

The Open University (UK) and Jamia Millia Islamia

present a Workshop as part of the project

Prospects for English Studies: India and Britain Compared

February 15th and 16th 2013

Venue: Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi

Topics for the Workshop

English Studies and ...

- **the expectations employers have of graduates today (Session 2 Part 1)**
- **public policies for Higher Education in India now (Session 2 Part 2)**
- **the study of texts in Indian languages in those languages or in translation (Session 3)**
- **the question of how the formal study of English Language should or could figure in the English Studies curriculum? (Session 4)**

and

- **the question of how the questions raised in this and the previous workshop - relating to current direction in research, public policies, employer expectations of knowledge and skills etc. - bear on the study of English Language and of Linguistics within the context of English Studies (Session 4)**

Friday February 15 Morning

10.00 Registration & Tea/Coffee

10.30 Inauguration (details to follow)

Introductory Remarks (Richard Allen)

11.00 – 12.30 Session 1

Debate

‘The academic rationale of English Studies’ vs. ‘The instrumental drives of English Studies (the economic and development rationale)’: Can and do these converge?

[Further information to follow]

Friday February 15 Afternoon

2.00 - 5.30 Session 2

Curriculum, Skills, Employment and Public Policy

Part 1. The employers’ perspective

Guest Experts

Thomas Abraham (CEO Hachette – publishing)

Shalini Advani (Director, Pathways School, Noida – teacher training)

Pradeep Mathur ([Medical Transcription company]) by skype

tbc ... Subha Chatterjee (Economic Times TV)

tbc ... Indrajit Hazra (Hindustan Times)

Questions to address:

From the employers’ perspective, are ES graduates suitable for employment – specifically, what advantages and disadvantages do ES graduates present relative to graduates from other disciplines?

Do employers feel that academic curricula and pedagogy in HE should be more responsive to career prospects? If so, what sort of responsiveness would they wish to see? Do employers provide job-specific training?

Part 2. Policy Makers & HE Administrators

Guest Speakers

Malashri Lal (Dean Academic Affairs and Projects DU)
Savita Datta (Principal, Maitreyi College; Director, COL, DU)
Jancy James (VC, Central University, Kasaragod, Kerala)
tbc ... (speaker from UGC)
tbc ... (speaker from FICCI)

Questions to address:

What public interest role does ES have in relation to the Indian polity, social life and social development, from a public policy perspective?

In what ways do those involved in the management of HE institutions seek to respond to employers' expectations and current policy, and why? What sorts of consultative procedures with stakeholders (including students/ teachers/ researchers/employers) are in place at the level of policy-determination and at the level of institutional management?

Saturday February 16 Morning

10.30 - 12.30 Session 3

English Studies and the study of texts in Indian languages, or translation

Guest Speakers

Kancha Ilaiah (Professor of Political Science, Osmania University)
Chandra Bhan Prasad (Journalist and Columnist, *The Pioneer*)
Mohammed Asaduddin (Professor of English, Jamia Islamia University)
Harish Trivedi (Professor of English, Delhi University)
Makarand Paranjape (Professor of English, Jawarharlal Nehru University)

Questions to address:

Is the popularity of ES and the interests/aspirations pinned on the English language proving detrimental to the study of other Indian languages and literatures?

What sorts of political and ideological subscriptions apply in contemplating the relation of English to other Indian languages, and to what extent are these addressed directly in ES pedagogy?

To what extent does translation feature in pedagogy and scholarship in ES and in the study of Indian languages generally? Should translation become more centred in ES than it is currently – how and why?

Saturday February 16 Afternoon

2.00 - 4.00 Session 4

Language and Linguistics

Guest speakers:

Rama Matthew (Professor, Head of Education, Delhi University)

Rukmini Bhaya Nair (Professor of Linguistics and English, IIT Delhi)

Tista Bagchi (Professor of Linguistics Delhi University)

tbc ... Ramakant Agnihotri (Professor of Linguistics, Delhi University)

Questions to address

What is the precise relationship between English language teaching and other areas in language and linguistics (in other areas of applied linguistics, and in areas such as morphology and grammar, corpus linguistics, sociolinguistics, World Englishes, linguistic discourse analysis, etc.)?

What directions of scholarship and research with a focus on Indian contexts are currently being pursued in language and linguistics? In what ways do such researches respond to changing social circumstances?

In what specific ways could the study of linguistics contribute to a student's career prospects?

4.00 - 5.30 Session 5

Delhi Conclusions

Questions to be addressed (Group Work)

In view of the discussions in Workshop 1 and Workshop 2, what directions of future data-gathering and analytical exploration focused on ES as currently situated in India are called for?

What directions of future data-gathering and analytical exploration are called for with a comparative and global view of ES in mind?

Plenary

Provisional Outcomes of the current project (Reports, Publications & Website)

Creating a platform for a UK discussion – Data, Reports, Questions and Issues

[Acknowledgements]