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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
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Vivekananda School of English Studies (VSES)

Expert Lecture by Prof. (Dr) Anup Singh Beniwal on "Literariness" February 1, 2019

Vivekananda School of English Studies organised a guest lecture on 'Literariness' on February 1, 2019. All the students of VSES were present at this knowledge sharing session. The lecture was delivered by (Dr) Anup Singh Beniwal, professor of English, USHSS, GGSIPU and Dean, USMC, GGSIPU.

The event began with invoking the blessings of the Almighty. Dr. Saloni, the associate dean of VSES welcomed the gathering and the guest with her warm and cordial words and felicitated the day's chief guest. This warm welcome was followed by a folk song presented by the students of VSES.
Prof. (Dr) Beniwal commenced the lecture by establishing the connection between Life and Literature. He also emphasized on the fact that there's no absolute literature as all literature come together to form 'The Literature'. He also impressed upon students about how language is a perspective of life which, in turn, depends on one's take on language. Throughout the lecture, he recited Hindi and Urdu couplets by some famous poets, bringing together different languages in his lecture, to convey his thoughts and ideas.

In the next segment, he talked about the elemental rhythm of life through the poem 'Daffodils' and introduced the students to the first aspect of literariness i.e., "as you grow, the poem grows with you and makes you grow". Using it as the base, he went on explaining literariness as an elemental synthetic aesthetic element and how the sensibility of language helps one go beyond the surface of life and why it is important to handle the language with sensitivity and not as a commodity — the second aspect of literariness i.e., literature and language should be handled with an awareness of complexity and complexity of awareness which he called the 'domain of literary.'

Thereafter, he explained how literature helps to achieve this consciousness of literary. He also emphasised on 'word' as a force and how engagement with words helps one to engage with language and how only through this engagement literature achieves literariness — the third aspect of literariness. Focusing further on 'literature and literariness', he emphasised on the importance of "reflexive bond" between Life and Literature which forms an interlock of imagination, sensitivity, consciousness, life and living. Then, as an effort to explain literariness further, he made students aware of the crisis as an integral part of literature and how the very existential being of literature is paradoxical and why is it important to handle this paradox with

sensibility and how due to this inner instability no story is ever complete which is the fourth aspect of literariness.

In the last course of the lecture, he explained the successive aspect of literariness i.e., "literature is between the silence and literariness is in the middle of the words." And how due to this silence and pause, literature makes new things familiar and familiar things new. He also emphasised on the fact that unlike science, which takes us to the meaning, literature takes us only to the flash of the meaning. Lastly, he concluded his lecture by telling students how great literature takes one to 'Moksha' and above everything else, how it makes one a better human being.

The lecture was received with admiration by the students and ended with a vote of thanks.






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