

Conceptualizing Skills and Strategies of Reading

“Layers of text remains unexplored when we “read” a text. We need to delve into the true meaning of reading a text”, said Dr. K G Bhuvanamaheshwari, Adjunct Faculty, Jain University in a two-day workshop conducted by Jain University on “Academic Literacy: Strategies for Study”. Students, researchers and professionals got a chance to understand the various ways to read texts accurately in this workshop.

“The process of learning has undergone a metamorphosis in the metropolitan cities. It is time that we embrace new concepts of study to make classroom sessions more lively, relevant and meaningful. Reading has become a sedentary process. We do not try to uncover the latent meaning in texts. We must learn to read intelligently to create a sense of total understanding while teaching or reading any material”, Dr. K G Bhuvanamaheshwari elaborated in the workshop. She also stated that the purpose of the workshop was to bring the layman closer to their textual material, and to increase reading competencies.

The workshop explored different types of reading like critical, analytical, extensive and intensive reading, and the psychology of reading. It also dealt with academic reading, key-reading concepts, and reading media as text and narrative texts. Sessions on Reader Response theory, Critical thinking theory, closed reading and reading various texts like narratives, media texts like movies, advertisements etc. engaged the participants in discovering the various methods of developing skills and strategies for reading. The gathering were provided with material, which included many papers written by research scholars. The students were asked to analyze the various texts to improve their reading competencies.

Dr. Mythili. P.Rao, Dean, Languages, Jain University, said, “I believe that we need to prioritize reading and writing as essential skills in all walks of life from education to our professional lives. These workshops give many an opportunity to learn core skills, which are largely sidelined in our academic life.”

Nikunj P.Trivedi, Lecturer, Department of English, Jain University, said, “The workshop has given us new skills and a fresh perspective about the recent nuances of the ever evolving world of academics. The sessions were a mix of both theoretical and practical activities in which we discovered the limitations in our own reading skills. They also led us to an understanding of any text from the socio-political and cultural perspectives. I hope we have the opportunity to enjoy more workshops of this kind,” he adds wistfully.