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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Gifty Joseph, Registration Number: 2190005, 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 Tuesday, 16 December 2025 at 10.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis : **Contextualising Text Worlds: A Cognitive Stylistic Study of Select Poems of Charles Tomlinson**

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: 10 December 2025


Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

Charles Tomlinson was a post-war British poet, illustrator and translator who was known as the poet of perception. This thesis examines how Tomlinson presents this theme of perception using the methodology of cognitive stylistics. This methodological approach in this research combines cognitive stylistic theories based on text-world, deictic shift, and mind-modelling. This thesis focuses on the structuring of the text-worlds in Tomlinson's poems, and allied concepts such as deictic shift and mind-modelling. Tomlinson's subversion of the extremities and exploration of themes from different contexts and geographical locations are explored, thus stating how his poems allegorise the concept of perception. The theme of perception in Tomlinson's poems gains significance owing to the post-war era that he was part of, which significantly influenced his writing. The primary texts considered for study in this research are *The Necklace* (1955), *Seeing is Believing* (1958), *A Peopled Landscape* (1963), *American Scenes and Other Poems* (1966), *The Way of a World* (1969), *Written on Water* (1972), *The Way in and Other Poems* (1974), *The Shaft* (1978), *The Flood* (1981), *Notes from New York and Other Poems* (1984), *The Return* (1987), *Annunciations* (1989), *The Door in the Wall* (1992), *Jubilation* (1995), *The Vineyard Above the Sea* (1999), *Skywriting* (2003), and *Cracks in the Universe* (2006). Through critical discourse analysis, the researcher inspects select poems of Tomlinson and identifies how the poet constructs deictic centres, text-worlds and characters in his poems that foreground specific forms of referentiality. The thesis studies the narrative techniques of Tomlinson and connects them to select concepts in cognitive stylistics. The initial core chapter deals with the nature of text-worlds in Tomlinson's poems and links their structuring with concepts such as accessibility and possible worlds. The second core chapter deals with deictic shifts and explores the different types of deictic centres in his poems. The final core chapter explores the connection of mind-modelling with modality and emotion. The thesis argues that Tomlinson emphasises the pragmatic and fluid angles of perception, with poems rooted in socio-cultural contexts. This thesis proposes that Tomlinson's text-worlds embody a speculative nature through specific modes of referentiality and thus reposition contexts of perception. Tomlinson foregrounds the experientiality of the reader and enables a speculative mediation by facilitating the reader's shifts across deictic centres and the reader's comprehension of characters through mind-modelling.

Keywords: *Charles Tomlinson, cognitive stylistics, character, deictic shift, mind-modelling, perception, text-world.*

Publications

1. **Joseph, Gifty** and John J. Kennedy. "Decolonizing English Studies in India: Teaching of Native American Literatures in South Indian Universities." *Exploring Multicultural Dimensions of Literary, Linguistic, and Educational Frontiers*. IGI Global, 2025. (Scopus)
2. **Joseph, Gifty** and John J. Kennedy. "Slam Poetry and the Politics of Template." *Encyclopedia of New Populism and Responses in the Twenty-First Century*. Springer, 2023. (Scopus)
3. **Joseph, Gifty** and John J. Kennedy. "'I Woke Up Already Hurting': Postcolonial Affect in Tanya Tagaq's Split Tooth." *Crossroads*, vol. 50, issue 2, 2025. (Accepted to be published in October 2025- Scopus)