



QUEST

Journey to the Known and Unknown

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

HIGHLIGHTS

- Library and ICT classes for the students
- Open Air Classroom
- Extension Program in Pragati Pathshala
- Certificate Course on Spoken English
- Clubs of the Department
- Exchange Program with Sonapur College
- Educational Field Trip to Brahmaputra Heritage Centre
- Movie classes for students

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About Quest...

It gives me immense pleasure to write for the second issue of our department newsletter, 'Quest,' as the Head of the Department. This newsletter is important for the students to express their creativity, ideas, and develop their critical thinking skills. It is a perfect medium to allow expression, responsibility, peer-to-peer influence, challenging ideas and much more. This newsletter plays an important part in shaping opinions, perspective, and debate, all of which are important when one enters the workplace and starts contributing to society. Workplace skills like management, meeting deadlines and communicating with others are also developed.



It allows the students to have a voice and learn invaluable skills like editing, writing, designing, photography, and, above all teaches them the importance of teamwork which will help them in the future. It highlights students and shows that they are not just a number in the college.

Congratulations to the editorial board in successfully completing this endeavour and also to all the students and alumni for contributing to it.

Priyanka Sarmah
HOD, Department of English



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

PROFILE

Pragjyotish College was established in the year 1954, and as English was a core subject, the Department of English was also established in the same year. Since its inception, the Department of English has been instrumental in imparting knowledge of the English language to students. Initially, only a general course in English was offered. However, from 1958 onwards, the major course in English was introduced to cater to the demands of the student's community. Currently, the Department has three sanctioned faculties and two other faculties (one full-time and one part-time). Every year, the department accommodates at least thirty major students, and every care is taken to nurture and enhance their capability of understanding English language and literature.

- Year of Establishment : 1954
- Number of Teachers : 9
- Routine Courses offered : HS and UG
- No. of Non - Teaching Staff : 1
- Add - on Courses offered : 1 (Certificate course for Spoken English)
- No. of Students Enrolled (Major Course) : 125



Library class



Inauguration of Literatia

THE ILLUMINATORS

CURRENT STAFF



Priyanka Sarmah

Associate Professor, HOD
MA in English Literature
Specialization in Indian English Literature



Dr. Avijit Kumar Dutta

Assistant Professor
MA in English Literature, M.Phil and Phd
Specialization in European Classical, English
Translation and American literature



Latlanzuol Khawbung

Assistant Professor
MA in English Literature, M.Phil
Specialization in American Literature and
Gender Studies



Monali Ghosh Dastidar

Assistant Professor
MA in English Literature
Specialization in Indian English Literature



Shyamolim Gauratra

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, M.Ed
Specialization in American and
Commonwealth Literature



Kabita Medhi

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, M.Phil
Specialization in American Literature



Pinaz Mirza

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, MA in Linguistics
Specialization in American Literature and
Field Linguistics



Shikha Das

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature, M.Ed



Abhijit Seal

Assistant Professor (contractual)
MA in English Literature
Specialization in American Literature

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

DEVELOPING STUDENTS' SKILLS

The Department of English has initiated many activities for the overall development of the students. To enhance the presentation skills of the students, the department has introduced ICT and Presentation Classes. Here, students can learn how to use different tools of information technology, apply their knowledge to work with various software, and put their ideas on different aspects of English literature on slides. These ICT classes also help them enhance their language skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening, along with their overall personality development. These classes have helped students build confidence while giving presentations and learn about advancing technologies.

The Department has also introduced Library Classes to help students obtain, evaluate, and recognize knowledge and familiarize themselves with trends of knowledge for further education and learning new disciplines. Here, students learn to research their topics by studying various books and resources available in the library.

To make classes more interesting, the Department has an 'Open-Air Classroom,' providing a different learning experience compared to a normal classroom environment. The concept of the open-air classroom is based on our traditional Indian Gurukul system, which is not confined to an artificial classroom environment. Also, movie classes have been introduced as a fun way for students to learn English through listening and speaking. *Bride and Prejudice*, *The Pianist* and *Omkara* are few of the movies

This year, the Department has introduced one add-on course: Certificate Course in Spoken English. This course is designed for the professional development of students and deals with personality development such as etiquette, presentation skills, public-speaking skills, group discussion, and how to face an interview.

The 2nd Annual E-Magazine by the Department of English, Pragjyotish College, was released on the 23rd of September by ACS Diganta Das (MD, Food and Supply Corporation, Government of Assam).

The Department of English has an Extension Program Group where students try to help those in need. Along with that, in collaboration with the NSS, the students and alumni of the department regularly teach the students of Pragati Pathshala (a government primary school adopted by Pragjyotish College).

For extracurricular activities, the department has introduced different clubs such as Bibliophilia as the library club, Melodic Hub as the cultural club, Blossoming Buds as the gardening club, Ikigai as the literary club, and Cinephille's Paragon as the movie club. The students have also gone to the Brahmaputra Heritage Centre for an educational field trip.

This year, the students of the Department went on an exchange program with Sonapur College, where they were enlightened with many concepts and aspects of literature through interaction with the dignitaries.

HALL OF FAME

ACHIEVEMENTS



Pritam Patowary

- Silver Medal in Best Dialogue Category for the short film **Requiem For Hope**
- Virtual screening of the film at Lift-Off Film Festival, United Kingdom, Independent Film Weekend, Germany & Chalchitra Film Festival, Ram Lal Anand College, Delhi University
- Offline screening at TRP Film Festival, Kolkata



Mansi Paul

- Gold medalist in Wako Kickboxing District Championship
- Gold medalist in Kickboxing State Championship
- 2 times gold medalist in national level Wako Kickboxing Championship
- Gold medalist in international Wako Kickboxing Championship Nepal
- Bronze in district tug of war championship



Bigrai Swargiary

- North East Fashion Icon 2021 : 1st Runner up, Best Smile n Best Talent
- North East Ramdhanu: 2nd runners up, Best Dress
- Couple Dance competition: 1st prize (Mazbat)
- Solo dance competition: 1st Prize (Mazbat)



Rupom Pradhan

- Basketball tournament North Eastern Regional Inter-College Tournament (NERICT): 1st Prize

PAINTING THOUGHTS

WRITE-UPS AND POEMS

IMPROV THEATRE

Ruba Das
BA, 2nd Semester

Improvisational theatre, sometimes known as improv, is a type of live theatre in which the characters, conversation, and overall storyline of a game, scene, or tale are all created on the spot. To put it more simply, it is a performance without preparation. Improv performers frequently use suggestions from the crowd or some other form of inspiration to get started. Improv has its origins in acting and comedy schools and is frequently used to warm-up actors and develop collaboration abilities.

For improv to be successful, some general guidelines are kept in mind. Establishing a link between the many concepts and tales shared by the performers is one of them. Other strategies include making statements, using the phrase "Yes, and", adding new information to maintain the pace of the act, and bringing new ideas to keep things interesting.

The British TV series 'Whose Line Is It Anyway?' is a renowned example of improv, in which a panel of four actors perform a series of short-form improvisation games, crafting comic sequences based on pre-determined circumstances produced by the presenter or from audience ideas.

These activities involve making up songs on the fly, acting out scenes in various television and film styles, and producing sound effects.

Tabletop role-playing games, such as Dungeons & Dragons, are similar to improv in terms of the social interactions one has with other players or with the gamemaster's characters, known as NPCs. These are mainly unscripted interactions between your character and another character whose function is to offer information or background to facilitate in driving the tale forward that you and the Gamemaster are telling collaboratively.

Improv is appealing because of its absurd authenticity. It's a welcome diversion from the monotony of everyday life. Thus, to quote Shakespeare, "All the world's a stage / And all the men and women merely players". Perhaps we too are just improv performers on the stage of life!



Drama Club

MY BURNING HOUSE

Sumin Dilrubba Yesmin
BA, 4th Semester

I watched my house burn and offered
a nonchalant gaze,
Tears screaming to be freed
mind in a daze.
Forlorn smiles twitched
Chapped lips of mine,
Where the unnamed traveller hath
placed his kisses divine.

I turned my back
But met an overwhelming crowd,
In a frenzy of escape
I found myself inside the house.
Smoke filled air
And flames on the rise,
Twisted my lungs
And burned my eyes.

A tear escaped
And I found myself crying,
My body now scalded
And my soul now dying.
Only ifs haunted
The fear clouded mind,
Shattered mirrors on the walls
Devoured by the fire
That I knew how it felt.

It was only then
To watch your hearth burn
From a close distance,
The fire now hugged.



REFLECTIONS

Ruba Das
BA, 2nd Semester

Mirrors reflecting each other at the
worst possible angles
Bound by nature to echo off the other.
Hues of green, hushed and loud
Seen in sparkling fragments of glass
Shattered long ago.

Light comes in, never gets out.
Dull surfaces try their hardest each
time
But know, they don't want to.
Scream into them and see the
lamentable face of the one they reflect.
Whisper secrets, soft expressions into
them.
Maybe they'll like it.

Infinite reflections blocked by grimy
layers.
Perhaps, due to negligence?
Different shapes clash and break
themselves into smaller mirrors.
Pulled in by the charm of one, pushed
around by the razor sharp edges of the
other.
A result of rushed and haphazard
storage.

Finally! The pieces emerge.
Will they be used?
Or will they gather dust and cracks like
the others in the box?
Time has told, can tell and will be
telling long into the future.
Is one superior to the other?
Does one hide more crevices inside,
Waiting to shatter at an opportune
moment
Before a curious onlooker?
Can the cracked ones even be
salvaged?

Glass is fragile.
Please be careful with it.
After all, broken mirrors carry bad
omens.
Now, isn't that familiar?

ORIGINS OF LANGUAGE

Pizush Kalita
BA, 6th Semester

Language, one of the most defining characteristics of humanity, has its origins shrouded in mystery. Researchers, however, believe that language began to evolve around 50,000 years ago with early Homo sapiens. It is believed that language first developed in a process known as 'protolanguage' - a set of vocalizations and gestures used by early humans to communicate. Although there is no single answer to this question, linguists have identified several plausible theories.

One of the earliest theories is the bow-wow hypothesis, which suggests that language evolved from animal noises. According to this theory, early humans developed language by imitating animal sounds to communicate their needs and intentions. Many languages today still contain words derived from animal sounds, supporting this theory.

Another popular theory is the pooh-pooh hypothesis, suggesting that language evolved from gestures and expressions. This theory suggests that early humans developed language as a way to communicate their feelings and needs without vocalization. Many languages today still contain words derived from gestures, supporting this theory.

The third theory, the yo-he-ho hypothesis, suggests that language evolved from the sounds used in physical labor. This theory suggests that early humans developed language to coordinate their efforts and communicate their needs while working on tasks that required physical labor. Many languages today still contain words derived from physical labor sounds, supporting this theory.

Finally, the fourth theory is the ding-dong hypothesis, suggesting that language evolved from the sounds made by inanimate objects. This theory suggests that early humans developed language as a way to communicate their feelings and needs without vocalization. Many languages today still contain words derived from inanimate objects' sounds, supporting this theory.

Overall, the development and evolution of language is a complex and fascinating topic still being studied today. While the exact origin of language is unknown, the four theories discussed above provide insight into how language may have evolved over time.



Farewell of 2021 Batch

YOUR TIME IS PRECIOUS

Khushi Dwivedi
BA, 4th Semester

Time and tide wait for none. Every day since our school days, we have been taught this. There is no way to stop time, but there are multiple ways by which we can avoid delaying our work. We are very optimistic when it comes to time; we always think there's a tomorrow. We believe there will be time to do things, time to say things, time to spend time with loved ones, time to appeal, but no. Time won't wait for us if we keep putting off our words, wishes, and needs.

Mostly, this happens with our words. Sometimes, we delay the period of our words, taking time to alter, fix, and think about them, believing time to be our partner. However, something happens swiftly, and all we are left with are words like "if." The regret towards the end is painful. It's painful how we don't get time to fix our own time. But then again, time and tide wait for none.



Students participating in Exchange Program



MOVIE REVIEW

Little Women

Upasana Das
BA, 2nd Semester

Louisa May Alcott's well-known classic, *Little Women*, tells the story of four sisters during the time of the Civil War: Meg, who longs for a life without poverty; Jo, a tomboy and writer; Beth, quiet and kind; and Amy, who has elegant taste in art and life. With the help of their mother, these four girls learn lessons that help them carry their burdens with thankful hearts and lean on each other throughout the trials they face. The novel spans ten years and follows the lives of the March family and their friends, highlighting the small joys of childhood, adventures at home and abroad, growing up, loss, and falling in love.

Alcott's writing is insightful, touching, and humorous; she draws the reader in emotionally and offers her wisdom generously. *Little Women* is an important narrative of ordinary life that both amuses and grieves and should be read by all teens. Not only does it put life into perspective, but it also relates to teenagers today despite being written nearly two



two hundred years ago. Any audience will be able to connect with at least one of the March sisters, especially young women. Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy become as dear to readers as family throughout their journey to adulthood. In the climax, my heart was blown away by seeing the whole family in a great position, all because of Jo. After seeing Jo happy, I felt very happy. Greta Gerwig directed this film in a great way, showing every girl's feelings in their life. It was such a great direction I have ever seen. Lastly, my favorite character, Jo, is unforgettable in my life.

Bride and Prejudice

Taanish Das Kashyap
BA, 4th Semester

Bollywood musicals are the Swiss Army Knives of the cinema, with the tool for every job: Comedy, Drama, Song and Dance, Farce, Pathos, Adventure, Great Scenery, improbably eye sparkling Heroes, Teeth-gnashing villains, Marriage-obsessed mothers and their tragically unmarried daughters, who are invariably ethereal beauties.

Directed by Gurinder Chadha, whose "What's Cooking?" (2000) and "Bend it Like Beckham" (2002) make you smile just thinking about them,



this is a free-spirited adaptation of the Jane Austen Novel "Pride And Prejudice", in which Mr. Dracy and the unmarried sisters and their family are plugged into a modern plot that spans London, New York, Bombay, Goa. Darcy is an American played by Martin Henderson, and Lizzie Bennet becomes Lalita Bakshi, second of four daughters in Amritsar, India—true to Austen, a country town.

Overall, it was movie with various elements that is normally depicted in what we call the Bollywood sequence; but this was a Hollywood film with great involvement various sequences which people are gradually fond off. That means, they had great understanding of the film media in India and what could be done. In my opinion, it could be a little bit cut short but the others sectors are very well presented.



The Painting of the Poem "Kubla Khan" by the Students



Farewell of 2022 Batch



College Rally



Inauguration of Wall Magazine



Extension Program with the students of Pragati Pathshala



ICT Class



Open Air Classroom



Field Trip to Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre



Extension Program by the Alumni

HEART OF MUSE

FROM THE PENS OF OUR ALUMNI

BHRAMYOMAN

Jasminara Begum
Batch 2016-19

Theatre is an art that shapes and portrays an imagination or an actual lifestyle's occasion in front of a live audience using live performers – such as actors, musicians, dancers who perform in a specific area, preferably a stage. It is a part of cultural financial system in the region that contains immaterial labour and make contributions in cultural production. 'Theatre is a mirror of highlighting man's humanity and also a tool for understanding why man also finds it so easy to transgress that same humanity.' – Shakespeare.

Theatre is informative. Theatre is educative. Theatre, one of the oldest medium of communication has been acknowledged as possessing an intrinsic strength of educating people. It is said that the ancient man described his experiences of hunting and the nature to his fellowmen through physical acting, as language had not developed then, and this gave birth to 'mime' or 'mimesis' as it was termed by Aristotle, which is basically the pre cursor to Theatre. As human civilization progressed, the art of theatre was developed by village folks, who established a rich tradition of the arts that has continued to be passed down through generations. As townships and countries emerged,

theatre became a great form of entertainment as well as expression. The advent of language gave birth to great playwrights and different forms of urban theatre across the globe. From Sophocles, Shakespeare to Ibsen, Tagore, Chekov, Sartre and all, Theatre has gone from strength to strength due to its innate capability of making the people think, and raise a consciousness from within the psyche of not only the audience who experience it but also the artists who perform it.

"In India, theatre was an eminent and important medium of mass communication. It is an oldest form of mass communication and it is being one of the most appreciable medium of communication. And as it communicates to the mass, that is why it is a medium of mass communication." - Thakur, 2013

The earliest contribution to the Indian theatre originated by Bharata Muni, dated between 2000 B.C.E. and the 4th century C.E. who wrote the 36 books of the Natyashastra. The Natyashastra expresses a belief in dramatic depiction, established style and motion. The classical ending is governed for one Natyashastra and Sanskrit dramas. Since plays were based on stories, the public already saw histories, people fables, legends, material factors and movement were thickly organized into the talk and

acting. Kali das is famous as the preeminent Sanskrit playwright, and is popular as the Indian Shakespeare. Some of his best work involves Malavikagnimitra, Vikramorvasiya, and Abhijnanashakuntala, which describe fictions of nobility and myth in old-fashioned India. Bhasa is the most aged Sanskrit playwright to present us with complete plays, and the legendary old Indian epic ballad, the 'Mahabharata'. In addition, Shudraka was a dramatist, popular for a Sanskrit farce, named Mricchakatika. An adaptation of this play was staged in New York in 1924 and later inspired the production of a film titled "Utsav" in 1984.

Throughout the ages, art and entertainment have played a significant role in Indian culture, enduring even as other ideas and practices have come and gone. There are several forms of theatre traditions in every part of the country like Jatra and Baul in West Bengal, Yatra in Orissa, Tamasha in Maharashtra, Nautanki, and Ramleela in parts of North India, Ankiya Naat / Bhaona in Assam and so on. (Konwar, 2016)

The beginning of theatre in Assam may be found in the 15th century, when the saint Srimanta Sankardev used Ankiya Naat/Bhaona to spread his Neo-Vaisnavite beliefs among the people. It captured the common person and held the hearts of people by depicting deities and the supernatural in plays that sparked religious passion and gave moral instruction. Due to colonialism and foreign influence, new styles of theatre like Jatra entered the area over time and brought about several

alterations and transformations in the Assamese theatre heritage. Jatra, a popular form of folk theatre originated in Bengal during 15th century and spread to other Eastern states of Assam and Odisha. There were changes in content, all-night performances were shortened to 3-4 hours and number of songs was lessened (Gunawardana, 1971).

Mobile theatre groups of Assam (known as 'BHYRMOMAN natak' in Assamese) consist of a collective of actors, singers, dancers, directors, action artists, makeup artists, workers, and the producer. The total team members of a troop can range from anywhere in between 100-15.1 The theatre group moves from place to place within the state - from villages to towns to cities as indicated by the word 'mobile.' These theatre groups are invited by organizations and institutions like colleges and schools who loan their field to the group for three days for their performance. The companies are invited by self-governing organizations in the villages, towns, and cities, known as 'committees,' which may be responsible for running schools or colleges, temples, clubs, or NGOs (Ross, 2017)

Mobile theatre of Assam has a long heritage in the field of performing Art. The term Mobile Theatre was first used by the renowned social worker Radhagovinda Baruah in the remark book of Suradevi Theatre, after witnessing the performances in Latasil playground of Guwahati. The first mobile theatre group of Assam was established in 1963. It was Nataraj theatre founded by veteran theatre organizer Achyut Lahkar.

There are around fifty Bhramyoman theatre groups in Assam and each of these groups provides employment to 100 to 150 people, including artists and technicians.

The majority of the plays produced by these theatre groups are based on Assamese literature, folktales, and myths. The playwrights usually use modern topics inspired by the lives of people like Lady Diana, Benojir Bhutto, and Osama bin Laden, as well as theatrical adaptations of Hollywood blockbusters like Titanic, Jurassic Park, Anaconda, etc.

DAYS

Bhanjana Priya Das
Batch 2017-2020

Monday is the day,
For a good mood and a good week.

Tuesday is the day,
For some thought and some kick.

Wednesday is the day,
For some negativity to seek.

Thursday is the day,
To be strong and quick.

Friday is the day,
You may or may not succeed.

Saturday is the day,
You leave "the lot" back and proceed.

Sunday is the day,
Where you find yourself to greet,
For the good mood and the good week.

RISE ABOVE

Madan Mohan Borah
Batch 2017-2020

When the storms of life come crashing down,
And it feels like you're about to drown,
Remember that you have the strength within,
To rise above, and win.
For every obstacle is just a test,
To see how far you can progress,
And though it may be tough to endure,
The victory is that much more pure.
So don't give up, don't ever give in,
The power to overcome lies deep within,
You have the courage, the will, the drive,
To push through, and thrive.
Remember that every failure is a lesson,
To help you grow, progress and lessen,
The grip of doubt and fear on your soul,
And empower you to take control.
The journey may be long and hard,
But every step you take will bring you forward,
So rise above, and keep moving on,
Until the battles of life are won.
You have the power, the strength, the might,
To rise above and take flight,
So spread your wings, and soar high,
And show the world, what it means to truly try.
Rise above, dear friend, and be proud,
Of the strength and resilience you've endowed,
For you have the power to overcome any strife,
And live a life full of love and light.

PRETTY PURPLE STORE

Jasminara Begum
Batch 2016-2019

As Vineet Raj Kapoor once said, "No work is small or big, it is you who can make it as big as you want." Handmade jewellery is a perfect example of this sentiment. Each piece is created by the artisan's own hands, without the use of mass-manufacturing machines. This process can take hours or days and requires a range of skilled techniques to finish.

One of the unique aspects of handmade jewellery is that there is no standard "look". Each piece is a unique expression of the artist's vision and creativity. This means that you have the option of getting customized jewellery that is tailored to your personal style and preferences.

When you wear handmade jewellery, you're not just wearing an accessory, you're also becoming part of the artist's story. Each artisan has a unique reason for designing jewellery and their pieces reflect their personal experiences, inspirations, and values.

I, Jasminara Begum, has tried to contribute to the business of handmade jewellery by founding a small company named Pretty Purple.store. I started my journey by giving handmade jewellery to friends, and then decided to turn it into a business. I started it with clay and resin jewellery, but then noticed the amount of waste created by local tailors for very small pieces of clothes that were no longer needed. This sparked an idea, and I began to collect these fabric scraps to create unique fabric earrings.

To add a cultural twist, I also began making "Gamusa" earrings, each one created differently to give it a modern and unique twist. Through the various means of exposures and inspirations from social media and other means, my designs are constantly evolving. Pretty Purple.store has now completed over 400 orders and has a collection of around 300 products, including a range of handmade jewellery forms.

Creating a piece of handmade jewellery may take hours or days, but it's always made with love, care, and attention to detail. Each piece has a special meaning behind it and is made just for you. If you're looking for unique and meaningful jewellery, handmade pieces are the perfect choice.



Handmade Products by Pretty Purple Store



THANK YOU

Glad to see you again in this issue.

Dear readers,

We are honoured to present the second edition of the yearly newsletter, 'Quest,' published by Pragjyotish College's Department of English. Within, the department's ideas, activities, and events have been artistically represented to the best of our abilities. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every student for their contribution, which included poems, prose, educational works, and diverse viewpoints. We are grateful to our valued teachers for entrusting us with the task of editing, and the honest support of the editorial board has made it possible for us to accomplish this goal.

We send our warmest greetings to each and every reader, and sincerely hope that this memento will gain your commendation as well as be instrumental in the department's overall growth.

Anyway, we hope you enjoy this one.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITORIAL BOARD

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