PREFACE TO THE EDITION

The current issue of the **International Journal of Linguistics, Language and Literature (IJLLL)** brings together five thought-provoking contributions that examine language and literature as dynamic expressions of cultural identity, ecological memory, human and nonhuman experience, and technological transformation. Spanning digital linguistic practices, environmental literary criticism, posthumanist narratology, and artificial intelligence in language revitalization, the articles reflect the expanding scope of contemporary linguistic and literary inquiry. Collectively, they demonstrate how language and literary texts preserve community knowledge, respond to changing social and environmental realities, and raise important questions about representation, ownership, and the future of linguistic diversity.

The first article, "Writing Malayalam in Roman Script: Manglish, Digital Orthography and Linguistic Identity in Kerala," examines the widespread use of Roman-script Malayalam in digital communication. Challenging the perception that Manglish necessarily represents a decline in script literacy or the erosion of the mother tongue, the study approaches it as an evolving form of informal orthography shaped by user practices, multilingual interaction, and social identity. By exploring its spelling conventions, historical context, and growing use among young people and the Gulf diaspora, the article contributes to broader discussions on digital literacy, code-mixing, and the changing relationship between language, script, and identity.

Extending the discussion of language into the domain of environmental memory, the second article, "Words for Water: Wetland Lexicons, Flood Memory and Ecolinguistics in Kerala Fiction," investigates how literary works preserve ecological knowledge through the vocabulary of floods, wetlands, rivers, canals, and agricultural landscapes. Through readings of selected works by Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, Arundhati Roy, and Sarah Joseph, the essay demonstrates how regional languages and literary narratives can serve as archives of collective environmental experience. It also highlights the relationship between ecological degradation and the loss of place-specific vocabulary, emphasizing the value of ecolinguistic approaches to understanding the connections between language, community memory, and environmental change.

Complementing this regional perspective, the third article, "Toxic Bodies, Drowning Islands: Slow Violence and Vernacular Ecologies in South Asian Environmental Fiction," examines how environmental harm is represented through embodied suffering, local linguistic practices, and the struggles of marginalized communities. Drawing on selected works by Amitav Ghosh, Indra Sinha, Ambikasuthan Mangad, and Mahasweta Devi, the essay explores how environmental crises become visible through particular bodies, landscapes, and experiences rather than solely through abstract accounts of planetary change. Its discussion of slow violence and vernacular ecologies underscores the importance of literary representation in revealing the unequal social consequences of environmental degradation.

The fourth contribution, "Posthumanism and the Nonhuman Voice in Contemporary Fiction," turns to the representation of nonhuman perspectives in contemporary literary narratives. Bringing together posthumanist thought, new materialism, and theories of nonhuman narration, the article examines how artificial and ecological voices challenge conventional assumptions about narrative authority and human experience. It argues that such narratives do not simply provide direct access to nonhuman consciousness; instead, they expose the limitations of human language and imagination when representing other forms of existence. In doing so, the study invites readers to reconsider the ethical and aesthetic possibilities of fiction beyond an exclusively human-centred perspective.

The issue concludes with “Stewardship, Not Extraction: Large Language Models and Endangered Language Revitalization,” which considers the opportunities and ethical challenges associated with applying artificial intelligence to the documentation and revitalization of endangered and Indigenous languages. Focusing on large language models, speech recognition, speech synthesis, and machine translation, the article examines the difficulties posed by limited linguistic data and the risks of treating community knowledge as an extractable technological resource. By discussing community-led documentation, Indigenous data sovereignty, and responsible licensing frameworks, it advances the argument that language technologies should support the priorities and rights of the communities whose languages they seek to preserve. Ultimately, the study emphasizes that technological innovation must complement, rather than replace, intergenerational language transmission.

Taken together, these contributions illustrate the interdisciplinary character of contemporary linguistics and literary studies. From the digital transformation of Malayalam writing to the preservation of ecological memory in fiction, from narratives that challenge human-centred perspectives to the ethical use of artificial intelligence in language revitalization, the articles reveal the enduring significance of language as a medium of cultural expression, knowledge production, and social negotiation. They also demonstrate that linguistic and literary scholarship can contribute meaningfully to current debates concerning digital communication, environmental sustainability, cultural plurality, and technological responsibility.

We hope that this issue will encourage researchers, scholars, educators, and students to engage with the diverse questions raised by these studies and to pursue further inquiry into the evolving relationships between language, literature, society, and technology. The editorial team extends its sincere appreciation to the authors for their contributions and to the reviewers for their valuable scholarly assessments. We remain committed to fostering rigorous academic dialogue and providing a platform for original research that advances understanding across the fields of linguistics, language, and literature.

Dr Mahesh Kumar Dey

Chief Editor

CONTENTS

SL. NO.	TITLE	AUTHOR	PAGE NO.
1	Writing Malayalam in Roman Script: Manglish, Digital Orthography and Linguistic Identity in Kerala	Josly Joseph	1-6
2	Words for Water: Wetland Lexicons, Flood Memory and Ecolinguistics in Kerala Fiction	Jisha Alex	7-13
3	Toxic Bodies, Drowning Islands: Slow Violence and Vernacular Ecologies in South Asian Environmental Fiction	Rini Joy	14-21
4	Posthumanism and the Nonhuman Voice in Contemporary Fiction	Rakhi Ramachandran	22-29
5	Stewardship, Not Extraction: Large Language Models and Endangered Language Revitalization	Annette Treesa Benny	30-38