth, contextual study of the select poems of Sukumar Ray, the national pioneering writer of nonsense, become the subject. In this way, this research, is an attempt to unearth a fresh approach of re-evaluating the function of nonsense verse and possibly confer upon it a more considerable eminence. The focus of the thesis is to provide more understanding and credibility to the genre itself through the study of selected works of Sukumar Ray.

Keywords: Nonsense literature, Nonsense verse, Sukumar Ray, Contextual Study

Publications:

1. **Biswas, Pritha**, Sivarethinamohan, and Sujata S. "Envisioning the Potential of Natural Language Processing (NLP) in Health Care Management." IEEE Xplore, <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9476131>, 2021.
2. **Biswas, Pritha** and John Joseph Kennedy. "The Magical Realist World of Sukumar Ray: A Study of Select Poems from the Abol Tabol Collection." International Journal of English Language, Literature in Humanities, Vol. 5, Issue no. 11, 2018.
3. **Biswas, Pritha** and Divya R. Krishnan. "Measure for Measure: Exploring the Relevance of Equity Theory on Shakespearean Characters." The Criterion: An International Journal in English, vol. 8, no. 1. <https://www.the-criterion.com/V8/n1/063.pdf>. 2017.
4. **Biswas, Pritha**. "Magic Realism in Bengali Cinema: Satyajit Ray's Goopy Gayne Bagha Bayne in Perspective." Research Journal of English Language and Literature (RJELAL), vol.3, no. 3, pp. 290-293. <http://www.rjelal.com/3.3.15/290-293%20PRITHA%20BISWAS.pdf>. 2015.