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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Aviti Latha, Registration Number: 2190091, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Thursday, 14 May 2026 at 02.30 pm in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Archetypal Shadows Within the Domination Matrix: Chromatic Consciousness and Individuation in Select Black Women's Literature**
- Discipline** : **English Studies**
- External Examiner - I** : **Dr Avishek Parui**
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- External Examiner - II** : **Dr Smita Jha**
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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: 27 April 2026

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

The study develops the concept of chromatic consciousness as a critical framework for understanding the complex experiences of Black women in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*. Drawing on Patricia Collins's theory of intersectionality and the matrix of domination, the analysis demonstrates how structural, interpersonal, hegemonic, and disciplinary forms of power converge to restrict Black women's selfhood, while simultaneously generating possibilities for agency and transformation. The research further incorporates Carl Jung's shadow archetype and individuation to examine how characters confront internalised oppression and move toward psychological wholeness. Additionally, Andrew J. Elliot and Markus Maier's color-in-context theory illuminates the affective and symbolic power of colour in negotiating social meaning and identity.

In *The Bluest Eye*, chromatic consciousness reveals how the internalisation of whiteness as an aesthetic and moral ideal fractures the self. *The Color Purple* traces Celie's movement from silencing and subjugation to self-realisation, with chromatic symbolism reinforcing themes of healing, solidarity, and resistance. In *Purple Hibiscus*, Kambili undergoes a transformation from submissiveness to active resistance as she develops chromatic consciousness, which enables her to confront oppressive structures. Through acts of defiance against authoritarian control, she advances toward individuation, demonstrating how psychological resilience facilitates the negotiation of identity within postcolonial and patriarchal contexts.

Across these texts, colour becomes a dynamic force that mediates oppression and enables individuation. By bringing together Black feminist theory, analytical psychology, and colour studies, this research contributes a novel interpretative lens for understanding identity formation, solidarity, and resistance in Black women's literature.

Keywords: *Internalised oppression, shadow archetype, chromatic consciousness, individuation, and matrix of domination.*

Publications:

1. **Aviti, Latha,** and Bhavani S "Loving and Terrible Mother: An Archetypal Redefinition of African Motherhood in Beloved." *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, vol.16, no.2, 2024, pp. 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.21659/rupkatha.v16n2.22g>.
2. **Aviti, Latha,** and Bhavani. S. "Shadows of Populist Ideology: A Threat to Democracy." *Encyclopedia of New Populism and Responses in the 21st Century*, Springer Nature Singapore, 2024, pp. 940-943. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-9859-0_453-1.
3. **Aviti, Latha,** and Bhavani S. "Familial Hegemonies and Resistance in The God of Small Things." *Journal of English Studies*, vol. 24, 2026. <http://doi.org/10.18172/jes.6670>.
4. **Aviti, Latha.** "Education: A Redefinition of Culture?" *Shodh Disha, UGC Approved Journal*, print ed., vol. 62, ISSN 0975-735X.