



Department of English Studies

Central University of Jharkhand
in collaboration with

Coal India Limited & Jharkhand Chaitanya Parishad
organises

an International Conference on **Politics of Language and Indigenous Voices: Tribal Narratives in English**

On March 19 & 20, 2025

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The Central University of Jharkhand was established through the Central University Act, 2009. The University started with a vision to specially focus on relevant present age educational drives with an emphasis on research in cutting edge technologies. It offers Under Graduate, Post graduate and Ph.D. programmes in Schools/Departments of studies. The University is open to new ideas in course curricula and research proposals, collaboration, interaction and capacity building programmes. Being located in Jharkhand, the study of culture is the thrust area of the University as manifested in Centre for Indigenous Culture Studies, Centre for Tribal & Customary Law, Centre for Tribal Folklore, Language & Literature and Music & Performing Arts. The CUJ Faculty have been awarded National and International Fellowships, project funding and recognition and are constantly contributing to the Government Sector, Public and Private Sector organisations through teaching and consulting. The students have also won accolades in national level academics and extramural activities.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of English Studies came into being with the very inception of Central University of Jharkhand and started its first academic program in the session 2009-10. Ever since it was established in 2009, the department has emerged as a major Centre for teaching and learning English literature and Language. The department offers UG, PG and Ph. D. programs in English. The primary goal of the Department of English Studies is to cultivate and support students in developing a deep understanding of course content and methodologies within literary studies, English education, and creative writing. We strive to foster an interdisciplinary approach to learning, evident in our diverse course offerings, including Women's Studies, Film Studies, Environmental Studies, Disabilities Studies, and Diaspora Studies. Upon graduation, our students are equipped with the skills to pursue fulfilling careers in fields such as education, research, law, journalism, and publishing. The department's policies, along with its curriculum emphasizing teaching and research, underscore our dedication to the principles of liberal arts.

CONCEPT NOTE

Tribal literature in English occupies a contested space in postcolonial and decolonial studies. The dual nature of English, as a remnant of colonial dominance and as a tool for global visibility, stimulates crucial debates on cultural hegemony, identity formation, and existential dilemmas. The postcolonial worldview reframes language not merely as a medium of expression but as a political instrument that reflects histories of domination, resistance, and identity negotiation. Translations and original tribal narratives in English serve as a double-

edged sword: reclaiming indigenous voices while risking the erosion of cultural specificity and linguistic integrity.

In the Indian context, particularly in Jharkhand, the indigenous languages such as Asur, Birhor, Parhaiya, Kurmali, Kurukh, Santhali, Mundari, and Ho embody the lived realities, epistemologies, and cultural heritage of tribal communities. These languages, deeply rooted in oral traditions and folk narratives, are reservoirs of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) that encompass sustainable environmental practices, spiritual beliefs, and communal ethos. However, the dominance of English as a global lingua franca and the marginalisation of regional and tribal languages pose significant challenges to the preservation and propagation of these knowledge systems.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises the revitalisation of regional and tribal languages as integral to fostering inclusivity and cultural diversity. By promoting multilingual education and recognising the significance of mother-tongue-based learning, NEP 2020 offers a transformative framework to integrate indigenous languages and narratives into mainstream academia. It also opens avenues to explore how English can be appropriated to convey tribal experiences without compromising their cultural essence.

This conference aims to navigate these complex terrains, examining the role of English in amplifying indigenous voices and its implications for cultural representation. It seeks to enrich the discourse on the politics of language by addressing themes such as hybridity, power structures, gendered narratives, environmental concerns, and the decolonisation of knowledge systems. Scholars are invited to interrogate how tribal narratives are shaped, shared, and understood in the global context, and how they contribute to a more inclusive literary canon.

Through these discussions, the conference aspires to contribute to the evolving scholarship on tribal literature, bridging the gap between indigenous and global perspectives while honouring the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of India's tribal communities.

SUBTHEMES

- Decolonising Language: English as a Tool for Resistance
- Tribal Narratives and Postcolonial Identity Formation
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Environmental Narratives
- Cultural Hegemony and Representation in Translation
- The Role of Women in Tribal Narratives
- Oral Traditions: Preservation and Adaptation
- Hybridity and Syncretism in Tribal Literature
- Power Structures in Language Politics
- Folk Narratives and Modern Storytelling Techniques
- NEP 2020: Implications for Tribal Languages
- Jharkhand's Indigenous Voices in Global Contexts
- Existential Dilemmas in Tribal Literature
- English as a Medium of Empowerment and Marginalisation
- Intersections of Gender, Caste, and Ethnicity in Tribal Narratives
- Representation of Disability in Indigenous Stories
- Literary Archives and the Documentation of Tribal Narratives
- Cross-Cultural Dialogues in Tribal Literature
- The Role of Academia in Promoting Indigenous Voices
- Globalization and the Future of Tribal Languages
- MTB-MLE
- ELT in a Multilingual Society
- AI and the future of Minority Languages
- Language Documentation
- Ecolinguistics
- Translation, AI and Identity
- Foreign Language Teaching, Multilingualism and Multiculturalism
- New Media and Languages
- Linguistic Authenticity vs. Cultural Dilution

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Word Limit: The abstract must be between 300-500 words, including references, if applicable.

Format:

Font - Times New Roman, Font Size - 12, Alignment - Justified, Line Spacing - 1.5

The title should be bold and written in Times New Roman, size 12.

Details to Include:

Below the abstract, include the following details -

Full Name of the Author(s)

Institutional Affiliation

Email ID

Contact Number

Keywords: Mention five key words that reflect the primary themes of your abstract. These should be written immediately after the author's details.

Referencing Style: Follow the APA Style Sheet for in-text citations and references, if any.

Submission Format: Submit the abstract as a Microsoft Word document (.doc/.docx).

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Registration Fee

Faculty - Rs. 1500

Scholars/Independent Researchers - Rs. 800

Students - Rs. 400

For the current PG batches of CUJ - Rs. 250

(For accommodation: additional Rs. 2500)

Scan to Register



Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/eqF1jcro2SobzsqK7>

Important Dates:

Abstract submission deadline: March 10, 2025

Intimation of acceptance: March 12, 2025

Last date for registration and payment: March 14, 2025

Full paper submission: March 18, 2025

BANK DETAILS:

Account Name: Politics of Language and Indigenous Voices

Account Number: 7277002100000738

IFSC Code: PUNB0727700

COMMITTEES

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