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Editorial

Being a multi-disciplinary journal, we have been receiving quality papers on a wide range of themes. As the journal is a bi-annual, it is difficult to accommodate all submissions. We are helpless that we make the authors wait for over six months, even after we found them worth publishing. To accommodate more submissions, we have increased the total number of pages in this issue, even though the move is not economical. In the present issue, we have included five articles and four book reviews.

Film making is amalgamation of different art forms – literature, drama, dance, music, painting and architecture. Several movies made in India and abroad are adaptations of stories from epics, classical works and modern literature. While making movies, very often the directors, instead of remaining faithful to the original, make changes in the scripts and narrate the story from a different perspective. Reviewing different theories of film adaptations, Devika and Piyush Gupta in their paper, “Studies in Aesthetic Delight (*Permananda*) in Hindi Film Adaptations”, examines different adaptations attempted in bollywood movies and argue that film adaptations in bollywood consciously or unconsciously conform to the Indian classical idea of *Rasa*, as stated in Bharata’s *Natyashastra*. The authors describe how stages of action, characterization, motivations and perspectives in the bollywood movies are geared to confirm to the Hindu view of aesthetic delight (*Parmananda*).

The next paper by Arti Nirmal, “Shadows Speak: A Need to Revive Shadow Theatres of India” presents an account of mythical and historical perspectives on evolution of classical and folk theatre in India. In particular, she highlights shadow theatre, which seeks to tell stories drawn from epics, myths and biographies and stories of divine or semi-divine figures. Focusing on *Ravan Chayya* tradition in Odisha, the author explains the structural, technical, artistic and ethical dimensions of this folk art form. Emphasizing the significance of these folk forms, the authors call for the need to revive the folk art form and decolonize Indian theatre from western influences.

Khasis are among the very few communities in India which still practice matrilineal tradition. In traditional matrilineal societies, man plays an important role in the family not as husband, but as mother’s brother. Familiarizing us with important features of matriliney, Angelica Queenie Lyngdoh and A.K. Nongkynrih in their paper, “Conceptualizing Mother’s Brother”, focus on the status and role of mother’s brother in matrilineal

societies. In the background of pioneering works on matriliney by different anthropologists, the authors focus on the role of mother's brother in Khasi matriliney. The authors give a descriptive account of roles that mother's brother play in mentoring his sister's children and in assisting the sister's family in managing the property and performing different social and religious roles expected of him. The authors, however, point out that because of different socio-economic changes that the Khasi society has been experiencing, the traditional role of mother's brother has been circumscribed to a considerable extent in recent years.

Kashmir question is a very complex issue involving several actors, issues and concerns. It is seen and interpreted from different perspectives. While most writings sympathetic to militancy in Kashmir view the problem through the eyes of the Muslims who constitute the majority in the state, those supporting Indian government tend to view the Kashmir issue from the perspective of the Kashmir Pandits evicted from Kashmir. Somjyoti Mridha in his paper titled, "Memories of Home and Persecution: A Study of Recent Kashmiri Pandit Narratives", focuses on how in their writings some of the Kashmiri Pandit scholars and writers have been narrating their perception of the Kashmir problem. Somjyoti brings to light their memories of persecution, their longing for home, their helplessness and their anger against the secular parties and leaders for ignoring their problems. While sympathizing with their problems, the author points out communal and parochial dimensions of the dominant Kashmiri Pandit perspectives and caution them against becoming a prey to Hindu communal forces.

India has witnessed emotionally surcharged debate in recent years about the success and viability of the UPA's ambitious rural employment guarantee programme, MGNREGA. While the critics argue that the budget allocated for the programme is a colossal waste, many defend them for its achievements in providing safety net for the rural poor. Papiya Datta and Snigdha Chakrabarti's paper, "Gains from Short-term Public Works: A Review of Performance of MGNREGA in Tripura" describes the evolution of different employment guarantee policies and programmes initiated in India and summarizes the positive contribution of MGNREGA. Discussing its performance in the Indian State of Tripura, the authors show how the programme succeeded in guaranteeing employment to the rural poor, especially the SCs, STs and women; helped in alleviation of rural poverty to an extent, created rural assets and empowered the underprivileged. Appreciating the performance of the state government, Papiya and Snigdha argue that although there are loopholes that need to be addressed, it is not advisable to give up the programme that has considerable potentiality to

address the problem of rural poverty.

In addition to the papers, this issue includes review of four books, namely M.P. Grenby's *Children's Literature (Edinburgh Critical Guides to Literatures)*, Colin Leys's, *Market-Driven Politics: Neo-Liberal Democracy and Public Interest*, Lenka Laxminarayan's *Quine's Philosophy: Anti-foundationalism through Indeterminacy and other Theses*, and Bolanath Ghosh's *Empowerment of Women in North-East India*. The books are reviewed respectively by Mankhrawbor Dunai, Suparna Bhattacharjee, Aribam Uttam Sharma and S. Thianlalmuan Ngaihte.

We are pleased to inform you that we have finally come out with a Style-Sheet for *The NEHU Journal*. As we receive submissions from different disciplines which have their own unique styles of foot noting and references, the editorial committee took the decision that the authors can write End Notes in any standard form approved in their disciplines, but while writing References, the authors should follow the Style-Sheet of the journal. The Style-Sheet is included in this issue for your perusal.

H. Srikanth
Editor