

BANIBRATA MAHANTA

Associate Professor

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WORK EXPERIENCE |

16 years

Oct 2005 – onwards: Dept of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, UP.

Mar 2003 – Oct 2005: Dept of English, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi, UP.

Jun 2000 – Mar 2003: Dept of English, Panjab University Regional PG Centre, Muktsar, Punjab.

PUBLICATIONS |

Books/Monographs

- Mahanta, Banibrata. *Joseph Conrad: The Gothic Imagination*. New Delhi: Adhyayan Publishers, 2006.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. *Disability Studies: A Monograph*. Newcastle on Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2016.
- Mahanta, Banibrata and Rajesh B. Sharma. *English Studies in India: Changing Paradigms*. Newcastle on Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2017. (in press)

Translation

- Commissioned to translate into English *Lavanyadevi* by Kusum Khemani (New Delhi: Rajkamal Paperbacks, 2013).

Textbook

- Sahu, Nandini, Banibrata Mahanta and Indira Mukhopadhyaya eds. IGNOU MA (English) Elective Course *Indian Folk Literature*. Course to be launched in the session 2017-18.

Chapters in Books

- Mahanta, Namrata Rathore and Banibrata Mahanta. "The Indian Novel Today: Existing and Emerging Paradigms". Ed. Atul Kumar Thakur. New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2016.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Indian Writing in English, its Literary History and the North East: An Appraisal". *Living the Postcolonial: Indian Literature in Perspective*. Ed. Srideep Mukherjee. Kolkata: Gangchil and Netaji Subhash Open University, 2016. 103-123.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "'Hamara Shakespeare': Cultural Formations in Colonial Bengal". *Representation and Resistance: Essays on Postcolonial Theatre and Drama*. Eds. Gourhari Behera and Sunita Murmu. New Delhi: Adhyayan Books, 2015. 206-219.

- Mahanta, Namrata Rathore and Banibrata Mahanta. "The Nation as Goddess: Ritualizing Politics, Politicizing the Sacral." *Theory and Praxis: Indian and Western*. Ed. R. N. Rai, M. S. Pandey and Anita Singh. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2015. 42-52.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "The Indian Novel in English and National Identity". *India Since 1947: Looking Back at a Modern Nation*. Ed. Atul Kumar Thakur. New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2013. 243-255.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Disability Aesthetics and Indian English Fiction: An Overview". *Twenty-First Century Indian English Novel*. Ed. Prabhat K. Singh. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013. 80-88.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Folklore as Motif in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*". *Folklore and the Alternative Modernities*. Ed. Nandini Sahu. New Delhi: Authorspress, 2012. 1-12.
- Mahanta, Banibrata and Koushik Bhattacharjee. "Reflections on the Indian Diasporic Novel(s): Category, Theory, Praxis." *Modern Literary Theory: New Perspectives*. Vol I. Ed. Sunita Sinha. New Delhi: Atlantic, 2011. 221-240.
- Mahanta, Banibrata and Koushik Bhattacharjee. "Narrating the Nation: A Reading of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*". *Indian Booker Prize Winners: A Critical Study of Their Works*. Vol. II. Ed. Sunita Sinha. New Delhi: Atlantic, 2010. 130-148.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "*The Indian Hero: A Study in Tradition as Theme*". *The Triple Path: Reinventing Poetic Genre: A Study of the Poetry of Charu Sheel Singh*. Vol. I. Ed. Krishna Banerjee. New Delhi: Adhyayan Publishers, 2007. 51-56.

Chapters in Textbooks (Self learning material for IGNOU)

- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Conventional and New Approaches to the Study of Culture". *IGNOU PG Diploma in Folklore and Culture Studies: Folklore and Culture: Conceptual Perspectives (MFC-001)*. 2.2 (2009): 90-103.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Culture – 'High' and 'Low'; Popular and Mass". *IGNOU PG Diploma in Folklore and Culture Studies: Folklore and Culture: Conceptual Perspectives (MFC-001)*. 2.4 (2009): 104-114.
- Mahanta, Banibrata and Anurag Mohanty. "Editing Literature for Children with Special Needs". *IGNOU PG Diploma in Book Publishing: Editing Books for Children (MBP-005)*. 4.4 (2009): 214-226.

Research Papers

- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Nationalist Iconography and Cultural Identity: Narrating the Gendered Nation." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Literature and Language* 1.4 (2016): 78-89.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Joseph Conrad and the Language of Dis-ease". *International Journal of Culture Studies and Social Sciences* 4.7 (2016): 24-32.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Literature and Human Rights in the Context of the Elderly: A Perspective from Indian English Fiction". *English Forum: Journal of the Department of English, Gauhati University*. 4 (2015): 40-48.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Teaching Literature to Children: A Special Needs Perspective". *Fundamental Research* 5.8 (2015): 8-11.

- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Literature and/of Ageing: A Gerontological Perspective on Age Identity in Literature". *Journal of Language, Literature and Culture: Journal of the Department of English, Assam University, Silchar* 1 (2014): 16-26.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Disciplining English Literary Studies in India: A Critique". *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (ILAS)*. 18. 1, 2 (2011/2014): 129-140.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Transacting Shakespeare in Colonial Bengal: (R)evolutionary Trajectories". *Theatre International: East-West Perspectives on Theatre, Shakespeare Special Number*. 5 (2012): 79-91.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Travels in Lalgola: The Travails of Bankimchandra and the Writing of *Anandamath*". *Muse India*. 37 (2011). www.museindia.com.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "A Critique of Cosmopolitan Dalit Identity in Narendra Jadhav's *Outcaste: A Memoir*". *Illuminati: A Transnational Journal of Literature, Language and Culture Studies*. 2 (2011): 78-88.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "The Graphic Novel: An Inquiry into its Origins and Development". *The International Journal of Culture, Literature and Criticism*. 1.1 (2010): 22-31.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Grandmothers' Tales: Sunny Singh's Narratives of Myth and Modernity". *Atlantic Literary Review*. 10.1 (2009): 115-124.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Identity as Ideological Strategy: Reading Hari Kunzru's *The Impressionist*". *The Literary Vision* 3(2008): 69-79.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Foregrounding the Local: Nature, Language and Human Enterprise in *The Hungry Tide*". *The Indian Journal of English Studies* 44 (2007): 97-105.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Of Cultural Constructs and Human Dilemmas: Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*". *Points of View* 13.2 (2006): 60-67.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "The Subaltern as Subject: Reading Mahasweta Devi's *After Kurukshetra*". *Dialogue* 2.1 (2006): 24-34.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "The Myth of Communication: Reading Hari Kunzru's *Transmission*". *Littcrit* 31.1 (2005): 82-89. Print. ISSN-0970-8049.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Of Coats, Names and Identities: Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*". *Dialogue* 1.1 (2005): 68-76. Print.

Conference Proceedings

- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Bharat Mata Mandir: The Politics of Gender and Nationalist Narrative". *Imaging India*. Ed. Nivedita Maitra. Sagar: Department of English, Dr. H. S. Gaur University, 2009. 43-50.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Some Problems of Representation in the Indian Novel in English: An Overview". *Proceedings of the UGC Sponsored State-level Seminar on Indian Novel in English: Class Consciousness and Ethnic Crisis*. Barpeta: Department of English, M C College, 2007. 14-28.

Interviews

- Mahanta, Banibrata. "Interview with Sharankumar Limbale". *Research and Criticism* 3 (2012): 130-136.

- Mahanta, Banibrata. “An Interview with Arenla Subong”. *Gender, Space and Resistance: Women and Theatre in India*. Ed. Anita Singh. New Delhi: DK Printworld, 2012. 642-648.
- Mahanta, Banibrata and Randheer Pratap Singh. “An Interview with Bapsi Sidhwa.” *The Journal of Indian Writing in English* 34.2 (2006):49-53.
- Mahanta, Banibrata, Somdev Banik and Namrata Rathore. “Writing is like Music: An Interview with Amitav Ghosh.” *The Hindu Literary Review*, 21 May, 2000: pp.xiii, xvi.

Book Reviews

- Mahanta, Banibrata. Rev. of *River of Smoke* by Amitav Ghosh. *Research and Criticism* 2 (2011):154-156.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. Rev. of *Forest of Tigers: People, Politics and Environment in the Sundarbans* by Annu Jalais. *Research and Criticism* 1 (2010): 168.
- Mahanta, Banibrata. Rev. of *Scripture on Stone* by Charu Sheel Singh. *Dialogue* 3.1 (2007): 103-104.

RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN |

- Principal Investigator, UGC Major Research Project titled *Bharat Mata: A Genealogy of Representation*. 2009-2011.
- Co-Investigator, UGC Major Research project titled *Transcreation as Re-creation: An Inquiry into the Genre of Drama in Indian Languages*. 2007-2009.

SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/COURSES |

Invited Papers/Lectures/Talks

- Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study, JNU, New Delhi and International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies, in association with Routledge: Presentation titled “Silent Interlocutions: Translating Tagore and Disability in “Subha””, South-Asian Regional Workshop on “Translating Disability Across Cultures: The Translation and Representation of Disability in the Modern Indian Short Story”, 14-16 September 2016.
- Department of English, Assam University, Silchar: Plenary lecture on “The Writing of Literary History, Indian Writing in English and the North East”, International Conference on “(Re)envisaging India’s North East: Ethnicity, Identity, Culture, Literature”, 8-9 September 2016.
- Department of Education, Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur: Three lectures on “Academic Writing”, Workshop on Research Methodology and Academic Writing for Research Scholars, 4 April 2016.
- Department of English, Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur and Shakespeare Society of India: Invited lecture on “Shakespeare in Bangla Adaptations: Versions of *The Tempest*”, International Conference on “Shakespeare in Indian and European Languages: A Postmodern Review”, 16-18 November 2015.

- The Alliance for Global Education (a division of the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University, Indianapolis): Field lecture for students of the “City of Confluence” Course, Fall Semester 2015, “Nationalist Iconography in Colonial/Postcolonial India”, Bharat Mata Mandir, Varanasi, 27 October 2015
- HRDC, Sambalpur University, Sambalpur: Four lectures, Refresher Course on “Contemporary Theoretical Approaches to Literature”, 12-13 September 2015.
- Department of English, PG College, Ghazipur: Invited lecture on “Teaching Linguistics in the Classroom”, 21 March 2015.
- Academic Staff College, Kumaun University, Nainital: Four lectures, Refresher Course on “Contemporary Literary Theories: Concepts, Issues, Trends”, 27-28 November 2014.
- Radhakrishnan Hall, Faculty of Arts, BHU: Invited lecture on “The Secular Space: Maulana Abul Kalam Azad’s Idea of Nationalist Education”, University seminar on *Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Life and Works* on National Education Day, 11 November 2014.
- CWSD, BHU: Lecture on “Documentation in Academic Research: Discernment and Integrity”, 14th Orientation Course in Women’s Studies, 4 March 2014.
- School of Arts and Languages, Faculty of Business and Applied Arts, Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar: Plenary Lecture on “The “Superfluous People: Experiencing Disability in a Norm-al World”, National Seminar on *Contextualizing and Reorienting Violence and its Spaces in a Postmodern, Globalized World Order*, 7 December 2013.
- Department of English, University College of Arts and Centre for Education and Research, Tumkur University, Tumkur: Lead lecture on “English Studies in India: A Critique”, International Conference on *Research Trends in English Studies*, 26-27 July 2013.
- DAV PG College, Varanasi: Special lectures on “Indian Writing in English: An Introduction” and “Imaginary Homeland: Rushdie’s India in *Midnight’s Children*”, 23 March 2013.
- CWSD, BHU: Plenary lecture on “Narrativizing Senescence: A Perspective on Gerontological Marginalization”, National Seminar on *Mediating Marginalities*, 13-14 March 2012.
- Department of English and Other Foreign Languages, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi: Invited paper on “*Anandamath*: Interrogating Indian Nationalism in Text and on Screen”, National Seminar on *Text-Screen Interface: Cinematic Encoding and Indian English Literature*, 4-5 February 2012.
- Department of Hindi, BHU: Invited lecture on “Historical Fiction/Fictional History: The Literature-History Debate and the Novels of Amitav Ghosh”, National Symposium on *Badaltery Waqt me Shodh ki Chhantiyen*, 11-12 November, 2011.
- Department of English, Lanka Mahavidyalaya, Lanka, Assam: Inaugural Address, Plenary lecture on “Representations of Disability in the Indian English Novel”, National Seminar on *Modes of Representation in the Postcolonial Indian Novel in English*, 28-29 September 2011.
- Department of English and Modern European Languages, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi: Invited paper on “Disability Aesthetics and the Indian English Novel: An Overview”, National Seminar on *21st Century Indian English Novel*, 5-6 February 2011.

- Academic Staff College, Kumaun University, Nainital: Four lectures, Refresher Course on “Postcolonialism and Literature”, 16-17 February, 2009.
- Department of English, MC College, Barpeta, Assam: Keynote address “Representing Class and Caste in the Indian Novel in English: A Historical Overview”, UGC Sponsored State Level Seminar on *Indian Novels in English: Class Consciousness and Ethnic Crisis*, 20-21 September 2007.
- ICFAI National College, Varanasi: Invited talk on “Better English Pronunciation: An Introduction to English Phonetics”, 12 December 2005.

Others Presentations/Courses Attended

- Papers presented at Seminars/Conferences/Workshops: 30
- Orientation Course: 01; Refresher Course: 02; Special Summer School: 01; STC: 01

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES |

Professional Affiliations

- Language Specialist, PELA (Proficiency of English Language in Aviation) for ATCOs at LBS Airport, Varanasi. For English Language training programmes, evaluation and certification as per requirements of ICAO, Montreal and directives of Director General, Civil Aviation, New Delhi for Airports Authority of India, 2013-14 onwards.

Academic Affiliations

- Visiting Faculty in English, School of Language, Literature and Arts, Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, Barla, Madhya Pradesh, 2016.
- Guest Faculty, Legal English Programme, 5 year Integrated BA LIB Programme, Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 2014-15 onwards.
- Guest Faculty, Technical English Programme, IIT BHU, 2011-2012.
- Academic Counsellor, IGNOU, 2007-2008, 2008-2009.

Fellowships/Awards/Memberships

- UGC IUC Research Associate, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, 2013, 2015.
- Recipient of the Best Paper Award for the paper titled “Bharat Mata Mandir: The Politics of Gender and Nationalist Narrative”, National Seminar on India (*Bharata*): *Images, Imagination and Experience Issues in Concept(s), Structure(s) and Interpretation(s)*, Department of English and Other European Languages, Dr. Hari Singh Gaur Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, 14-15 November, 2007.
- Life Member, Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (IACLALS)
- Life Member, The Association of English Studies for India (AESI).

Conferences/Seminars/Courses Organized and Coordinated

- Coordinator, Refresher Course on “Bharatratna Mahamana Malaviya and His Mission”, UGC-HRDC, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 14 July-3 August, 2016.
- Member, Organizing Committee, National Seminar on “Women and Violence”, Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 8-9 March 2013.
- Member, Organizing Committee, 7th Biennial World Shakespeare Conference on “Shakespeare Across Cultures”, Department of English, Banaras Hindu University, in collaboration with Shakespeare Society of Eastern India Kolkata and ICSSR, New Delhi, 3-5 December, 2012.
- Organizing Secretary, National Conference on “Mediating Marginalities”, Centre for Women’s Studies and Development, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 13-14 March 2012.
- Member, Organizing Committee, International Conference on “Decolonizing the Stage: Paradigm, Practice and Politics”, Department of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 15-17 November 2011.
- Member, Organizing Committee, National Symposium on “Feminist Methodology”, Centre for Women’s Studies and Development, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 29-30 September 2011.
- Member, Organizing Committee, International Conference on “Theory at Work: Text, History and Culture”, Department of English, Banaras Hindu University, in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and ICSSR, New Delhi, 9-11 November 2010.

PhD Dissertations Awarded/Ongoing

- Amrita Banerjee, “Re-visioning History: A Study of the Novels of Amitav Ghosh”.
- Harinath Bharti, “Beyond Boundaries: A Study of the Novels of Hari Kunzru”.
- Santanu Niyogi, “Shakespeare’s History Plays: A Contemporary Historiographic Critique”.
- Partha Sarathi Nandi, “Trauma and Violence in the Post-Partition Theatre of Bengal”.
- Saurav Kumar, “Fiction as Gerontological Resource: A Critical Study of Select Novels”.
- Abanti Banerjee, “Growth and Development of the Indian Graphic Novel: An Evolutionary Perspective”.
- Sumana Mukherjee, “Chronicling Women and Women’s Concerns: A Study of the Works of Anees Jung”.
- Shailesh Pratap Singh, “Memory, Nostalgia and the Anglo-Indian Narrative: A Study of the Works of I. Allan Sealy”.

Editorial Responsibilities in Journals

- Member, Editorial Advisory Board:
Avantgarde Responses: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (2012 onwards), *The Volcano: Students’ Journal of the Department of English, BHU* (2016).
- Member, Editorial board:

Journal of Gender and Justice: Journal of the Centre for Women's Studies and Development, BHU (2012), Research and Criticism: Journal of the Department of English, BHU (2010-2013), The Volcano: Students' Journal of the Department of English, BHU (2010-2013).

- Review Editor:

Dialogue: A Journal Devoted to Literary Appreciation (2006-2015)

- Editor:

Interdisciplinary Journal of Language and Literature (2012 onwards).