

Department of English

The Department of English at Maharaja's College is one of the oldest departments. During the pre-independence era, it was headed by Englishmen who with their strong academic zeal moulded the Department in the initial decades. They were followed by Indian teachers who being their colleagues carried on the tradition. Stalwarts have taught at and headed the Department of English post-Independence. The teachers of the Department have been internationally acclaimed scholars and have received some of the highest awards of the nation, and many of them have been creative writers as well, both in English and in Kannada.

The Department of English is vibrant with three full time senior faculty and eight guest faculty members who are committed to their work. The teachers of the Department are continuously trying to improve the standard through focused teaching and forums such as the English Club. The teachers are engaged in research activities, publishing papers regularly and guiding research. The Department has produced five successful doctoral research candidates. The enthusiastic young teachers of the Department have NET/SLET qualifications and they bring new dimension to the academic pursuits of the Department. The Department offers language English courses for all academic streams as well as English as a core subject in Bachelor of Arts programme. The senior teachers of the Department are members of various Boards of Studies and Boards of Examiners at the University of Mysore and autonomous colleges.

The Department has a well-stocked library of over 500 books which are currently used by the teachers of the Department.

It is noteworthy that many of the Department's alumni have done well in their careers and are in important positions in the state and central services.

In the year 2018-19, the new Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) was introduced and it has completed the first semester successfully. Two teachers of the Department were on the Board of Studies that brought out the textbooks for the undergraduate English courses of the University of Mysore.

Activities of the Department in Recent Years:

Workshops and Seminars

1. A One-Day Workshop titled ‘Curriculum Development for Undergraduate English Courses’ in association with the Board of Studies, University of Mysore organised by Prof. Gavin Wilson in January, 2018. 70 teachers from colleges affiliated to the University of Mysore participated in the workshop which aimed to design and develop the undergraduate language English texts.
2. In the year 2014-15, the Department organised ‘A Two-day Film Show and Seminar on Shakespeare’ in collaboration with Avishkar Mysore. Students of various colleges in Mysuru actively participated.
3. In the year 2010-11, A National Seminar on ‘Cosmopolitanism and Contemporary Fiction’ was organised. The seminar was funded by University Grants Commission and was convened by Dr.Venkatesh P. Academics and students of English from colleges and universities across the country participated, and the proceedings of the seminar were published in the form of a book with ISBN.

Research Projects

- In the year 2012, a Minor Research Project by Dr. Shantha Naik was carried out on the topic ‘Phonological Interference of Kannada Speaker in Learning English’. The project was funded by University Grants Commission.

Department Exhibitions

- Poster display titled “A picture is worth a thousand words” illustrating the second semester B.Com/ B.B.A English language syllabus was held on 11th April, 2017, was inaugurated by Prof. Mahadeva.
- Poster display illustrating the first semester B.A/B.Sc English language syllabus was held on 7th October, 2016. It was inaugurated by Dr. R. Ganesh, Principal, Mahraja’s College, Mysore.

- Poster display illustrating the second semester B.Com/B.BA English language syllabus was held on 13th April, 2016. It was inaugurated by Prof. Eunice Shanthi, Chairman, Board of Examiners in English.
- An Exhibition of Foreign Newspapers was held on 10th and 11th February, 2016 and was inaugurated by a well-known journalist Mr. Niranjan Nikam. More than a hundred newspapers from 33 countries were displayed. 274 people visited the exhibition.
- A Poster exhibition on the First semester B.A syllabus was held on 29th and 30th September 2015. It was inaugurated by Prof. N. Ramu, Chairman Board of Examiners in English.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, a poster display of women writers and references to women in the syllabus of language English and Optional English was held on 8th March, 2015.
- An Exhibition of Foreign Newspapers was held on 6th and 7th March, 2014 and was inaugurated by the Director of the College Development Council Prof. Lingaraja Gandhi, 99 newspapers from 22 countries were on display to create awareness about the different types of newspapers around the world. 897 people visited the exhibition.

Extension Activities

- Posters illustrating the first semester BA, B.Com, B.BA language English texts were exhibited at Govt. First Grade College for Women, Krishnarajapete, Mandya District on 27/10/16, to help students understand the text better.
- A poster making contest illustrating lessons from the text was held for the students of Maharaja's College to encourage them to actively participate in the learning process. Former teachers of the Department, who were judges at the event, felicitated the winners.

Guest Lectures/ Special Talks

- P. M. Vijetha, a yoga therapist and alumni of the Department, addressed the students on the importance of yoga in 2015.

Infrastructure Available for Teaching and Learning

- Computers, Laser Printer, Internet Facility, on campus Wi-Fi, lapel microphones, cassette and CD players.

Good Practices

- Counselling students, establishment of English Literary Club and its student centric activities.

Current and Future Endeavours

- The Department is drawing up a list of eminent scholars to address the students of English.
- The Department is working towards organising a seminar on *Remodelling Undergraduate English Courses: Possibilities and Challenges*.