

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON “REDEFINING LANGUAGE IN THE MODERN DIGITAL ERA”

The Department of English in collaboration with IQAC, Ambedkar College had organized an International Webinar on 1st July, 2021 from 9am onwards on the topic “Redefining Language in the Modern Digital Era” and a total no. of 416 participants had registered for the Webinar from all over the country. The program was inaugurated by Honorable Prof. Arunaday Saha, Former Vice-Chancellor, Tripura University and Chairman State Council for Higher Education, Govt. Of Tripura and the organizing secretary Ms Jacinta Zirsangzeli Darlong presented welcome address to all the participants. The webinar was addressed by eminent scholars and academicians; Prof. Indranil Acharya of Vidyasagar University, Midnapur West Bengal, Associate Prof. Dr. Miazi Hazam of Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, Assistant Prof. Dr. Anita Chaudhuri of University of British Columbia, Canada and Assistant Prof. Dr. Ziuziu Iheilung of Fazl Ali College, Nagaland. The resource persons took up the topic of discussion from various aspects of learning by using their experiences and critical reflections on the issue.

International Webinar
on
“Redefining Language in the Modern Digital Era”

Jointly Organized by
Dept. of English & IQAC, Ambedkar College

CHIEF PATRON **RESOURCE PERSONS**

Prof. Arunoday Saha
Former Vice Chancellor,
Tripura University &
Chairman State Council
for Higher Education

Prof. Indranil Acharjee
Professor
Dept. of English
Vidyasagar University
Midnapur,
India

Dr. Anita Chaudhuri
Assistant Professor of Teaching
Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies
Department of English and Cultural
Studies
University of British Columbia, Canada

Organizing Committee :
President:
Dr. Subrata Sharma
Principal In-Charge,
Ambedkar College,
Fatikroy

Organizing Secretary:
Smt. Jacinta Z. Darlong
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of English

Convener:
Dr. Chandan Debnath
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Physics & Convener, IQAC

Member:
Mr. Anirban Sen

Dr. Miazi Hazam
Associate Professor
Dept. of English
Rajiv Gandhi University,
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Dr. Ziuziu Iheilung
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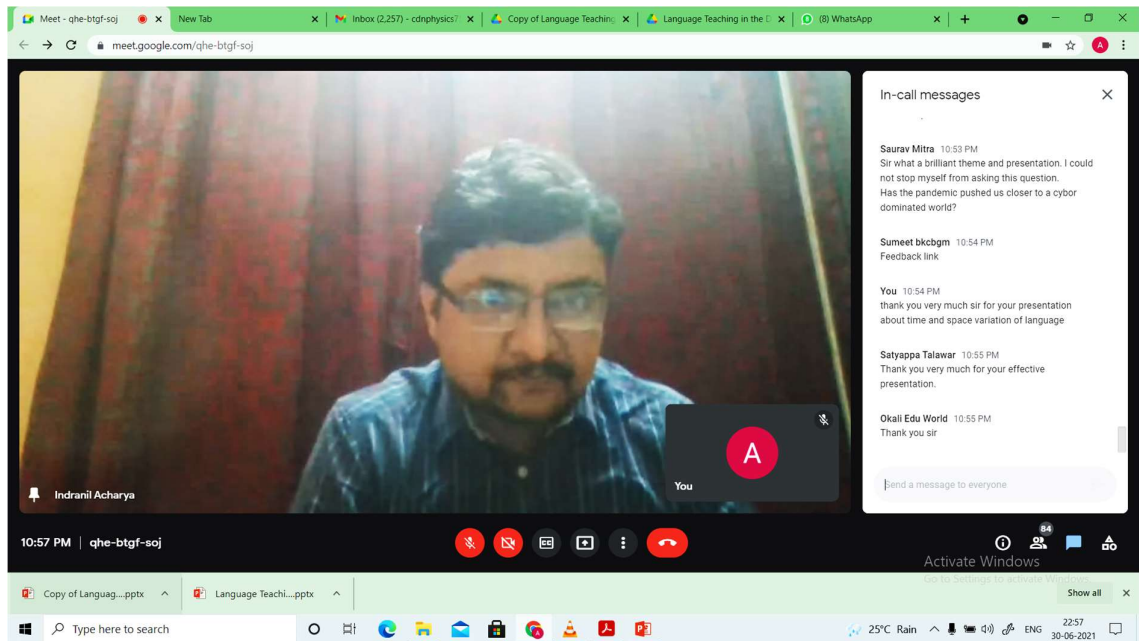
Date: 1st July 2021
Time: 09:00 am

❖ Google form link to registration
<https://forms.gle/ZTYWVC4zKjyzqjw96>

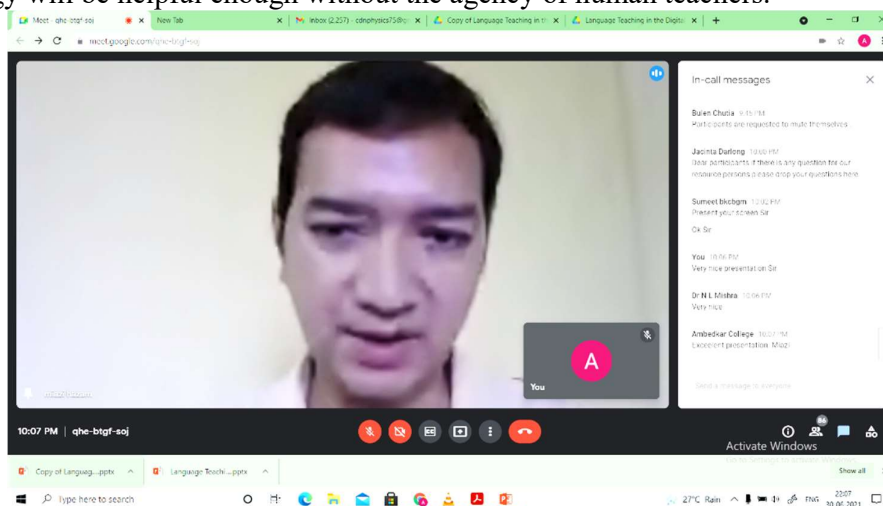
❖ google meet Link to join
<https://meet.google.com/qhe-btfg-soj>

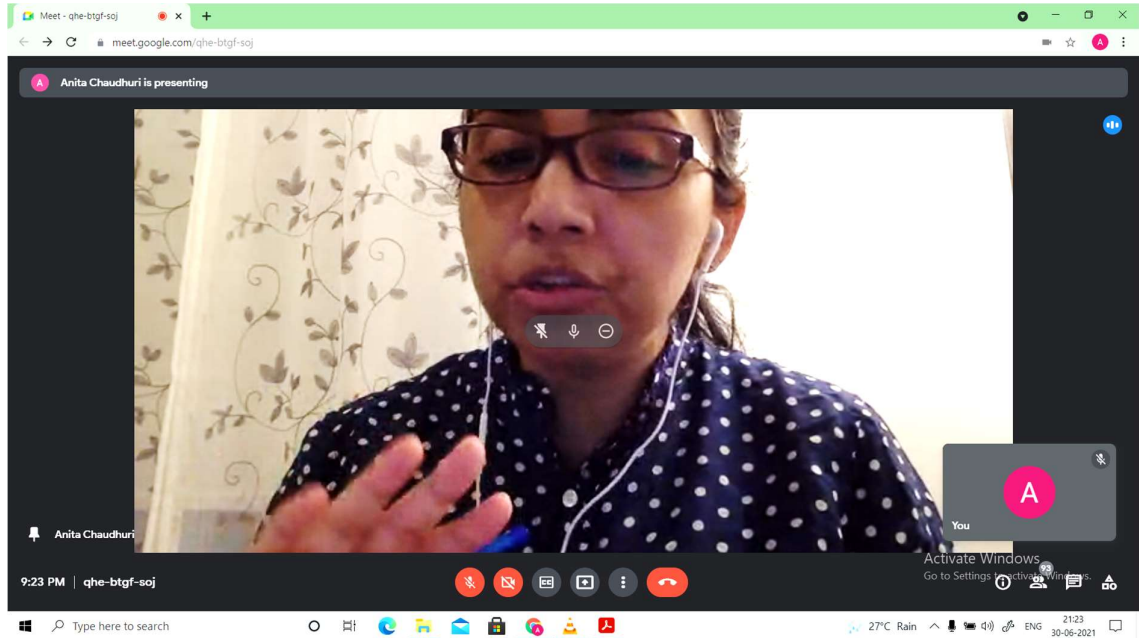
❖ E-certificate will be provided to the registered participants only those who will attend all lectures and submit the feedback form at the end

Prof. Indranil Acharya discussed the importance of the language as a reflection that envelops time and space throughout the centuries. He explores language as a medium to articulate ideas of the human mind. He elaborately explained about scientific propositions in human language, evolving human brain and change of language indicating the structure of language different from human brain, new approach of thinking by human brain resulting a shift in conventional use of the language and man’s cognitive processes, the danger of natural languages along with the emergence of the new technological language. He also dealt on Post Human phase of evolution, image based system of communication and the threats from machine languages using Artificial Intelligence. He concludes his lecture by mentioning some linguistic lab’s published list of “Digitally Dead Languages” with 98% Indian languages in the list.



Associate Prof. Dr. Miazi Hazam at the very outset dwelt upon his views or his perception of the digital influence on the language. He elaborately discussed about the threat or crisis of losing the grip on language in a world where digital technology was beginning to take over as a help for improving language in the form of apps and tech-aids especially in this time of the Pandemic where all activities are shifted to online mode. He further illustrated the three revolutions in language: From the Invention of the Printing Press to Shakespeare's use of and contribution to the English language unto the Digital Influence on language. Further he explained in detail about the confusion over Digital Humanities and what led to the entry of digital technologies in the field of education and the differences between Written and Spoken Language. Through his lecture Dr. Hazam clearly highlighted that the intervention of digitalization in the field of learning has helped in wide dissemination of knowledge by liberating it beyond the confines of the four walls of traditional classrooms and democratized language but at the same time concluded on the fact that being too dependent on technology can make individual lose their inborn ability or skills and agreed to the fact that no amount of technology will be helpful enough without the agency of human teachers.





Assistant Professor Dr. Anita Chaudhuri discussed about the numerous online learning mode, formats and resources digital technology has to offer. She began her lecture highlighting the various platform for online composition practices , multimodal composition and the pedagogical shifts on open educational resources and re-mediation of disciplinary knowledge. She further talked about the flexibility in the teaching-learning and assessment process the digital technology has made and the rhetorical strategy for text development before shifting her focus on the negative aspects or the challenges that the students in digital era faces such as maintaining of study habits, the digital divide, learning curve and the quick turnaround for new assessment practices. Her lecture provided an insight to the immediate need of balancing the use of technology for learning process and the need to draw a line from the threat of misusing these technologies.

Assistant Professor Dr. ZiuZiu Iheilung talked about how the digital revolution has transformed language triggering an explosion of new vocabulary, genre and styles etc. She has observed that in the last 10 years or so there had been a drastic change in language teaching and learning focusing more on the language skills, vocabulary, grammar, critical thinking skills and imaginative skills. Dr. Iheilung discussed about the history of language teaching and learning (Methods) and the various teaching methods which will help learners to distinguish between the formal and informal usages of the language.



Digital technology has undoubtedly aided the teaching learning process as a tool for instructions but at the same time has resulted in deteriorating student's competence of reading, writing and speaking. She concludes her lectures by suggesting methods teachers may adopt in order to keep the balance of both the positive and negatives usage of digital technologies.

Towards the end of the lecture session, the resource persons lucidly clarified and answered queries posted by the participants in the chat box. With a positive feedback from the participants, the Webinar concluded with the Presidential address made by Dr. Subrata Sharma, Principal In-charge Ambedkar College.