

Graphic novel as counter – discourse.

Date: 22/09/2022

Venue: Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium

Time: 2.30 PM to 4.30 PM

The department of English, Loyola College, organised a guest lecture on 22.09.2022 titled ‘**Graphic Novel as counter – discourse**’. The chief guest of the day was Mr. Kiran Kumar who is a research scholar at Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul. It was presided over by Dr K.S. Antonysamy, the Head of the Department and Dr K. Kannan Prasad, the faculty in charge. First year post graduate students of English literature and Sociology attended the guest lecture.





The guest lecture aimed at differentiating between comics and graphic novels. Furthermore, an idea was presented as to how a graphic novel can be interpreted. The speaker gave a clear description of how comics evolved from pictographs that were used by stone man to portray his expeditions and experiences. The facts stated were supported with

historical evidence dating back to 20,000 years ago. The power of narration plays a vital role in pictographs. This same technique of speaking through pictograph was also employed in the Ajanta and Ellora caves. From pictographs, proto pictures and proto speech bubbles took form and these could be found in the Tomb of Menna. Gradually from this developed the idea of political cartoons. From political cartoons came comics and graphic novels, which serve as a feast to the eye.

The talk proceeded with discussion on the narratives and techniques used in comics and graphic novels. Semi-narrative technique gave a broader perspective for the reader to think upon. Blood shed technique, de-emphasising technique and montage add variety to graphic novels. The panels used in highlighting various events in a graphic novel were also dealt with and supported with examples.

The lecture paved a way for a better understanding of graphic novels, its origin, growth, narratives and techniques. Additionally, the idea of 'abstracting reality to emphasising reality' stressed on how graphic novels too can awaken the mind of the readers. The activity given and the videos which were played, kept the audience glued to the topic throughout the talk. The session was also an eye opener to decode the ways in which the prescribed text 'Kindred by Octavia E. Butler – A graphic Novel Adaptation' could be read and analysed.