

**Editorial**

This issue of *Sāhitya* comes after a gap of two years, due to our organisational constraints. In this issue, we present a set of exciting essays related to various aspects of Comparative Literature, which have been included alphabetically. Ayan Chatterjee's paper takes up the issues of influence and reception, core concepts of French Comparative Literature, and reads them in the context of Modern Bangla poetry. Talking about reception within the intralingual context, the paper breaks the age-old myth that comparative literature happens only when two or more languages/literatures interact. Bipasha Som's article hints at the importance of retaining the essence of ethnic identity in literature in the era of globalization in order to form a canonized national literature. She brings back the discussion of writing India in English and how this has been suspected as not appropriate enough to describe experiences that are essentially Indian. Ishani Dutta's paper is singularly important because it takes up the major concern of the disciplinary study of Comparative Literature in India today. Explaining the difference between Comparative Literature as practiced in the West and elsewhere, the paper attempts to show how the reformulation of the discipline needs to go beyond raising questions of methodology. Ragini Chakraborty's essay focuses on the well-known Komagata Maru incident, one of the enduring examples of racial exclusion practiced at one time by the Canadian state; what is remarkable about this essay is the way the author uses literary representations of the historical incident and fuses them with personal interviews to arrive at her analysis. Saswati Saha's paper takes up the topic of travel and translation, understanding translation as a contact zone in interlingual communication. The author's study of the translation of *Gulliver's Travels* into Bangla has opened up a model to bring together Translation Studies and book history to reconceptualise the reception of literary genres and themes as translational phenomena. Seram Guneswari Devi's paper transports us to the north-eastern states of India and highlights the political conflicts that have become the everyday reality of people inhabiting marginal spaces. Using the works of Temsula Ao, Tayenjam Bijoykumar Singh and Yumlembam Ibomcha, the paper makes an interesting argument about violence and violation of human rights, thus forging a comparative approach towards Conflict Studies. Soma Marik takes up for her perceptive paper, Akhtaruzzaman Elias' *Khwabnama* and Savitri Roy's *Trisrota* and *Swaralipi* and attempts to understand them in terms of their location on questions of gender and nation in South Asia. Sudeshna Dutta has taken up the issue of harmonious co-existence of man and nature and the ecological balance reached

therein in an adivasi society which is conflicted by ideas of development and rehabilitation. This paper deals with the environmental concerns that threaten to cripple the world today. Susmita Ghosh's article takes up two feminist texts 'Sarika Caged' by Saroj Pathak and 'Unpublished Manuscript' by Ambai to talk about the specificities of women's writing and why it is important to talk about women's writing in general to understand the laired complexities of their existence in the patriarchal world. Vandana Sharma brings in the concerns of subalternity and hegemonic historiography by comparing works of Mahasweta Devi and Ngugu wa' Thiong'o. This issue also carries a book review by Swagata Bhattacharya of Bhalchandra Nemade's *Jareela (The Castrato)*.

As this issue goes online, I remember with fondness and gratitude, Professor Vasant Sharma, former CLAI Treasurer, whom we lost some time ago. Professor Sharma was instrumental in bringing out this journal and he edited it over several issues. I dedicate this issue of *Sāhitya* to his memory.

— Jatindra Kumar Nayak