

**CALICUT UNIVERSITY – FOUR-YEAR UNDER  
GRADUATE PROGRAMME (CU-FYUGP)  
GENERAL FOUNDATION COURSE  
SECOND SEMESTER**

**ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR LITERATURES  
ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COURSE (AEC)-LANGUAGES**

**ENG2FA103(1A)**

**PREPARED BY**

**SUMAYYA CP**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES**

equipping with excellence



CALICUT UNIVERSITY – FOUR-YEAR  
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME (CU-  
FYUGP)

**GENERAL FOUNDATION COURSE**

**ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COURSE (AEC)**

Programme	<b>GENERAL FOUNDATION COURSE</b>				
Course Code	<b>ENG2FA103(1A)</b>				
Course Title	<b>ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR LITERATURES</b>				
Type of Course	<b>ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COURSE (AEC)-LANGUAGES</b>				
Semester	2				
Academic Level	100-199				
Course Details	Credit	Lecture per week	Tutorial per week	Practical per week	Total Hours
	3	2	-	2	60
Pre-requisites	Basic communication skills in English				
Course Summary	This course aims to enhance communicative abilities through advanced LSRW skills. It is designed to develop learners' language proficiency by honing their abilities in effective communication, critical thinking and analysis, persuasive and creative expressions and interpersonal interaction in personal and professional settings.				

## Course Outcomes (CO):

CO	CO Statement	Cognitive Level	Knowledge Category	Evaluation Tools used
CO1	Interpret and critically evaluate complex texts, including literary works, technical documents, and scholarly articles, identifying themes, arguments, and stylistic elements.	An	C	Assignments/Discussion
CO2	Enhance language learning through personal, social and professional contexts.	U	M	Assignments & Team Exercise
CO3	Perspective formation and articulation	E/C	C	Public Speaking Exercises/Debates
CO4	Deliver impactful presentations and speeches with confidence utilizing effective rhetorical techniques, body language and visual aids.	C	P	Presentations/GD
CO5	Develop Collaborative cross-cultural Communication by participating effectively in collaborative projects, demonstrating strong interpersonal communication skills, the ability to listen actively, speak persuasively, read critically, and write cohesively.	C	P	Translation Exercise
CO6	Utilize advanced digital tools and platforms to support LSRW activities, including online research, virtual collaboration, multimedia presentations, and digital publication.	Ap/C	P	Assignments in Digital Platforms

\* - Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (Ap), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C)

#-FactualKnowledge(F)ConceptualKnowledge(C)ProceduralKnowledge(P)Metacognitive Knowledge (M)

**Detailed Syllabus:**

Mod ule	Un it	Content	Hrs	Mar ks
<b>I</b>		<b>Listening and Speaking: Language and Performance</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
	1	How to speak so that people want to listen- Julian Treasure <a href="https://youtu.be/eIho2S0ZahI?si=EhMXXhYRT1zlrZLe">https://youtu.be/eIho2S0ZahI?si=EhMXXhYRT1zlrZLe</a>	1	
	2	Nobel Lecture- Kailash Satyarthi on 10 December 2014 at the Oslo City Hall, Norway. <a href="https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2014/satyarthi/lecture/">https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2014/satyarthi/lecture/</a>	2	
	3	A Love Letter To Mom- Rajasekhar Mamidana <a href="https://youtu.be/yz2bZgPSyH0?si=2wOXKt7G0MEvTmrG">https://youtu.be/yz2bZgPSyH0?si=2wOXKt7G0MEvTmrG</a>	2	
	4	When Love Arrives -Sarah Kay & Phil Kaye <a href="https://youtu.be/cPG6nJRJeWQ?si=6iCT3yOTgGXZFB3o">https://youtu.be/cPG6nJRJeWQ?si=6iCT3yOTgGXZFB3o</a>	2	
<b>II</b>		<b>Language in Writing and Reading</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>
	5	The Gypsy Goddess (Chapter 10 Mischief by Fire)- Meena Kandasamy	2	
	6	Total Eclipse- Anne Dillard	2	
	7	Abandoned Schoolhouse on Long Branch-Fred Chappell	1	
	8	Assembly Line - B. Traven	2	
<b>III</b>		<b>Language and Cultural Communication</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
	9	Balyakalasakhi (chapter3) – Vaikkom Muhammed Basheer	2	
	10	RE Asher interview with K. Jayakumar IAS on translating Basheer. <a href="https://youtu.be/5gC5NB4ve5o?si=hcIJfIz50Xvl2QQS">https://youtu.be/5gC5NB4ve5o?si=hcIJfIz50Xvl2QQS</a>	2	
	11	The Ceaseless Rain – Rafeeq Ahammed (translated by Anitha Varma)	2	
	12	Michael Jackson: The Earth Song	2	
<b>IV</b>		<b>Language and the Digital Space</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>
	13	Social media writing- Creative cyber writing, trolls, usage of memes in digital communication, hashtag <a href="https://youtu.be/qVqcoB798Is?si=EvJMbKlbo7lTagko">https://youtu.be/qVqcoB798Is?si=EvJMbKlbo7lTagko</a>	2	
	14	The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023-Chapter 1 <a href="https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Digital%20Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Act%202023.pdf">https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Digital%20Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Act%202023.pdf</a>	2	
	15	Cyberbullying: What It Is, The Effects It Can Have On Teens, And Signs To Watch For	2	

		<a href="https://youtu.be/Y9D2PFD7nTI?si=2xwtuDr4esL-p30k">https://youtu.be/Y9D2PFD7nTI?si=2xwtuDr4esL-p30k</a>		
16		Writing in Cyber Space Etiquette in Formal and Informal Contexts	2	
V		<b>Practicum</b>	<b>30</b>	
1	<b>Module I:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extempore Speeches on any relevant topics given by the instructor. Peer as well as teacher evaluation of the speech.</li> <li>2. Prepare a topic and present it before an audience/ class.</li> <li>3. Listen and paraphrase talks/speeches (Instructor can give selected speeches or talks)</li> <li>4. Assignment: Listen to 2 TED talks or speeches and present your idea in class. The presentation will be peer-evaluated.</li> <li>5. List the speaking techniques presented in the video by Julian Treasure.</li> <li>6. Comprehend and critically respond to the speech by Kailash Satyarthi.</li> <li>7. Comment on the presentation style of Rajasekhar Mamidana.</li> <li>8. After listening to the poem, restructure it as a conversation/speech/story.</li> </ol>	8	
2	<b>Module II:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Co-writing stories (The instructor can give topics).</li> <li>2. Writing life narratives.</li> <li>3. Reading and forming multiple perspectives from given pieces.</li> <li>4. Prepare a short note on the socio-political background of “The Gypsy Goddess”.</li> <li>5. Find out similar stories and write a brief appreciation of them.</li> <li>6. Comment on your experience with nature.</li> <li>7. Write a review of the poem.</li> <li>8. Critically evaluate the narrative style of the story by B. Traven</li> </ol>	7	

	3	<p><b>Module III:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply translation as a tool of language learning. Divide the class into different groups. Provide any short text in not more than 150 words. The groups can present their translations. Peer evaluation.</li> <li>2. Identify major translated contemporary poems from Malayalam literature and prepare a write-up.</li> <li>3. Compare and contrast human and machine translation-a prose passage translated by the learner and Google translator.</li> <li>4. Collect critical essays on Basheer and share it in the class.</li> <li>5. Comment on the treatment of 'love' in <i>Balyakalasakhi</i>.</li> <li>6. How is parental affection treated in 'The Ceaseless Rain'?</li> <li>7. Organize a discussion on the survival of our planet and human intervention in the class by dividing learners in to groups and then ask them to write down major arguments evolved through the process.</li> <li>8. After listening to 'The Earth Song', find songs or poems problematising similar themes from your language.</li> <li>9. Rewrite the song and submit it as a creative assignment after listening to the performance in the class.</li> </ol>	7	
	4	<p><b>Module IV:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make short videos on cyber bullying.</li> <li>2. Find out Hashtag movements and conduct discussions on how language is used in them.</li> <li>3. Find out issues related to ethics in digital spaces and find out examples.</li> <li>4. Give a topic for social media writing and do peer evaluation.</li> <li>5. Write an article on Digital Space.</li> <li>6. Create trolls and conduct a debate on the effectiveness of trolls in the process of communication.</li> <li>7. Conduct a group discussion on Netiquette.</li> <li>8. Prepare a speech on Cyber bullying.</li> </ol>	8	

## MODULE 1

### How to Speak So That People Want to Listen - Julian Treasure

"Let's use our voices consciously and wisely to create a world that listens better." – *Julian Treasure*

- Julian Treasure is a renowned sound and communication expert, best known for his TED Talks on effective speaking and listening. His TED Talks have amassed millions of views, making him one of the most-watched speakers in TED history
- Julian Treasure's TED Talk focuses on the art of effective speaking—how to communicate in a way that engages and influences others. He identifies common pitfalls, key principles, and vocal techniques to ensure that people genuinely want to listen when we speak.
- Julian Treasure highlights that our words have the power to influence, inspire, and connect. However, many people struggle to communicate effectively because of poor speaking habits. He provides strategies to ensure that people truly listen when we speak.
- The "Seven Deadly Sins" of Speaking. Treasure highlights seven common speaking habits that make people lose interest:

**Gossip** – Speaking negatively about someone who isn't present can damage trust. If we gossip about others, people may assume we will do the same to them.

**Judging** – Criticizing others too much makes people defensive. Being overly critical makes people defensive and unwilling to engage. Instead, aim for open-mindedness and understanding.

**Negativity** – Constant complaining or focusing only on problems discourages listeners. Try to focus on solutions and positive perspectives. Constant pessimism pushes listeners away.

**Complaining** – People tune out when they hear too much complaining. Constructive criticism is better than mere complaints. Draining and unproductive; people prefer solutions.

**Excuses** – Shifting blame makes us seem unreliable.

**Exaggeration** – Overstating facts leads to dishonesty.

**Dogmatism** – Forcing opinions as facts discourages discussion.

- Avoiding these habits makes communication more positive and engaging.
- The HAIL Method: Four Pillars of Powerful Speaking. To make speech more effective, Treasure introduces HAIL, which stands for:

**H** – Honesty → Speak truthfully and clearly.

A – Authenticity → be yourself; don't pretend to be someone else.

I – Integrity → be reliable and follow through on commitments.

L – Love (Kindness) → Speak with warmth and empathy.

- When we embody these traits, people respect and listen to us more.
- The Vocal Toolbox: Using Your Voice Effectively. Treasure emphasizes that our voice affects how people perceive us and provides key elements to improve vocal delivery:

Register – Speak from the chest for a deeper, authoritative tone.

Timbre – A warm, rich voice is more pleasant to hear.

Prosody – Avoid monotone; use varied pitch and rhythm.

Pace – Slow down for emphasis; speed up for excitement.

Silence – Pauses add impact and help absorb meaning.

Volume – Adjust based on the context (soft for intimacy, loud for emphasis).

- A well-modulated voice makes speech engaging and memorable.
- Practical Tips for Effective Speaking. Treasure suggests simple but powerful ways to improve speech:

Warm up your voice – Practice humming, deep breathing, and tongue twisters.

Be mindful of speech habits – Avoid filler words like *um, like, you know*.

Use positive and constructive language – Frame ideas in an encouraging way.

Practice storytelling – Stories capture attention and make ideas more relatable.

- *By refining our speech, we become more persuasive and impactful communicators.*
- Julian Treasure concludes that the human voice is one of the most powerful tools we have. By eliminating bad habits, applying the HAIL principles, and using our vocal toolbox, we can speak in a way that inspires, persuades, and connects with people.

## **Nobel Lecture – Kailash Satyarthi (10 December 2014, Oslo City Hall, Norway)**

- Kailash Satyarthi, a child rights activist from India, was awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize along with Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end child labor and promote education. In his lecture, Satyarthi speaks about the plight of millions of children trapped in labor and exploitation, urging the world to take action for their freedom, dignity, and education.
- Satyarthi begins with an emotional story of meeting a freed child labourer who had never seen his mother smile before. The child's happiness after freedom shows the importance of restoring childhood and dignity. He emphasizes that every child is born free and has a right to safety, education, and opportunity. He believes that the world needs to prioritize the well-being of children over material growth.  
*“Child slavery is the biggest crime against humanity.”*
- Satyarthi shares his personal journey of rescuing children from slavery and bonded labour. He mentions raids, protests, and legal battles he fought to free children from factories, mines, and homes where they were exploited. He criticizes the global economy that thrives on child labour, calling it an injustice that must be stopped.  
*“I have looked into the frightened and exhausted eyes of children enslaved in factories, and I refuse to accept that the world cannot free them.”*
- He urges governments, businesses, and individuals to unite against child labour and support education. The biggest challenge, he says, is society's acceptance of child labour as normal. People must break their silence and act. He calls on ordinary people to raise their voices, just as he did when he left his job as an engineer to fight for children's rights.  
*“The single biggest reason why child labour exists is because we allow it to exist.”*
- Education is the only way to break the cycle of poverty and exploitation. Millions of children remain out of school because they are forced to work in harsh conditions. He stresses that governments must provide free and quality education to all children.  
*“One pen, one book, one teacher can change the world.”*
- Satyarthi calls for a world where compassion drives action and where no child is left behind. He believes that when we see all children as our own, we will no longer tolerate their suffering. He asks the world to replace greed with humanity and fear with hope.  
*“I refuse to accept that the world is so poor that it cannot give shelter to its children.”*
- Kailash Satyarthi ends his speech with a powerful appeal for action. He asks people to:
  - Break their silence against child labour.
  - Demand governments enforce child rights laws.
  - Support education for all children.
  - Believe in the power of compassion and change.

*“Let us march from exploitation to education, from slavery to freedom, and from darkness to light.”*

## **A Love Letter to Mom – Rajashekhar Mammidanna**

- Rajashekhar Mammidanna is an Indian writer, storyteller, and stand-up comedian known for his engaging and heartfelt narratives. He has a talent for blending humor, emotions, and storytelling to connect with audiences. His works often explore human relationships, emotions, and life experiences, making them relatable and impactful.
- The letter highlights how a mother's love is pure and selfless, always placing her children's needs before her own. She makes countless sacrifices to ensure their well-being, often putting aside her own dreams and desires. No matter the circumstances, her love remains unwavering and unconditional, expecting nothing in return. She is a constant source of support, care, and comfort, guiding her children through life's challenges with endless patience and kindness.

*"A mother's love is the first and greatest gift a child receives."*

- Mothers work tirelessly, often without receiving the recognition they truly deserve. From managing the household to guiding their children through the ups and downs of life, their efforts often go unnoticed. Despite the many challenges and struggles they face, mothers never complain and continue to offer their love and care unconditionally. Their sacrifices are made quietly, but their impact is immeasurable.
- *"Mothers are the silent warriors of love and care."*
- A mother has an incredible ability to understand her child's emotions without the need for words. She is always there to offer comfort during tough times and celebrates even the smallest victories with immense joy. No matter how old a child gets or how far they go in life, a mother's love remains constant and unwavering. Her embrace is a safe haven, and her words provide a source of strength that lasts a lifetime. *"Her hug is a safe haven, her words a source of strength."*

- The letter conveys a deep sense of gratitude for everything a mother does, recognizing the countless sacrifices she makes. It acknowledges that often, children take their mothers for granted, forgetting to express their love and appreciation. The author urges readers to actively show their love for their mothers, not only on special occasions but every day. The message is clear: cherish, respect, and appreciate your mother for all the little and big things she does for you.

*"Love and appreciate your mother—not just on special days, but every day."*

- The letter concludes with an emotional farewell, emphasizing the irreplaceable role of a mother in a child's life. It encourages readers to express their love openly, without waiting for the perfect moment, reminding them that time with a mother is precious. The author reminds us that a mother's love is eternal, and we should take every opportunity to celebrate and cherish it while we still can.

*"A mother's love is eternal—let's celebrate it while we can."*

## **"When Love Arrives" by Sarah Kay and Phil Kay**

- "When Love Arrives" is a poetic collaboration between Sarah Kay, a spoken word poet, and Phil Kay, a poet and performer. The poem explores the complexity of love, capturing its various dimensions and the feelings it evokes. It delves into the moment love arrives in life, how it shapes our experiences, and the growth that comes from embracing love in all its forms.
- The poem begins by reflecting on how love arrives unexpectedly. It suggests that love is not something we can predict or control; instead, it appears when least expected, changing everything around it. The arrival of love is described as transformative, offering a sense of renewal and clarity.

*"When love arrives, it comes like a storm, like the first drop of rain on parched ground."*

- Love is portrayed as having the power to heal wounds and provide solace. The poets highlight the gentle nature of love, showing how it can mend broken hearts and bring people together through its soft yet powerful presence. Love is seen as a nurturing force that helps individuals rediscover themselves and their ability to both give and receive.

*"Love arrives like a whisper, soft enough to heal but strong enough to change everything."*

- The poets explore how love makes us vulnerable. Love requires individuals to open themselves up, letting go of fears and insecurities, making them susceptible to both joy and pain. There's an emphasis on the bravery it takes to love, as it often involves risk, but the rewards of love outweigh the fears.

*"To love is to be courageous in the face of uncertainty, to risk and to trust."*

- The poem suggests that love is not just romantic; it exists in many forms: love for a partner, family, friends, and even for oneself. It recognizes that love evolves over time, and that each form of love holds its unique qualities and lessons. The poets encourage the celebration of all these forms, appreciating how each one contributes to a person's growth and fulfilment.

*"Love is not just one thing. It is everything."*

- The poem concludes with the idea that when love arrives, it asks for acceptance and commitment. It encourages individuals to embrace their vulnerabilities and offer love in return, knowing that love requires continuous effort and understanding. The poets remind us that love is a journey, not just a fleeting moment, and it deepens with time.

*"When love arrives, it stays. It grows, it changes, but it never leaves."*

- "When Love Arrives" is a celebration of love in all its forms—an incredibly powerful force that arrives when least expected, heals, and transforms. The poem encourages us to open ourselves to love, embrace its risks, and appreciate its transformative and healing power. Love teaches us to live fully, embrace vulnerability, and grow through the connections we make with others.

## **MODULE – II**

### **Mischief by Fire - Chapter 10: (The Gypsy Goddess) - Meena Kandaswamy**

- Meena Kandaswamy is an Indian-born writer and poet who currently lives in the United States. Known for her sharp critique of caste, gender, and identity, Kandaswamy's works often examine the intersection of oppression and resistance. Her writing is rooted in the socio-political landscape of India, particularly focusing on the experiences of marginalized communities, especially Dalits and women.
- Her first novel, *The Gypsy Goddess*, is a powerful piece of fiction that blends history, personal narratives, and social commentary. Kandaswamy's background as a poet influences her prose, giving it a lyrical, almost poetic quality, which allows the emotional depth of her characters to resonate with readers.
- *The Gypsy Goddess* by Meena Kandaswamy is a bold and captivating novel that explores the intersection of gender, caste, and history, set against the backdrop of 20th-century India. The story revolves around the real-life events of the Kilvenmani massacre that occurred in 1968, where 44 Dalits (lower-caste people) were brutally murdered by upper-caste landlords. The novel critiques the caste system and highlights the brutal discrimination faced by Dalits.
- In Chapter 10: "Mischief by Fire", the novel focuses on the violent event known as the Kilvenmani massacre. This chapter is crucial because it shows the brutal ways in which the Dalit community, oppressed by the upper-caste landlords, is treated.
- The chapter starts by showing the tension between the Dalit workers and the upper-caste landlords in Kilvenmani. The Dalits are protesting for better wages and conditions, and the landlords want to teach them a lesson for challenging their authority. The landlords decide to set fire to the Dalits' homes to punish them. The fire destroys everything the Dalits have worked for.
- Valli, a central character in the novel, watches in horror as her village is set ablaze. She feels the deep pain of the community as they lose their homes. Valli's emotions show the suffering that the Dalit people go through in their daily lives.
- The upper-caste landlords are cruel and powerful. They know that setting the fire will hurt the Dalits not only physically, but also emotionally and mentally. The fire destroys their homes and their lives, leaving them with nothing. After the fire, the Dalit people are left in despair. Their homes are gone, and they are traumatized by the violence they have experienced. The chapter shows how difficult life has become for them, but also hints at how they may fight back.
- Symbolism of Fire: Fire in this chapter is a symbol of destruction. It shows how the caste system destroys the lives of the oppressed. However, fire also has the potential to symbolize rebirth and change, suggesting that the Dalits may one day rise against their oppressors.
- The chapter also shows how the violence makes the Dalits angry and determined. They have suffered enough, and this event could lead them to seek revenge and justice for the wrongs they have faced.
- The fire is a representation of the brutal treatment the Dalit community faces from the upper-caste landlords. It highlights the harsh ways in which the caste system is enforced. Even though the Dalits face extreme violence, the fire sparks their anger and determination to fight for their rights.

- Although the fire represents destruction, it also represents the possibility of change. It suggests that the Dalits may rise from this suffering and demand justice.
- In Chapter 10, *Mischief by Fire*, the story shows the extreme violence the Dalit community faces. The landlords use fire to destroy their homes, but the fire also symbolizes resistance and change. While the violence is brutal, it sets the stage for the Dalits to rise up and fight back against their oppressors.

## **Total Eclipse by Annie Dillard**

- Annie Dillard is an American author and essayist, best known for her works that blend natural observation with philosophical reflection. Born in 1945, Dillard's writing often explores the relationship between humans and nature, focusing on themes of spirituality, existence, and the human experience in the natural world.
- Her most famous work, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* (1974), won the Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction and is a deeply reflective meditation on the natural world, exploring its beauty, mystery, and often violent realities.
- In *Total Eclipse*, Annie Dillard recounts her experience of witnessing a total solar eclipse in Washington State. She describes the event with rich detail, noting how the world gradually shifted from day to night, creating an eerie and unsettling atmosphere.
- The eclipse begins with the sun slowly disappearing, and Dillard captures the silence that envelops the environment. The usual sounds of nature are replaced by a strange stillness, enhancing the feeling of anticipation and awe. As the darkness deepens, Dillard reflects on how unnatural and unnerving the experience feels, even though it's a natural phenomenon.
- At the height of the eclipse, Dillard experiences a mix of awe and fear. The darkened sky feels alien, and she describes how it made her think about the smallness of human existence in comparison to the vast forces of nature. The eclipse symbolizes the mystery and uncontrollability of life itself.
- Dillard then reflects on the limits of human perception. The eclipse reveals how little humans truly understand about the universe. It forces a confrontation with the unknown and the invisible forces that govern life.
- As the eclipse ends, Dillard feels a sense of disorientation, but also a return to normalcy as daylight slowly returns. The experience leaves her feeling both humbled and awestruck, recognizing the mystery of the natural world and the futility of trying to fully grasp its power.

## **Abandoned Schoolhouse on Long Branch by Fred Chappell**

- Fred Chappell is an American poet, novelist, and short story writer, known for his works that explore the rural South, human nature, and the passage of time. Born in 1936 in North Carolina, Chappell's writing often reflects his deep connection to the natural world and the landscapes of his upbringing. He has won numerous awards for his poetry and prose, including the North Carolina Award for Literature and the PEN/Syndicated Fiction Award.
- Chappell's works are characterized by their lyrical style and philosophical reflections. He often uses vivid, sensory language to describe both the external world and internal human experiences. His poetry touches on themes of loss, memory, and the inevitability of change, as seen in poems like *Abandoned Schoolhouse on Long Branch*. As a writer, Chappell's ability to capture the complexities of life and the passage of time has earned him a respected place in American literature.

- In *Abandoned Schoolhouse on Long Branch*, Fred Chappell reflects on an old, deserted schoolhouse. The school, once a lively place of learning, now lies in ruins, abandoned and forgotten. Chappell uses this decaying building to explore themes of loss, time, and the passage of life.
- The poem begins by describing the schoolhouse in a state of neglect. Its windows are broken, doors are open, and the walls are falling apart. This decay symbolizes the passing of time and how even the most important places eventually fade into oblivion.
- As Chappell continues, he reflects on how nature begins to reclaim the schoolhouse. Plants and vines overtake the structure, emphasizing the idea that nature has more power than human creations. The schoolhouse, once a symbol of education and community, is now just part of the wilderness.
- The theme of memory is central to the poem. Chappell suggests that the schoolhouse still holds memories of the children who once filled it with laughter and learning. However, those memories are now fading, and only ghosts remain in the forgotten building.
- The symbolism of the schoolhouse is important, representing how things once important and full of life can be erased by time and nature. It shows the impermanence of human efforts, how even the most meaningful spaces can be overtaken and left behind.
- In conclusion, Chappell uses the abandoned schoolhouse to meditate on time's passage and the inevitability of change. The poem reflects on how human creations, no matter how significant, will eventually decay and be reclaimed by the natural world.

### Assembly Line by B. Traven

- In *Assembly Line*, B. Traven provides a critique of industrialization, focusing on the dehumanizing effects of factory work. The story depicts the monotony and alienation faced by workers in a modern factory, where they perform repetitive tasks without any personal connection to the work they do. Traven highlights the disconnection between workers and their labour, showing how individuals become mere cogs in a machine, reduced to their physical tasks rather than valued as human beings.
- The narrative centers on the assembly line process, where workers are required to perform the same task over and over again with no room for personal creativity or satisfaction. Traven emphasizes how this repetitive, mechanical work strips individuals of their sense of purpose and fulfillment. The workers' identities are overshadowed by their roles in the factory, which leads to spiritual emptiness and a loss of individuality.
- Traven's writing reflects on the alienation that workers experience in capitalist society. He suggests that the industrial system prioritizes productivity and efficiency over the well-being of workers, turning them into interchangeable parts in a larger system. The story paints a bleak picture of life in a factory, where people are reduced to their work output, and their personal lives and aspirations are ignored.
- Through vivid descriptions and powerful symbolism, *Assembly Line* serves as a social commentary on the exploitation of labour in the industrial age. It critiques how modern industry can rob people of their humanity and individuality in the pursuit of profit and efficiency. The story is a reflection on the dehumanizing aspects of industrial capitalism and the struggle for personal identity in a mechanized world.

Key Themes:

- Alienation and Dehumanization: The workers in the factory become alienated from their work, their lives, and each other. They are reduced to performing monotonous tasks without any personal connection to the work they do.
- Loss of Individuality: The assembly line process strips workers of their individuality, as they become mere parts of a larger system that values productivity over personal fulfilment.
- Critique of Industrialization: Traven critiques the capitalist industrial system, highlighting its focus on efficiency and profit at the expense of the well-being and dignity of workers.
- The Power of the System: The story shows how the industrial system controls and shapes the lives of individuals, leaving them powerless to change their circumstances or find meaning in their work.

## MODULE 3

### **Balyakalasakhi Chapter 3 by Vaikkom Muhammad Basheer**

- Vaikom Muhammad Basheer (1908–1994) was a renowned Indian writer, famous for his contributions to Malayalam literature. His writing is marked by humor, humanism, and a deep empathy for the marginalized in society. Born in Vaikom, Kerala, Basheer led a life filled with adversity and adventure, including a stint in prison and travel to various parts of India. His works often deal with themes of love, social injustice, human resilience, and the beauty of simple, everyday life.
- His famous works include *Balyakalasakhi* (Childhood Memories), *Paathalavathika*, and *Shabdangal*. In *Balyakalasakhi*, Basheer blends nostalgia, romance, and social commentary, drawing from his own life experiences. Despite facing challenges due to his unconventional style, Basheer became a beloved figure in Kerala and remains one of the most influential figures in Malayalam literature. His works continue to resonate due to their simplicity, warmth, and profound understanding of human nature.
- In Chapter 3 of *Balyakalasakhi* (Childhood Memories), the protagonist recalls his childhood, especially his growing affection for Suhra, a girl he has known since childhood. This chapter delves into their innocent friendship, which gradually transforms into a deeper emotional connection.
- The protagonist and Suhra share simple, yet meaningful moments together. As children, they play and interact in a carefree manner, unaware of the emotional bond that is beginning to form between them. Their bond is built on shared experiences and mutual understanding, which grow stronger as time passes.
- As their friendship deepens, the protagonist becomes more aware of his feelings for Suhra. His love for her, however, is unspoken and innocent, typical of a child's first experience with affection. He starts to feel a sense of nervousness and shyness when around her, unsure of how to express his feelings.
- The protagonist's growing awareness of his feelings is also accompanied by an increasing realization of social norms. He begins to feel the weight of family expectations and societal pressures, which create a subtle tension between his emotions and what is considered acceptable in his community.
- The chapter captures the purity of first love, where emotions are simple and genuine. There is a focus on the innocence of youth, where love is not yet complicated by the adult world's concerns. The protagonist's feelings are still unspoken, but they are felt deeply, creating an emotional foundation for the rest of the story.

- In the end, this chapter sets the stage for the complexities that will unfold in their relationship. The protagonist's feelings for Suhra, though pure, hint at the obstacles and difficulties that may arise due to social status and family expectations, which will play a significant role in shaping their future.

Themes in Chapter 3:

- Childhood Innocence and First Love: The chapter explores the innocence of first love, where emotions are untainted by the complexities of adulthood. The protagonist's feelings for Suhra are pure, unspoken, and growing. Their love is portrayed as simple but genuine.
- Social and Family Expectations: The tension between personal desires and social obligations becomes evident. The protagonist's affection for Suhra is complicated by the social expectations placed on him, particularly regarding family reputation and class differences.

### **Re Asher Interview with K. Jayakumar IAS on Translating Basheer**

- In this chapter, K. Jayakumar, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is interviewed about his experiences with translating the works of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer. Jayakumar shares his thoughts on the challenges, nuances, and deep insights that come with translating Basheer's unique style and voice into different languages.
- Jayakumar highlights the importance of Basheer's works in Malayalam literature, especially his ability to connect with the common man. He emphasizes that Basheer's writing, rooted in Kerala's culture, is beloved for its simplicity and depth. Basheer's focus on human emotions, social issues, and the everyday lives of ordinary people makes his works relatable to readers across different cultures.
- One of the main challenges in translating Basheer is capturing his simple yet profound style. Jayakumar discusses how Basheer's writing uses local idioms, dialects, and cultural references that are often difficult to translate into other languages while maintaining the original charm and meaning.
- Another difficulty is translating the humor and emotional warmth that Basheer conveys in his stories. These aspects are deeply embedded in the cultural context of Kerala, and it can be hard to retain their impact in a translated version.
- The Essence of Basheer's Language: Jayakumar explains that one of the key elements of Basheer's writing is his dialogue-driven narratives. The characters in Basheer's stories speak in a way that is both realistic and natural, making them come alive for the readers. Translating these dialogues while retaining their authenticity is one of the biggest challenges in his work. The rhythms and flow of the original language are also important, and Jayakumar stresses that a good translation should feel natural and retain the spirit of Basheer's Malayalam prose.
- Jayakumar reveals his personal connection to Basheer's work. Having grown up reading Basheer's stories, he shares that translating these works was a labor of love. He mentions how deeply he resonates with Basheer's humanism and how Basheer's writing continues to influence his thoughts and approach to life.
- The interview concludes with Jayakumar discussing Basheer's universal appeal. He believes that Basheer's works transcend regional boundaries, touching upon universal themes of love, loss, social justice, and human

dignity. The simplicity of Basheer's language and the universality of his emotions allow readers across the world to connect with his stories.

- This interview sheds light on the intricate process of translating Basheer's works while staying true to the heart of his writing, showing how language can bridge the gap between cultures and make powerful literature accessible to the world.

### **Ceaseless Rain by Rafeeq Ahmmmed, Translated by Anitha Varma**

- *Ceaseless Rain* is a poignant and introspective poem by Rafeeq Ahmed, which reflects the emotional turmoil and sadness caused by loss and separation. The poem is translated into English by Anitha Varma, capturing the essence of the original Malayalam text while making it accessible to a wider audience.
- The poem opens with an image of unrelenting rain, which becomes a metaphor for the speaker's grief. The rain, which falls continuously, symbolizes the sadness that refuses to end, much like the emotional ache of loss. The idea of a ceaseless rain paints a picture of unbearable sorrow, where time seems to stand still in the face of grief.
- The speaker reflects on the pain of being separated from a loved one. The rain serves as a constant reminder of the distance between the speaker and the person they yearn for. This emotional separation is so intense that it overshadows every aspect of life, much like the ceaseless rain that never stops.
- The rain is not only a symbol of sorrow but also a reflection of the speaker's inner emotional state. Nature, in this case, becomes an extension of the speaker's mental anguish. The rain is described as having a rhythm and flow, mirroring the speaker's own unsettled emotions.
- The poem conveys a sense of helplessness and resignation. No matter how much the speaker tries to escape or forget the pain, the grief remains, just like the rain that continues to fall without respite. This emphasizes the inescapable nature of sorrow when it grips the heart.
- Throughout the poem, there is a tension between hope and despair. While the rain may symbolize sorrow, it also brings with it the possibility of renewal and cleansing. The rain might eventually stop, but the longing and the desire for reunion persist, suggesting that the possibility of healing is always present, even amidst the endless grief.
- The poem also touches upon the power of memory. The speaker is unable to forget the person they have lost, and these memories keep resurfacing, much like the unending rain. The memories act as a reminder of what once was, and they become an integral part of the speaker's identity and experience.
- *Ceaseless Rain* is a deeply emotional and introspective poem that explores the themes of loss, separation, and the longing for a loved one. The rain serves as a powerful metaphor for the unresolved grief that the speaker carries with them, reflecting the pain of emotional separation. The poem's translation by Anitha Varma succeeds in capturing the essence of Rafeeq Ahmed's original Malayalam work, conveying the same sense of anguish and resignation in a language that resonates with a global audience. Ultimately, *Ceaseless Rain* speaks to anyone who has experienced loss, and its universality makes it an emotionally moving piece of literature that transcends language barriers.

## The Earth Song - Michael Jackson

- *The Earth Song* by Michael Jackson is a powerful ballad that addresses the environmental destruction caused by human activity and the impact of such actions on the planet. Released in 1995 as part of his album *HISStory: Past, Present and Future, Book I*, the song combines elements of pop, rock, and soul to convey a deep, emotional plea for the earth and its inhabitants.
- The song's lyrics express deep concern about the destruction of nature and the damage humans have caused to the planet. Michael Jackson asks poignant questions, such as "What have we done to the world?" and "What about all the peace that you pledge your only son?" These lines emphasize the destruction of the natural world, including forests, wildlife, and the environment itself.
- *The Earth Song* calls for awareness and action to reverse the harm done to the earth. Michael Jackson passionately questions the choices made by humanity and urges for a change in attitudes toward the environment. The song's emotional tone conveys a deep sense of regret and desperation.
- Jackson emphasizes humanity's responsibility to protect the earth. The song highlights how we have abused and neglected the planet, and it calls for a sense of shared duty to care for the environment and preserve it for future generations.
- The song conveys the suffering of the earth and its inhabitants as a result of pollution, deforestation, war, and other destructive actions. The earth is personified as feeling the pain of its injuries. Jackson's powerful vocals and the intense music underscore the emotional weight of the lyrics.
- Despite the themes of destruction, *The Earth Song* also carries a message of hope. It suggests that if people can recognize their mistakes, there is still a chance for redemption and healing. The song ends with an emotional appeal for the earth to be given a chance to heal and recover.
- *The Earth Song* is a plea for environmental consciousness and action. Michael Jackson uses his platform to raise awareness about the harm humanity has inflicted on the earth and calls for change. The song's powerful message encourages listeners to reflect on their relationship with the planet and consider the long-term effects of their actions. With its emotional depth and universal appeal, *The Earth Song* continues to be a call to action for protecting the environment, urging people to care for the planet before it is too late.

## MODULE 4 - Language and the Digital Space

### The Effect of New Technologies on English - David Crystal

- David Crystal highlights that language is constantly evolving, and one of the key driving forces behind this change in modern times is the development of new technologies. These technologies influence language by changing the way we communicate, how language is used in writing and speech, and even how we structure our thoughts.
- The internet is one of the most significant technological developments affecting English in recent decades. The rise of online platforms such as social media, blogs, and forums has introduced several changes to language usage

- **New Vocabulary:** The digital age has led to the creation of new words and phrases, such as “hashtag,” “selfie,” “meme,” and “tweet,” that reflect new experiences and activities enabled by technology. Abbreviations and acronyms, like “LOL,” “OMG,” and “BRB,” have also become widely used.
- **Shortened Forms:** Online communication often prioritizes brevity due to character limits or the informal nature of the medium. This has resulted in the widespread use of shorthand, acronyms, and emojis. These linguistic forms are particularly common in text messaging, social media posts, and online chatting.
- **Non-standard Grammar and Spelling:** There has been an increased acceptance of non-standard grammar, spelling, and punctuation, such as dropping articles or using sentence fragments. In digital communication, these deviations from traditional language rules are often seen as acceptable for ease of expression.
- **Hypertextuality:** Hyperlinks in digital content create new patterns of reading and writing. Language now connects ideas and information in non-linear ways. This alters how information is structured and interpreted, as readers frequently navigate through interconnected content rather than following a strictly linear text.
- **Mobile phones, especially smartphones, have further transformed English.** Text messaging and apps have developed their own conventions:
- **Texting Language:** The restrictions of character limits (e.g., 160 characters for SMS messages) have led to more concise and abbreviated language. Acronyms, emoticons, and shortened words are used for speed and convenience.
- **Speech-to-Text Technology:** With speech recognition software, spoken language has become an essential part of communication. This technology can influence how people structure their speech and the vocabulary they use. The shift towards using speech in daily communication has led to more casual and conversational tones in written language.
- **Social media platforms have not only changed how English is used but also contributed to the global spread of English.** The interaction between different linguistic communities online has led to a blending of languages and dialects.
- **Emerging technologies like AI, chatbots, and machine translation tools are starting to influence the English language as well.**
- **The digital environment is reshaping the way we use punctuation.** For example, emojis and punctuation marks (such as exclamation points and ellipses) have taken on new significance in digital discourse
- Crystal suggests that the future of English will be shaped by ongoing technological advancements. While many of these changes are seen as positive—creating new forms of expression, global connections, and efficiency—there are also concerns about the erosion of traditional language skills, such as spelling and formal writing.
- David Crystal argues that new technologies are an important factor in the evolution of the English language. These technologies not only introduce new vocabulary, grammar, and communication styles but also reflect the ongoing shifts in society. English is increasingly being shaped by digital interactions, social media, and AI, and this trend will continue to influence the language in both predictable and unpredictable ways.
- The primary takeaway from Crystal's work is that language change driven by technology should be viewed as a natural and exciting development rather than a cause for concern. Technology is creating a more dynamic, accessible, and interconnected form of English that is evolving in response to global shifts in culture, communication, and technology.

## **"Words Hurt" - Cyberbully: A Short Film**

- "Words Hurt" is a short film that delves into the serious and damaging effects of cyberbullying. The film emphasizes the emotional and psychological toll that bullying via digital platforms can have on victims, particularly highlighting the power of words in the virtual world.
- "Words Hurt" is a short film that portrays the experiences of a young individual who becomes the target of cyberbullying. The story focuses on the protagonist's journey through the pain, isolation, and emotional distress caused by hurtful online messages, and it aims to raise awareness about the harmful impact of cyberbullying.
- The title itself, "Words Hurt," immediately signals the central message of the film. In the digital age, where many interactions occur online, words have an amplified power to hurt, as they can reach far beyond the intended recipient. The film explores how online communication can often lack the nuances of face-to-face conversations, making it easier for hurtful and harmful words to be misinterpreted or used with malicious intent.
- The digital space becomes a breeding ground for negative behaviour, free from the usual accountability that comes with direct, in-person interactions. The protagonist's experience of cyberbullying leads to feelings of isolation and alienation. The victim often feels powerless, as though there is no way to escape from the hurtful words.
- The central message of "Words Hurt" is clear: cyberbullying has serious, damaging effects on individuals, and words can hurt just as much, if not more, than physical violence. The film aims to raise awareness about the consequences of online harassment and to promote kindness and empathy in digital interactions. It serves as a powerful reminder that every online comment, post, or message has the potential to affect others deeply, and it calls for greater responsibility and compassion when communicating online.





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