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Programme: M.A. English

IV Semester Examination, April/May-2024

Paper: MAEN401CCT, Paper Title: Literary Theory and Criticism-II

Time: 3 Hours

Total Marks: 70

Note: This question paper consists of three parts: Part – A, Part-B and Part-C. Number of words to answer each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part–A contains 10 compulsory questions of multiple choice/fill in the blank/very short answer type question. Answer all questions. Each question carries 1 mark. **(10x1=10-marks)**

Part-B contains 08 questions of which students are supposed to answer 05 questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part-C contains 05 questions of which students are supposed to answer 03 questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries 10 marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part –A

1. Answer all questions

- i. Identify Wordsworth’s poem, using which Brooks analysed the Language of Paradox.
 - A. “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”
 - B. “Tintern Abbey”
 - C. “Composed Upon Westminster Bridge”
 - D. “The Prelude”
- ii. Which of the following is the LEAST likely to be a binary opposition in structuralism?
 - A. Good vs. Evil
 - B. Light vs. Dark
 - C. Hot vs. Cold
 - D. Dog vs. Lion
- iii. Which of the following best describes différance?
 - A. Différance refers to the inherent clarity and precision of language.
 - B. Différance emphasises the fixed and stable meaning of words.
 - C. Différance highlights the way language constantly defers meaning, creating a network of interconnected signifiers.
 - D. Différance suggests that words have a single, universally understood meaning.
- iv. Which of the following statements BEST describes the arbitrary nature of signs?
 - A. The sound or form of a word directly reflects its meaning.
 - B. There is a universal logic behind the connection between words and their meanings.
 - C. The relationship between a signifier and signified is entirely random and has no basis.
 - D. The connection between a signifier and signified is established by convention and social agreement.
- v. Which text is NOT analysed in Spivak's essay “Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism,”.
 - A. *Jane Eyre*
 - B. *Wide Sargasso Sea*
 - C. *Frankenstein*
 - D. *Beloved*
- vi. In postcolonial literary theory, exoticism functions as a tool of colonialism by:
 - A. Celebrating the cultural exchange between coloniser and colonised.
 - B. Providing an accurate and objective representation of colonised cultures.

- C. Highlighting the cultural richness and complexity of colonised societies.
 - D. Distorting colonised cultures and reinforcing power imbalances between coloniser and colonised.
- vii. Which of the following is NOT typically a feature of Black writing, according to Morrison?
- A. Orality
 - B. Superstitious content
 - C. Participatory composition
 - D. Catering to the aristocratic audience
- viii. Which of the following is NOT one of the narrative modes White identifies?
- A. Tragic
 - B. Comic
 - C. Utopian
 - D. Romantic
- ix. Identify the three types of cultural hegemony discussed by Raymond Williams.
- A. Authoritarian, Democratic, Totalitarian
 - B. Cultural, Political, Economic
 - C. Residual, Dominant, Emergent
 - D. Historical, Social, Religious
- x. From the following, choose the element which a text-based critic might examine:
- A. The author's biography and historical context
 - B. The social and political impact of the text
 - C. The reader's interpretation and response
 - D. The text's internal structure, language, and symbolism

Part -B

2. What is “close reading” of a text? Does it miss the bigger picture of the text?
3. How does Deconstruction destabilise Structuralist analysis?
4. Explain the key tenets of postcolonial literary theory.
5. Trace the history and development of feminist theory.
6. What is “Emplotment” according to Hayden White?
7. What are the key features of Black writings, according to Toni Morrison?
8. What is hard about translating a cultural text? Comment with reference to Talal Asad’s essay.
9. Discuss three major classifications of detective fiction, as explained by Todorov.

Part -C

10. How do New Criticism, Formalism, and Structuralism, while sharing a focus on textual analysis, diverge in their approaches to uncovering meaning within a literary work?
11. How did post-structuralism’s emphasis on power and unstable meaning open doors for theories like postcolonialism, feminism, and critical race theory? Explain with examples.
12. How does Hayden White challenge the distinction between history and fiction, suggesting both can be ‘fictional’ and ‘historical’?.
13. How do New Historicism and Marxist theory, while emphasising the importance of historical context in literary analysis, diverge in their primary focus and methodological approaches? Discuss.
14. How do author-centric, text-centric, and reader-centric critical approaches illuminate different aspects of meaning within a literary text? Provide examples.