



BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

Tiruchirappalli – 620 024 Tamil Nadu

Department of English and Other Foreign Languages

Dr. C. Isaac Jebastine

Professor and Head

Mobile: 9443409271

E-mail: isaac_jebastine@yahoo.co.in

A Report on

“A One-day National Seminar on Shakespeare Studies for Development of Skills: Linguistic, Educational, Social, Psychological, Existential...”

A one-day national seminar on Shakespeare Studies for Development of Skills: Linguistic, Educational, Social, Psychological, Existential... was organised on 27.03.2015 in which faculty members, scholars and students from autonomous colleges and affiliated colleges of Bharathidasan University numbering 100 participated.

The Resource Persons of the Shakespeare Studies Seminar were

Dr. P. Marudanayagam

Former Head and Professor
Department of English
Central University of Pondicherry
Head, Department of Translation
Central Institute of Classical Tamil
Chennai

Dr. P. Rajani

Former Professor of English
Madras Christian College, Tambaram
Guest Faculty
Department of English
Central University of Tamil Nadu
Thiruvavur

Dr. R. Babu Sivaraja Kirubanithi

Associate Professor
Department of English
Aditanar college of Arts and Science
Tiruchendur

Dr. S. Joseph Arul Jayaraj

Associate Professor
Department of English
St. Joseph's College
Tiruchirappalli

The focus of the seminar was on how Shakespeare's plays can be used to learn/teach all kinds of skill set such as language skills, educational skills, social skills, psychological skills, etc. When the readers read the play and the viewers watch the play their language skills can be enhanced. Certain aspects of Shakespeare's syntax can be employed in addition to enriching their vocabulary. There are unforgettable sentences, phrases, long speeches and soliloquies in Shakespeare's plays which can be used to develop oratorical and writing skills. For instance, in

Julius Caesar (Act II, scene II) appears the following quotation :“Cowards die many times before their deaths, the valiant never taste death but once.” The use of quotations helps to increase one’s memory techniques .Stylistic analysis of the plays of Shakespeare helps to develop a better style.

As Shakespeare spells out universal humanity, one can gain global knowledge. The very many allusions used transport the readers to Renaissance Age, Classical Age and as a result it gives rise to global understanding. Difficult structures of the allusions help to learn educational skills such as reference skills, study skills, mental skills, etc.

The plays of Shakespeare educate the readers to enrich their value system. For instance, in *As You Like It*, Orlando says to Adam, “There are few like you in the world today. Nowadays men think only of themselves.”

Engineering studies cannot help to learn the psychological atmosphere. But character study helps to delve deep into the psyche of the character in some cases. For example, when Duncan has come to Macbeth’s castle, there is a conflict in Macbeth’s mind whether to kill or not to kill the king. This kind of instance helps the readers understand what might go on in people’s minds.

Shakespeare’s plays help the readers develop the overall development of personality.