

Editorial

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It is our great pleasure to present this issue of *The Lumbini Journal of Language and Literature* to our esteemed readers. This volume includes a diverse collection of research-based articles and literary analyses that address contemporary issues in language teaching, teacher professional development, reading intervention strategies, mindfulness in education, communication skills, and literary criticism. We express our sincere gratitude to all contributors for their valuable scholarly work and cooperation. All articles published in this issue have been selected through a blind peer review process, ensuring academic integrity, quality, and meaningful engagement for authors, reviewers, editors, and readers.

This volume brings together scholarly works that reflect both academic rigor and contemporary relevance. In the article *The Politics of Irony against Dehumanization in Coetzee's Novel, Waiting for the Barbarians*, Tikaram Sapkota examines irony as a political tool and highlights how it exposes oppression, torture, and dehumanization in apartheid South Africa. The study concludes that irony in the narrative becomes a powerful critique of imperial brutality while emphasizing the need for dignity, equality, and inclusion of marginalized voices.

Similarly, in *Secondary-Level English Teachers' Perceptions and Experiences of School-based Training for Professional Development*, Bhim Lal Bhandari, Laxman Prasad Bhandari, Tilak Bhusal, and Eebraj Tiwari explore English teachers' experiences of school-based professional development training. The article highlights teachers' positive perceptions of context-specific training and collaborative learning while also identifying challenges such as limited resources and insufficient follow-up support for effective classroom implementation.

In the literary analysis *Donald Shaw's Post-Boom Paradigm and Jean Franco's Third World Feminism: The Transformation of Love and Tradition in Laura Esquivel's Like Water for Chocolate*, Enrique Carmelo Cal Garrovillo III offers an insightful interpretation of Esquivel's novel through Post-Boom literary theory and feminist perspectives. The study explains how the novel challenges rigid traditions and portrays love as a force of resistance, transformation, and cultural critique within a patriarchal social structure.

In another research-based contribution, *Enhancing Reading Proficiency with the CALL-UP Approach*, Nechor T. Cadorna demonstrates how a structured tutorial intervention improves Grade 7 learners' reading proficiency. The article emphasizes the improvement of key reading components such as vocabulary, inferencing, prediction, and fluency, while also highlighting the importance of motivational and affective factors in sustaining learners' progress.

Likewise, the article *Buddhist-Inspired Mindful Practices and Learning Effectiveness among Postgraduate Management Students in Higher Education Institutions*, by Bijay Kumar Tripathi and Namdev Khanal, presents empirical evidence on the role of mindfulness in enhancing students' learning effectiveness. The study highlights mindfulness dimensions such as compassion, right intention, right effort, wisdom, and mindful awareness, concluding that Buddhist-inspired practices can significantly contribute to academic engagement and learning outcomes.

In the article *Nexus of Speaking and Writing for Enhancing Communication Skills*, Rom Nath Sharma discusses the close interrelationship between speaking and writing skills. The study argues that writing strengthens speaking by improving organization, coherence, and clarity, and emphasizes that both skills complement one another in building overall communicative competence.

Finally, in *From Natural Selection to Digital Transcendence: Re-thinking Evolution and the Possibility of AI Supremacy in Spike Jonze's Her* (2013), Naresh Regmi Sharma explores the evolution of artificial intelligence through the perspectives of Darwin's biological evolution and Kurzweil's technological singularity. The article argues that the film reflects a posthuman vision of AI development that challenges conventional understandings of consciousness, humanity, and the future relationship between humans and intelligent machines.

Overall, this issue reflects a strong spirit of academic inquiry and professional commitment. Through research-based discussions and critical literary interpretations, this volume aims to contribute meaningfully to the academic community and encourage further scholarly engagement in language and literature. We remain committed to enhancing the quality of future issues and continuing this academic journey through stronger collaboration and dedication.

Editor-in-Chief
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