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Department of English

Faculty of Humanities

Gurukula Kangri (Deemed to be University), Haridwar – 249404

(Formerly: 'Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar')

(NAAC Accredited Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956)

Ref. : English/2024-25

Date : 18.03.2025

Criticism and Literary Theory

A guest lecture on the topic "Criticism and Literary Theory" was held on 18th March, 2025 in the department of English at Kanya Gurukul Campus, Haridwar. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Deb Dulal Halder, associate professor, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. The lecture aimed to provide the students a better understanding of criticism, key concepts of literary theory and their relevance in understanding literary works. The lecture was attended by students of PG.

Mr. Halder started the lecture by differentiating between the terms "Literary theory" and "criticism". He then traced the evolution of literary criticism starting from Plato, Aristotle to modern critics. The discussion included several key ideas such as Plato's aversion with poets and poems & Aristotle's theory of Mimesis and Catharsis. The second part of the session focused on literary theory. The resource person discussed major theorists and their theories such as Ferdinand De Saussure and his theory of structuralism, Jaques Derrida's Post- structuralism, and Dialogism of Mikhail Bakhtin. The lecture simplified several complex concepts of theory and criticism and made the students understand how to analyze any literary work through the lens of these theories. The session encouraged students to look at literature from new perspectives and engage in interactive discussions. At the conclusion of the session, Mr. Halder answered questions from the students and provided them clarifications. The lecture was received with enthusiasm by the students and they left with a deeper understanding of the topic.



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