योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्
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Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies

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Vivekananda School of English Studies (VSES)

On 27th of January, 2020 VSES organised an Expert Lecture on "Introduction to Indian Writing in English". The speaker for the session was Prof (Dr.) G. J. V Prasad, JNU, Center for English Studies, School of Language, Literature & Cultural Studies. He was welcomed by Dean of VSES Dr. Salonee Priya with a token of gratitude.

" A lot of things, I'm going to say will be common to you, other things will be nonsense. "
Dr. G. J. V Prasad, with his inherent quality to make anything into divinely profound commenced the lecture. He nostalgically looked back at the past comprehending the evolution of knowledge and its keepers. Professor Prasad drew out the necessity of the English language before delving into Indian Writing in English.

"We threw out the Englishmen but owned their language".
Hindi being the official language not the national language, Dr. Prasad laid out the structure of our country as a vast sea of multi- cultural waves flowing all together. Giving instances at hand, Dr. Prasad reminded us all of the four hundred dialects in Arunachal Pradesh itself whereas the census only accepted two hundred of them. To inculcate a sense of oneness, belongingness - a choice of one single language in crucially important as pointed out by Dr. Prasad.

"Indian Writing is born out of the business of translation".
To unify the nation with one language, translation paves the way for different cultures to stand together. Dr. G. J. V Prasad drew references from spiritual texts to contemporary Indian authors that cover the age of translation to the modern times that has accepted English as if it's their own mother tongue. To reach the crux of Indian English, discussing slangs, accent and pronunciation is the go-to method of any Indian Writing.

"To understand India, one has to understand that we exist in extremities. We are complex people".
So many cultures thriving together with rituals that breathes diversity, to understand its people one has to understand its core of language and its development. Taking Nissim Ezekiel as an example Dr. Prasad made it crystal clear to the buzzing ears in the auditorium that to survive in extremities mockery is the safest mode to criticise the functioning of a language and its people.

"Earlier English was the language of Prestige and Power and now is a language of money ".

The capitalization of a certain language that leads to its global power and control plays a significant role in commercializing its vast sources. In India, English has become common to almost every region, Dr. Prasad referred to translation as the reason of binding the culture just like Bollywood. He emphasized on India being more than Hindu - Muslim controversy, it's the language and literature that binds and creates all.
At last, Dr. Prasad discussed the other means of taking Indian Writings ahead by inclusion of colloquial phrases and expression. He further signified the importance of Indian English as a representation of the entire nation. Dr. Prasad also discussed on Dante, Greek poets, Dalit Literature and how those muffled voices are the grave reality which our society runs away from.

Before ending the lecture, questions regarding Nissim Ezekiel, the polarity created by translation, Indianising or nativisation of the language of English, Indian Epics and their translation, Colonialism, and the duality that it has created with language were asked by Tanvi Dayal, Prerna Chadha, Allen Thomas, and Shubh Badhwar. Dr. Bhawna Vij Arora summarized







the lecture and expressed heartfelt gratitude on the behalf of the entire department of VSES to Dr. G.J.V Prasad for the brilliant and informative lecture.