

VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

Journal of the Department of English, Vidyasagar University

UGC-CARE Enlisted (previously) National Level Peer Reviewed Annual Journal

ISSN 0973-3671

Call for Papers: Volume 19, 2026

Concept Note

Scholars in various branches of the Social Sciences and Humanities have evinced keen interest in the role of language in society and culture. This includes not only linguists, anthropologists and scholars of communication studies, but also experts in ethnomusicology, sociology, psychology, education, cognitive science, media, and performance studies. Many scholars are eager to know how language or “discourse” regulates the origin and spread of ideas over time through various contexts, genres, and modalities. Spoken language, written texts, and other symbolic forms are crucial in constructing and preserving cultural practices. There is a natural curiosity to know what constitutes ‘communicative competence’ in particular cultures and the idea of language, performance, and participation. There is a whistled language called *elsilbo* in the Canary Islands, and smoke signals were once employed by some indigenous communities to communicate over distant places.

Endangerment of languages in the global context is an interdisciplinary engagement in the recent theoretical formulations. A large number of languages in the world are vanishing at an alarming rate with half of the recent inventory of languages going to face the danger of extinction. The factors responsible for this crisis are as varied as culture contact, colonization, socio-economic status and more recently globalization processes. When a language perishes there is a loss of a worldview to the human species and to the next generations in terms of knowledge and culture, since language is a primary means of cultural survival and dissemination. A proper appreciation of linguistic diversity facilitates the understanding of human linguistic processes. Most of the endangered languages in the world are yet to be documented and archived for the sake of preservation. Identity, race, class, education policies, and economic stratification may impact the processes of language extinction or preservation. When a language is used for trade and commerce, as in the case of an African tribal language Swahili, or when it is the language of the most dominant group as in the case

of colonization, this can have an impact on how speakers look at the acquisition or maintenance of such a language. Language revitalization initiatives face many challenges, including how a “speaker” of the language is defined and who is entitled to decide on the language policies and goals for the community. The fact that no written texts may exist in some languages, may also pose a challenge to the language experts. The views of the younger generation or younger speakers and the relationship between the native language and the global language scenarios can definitely add a few jarring notes to the revitalization initiatives.

In this issue of our journal, we intend to combine two allied areas of study, language and culture, to be broadly described as ‘language and culture studies’. It is, coincidentally, the title of an academic course offered at many universities in the United States and some other countries. It is a prerequisite for higher academic courses such as Linguistic Anthropology, Sociology and literary studies. Hence, the journal proposes to take up an essentially interdisciplinary area of research, inviting articles from scholars of Humanities and Social Sciences with moorings in literary studies.

We invite critical and theoretically informed essays on the following themes; the list of themes given below is, however, not exhaustive.

1. Language, Decolonization and Literature
2. Language, assertion of identity and Literature
3. Language as a manifestation of racio-cultural ‘markedness’ in Literature
4. Language as a means of cultural survival and Literature
5. Endangerment of languages and literary reflections
6. Language, competence and performance
7. Sociolinguistics and Literary Studies
8. Linguistic concepts and models in literary explorations
9. Stylistic aspects of literary texts
10. Literary text as Discourse

The journal also welcomes reviews of books on the chosen area - published in recent times - along with the permission of the copyright holder / legal heir, in less than 1500 words.

Timeline & Instructions:

Last date of submission of Abstracts: **13.05.2025**

Date of communication of selected Abstracts: **20.05.2025**

Last Date of submission of papers with Declaration, Similarity Check Report & Bio note: **20.07.2025**

Submission Guidelines: 9th edition of MLA handbook. Papers will be summarily rejected if not submitted as per the guidelines.

Font type & size: Times New Roman, 12 point, 1.5 line spacing

Email address for submission (electronic version only):
editor_english@mail.vidyasagar.ac.in

[Abstracts submitted to any other email address will be summarily rejected.]

Word-limit: Abstract: 300 (maximum) [inclusive of the title and keywords]

Keywords: not more than 6

The final paper should be strictly in the range of 5000-6000 words. Papers will be rejected if the word limit is not maintained.