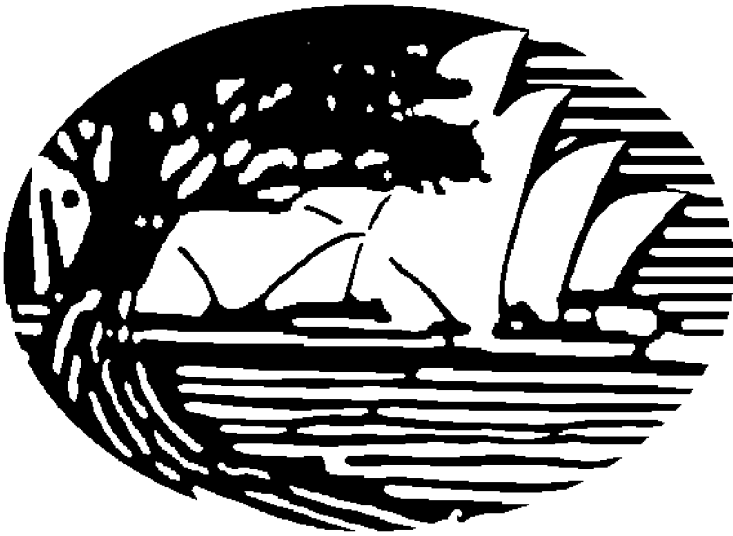


Literature & Aesthetics

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Introduction: Identity, Protest and Equity

Tanu Gupta

These two issues of *Literature & Aesthetics* focusing on the themes of Identity, Protest and Equity is a collection of the research articles presented by the research scholars and eminent academicians during the 2nd National Conference on Contemporary Perspectives in English Language, Literature and Cultural Studies held on 15-16 July, 2022 at Chandigarh University in Punjab, India.

While hosting this 2nd national conference at Chandigarh University, it was a matter of immense pride to host more than 350 delegates, dignitaries and renowned academicians from across the country. Through this conference we endeavoured to open a platform for sharing various thoughts to keep abreast with the latest research happening in the field of English literary studies. The submissions during the conference were curated in five tracks: TRACK 1: Identity/Protest Literature; TRACK 2: Gender; TRACK 3: Postcolonial Literature; TRACK 4: New Media and Popular Culture; and TRACK 6: English Language/Linguistics.

The selected articles for these issues entitled *Identity, Protest and Equity* are studies of oppression and oppressive systems in a creative manner. The objective is to explore the literary output that may be understood as a socio-political activity to resist dominant ideologies. The two issues focus on postcolonial identity, postmodern sensibility, gender, caste, race, community, equity, resistance and protest. The articles range from the plight of Dalits in Hinduism, hegemonic masculinities, subaltern widows, the nexus of politics, the affairs of contemporary life, existential harmony, environmentalism, the Kashmir conflict, ethnicity, mental illness, post-genocide society, sustainable peace and humanism, to pathogenic reminiscences. The deplorable situation depicted in many articles is the result of subjugation and dehumanisation, culminating in cultural silence of the oppressed. The literary texts have been evaluated through the lenses of contemporary theories. The present issues comprise of thirty-nine articles which provide thought provoking and in-depth interrogation on multiple nuances in the literary texts.

The reviewers from the prominent universities selected for these issues were committed in providing unbiased, rapid evaluations of the submitted manuscripts to shorten the duration between the submission and

final publication. In order to have higher-quality submissions, (we hope our authors and reviewers shared a similar vision) we worked together with the spirit of continuous improvement through all constructive inputs on streamlining our processes. The articles finally shortlisted for this issue are reviewed by following a double-blind peer review process.

Furthermore, I extend my warmest thanks to the reviewers and authors for their interest, enthusiasm and timely submission of research articles. I am also thankful to my research scholars Mohammad Rahmatullah and Ms. Shiksha Bala who assisted me during the entire process of editing. Further, as editor of these issues of *Literature & Aesthetics*, I anticipate that these issues like all the other regular issues of the journal would be of immense value and would be definitely useful to the prospective researchers.

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