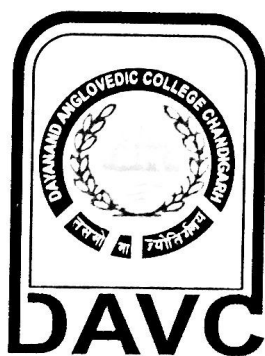


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# Contents

Vol. 1

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1. REINTERPRETING BECKETT'S *ENDGAME*: IT IS NOT THE END BUT JUST THE BEGINNING  
Ashek Alahi 1 - 6
2. UNRESOLVED, HAUNTING MEMORIES IN JASPREET SINGH'S *HELIUM*  
Deepti Goyal 7 - 13
3. THE INSIDE OF THE HEAD  
Honey walia 14 - 23
4. USING GROUP THERAPY IN LANGUAGE TEACHING  
Md. Amirullah Khan 24 - 28
5. OASIS OR A MIRAGE? HUMAN SLAVERY AS THE HIDDEN FACE OF GULF MIRACLE IN BENYAMIN'S *GOAT DAYS*  
Khem Raj Sharma 29 - 36
6. A STUDY OF SARTRE'S CONCEPT OF THE SUBJECT THROUGH BERGMAN'S PERSONA  
Labanya.S. Unni 37 - 43
7. REREADING AFRICAN NOVEL: AESTHETICS OF THE DIFFERENT  
Nidhi 44 - 51
8. CRITIQUING THE ETHICAL TURN IN LITERARY THEORY: SOME REFLECTIONS ON INDIAN LITERARY THEORIES  
Nishtha 52 - 60
9. READING SANSKRITI AS CULTURE: INDIAN PERSPECTIVES  
Preet Negi 61 - 65
10. SAUL BELLOW: FROM EXISTENTIALISM TOWARD TRANSCENDENTALISM  
Ruchi Verma 66 - 72
11. SANDS OF TIME (Short Poem)  
Suneeta Patnayak 73 - 74
12. THE LAST WORD  
Suneeta Patnayak 75 - 76
13. NATIONALISM: MAPPING THROUGH THE LENS OR LOOKING THROUGH THE LINES?  
C.G.Shyamala 77 - 83
14. THE TRANSLATED CLASSIC: NEGOTIATING BETWEEN THE TIMELESS AND THE CONTINGENT  
Sumi Bora 84 - 90
15. OKONKWO: A VICTIM OF DREAM AND FEAR  
Sutirtha Chakraborty 91 - 98

# **The Translated Classic: Negotiating between the Timeless and the Contingent**

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## **Abstract**

*Translation is the critical canopy under which the present paper would operate and its prime area of concern would be mimesis which dates from the classical Greek world. The paper would begin its tour from the Greek world of antiquity and chart three worlds: the Neo-classical, the Romantic and the Modern to investigate the fascinating role played by translation in mediating mimesis to live on and remain meaningful in these new linguistic and cultural environments. The problem posed by translation is not how to choose between the two sides of the concept of the classic, between a culturally bound and a timeless work. It is how to account for a kind of historicity which is both formulated in terms of cultural boundaries and capable of transcending them, a transhistorical identity which manifests itself as change. The texts which the paper would investigate to validate its thesis are Republic by Plato, Poetics by Aristotle, An Essay on Criticism by Alexander Pope and The Art of Fiction by Henry James. The discussion will cogently point to the indelible mark mimesis has left on the Western world and try to address the question if there is something timeless in it. The sustained reading throughout the paper will point that mimesis itself is translated by different critics to serve their own agenda and to validate their critical positions. This paper will also serve as an overture to explore mimesis not only in Western literature but in Feminism, Film Studies, Media Studies, Postcolonial studies, Magic Realism, Hyperreality, anthropology, religion, science etc. and the different embodiment mimesis has taken to suit new situations enabling its overwhelming sway and the role played by translation in serving this end.)*

**Key words:** *mimesis, translation, classic, history, realism, representation.*