



LangLit

An International Peer Reviewed Open Access Journal

ISSN 2349-5189 | Indexed Journal | Impact Factor 5.61 | www.langlit.org

Special Issue May 2020
National Webinar

**EFFECTS OF CRISIS ON
LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE**
15 MAY 2020

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I: Indexed :!
ICI, Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia.edu.,
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112.	ROLE OF CULTURE IN EFFECT OF GLOBALIZATION ON LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AND CULTURE	JADAV NAYNA B
113.	SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING	BALKRISHNA KONGRE
114.	SHOW UP AND LET YOURSELF BE SEEN	NEEHAL SHEIKH
115.	BUILDING COMPETENCE IN THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM: AN INTERCULTURAL APPROACH	AMOL RAUT
116.	A GLIMPSE OF SOCIO CULTURAL FACTORS IN NOVELS OF R.K.NARAYAN	SWAPNIL RAM DAHAT
117.	NATURE AND HUMAN VULNERABILITY: SPECIAL REFERENCE WITH DILIP CHITRE'S POEM THE FELLING OF THE BANYAN TREE	VISHNU CHAVAN
118.	SAPPHO-A HYPERSUXUAL LOVER OR A LESBIAN POET	NEELAM TIKHIA
119.	OTHERING AND THEORITICAL PERSPECTIVES	NITIN GAIKWAD
120.	DEPICTION OF TRIBAL CULTURE IN MOHANTY'S <i>PARAJA</i>	NILESH THAKRE
121.	ANTAGONISM OF PHILOSOPHY AND MATERIALISM: NARAYAN'S THE FINANCIAL EXPERT	GOLDIE BAGHMAR
122.	SOCIALISM IN LANGUAGE	NARENDRA GADGE
123.	PROTECTIVE MEASURES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK	MANISH HOLE
124.	NATURE AND HUMAN VULNERABILITY IN THE NOVELS OF ANITA DESAI	NANDKUMAR DHAWALE
125.	SIGNIFICANCE OF MULTIMEDIA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING	MANISH CHAKRAVARTY
126.	O.V.VIJAYAN: THE MAKING OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS	JAGDISH JANGALE



IMPACT FACTOR – 5.61

LangLit

ISSN 2349-5189



An International Peer-Reviewed Open Access Journal

126

O. V. VIJAYAN: THE MAKING OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS

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Abstract

The concept of Humanism can be interpreted at two levels. At a mundane level, it can be equated with a humanistic or human approach. But at a deeper level of analysis, it is a system of thought concerned with human interests. The pedestrian interpretation is undoubtedly vital but it is a limited view which does not into consideration the various dimension encompassed by the concept. Historic development can be seen, in general terms, in human development. Man grows from solipsism to an awareness of the outside world. The awareness is initially overwhelmed by fear and distrust. This grows into a stage when one attempts to organise his/her perceptions of the world by explaining phenomena with help of myths and rituals. Myths are universal phenomena having their own peculiar place in the cultural ethos and milieu of a people. The present paper tries to show that O. V. Vijayan's mythmaking and legends and the various themes that expresses in the novels are not simply imaginary and irrelevant. He was not a person fabricating imaginary takes, unrealistic in nature. He is a writer belonging to most modern and post-colonial era and creates picture of what is going on in the society and the world. Superstitions are inter-woven with myths, legends, unnatural things and disaster, customs and traditions, and mainly the outcome of ignorance.

Keywords: *Humanistic, Pedestrian, Solipsism, Universal, Cultural.*

The concept of Humanism can be interpreted at two levels. At a mundane level, it can be equated with a humanistic or human approach. But at a deeper level of analysis, it is a system of thought concerned with human interests. The pedestrian interpretation is undoubtedly vital but it is a limited view which does not into consideration the various dimension encompassed by the concept. Historic development can be seen, in general terms, in human development. Man grows from solipsism to an awareness of the outside world. The awareness is initially overwhelmed by fear and distrust. This grows into a stage when one attempts to organise his/her perceptions of the world by explaining phenomena with help of

Special Issue

767

May 2020

Website: www.langlit.org

Contact No.: +919890290602

One Day National Webinar On Effects of Crisis on Language, Literature and Culture Organized by
Department of English, Vasantirao Naik Government Institute of Arts and Social Sciences, Nagpur
Indexed: ICI, Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia.edu, IBI, HFC, DRJI, The Cite Factor, COSMOS



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