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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Christine Elizabeth Samuel, Registration Number: 2170286, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Off-Campus will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Saturday, 06 September 2025 at 12:15 pm in the Seminar Hall (Room No. 2208), Management Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa-412112.

Title of the Thesis : **An Ecocritical Analysis of *The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm***

Discipline : **English Studies**

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The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva – voce examination.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03 September 2025

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

This research studies The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm through an ecocritical lens, focusing on ecological and psychological perspectives. The tales of the Brothers Grimm have served as a foundational figure in folklore and fairy tale studies, renowned for entertainment and their influence on young minds. But these tales are considered dark, cruel, brutal, and frightening compared with their later refined versions. The underlying features of the human psyche expressed in the tales have been further explored in this research. The primary aim of this study is to interpret the concealed qualities manifested through the characters. This study unveils the conscious and the unconscious minds of the human psyche. The collective unconscious, with its shared memories and fears, gives rise to ingrained anxieties about nature, often projected onto non-human entities in the tales. Hence, this study analyses the collection through the lens of ecocriticism, wherein a qualitative research methodology has been employed using the ecogothic and ecophobic approaches. Additionally, the concepts of deep ecology and ecosophy under ecophilosophy have been incorporated to support the biocentric perspective. The ecogothic analysis of the work examines the anthropomorphised and stereotyped roles non-human characters play in the tales, evoking human emotions like curiosity, anxiety, and fear. Examining the ecogothic approach reveals the uncanny feature in human-nature relationships resulting in ecophobia. Jung's archetypes and psychological types have also been employed to highlight this ecophobic aspect. The major archetypes applied include the 'Wise Old Man', 'Mother', 'Trickster', and 'Shadow'. Building upon the 'Shadow Archetype', an analysis through the 'Individuation' theory assesses the development of the main character to form a unified 'Self', depicting the protagonist's journey through several symbolic and psychological stages, resolving internal problems and reconciling conflicting aspects of their psyche. The study also discusses the dynamic relationship between humans and nature by employing the concepts of deep ecology and ecosophy. These concepts are integrated to illustrate that the tales not only address human aspirations and anxieties but also emphasise the importance of maintaining a balance between the tensions of humans and the environment, as they are interdependent.

Keywords: *Ecogothic, ecophobia, archetypes, individuation, ecophilosophy*

Publications:

1. **Christine Elizabeth Samuel & Srishti, R.** (2024). A Textual Analysis of Panchatantra, Enhanced by Technology from the Psychological Perspective. 2024 International Conference on Trends in Quantum Computing and Emerging Business Technologies. 1-6. doi: [10.1109/TQCEBT59414.2024.10545143](https://doi.org/10.1109/TQCEBT59414.2024.10545143)
2. **Christine Elizabeth Samuel & Srishti, R.** (2024). An Analysis of Grimms' Transmedia Storytelling in the Age of Technology. 2024 International Conference on Trends in Quantum Computing and Emerging Business Technologies. 1-6. doi: [10.1109/TQCEBT59414.2024.10545037](https://doi.org/10.1109/TQCEBT59414.2024.10545037)