



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: Crossref, ROAD & Google Scholar

48

Exceptional Research Areas in English Literature for Succeeding Indian Scholars

Trivedi Dhvani C.

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of English, Surendranagar University, Surendranagar, Gujarat.

Dr. Priti Padsumbiya

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Surendranagar University, Surendranagar, Gujarat.

Abstract

Different forms of literature in different timespans bring new areas of exploration for scholars and academics. This research paper aims to discover such new areas which likely occurred due to digitalization, accessibility to internet in India like cyberculture, techno-romanticism, electronic literature, digital media, media studies, information technology in literature, storytelling across media platforms, blogging, critical and creative digital humanities. Other new portals of research have been coming forth in areas of translation studies, trans-creative studies, literature and religion, literature and medicine (medical humanities), literature and Indian mythologies and occult as there are many such literary works which if explored can be the answers of modern problems faced by collective groups of writers and readers providing a renewed, rejuvenated outlook to literature. Further, dimensions can be opened in science fiction, fan culture, women's life writing, interdisciplinary approaches to literary study, post humanities, new critical methodologies, cross cultural literature, feminist new materialism,



ecocriticism. Research in English literature in India still has many unexplored and ever-exploring arenas which keep evolving with time and waiting to be explored.

Keywords: English Literature, New Dimensions, Research, Trends

Introduction

Literature has always served as a mirror to society and research in literature helps improve the way it serves to society only to make it more effective. Research has to be the most inevitable part in any discipline. Indian English literature is also called Indian writing in English. Basically, the work of Indian writers in English is collectively referred to as Indian English literature. There are various aspects of it; story, novel or poem and their respective subgroups. These aspects are studied by scholars in a systematic format by formulating a hypothesis. There are several areas of research in English literature; explored and unexplored, especially in India. Indian authors have given exception contribution in their mother tongue as well as English literature.

In past, the researchers used to review a particular book, a drama or a genre, a particular concept of literary studies, a particular writers work. These researches were mainly on foreign authors. As times changed, the progression of research in English literature progressed further to researches about critical theories, post war literature, colonial and postcolonial literature and study of literature by different critical theories.

Nowadays in India, research scholars' study about feminist writings, comparative literature, literary theories in particular writer's work, psychoanalytical approaches to literature, etc. New theories keep formulating in the womb of literature through different geniuses. As the era progresses plays became books and books became E-Books. Letters turned into messages and multimedia. Changes brought into what we call today as modern literature, which altogether brought different approaches to research. New and emerging literature brings new possibilities of research in future for the literary scholars. India being such a diverse and vast nations always tends to bring tremendous opportunities.

The overall development of India has increased the opportunities of research and various Indian texts have now gained popularity. The ease of access to internet has essentially made it all possible. These factors altogether sum up new mountains to climb for



scholars/researchers. Brief sightings of such explorable areas of research have been given in the current research paper.

Objective

Research being an integral part of literary discipline, its essential to know and draw the possible path for upcoming scholars. This paper aims to present the areas of exceptional, high-quality research in flourishing Indian English literature.

Method

A systematic literature review has been carried out over internet platforms, books, journals, magazines and essays for this study. Internet platforms like Goggle Scholar, ResearchGate, ShodhGanga were used with keywords like 'English', 'literature', 'India', 'trends', 'research' and relevant papers were picked for literature review from number of papers and articles. Online pdf from journals like International Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Science (IJAHS), AutAut Research Journal, International Journal of Research and Analytical Review (IJRAR).

After carrying out systematic review of several books and journals, about the past, present and future of the research in English literature, this paper was shaped into its final form to conclude about the possible future of research in Indian English literature. Wikipedia and goggle were also used for basic reference of some terms.

Result

Literature has projected all types of problems of our world and even theories of the outside world. With changing time, we witness change in the literary forms. For example., the use of internet nowadays has tremendously increased in India which led to social media formation that widely opened new platforms for literature to flourish through means like blogging, 6-word novels, twittering, short text writing etc., these forms of modern literature have gained fast fame and also a huge set of new audience because of its easy accessibility. The studies on these new forms can be taken over by various perspectives.

Literary scholars since past have been addressing to political, social, economic problems of world, Indian scholars are no exception to it. As smartphones take over the world, loss of



traditional physical and social world is a matter of concern and India is very wide social culture, thus getting limited to indoors facing a computer or a smartphone most of the time can be silent social issue. The fact that this internet culture or cyberculture has advantages in connecting humans that live miles away also has its own disadvantages as it affects human life and its upliftment in various philosophical, psychological, sociological and political ways. These issues are addressed in **cyberculture studies**.

Techno-romanticism, a concept developed by Stephan Barron is a theory that links art and new technologies. Techno-romanticism in other words revives the romanticism but in a technical way. In an era where constant advancement in field of science and technology occurs, one shouldn't forget the artistic values and philosophies, thus outlining the romanticism in digital technology becomes important. This newly addressed area of research can be of immense social use.

Apart from issues caused by internet culture, it has given new forms to modern day literature. Twitter and Facebook are widely used and they have become a medium to sharing quotes, poetries, write ups, storytelling, daily blogs addressing daily issues, useful information, news etc. Several platforms have emerged where we are able to read books onscreen(E-Books) like Amazon Kindle or hear the text of books by media platform of Audible or Podcast. Audio-visual platforms like YouTube have also gained pace through vlogging. Traditional form of writing and reading has been taken over by tens of thousands of new forms of **electronic literature**. N. Katherine Hayles defines electronic literature as “‘digital born’ and usually meant to be read on computer”, clarifying that this does not include e-books and digitized print literature.^[5] they include hypertext fiction, animated poetry(kinetic poetry), other forms of digital poetry, literary chatbots, computer-generated narratives or poetry, art instillation with significant literary aspects, interactive fictions and literary uses of social media^[5] These new forms with new perspectives have opened new portals of research for scholars.

Digital humanities, one such area which is not yet very well known to India. It is an area of scholarly activity at the intersection of computing or digital technologies and disciplines of the humanities.^[6]In other words, it is the use of digital resources in humanities. This is a growing field in need of explorers.



Other Research areas such as **translation studies, trans-creative studies, literature and religion, literature and medicine (medical humanities), literature and Indian mythologies and occult** provide quite a large span of research. The narrative styles and forms of genres used in these literatures are quite atypical and intriguing calls for questions and hypotheses which can be worked upon.

When it comes to India, our vast culture and its diversity are unsurpassable and its studies are also everlasting. Although English literature is very well equipped by very worthy writers, the scriptures of India await to be explored in different perspective and by the study of scriptures of ancient India in English literature we can have the world develop a totally different opinion of India and its culture. The translated scriptures of ancient India bare more knowledge and outshining perspective which Indian writers are also recognizing. Writers have started to translate and also trans-create the Indian texts which has its obvious pros and cons which in turn can be area of a hypothetical research for scholars.

The studies of Indian myth, folklores, religion, ayurveda, yogic science have been conducted but still limited. These studies can be conducted in and as a part of English literature in order to attain higher altitudes in Indian English literature. Indian writers have now written fictional literature on the mythical characters of India mythology and these books are also widely read. For example, *The Immortals of Mehula* by Amish Tripathi, *The Ramchandra Series* by Amish Tripathi, *The palace of illusions* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. These mythologies can help create new ideologies and philosophies when scholars put their hands on.

There are certain fields which are evergreen as we say, such fields exist in English literature too, fields like **science fiction, fan culture, feminist writing (women's life writing), cross cultural literature** always need updating and are 'evergreen'. There is always something new to discover in already existing fields of literature.

Feminism has now become common talk among scholars yet we have explored only 10 percent of the ocean called feminism. Whilst feminism has reached the hearts and brains of western countries, it is a noted point that ancient Indian scriptures did not degrade women, instead had immense respect, so much that we have fully evolved concept of 'Shakti' in



ancient Indian literatures. Feminism being an active movement of world divided to three types and four waves involves much of literature in English to be worked upon.

We have been studying different perspectives of **cross-cultural literature** since our colonization and after our independence too, apart from that due to diversity of India and presence of more than eight religions, numerous languages, regional diversity we can find cross cultural perspectives in Indian English literature. Research on cross cultural literature can be beneficiary for society.

Fiction genre in English literature is divided into many branches. One such branch is **Science Fiction** because it never gets old, along with industrialization and two world wars the rise of science and technology was inevitable. This gave rise to increased literature related to science and technology which came to be known as sci-fi (science-fiction). Sci-fi literature not only has a large fan-base but also has a number of fantasied-science based tools with super scientific narrative style. Such literature is fast growing and has a vast research span.

Researches on **Fan Culture/ literary fandom/ fan studies** are still limited yet fast growing. Scholars and researchers should take this kind of research on consideration. The fan culture nowadays has its own social and cultural transformation, tributed to the digital era. Studying Fan Culture helps scholars inspect the aspect of popular culture i.e., constructing an identity using fandom, better understanding fans and their behavior towards certain characters and set a trend, how to set a sense of community in literature for larger fan following, change of fan trends, etc.

Interdisciplinary literature explores interconnections between literary studies and other disciplines. With increasing economy and growth in every field, other disciplines will have significant impact on literary studies as well as literature and vice versa. Research in these fields with help of scholars in the other discipline can be of significant importance for a nation like India.

One such widespread theory is of **ecocriticism**, which signifies the interconnection between ecology and literature. As we know that environment is priority concern of the globe right now, through ecocriticism scholars address, describe and study the ongoing environmental concern of the times through literary means.



New critical theories are formulated as and when needed in English literature by various critiques. These theories in criticism can open a new dimension in research and let the research scholar explore a different scenario to put forth. There exists tremendous scope in research in Indian English literature just like the endless wonders of nature which awaits deep exploration.

Conclusion

Indian English literature is yet to be fully explored by scholars. There are so many new areas and research gaps that still exist and in developing India with all the changes that continually happen, there will always be tremendous scope of research. The digital and cultural changes in India have brought in new forms of literature which opened new portals in research in Indian English literature. Also, the increasing awareness in Indian people about their own culture has brought in translational studies of Indian texts in the race of research in Indian English literature. These factors have brought immense change and areas of research in India for English literature.



References and citations

1. Somani, Parin. (2020) "CURRENT TRENDS IN MODERN DAY LITERATURE". IJAHSS. <<https://www.ijahss.net/assets/files/1599773692.pdf>>
2. Trivedi, Harish. (1995) "COLONIAL TRANSACTIONS: ENGLISH LITERATURE AND INDIA". Manchester University Press.
3. Coyne, Richard. (1999) "TECHNOROMANTICISM". MIT press.
4. "Exploring new trends of literature". ukessays.com. 11 2018. UKEssays. 08 2022
<https://ukessays.com/essays/english-language/exploring-new-trends-of-literature-english-language-essay.php?vref=1>
5. "Electronic Literature". http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/electronic_literature
6. "Digital Humanities". http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/digital_humanities
7. Golub, Adam. (November 2019) "Engaging Fan Cultures: What Students Learn When They Study Fans". Journal of Audience & Reception Studies Vol 16, Issue 2. 09 2019
8. Dr. Rajamma, P. (April 2020) "Emerging trends in English literature". <http://autrj.com/gallery/6-aut-april-4069.pdf>
9. Ananda, KD. (2019) "Recent trends in English literature in India". http://ijrar.com/upload_issue/ijrar_issue_20543367.pdf