ASC.LIT.CHRONICLES

A Newsletter by the Department of English

ANNAI SCHOLASTICA ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, PAMBAN.

(AFFILIATED TO ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY)

2025-2026



From the Editor's Desk

Head of the Department

It gives me immense pleasure to present this edition of our English Department Newsletter. Language and literature are not merely academic pursuits; they are powerful tools that shape thought, nurture creativity, and deepen our understanding of the world around us.

This newsletter stands as a testament to the enthusiasm, talent, and dedication of our students and faculty. Through poems, articles, and literary activities, we continue to celebrate the richness of the English language and the timeless beauty of literature.

Inspired by literary giants like William Shakespeare, we encourage our students to explore, express, and evolve as confident communicators and critical thinkers.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in bringing out this publication. May this platform continue to inspire creativity and a lifelong love for learning.

Mrs. P.Juhileon
Head of the Department
Department of English





"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Proverbs 4:7

From the Secretary's Desk

(English Literary Association)

> *"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."*
>
> *— Rudyard Kipling*

If Kipling is right—and I suspect he is—then we are all, in our own ways, purveyors of a rather potent medicine. As your Association Secretary, I've had the privilege of watching that power unfold in countless forms: in a poem that made a room fall silent, in a study group that turned anxiety into clarity, and in the simple, electric conversations that spark in our hallways.

This semester, our association has been dedicated to celebrating the many varieties of our shared craft.

We've hosted ***writing workshops*** where voices—nervous and confident alike—found their rhythm on the page. We've explored the art of ***tableau,*** using frozen, staged imagery to interpret and embody the stories we read. We've gathered for ***poetry readings*** that turned verses into shared moments of resonance and reflection. And we've sharpend our linguistic tools together in ***vocabulary building sessions,*** reminding ourselves that a rich lexicon opens doors to deeper expression.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has shown up, contributed, and made this community what it is. Your words—spoken, written, or simply offered in encouragement—have made a difference.

Here's to the powerful voice of language, and to the many ways we use it together.

With gratitude,

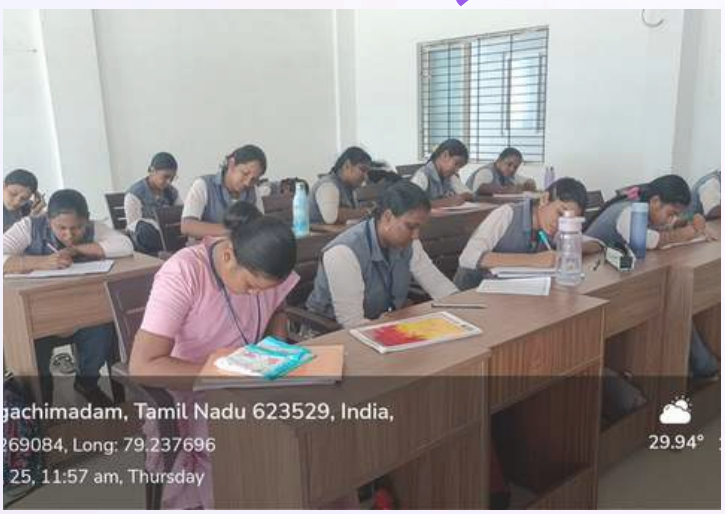
M Merijo, M.A.

Secretary, English Literary Association.





Department Activities



The Department of English conducted creative writing competition on the theme Afro- American literature on 26th June 2025. Twenty students were participated. The winners were M. Jayamugitha Sree and S. Shahistha Begum from 3rd B.A. English.

The Department of English successfully conducted a 3-day Bridge Course from July 1st to July 3rd. The program focused on Vocabulary enrichment through engaging activities,self-introduction and ice-breaking sessions, The course also included Awareness of Yoga, led by Mrs. Thillai, promoting physical and mental well-being and Orientation program on Goal Setting and Values, delivered by Rev. Fr. Infant Raj, emphasizing the importance of setting goals and living by strong values.





Department of
English conducted a Creative Writing competition on "Afro-American Literature"on 26th August 2025.
Twenty students participated.
The winners were
1.M.Jeyamugitha sree
2.S.Shahistha Begum

Department Activities



Our English department students and staff attended a one-day seminar on "Colonial Subjugation and Identity Crisis in Contemporary Indian Writing in English" at Raja College of Arts and Science, Kunjarvalasai, Vedhalai, on September 16, 2025. Dr. R. Suriya Prakash Narayanan, Head and Assistant Professor of English at Govt. Arts & Science College for Women, Paramakudi, was the Chief Guest and resource person. The seminar also featured a drama performance of excerpts from "Doctor Faustus" and "Rip Van Winkle.



On September 8, 2025, the Department of English at Annai Scholastica Arts and Science College for Women organized a State Level Conference on "Echoes of Empire: Postcolonial Imaginaries in the Indian Text." Dr. Sundari Thirupathy, Assistant Professor of English from Dr. Umayal Ramanathan College for Women, Karaikudi, as the resource person.

Department Activities



Fashion Parade was conducted by the Department of English on 18th December 2025. Menaka from II B.A English secured the first prize.



Tableau was conducted by the Department of English on 20th January 2026.The students of I BA English were declared the winners of the competition.

STUDENTS' ATTAINMENTS



Our department student V.Rishal secured the university Fourth Rank. This remarkable success is a testament to her dedication, perseverance and relentless pursuit of excellence.



Our department student I. Mathumitha obtained university Fifth Rank. Her hard work and dedication brought great pride to the institution.



Maria Elbi, Bethustha, Maheswari and Thiyangsha obtained I Prize in Group Song competition held during the Bible Day celebration.



Menaka, Sheron Sherika, Prijun and Nirjas secured II Prize in Group Dance competition held during the Bible Day celebration.



Abimona of I B.A English won I Prize in Bible verse memory competition held during the Bible Day celebration.

STUDENTS ATTAINMENTS



Anna of I B.A English won II Prize in Fashion Parade competition held during the Sports Day celebration.



Thahira sirin and Shahistha Begum won II Prize in Paper quilling competition conducted as part of the Fine Arts celebration.



Thahira Sirin of III B. A English won I Prize in Fireless cooking competition conducted as part of the Fine Arts celebration.



Harshitha of III B.A English won III Prize in Mandala Art competition conducted as part of the Fine Arts celebration.



Medona and Thiyangsha of III B.A. English participated in three-day workshop by AICUF in Arulanandar College, Karumathur.

STUDENTS' ATTAINMENTS



Bethustha of III B.A English selected in a Campus interview conducted by Winners Institute of Communicative English.



Our department students participated in an English Language Assessment test conducted by RAMS Business Analytics Private Limited and got Medals and certificates.

Vibrant Ventures



BRIDGE COURSE

The Department of English conducted a three- day Bridge Course from June 1st to 3rd of 2025, focusing on vocabulary enrichment, self- introduction, and interactive ice-breaking sessions. The programme also included sessions on yoga awareness and an orientation on goal setting and values. It concluded with a valedictory programme where students shared feedback and presented their creative poetic expressions, reflecting their learning and experiences.

AICUF

Sr. John Medona (III B.A. English), A. Aaflee Bianca (II Computer Science), and S. Linet Vasina (II B.A. English) participated in the AICUF Meeting held from 7th to 10th August at Arul Ananda College, Karumathur, Madurai.





Quiz Competition

On 28th August 2025, an Interdepartmental Vocabulary Quiz Competition was conducted by the Quiz Club, encouraging students to enhance their language skills and knowledge. Participants showcased great enthusiasm and competitive spirit throughout the event. The competition concluded with the announcement of winners, who were awarded prizes for their outstanding performance.

Disaster Management Awareness Programs



On 2nd September 2025, the I UG students of the Department of English attended an orientation session on Disaster Management at a Government School in Thangachimadam. The session provided valuable insights into preparedness, safety measures, and effective response during emergencies.

Sales Day

On 4th September 2025, the college celebrated Sales Day with great enthusiasm, providing students an opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial skills and creativity through various stalls and activities.



Fine Arts

The Inter-departmental Fine Arts Competition was held on 29th and 30th September 2025. The Department of English actively participated with great enthusiasm and secured the Runner-Up position, showcasing their creativity and talent.





Departmental Quiz

On 18th December2025,an Inter-departmental Vocabulary Games event was conducted by the Quiz Club. Students from various departments participated enthusiastically, making the event engaging and intellectually stimulating.

Crib Competition

On 22nd December 2025, an Inter-departmental Crib Competition was organized by the Campus Animation Team. Students participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their creativity and festive spirit.





Book Fair and Exhibition

On 8th and 9th January 2026, the college organized an Exhibition and Book Fair. The Department of English contributed creatively with a photo point, wall poetry, themed displays inspired by Harry Potter, and a horror house, attracting wide appreciation from visitors.

Book Fair

On 2nd February, the students and staff visited the Book Fair held in Ramanathapuram . The students captivated the audience with performances such as mime, speech, group song,and Silambam, making the visit lively and memorable.





Women's Day

To commemorate Women's Day, on 11th March 2026, Kadal Osai FM organized an interview session with fishermen, in which students actively took part. They described the structure and working of fishing boats and highlighted the challenges and hardships faced by the fishing community.

Industrial Visit

On 18th March 2026, the Department of English undertook an Industrial Visit to Kodaikanal. During the visit, students explored Kodaikanal FM and Bryant Park, making the trip both informative and enjoyable.



PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY MEMBERS IN RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

DATE	NAME OF THE STAFF	TITLE OF THE SEMINAR	STATE NATIONAL/ INTER NATIONAL	VENUE/ ORGANISER
8th September 2025	Mrs.P. Juhileon Ms.B.Maria Sweetlin Mrs.S.Leyo Theboral Mrs.D. Saleth	Echoes of Empire-Post Colonial Imaginaries in the Indian Text	State Level	Department of English. Annai Scholastica Arts and Science College for Women,
16th October 2025	Mrs.P. Juhileon Ms.B.Maria Sweetlin Mrs.S.Leyo Theboral Mrs.D. Saleth Rashmy Leon Mrs.A.Sabarna Zelus Mrs.M.Merijo	Colonial Subjugation and Identity Crisis in Contemporary Indian Writing in English	State Level	Raja Arts and Science College, Vedhalai.
21 to 25th October 2025	Mrs.P. Juhileon	Penning with purpose: Mastering the art of Research and Publication.	International	Marian Research Forum, St. Mary's College. Tuticorin.
22nd November 2025	Mrs.D.Saleth Rashmy Leon	Crafting High Impact Manuscripts for Indexed Journals	International	Madras Christian College,Chennai
15 to 20th December 2025	Mrs.D.Saleth Rashmy Leon	FDP on Next Gen IpR for innovation,Startups, Academia &research Powered by AI tools	National	Fatima College, Madurai.
22nd to 24th December 2025	Ms.B.Maria Sweetlin Mrs.S.Leyo Theboral	FDP on Overview of English Language Communication	State Level	Alagappa University Karaikudi.
9 to 14th February 2026	Mrs.D.Saleth Rashmy Leon	FDP on "IKS-Embedded Sustainable Education of Digital Natives"	State Level	Fatima College, Madurai

PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY MEMBERS IN RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

DATE	NAME OF THE STAFF	TITLE OF THE SEMINAR	STATE NATIONAL/ INTER NATIONAL	VENUE/ ORGANISER
16th February 2026	Mrs.P. Juhileon Mrs.D.Saleth Rashmy Leon Mrs.A.Sabarna Zelus	Strengthening Institutional Quality Frame Works (SIQF 2026)	National	Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Tiruchirappalli
18th February 2026	Mrs.P. Juhileon Ms.B.Maria Sweetlin	Academic Networking,using linkedin,Research Gate & ORCID	National	Annai Scholastica Arts and Science College for Women, Pamban.
19th February 2026	Mrs.P. Juhileon Ms.B.Maria Sweetlin Mrs.S.Leyo Theboral Mrs.D. Saleth Rashmy Leon Mrs.A.Sabarna Zelus Mrs. M.Rabeka	Research Paper Presentation for National & International Journal	National	Annai Scholastica Arts and Science College for Women, Pamban.
2nd to 6th March 2026	Ms.B.Maria Sweetlin	Gen AI & ChatGPT Applications	National	EXCELR Raising Excellence
21 to 30 January 2026	Mrs.P. Juhileon	UGC-FDP on NEP-2020:Orientation & Sensitization	National	Malaviya Mission-Teacher Training Programme (MM-TTP) of University Grants Commission (UGC) organized by JNV University ,Jodhpur.

PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY MEMBERS IN RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

PAPERS PRESENTED IN SEMINAR/CONFERENCE

DATE	NAME OF THE STAFF	TITLE OF THE PAPER	NATIONAL/ INTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE	VENUE/ ORGANISER
6th August 2025	Mrs. Saleth Rashmy Leon	Language as Resistance: An Analysis of Subaltern Voice in Baby Kamble's The Prison's We Broke	International	PG Research Department of English Fatima College, Madurai.
22nd August 2025	Mrs. Saleth Rashmy Leon	From Local Struggles to Global Memory: "Prosthetic Memory and the Dalit experience in Sujatha Gidla's Ants Among Elephants"	International	Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars' Senthil kumara Nadar College, (Autonomous) Virudhunagar
25th-26th September 2025	Mrs. Saleth Rashmy Leon	Interclusive Intercedence: An Intersectional Feminist study of Baby Kamble's The Prisons We Broke.	International	St.Joseph College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

D. Saleth Rashmy Leon (Reg. No. MKU23PFOL11310) (Research Scholar) S. Saira Banu (Research Guide) The Research Department of English Fatima College, Madurai

LANGUAGE AS RESISTANCE:
An Analysis of Subaltern Voice in Baby Kamble's The Prison We Broke

Abstract

Language functions not only as a medium of communication but also as a powerful tool of resistance. This paper examines how language operates as a form of resistance in The Prison We Broke by Baby Kamble, one of the earliest autobiographies written by a Dalit woman in Marathi. Kamble's narrative exposes the lived realities of caste discrimination, patriarchy, and poverty while reclaiming voice for marginalized communities. Through the use of dialect, oral traditions, and a direct narrative style, Kamble challenges dominant literary norms and asserts Dalit identity. The paper also considers the role of Maya Pandit's English translation in bringing Dalit narratives to a wider audience. Ultimately, the study argues that Kamble transforms personal experience into a collective narrative of resistance, demonstrating how language becomes a political tool through which Dalit women reclaim identity, dignity, and historical visibility.

Keywords: Language, Resistance, Dalit Women, Subalternity, Dalit Narratives, Translation

Introduction

Language is never neutral. It functions as a site of power capable of both silencing and empowering marginalized voices. In the context of caste and gender oppression in India, language often becomes a means through which dominant groups maintain control. However, it can also be reclaimed by the oppressed as a tool of resistance and self-expression.

Dalit women's autobiographies demonstrate how writing becomes a political act. These narratives challenge dominant literary traditions by presenting lived experiences of caste and gender oppression. Baby Kamble's The Prison We Broke (Jina Amucha), originally written in Marathi and translated into English by Maya Pandit, stands as a powerful example of such resistance. Rather than focusing solely on individual experience, Kamble's autobiography represents the collective suffering and resilience of the Mahar community. Through her use of dialect, oral storytelling traditions, and direct narration, Kamble transforms autobiography into a powerful form of social protest.

Theoretical Framework

Language plays a crucial role in shaping power relations within society. Michel Foucault's theory of discourse explains how language functions as a system that determines what can be spoken and who is allowed to speak. Similarly, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's influential question, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" highlights how marginalized voices are often silenced within dominant structures of knowledge and representation.

Dalit feminist scholars such as Sharmila Rege emphasize that Dalit women's autobiographies should be understood not merely as personal narratives but as collective testimonies of oppression and resistance. These narratives challenge elite literary conventions by incorporating everyday speech, dialects, and oral traditions. Through such linguistic strategies, marginalized writers reclaim cultural identity and challenge dominant forms of expression.

Overview of The Prison We Broke

The Prison We Broke is one of the earliest autobiographical works by a Dalit woman in India. Written in Marathi by Baby Kamble, the text portrays the harsh realities of life in the Mahar community. Unlike traditional autobiographies that celebrate individual success, Kamble's narrative focuses on collective experience and shared suffering.

The autobiography vividly depicts issues such as untouchability, poverty, child marriage, caste violence, and gender oppression. Kamble openly discusses the internalized caste practices within the community and the patriarchal structures

that restrict women's freedom. Her narrative voice is direct, raw, and emotionally powerful. Her intention is to reveal the immense suffering endured by Dalit communities and ensure that their experiences are not forgotten.

Language and Cultural Identity

In The Prison We Broke, language becomes a means of reclaiming Dalit identity. Kamble proudly embraces the term "Mahar," a label historically used to degrade the community. By redefining the term as a symbol of cultural pride and historical struggle, Kamble challenges caste-based stigma.

Her linguistic choices demonstrate a refusal to conform to elite literary standards. Instead of polished and refined language, Kamble employs the everyday speech patterns of her community. This strategy strengthens the authenticity of her narrative and asserts the value of marginalized linguistic traditions.

Dialect and Oral Traditions

One of the most striking features of Kamble's narrative is her use of dialectal Marathi and oral storytelling techniques. Songs, lullabies, and rhetorical expressions drawn from community traditions appear throughout the text. These elements reflect the collective memory and emotional life of the Mahar community.

The narrative often resembles oral testimony rather than conventional autobiography. Repetition, direct address, and vivid imagery evoke the rhythms of spoken storytelling. Such techniques transform the text into a communal voice that expresses both anger and resilience.

Translation and Global Reach

The English translation by Maya Pandit plays an important role in bringing Kamble's narrative to a wider audience. Translating Dalit literature, however, presents significant challenges. Dialects, cultural expressions, and tonal nuances may lose some of their original intensity during translation.

Despite these limitations, the translator attempts to preserve the emotional depth and cultural context of Kamble's writing. Translation therefore becomes not merely a linguistic act but a political one, enabling marginalized voices to reach global readers.

Conclusion

Through Baby Kamble's narrative, language emerges as more than a communication tool. It becomes a site where power is challenged and identities are reclaimed. By using dialect, oral traditions, and direct storytelling, Kamble disrupts dominant literary norms and presents an authentic representation of Dalit women's experiences.

The Prison We Broke therefore functions as both autobiography and political testimony. Kamble transforms personal memory into collective resistance, ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and remembered. Her work demonstrates that language can serve as a powerful instrument for reclaiming dignity, identity, and historical presence.

Voices of Today

The sky once blue, now filled with smoke,
The earth is tired, yet no one spoke.
Rivers cry in silent pain,
Waiting for the healing rain.

Voices rise on streets so wide,
Fighting for the truth denied.
Hands unite, both strong and small,
Seeking justice, one and all.

In crowded rooms, yet all alone,
Hearts are heavy, minds unknown.
Silent battles every day,
Smiles that hide the pain away.

Screens that glow both night and day,
Steal our simple lives away.
Lost in worlds that feel so near,
Yet real voices disappear.

Still, a hope begins to grow,
In every heart, a gentle glow.
If we care and stand as one,
A better world can be begun.

B.Maria Sweetlin

Current Issues

- Climate Change
- Social Justice
- Mental Health
- Digital Life



THANK YOU

Department of English

Annai Scholastica Arts and Science
College for Women, Pamban

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