

Total No. of Questions – 10]
(2062)

[Total Pages : 4

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M.A. English (IVth Semester) Examination

CONTEMPORARY LITERARY THEORY

Paper–XIII

Time : Three Hours]

[Maximum Marks : { Regular : 60
Private : 75

The candidates shall limit their answers precisely within the answer-book (40 pages) issued to them and no supplementary/continuation sheet will be issued.

Note : Attempt *four* questions in all, including Question No. 1, which is compulsory.

1. Compulsory Question

Write brief notes on any *six* of the following in about 100 words each :

- (a) The linguistic sign (Saussure).
- (b) Semiology.
- (c) Human Sciences.
- (d) Postmodernism (Eagleton).

- (e) Explain what Barthes means by "the birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the author."
- (f) Gynocriticism (Showalter).
- (g) "Feminist, female, and feminine."
- (h) Cultural Studies (J. Hillis Miller).
- (i) Modern Nation (Bhabha).
- (j) Essentialism.
- (k) Loss of identity (Bhabha).
- (l) Postcolonialism.
- (m) Trace.

2. Discuss Saussure's contribution to linguistics.

OR

What, according to Saussure, are the characteristics of language as a structured system?

3. Roland Barthes's "The Death of the Author" is a polemical study against the romantic humanist tradition. Discuss.

OR

Why does Barthes conclude his essay by stating that "the birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the author"?

4. Why is Derrida's essay titled "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of Human Sciences"?

OR

Discuss Derrida as a poststructuralist.

5. Discuss Showalter's ideas on the relationship between women's language and women's writing.

OR

Attempt a critical summary of the last section of "Feminist Criticism in Wilderness".

6. Discuss Toril Moi's contribution to feminist literary theory.

OR

Compare Moi's views on feminism with that of Showalter.

7. Why does Miller feel that "as cultural studies become more and more dominant in the humanities, the humanities will move closer and closer to a merger with the social sciences, especially with anthropology"?

OR

What does Miller mean by a materialist reading?

8. Do you agree with what Eagleton has to say on postmodernism?

OR

Do you agree with Eagleton's comments on modernism and postmodernism?

9. What, according to Bhabha, leads us to question the homogeneous and horizontal view associated with the nation's imagined community?

OR

What is the main argument of Bhabha's prescribed essay?

10. Is Mukerjee sympathetic to the objections raised by postcolonial critics against the postmodernist readings of non-European texts? What are his reasons for this?

OR

What reasons does Mukerjee have for his discomfort with the assimilationist and homogenizing tendencies of postmodernist theory?