

AN ANTHOLOGY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

A Textbook prescribed by S.R.T.M University,
Nanded as per CBCS Pattern

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An Anthology of American Literature

A Textbook Prepared as per CBCS Pattern
for College Students of UG Second Year Optional English

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Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

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Langston Hughes

ABOUT THE POEM

The poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" is often regarded as the first mature poem written by Langston Hughes in 1920 at the age of 17. He wrote this poem while he was visiting his father by train. He was inspired to write this poem when he happened to cross over the Mississippi River. He had a rift in his relations with father who himself being Negro, ill-thought of other Negroes. It is said that he wrote the poem on the back of an envelope that he received from his father. It was published in 1921 in the journal *The Crisis* which had a vast African American readership. This same poem was read aloud at Hughes funeral in 1967. It is written in free verse but certainly, it has rhythm. With the popularity of this poem, Hughes became a prominent leader of the Harlem Renaissance.

The Negro Speaks of Rivers

I've known rivers:

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.

I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.

I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.

I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:

was being built, he bathed in the waters of the river. He uses the 'Euphrates' as a symbol of ancient civilisations. Then, he mentions the Congo River which originates in Central Africa and runs into the Atlantic. He refers to the freedom in Africa where he built a safe shelter for himself and the flowing river's sound made him sleep quietly. He also talks of the Nile which runs from Lake Victoria in Uganda in Africa through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. Along the same river, the great ancient civilisation of Egypt rose. The speaker says, 'I looked upon the Nile and raised pyramids above it.' This line is in stark contrast with the previous line where he was a free man. But here, he is a slave forcefully involved in the building of huge pyramids. All these actions of the speaker show that he respects rivers and depends on them for multiple purposes.

All these images again reinforce the idea that the African race has been keeping close ties with the nature. After this, he draws an analogy between the ancient rivers and the river Mississippi on which many American cities are built. With the mention of this river and president Abraham Lincoln, he refers to the attempts of abolishing slavery and emancipation of the slaves. The Mississippi river begins to sing. 'The muddy bosom' of the river personifies the womanly fertility of the river.

The poem ends with the same phrases that opened it. As if it completes the language cycle and the water cycle of the rivers. This shows the speaker's long standing bond with the natural eternal forces. The expression 'dusky rivers' refers literally to the brown, muddy watered river but metaphorically, to the dark-skinned African people who were often called 'dusky or dark'. In the concluding line, the speaker reaffirms his sense of racial pride, of the continuity of ancient and advanced civilisations and the connection to life-giving forces in natures.

EXERCISES

I. Short answer type questions.

1. Who is the 'I' in the poem?
2. What is the contrast of black man living by the Congo and the Nile?
3. Write briefly about the various images used in the poem.

An Anthology of American Literature is composed to introduce the undergraduate students to the selective works from American Literature. The textbook covers a brief history of American Literature from its inception to the present. It accommodates various literary forms – poetry, fiction, prose and drama. The textbook features celebrated writers, such as Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Jack London, Mark Twain, Arthur Miller and Langston Hughes. The units consist of an elaborate discussion followed by exercises that would prove helpful for the teaching-learning process.



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Horizon

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VIII (B)

Communication Skills: Report Writing, Composing News Item

Report and essays are two different pieces of writings. The two words are sometimes used interchangeably. A report is a short, sharp, concise document which is written for particular purpose and audience whereas an essay presents arguments and researching. In other words, we can say that the report is a record of facts and it analyses a situation or problem often making recommendation for further action.

Report may include

- a description of a sequence of events or a situation,
- your own interpretation of the significance of the events or a situation,
- a careful investigation of facts,
- discussion of the likely outcomes of future courses of action,
- your recommendations for a course of action and
- conclusion.

Guidelines for writing report

- Before you start writing, you should take some time to prepare and plan writing your report.
- Decide your readers and purpose of writing report.
- Once you find out the basics of your report, start collecting supporting information then sort and evaluate that information.
- Organise collected information and start structuring it together in an order.
- In introductory part of the report, explain the problem or state the foremost information and let the reader know why the report is being made. You may explain how the details of report are arranged.

The day began with Holi celebrations in the building. The Guptas, from the ground floor, and Mauryas, on the second floor, decided to go to the beach after lunch. Residents of the building, which comprises 120 flats, said the two families were very close and would go to the beach every year after celebrating Holi. The victims entered the water despite the tide being high, and eye-witnesses said several revellers were in the water even as high waves struck the shore. But they soon heard screams and realised some others were drowning even as fishermen and hawkers rushed to help.

Vasai-Virar fire brigade personnel, along with fishermen, are carrying out a search. The body of Prashant, a college student, has been sent for an autopsy. Locals said warning people against venturing into the sea during high tide goes unheeded and the beach does not have life guards.

In the second case in Mahim, a boy was feared drowned at 7 p.m. The fire brigade is carrying out a search operation, while Mahim police are collecting information about the boy.

EXERCISES

1. Write a news article on the robbery that took place in your neighbourhood.
2. Prepare a news on HOLI celebration in your city.
3. Draft a news article on the strike observed in your city.
4. Write a news item on the opening of new Shopping Mall in your city.

Classroom activities

1. Ask the students to bring cuttings of various news items on different topics (Sports, Social, Political, Entertainment, Weather) published in leading newspapers and discuss them.
2. Organise a group discussion on a news item published on one common incident reported in the different newspapers.



PANORAMA

(PART - I)

A Textbook of Additional/S.L.English
for First year degree students
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PANORAMA

(Part - I)

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For U.G. First Year

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- 1) Remedial Grammar: Common Errors in English Usage 164

This text offers a close range of a variety of the choicest English short fiction along with lessons in Remedial Grammar to develop the English Language usage skills of the students.

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PANORAMA

(PART - II)

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PANORAMA

(Part - II)

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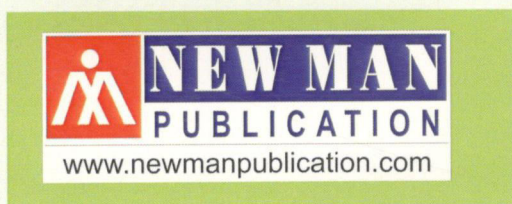
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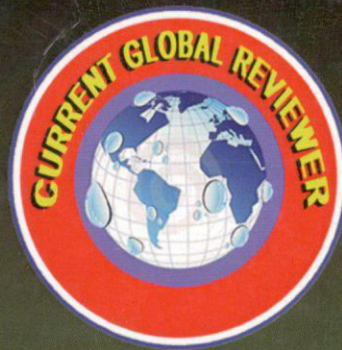
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Janta Curfew: An Attempt of Discourse Analysis

Prof. Doke Nitin Narayanrao

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Abstract:

Political Discourse is an amazing field of Linguistic investigation and as such it has paved new way of looking at the political leaders' speeches. Discourse Analysis is understood as a branch of Linguistics that investigates contextual language use. All nation leaders are addressing to the public during the Corona Pandemic and their speeches can be better understood in the light of Discourse Analysis. Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation on 20th March and appealed for Janta Curfew. His strategic and stylistic way of delivery won him huge success. His speech proved him once again a mass leader who is a master of handling mass psychology.

Key words: Corona, Discourse, Modi, pandemic, Janta Curfew,

Of late, the Corona pandemic has played havoc throughout the world. The whole world has been suffering and playing the blame game. Europe and America have emerged as the most suffering destinations in the world. Casualties are daily reported in thousands and media has been painting still more grave pictures. WHO is also under suspicion because of the Big Boss' allegations. Just two days before German chancellor sent a bill of some billions to China accusing her of the human and financial loss.

At the backdrop of this, India, the country of more than 130 crore people, seems to be less affected and is under cautious move. The leadership of the nation especially the Prime Minister Mr. Modi has been leading the combat against Corona pandemic from the front. He has been constantly monitoring the situation and developments and issuing orders accordingly.

The present paper aims at analysing PM's discourse announcing Janta Curfew. It also tries to understand the strategic and stylistic delivery of the message by the PM. Linguistic analysis of the speeches of prominent leadership has many a things to talk about and reveal. Discourse Analysis is a recent development in Linguistic circle that leads to the contextual understanding of language use. 'Discourse' is simply understood as contextualised and continuous language use by the interactants in the given speech situation. Spielmann (1989: 104) classifies discourse in the following types- Normative Discourse is the one that presents chronological recounting of the events, procedural Discourse contains instructions; Hortatory Discourse aims at influencing behaviour/ conduct, Explanatory Discourse provide information needed in particular situation, Argumentative Discourse tries to prove some viewpoint, and Conversational Discourse considers use of meaningful interaction among people. All in all, all the types of discourses have some the thing in common and i.e. all the sentences or utterances are linked by means of certain logical, chronological or psychological links.

Discourse Analysis can cover any meaningful language use by interactants or individuals. Accordingly, political discourse is of much relevance in the present situation. India as a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, vast nation has democracy as a political system. In 2019 BJP could win the general elections single handedly. That may be due to the charisma of Modi or his heart touching speeches that jolted and shattered all the dreams of the opposition. Over the period Mr. PM has emerged as the most influential political figure who possesses a magic wand to enthrall the masses. His strategic and stylistic speeches appeal to the hearts of the masses and they support him unquestionably. This proves him to be a master of handling mass psychology. In this regard the opinion of Mr. Makarand Parajape is very pertinent. He writes, "When it comes to Prime Minister Narendra

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man, moment, message, medium, and, of course, Modi. Together, they made magic, leaving Indians spellbound. (Paranjape- Telegram). He lead from the front and asked Indians to make gratitude part of public culture.

Reference:

Paranjape Makarand. Article in Telegram. 20th March 2020. 12:35 pm IST

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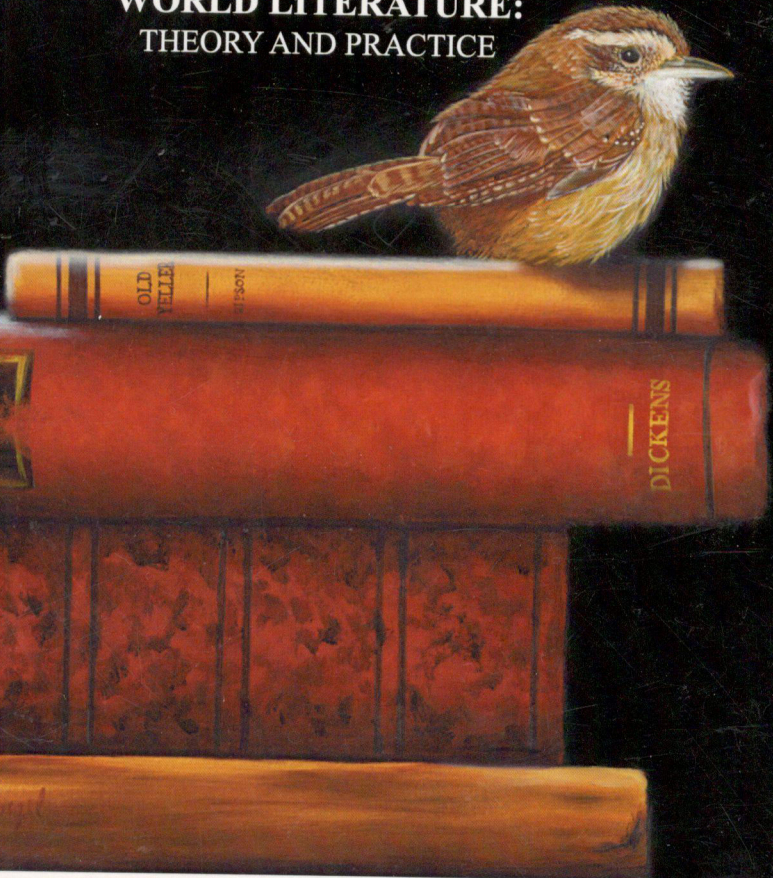
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Missed Punches- World Literature in Translation : A study of Sakharam Binder and Gidhade .

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Abstract: National / Regional literature, when becomes a part of World Literature, undergoes transformation both in Language and culture. While translating the regional literature into a global language like English, there are strong chances of missing the punches of the original. The paper tries to understand such missed punches of the original Marathi into English. It analyses two most controversial plays by Vijay Tendulkar viz. Sakharam Binder and Gidhade (The Vultures)

Keywords: Sakharam Binder, Gidhade (The Vultures) translation, punches, Regional, World Literature

The notion of 'World Literature' has nearly two hundred years of history. But in past, the unfortunate fact was that it was mainly confined to a small number of European Literatures. It also had the Dark period where its proliferation was discouraged and neglected. As the time passed by in modern times- in the wake of Globalization, World Literature has caught fire again. The easy access to technology and World Wide Web has made the notion of 'World Literature' prominent again. It was Goethe who conceived the vision of World Literature, though he did not clearly define it. The circulation of literary works amongst different European writers and intellectuals was possibly his thought. But in changing times the literary world was thought of as a global market of material products. The appointed police, on one hand felt the possible disappearance of National Literature, but on the other hand, the entry of the same in the wider space helped it to interact with other National Literatures.

The very existence of 'World Literature' heavily depends on translations from the original language and culture. This is so due to increasing spread of university education and access to minority languages in classrooms. It becomes evident that firsthand experience of such languages and culture is rare so one finds heavy dependence on translation. According to David Damrosch (2003 : 233) "It is the very fact that the translation and the original text can be subjected to an aesthetic transformation what is in itself an inherent feature of the literary fact." He continues further that in literary translation there is

to be because of the cultural and linguistic difference between the local and global. The translators are handicap is this regards. But there is a strong possibility that without in-depth knowledge and adequate acquaintance with Language and cultural, the punches in the original will be simply missed in the translation for World Literature.

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