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# Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies

Affiliated to Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, Recognised by Bar Council of India and AICTE
NAAC Accredited Grade "A++" Institute, NBA Accredited for MCA Programme
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## Vivekananda School of English Studies (VSES)

Vivekananda School of English Studies organized an expert lecture on 7th February 2020 by renowned Professor Dr. Shormishtha Panja. She was formally welcomed by the Dean of the department Dr. Salonee Priya. Prof. Panja is a faculty at DU for English Studies in Shakespearean Literature, having published various publications and papers on renaissance, visual art, and gender studies.

She started her lecture on William Shakespeare transforming English Literature, reaching heights that before were unheard-of and which have not been reached subsequently. Like a blazing meteorite he shot across the firmament and cast a glorious light on an entire period in our history. His impact on world literature was arguably greater than any other writer. His works have been translated into every language. For centuries after his death his star has not dimmed but shines as brightly as on the first day. She explained that we cannot homogenize Shakespeare by any means because the grandeur of conception of human condition and the new hybrid forms created by his help has helped a lot in contextualizing the scenarios.

She talked about two schools of thoughts : First, being the notion of Shakespeare being world famous and Second, that there's nothing universal about him, or closely relatable to Indians and these school of thoughts are nothing but a sign of 'colonial hegemony'. She then brought in the Indian aspect of Shakespeare's plays and them being a strong pillar of 'Intercultural Theatre'. She mentioned a few names such as Vishal Bharadwaj's Haider/Hamlet, Omkara/Othello and Maqbool/Macbeth as new advancements in the trajectory to universalize the elements these movies carried in them, with a spoonful of Indian Flavors. She also talked about Atul Kumar's 'Piya Behrupiya', an adaptation of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night as it challenges the settled hierarchy of literary texts being superior to performances.

She ended her lecture by stating that Indians were already reading and writing in their curriculum

way before British people did and already had strong indigenous culture art forms as we read Shakespeare's plays not in any Indian language but just English. This was followed by an insightful question-answer session making the students aware about various aspects of literature and the event ended with Dr. Anshu Gagal giving the vote of thanks.




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