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### Message from the Issue Editor



Dear Readers,
February 21st
holds a special
place for
individuals who
share a keen interest

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in their mother tongue in particular and languages at large. It's indeed a special day because it marks 'International Mother Language Day' which was then declared by UNESCO back in the year 1999, commemorating the four students who died fighting for their right to use their mother language. After the

Indian independence, the Bay of Bengal was divided between India and Pakistan based on the predominant religion of the region. In the year 1948, Pakistan declared Urdu as the sole national language which led to unrest among the Bengali speaking majorities of East Bengal. On February 21st, 1952, students and activists organised a protest at the University of Dhaka. During the protest, the police opened fire at the demonstrators which resulted in killing of the four students. The International Mother Language Day' was first observed on

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the four students. The 'International Mother Language Day' was first observed on 21st February 2000.

Having addressed why a specific day is set aside for observing mother language/tongue day, let's shift our attention to why it is called so. Why do you think it is called mother tongue and not father tongue? After all it is spoken by both set of parents at home. The answer is based on the assumption that mothers

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shoulders the responsibility of passing down language, customs and culture of the people to the child, who spends more time with them from their infancy till adolescence. Hence, the term mother tongue and not father tongue. The first language that we acquire is

referred to as our mother-tongue. Now 'acquire' or 'learn' is another debatable issue which we shall not address here for now. It is said that if one has sound knowledge of one's own mother tongue, it becomes relatively easy to learn other languages. And of course! It goes without saying that the more languages we know, the wider our world will be.

We shall now discuss one very essential element of language and i.e. identity. Back in the day, one could make out the community of one another from the attire itself. But now we hardly see people going around with any traditional attire which signifies the community they belong to. It's through language that we decipher the community of the speaker. Language and identity are closely related. Language ceases to exist the moment its speakers stops speaking it. It is estimated that in the last fifty years, India has lost around 250 languages. Several reasons can be credited for this loss. One reason can be because the speakers choose another language over their own which in turn lead to the death of their own language. The dead of a language further leads to the dead of the customs, culture of the community which embodies the identity of the people.

Looking at the present scenario, the domain for using our mother tongue is diminishing. This puts our mother tongue at the danger zone. Nowadays it's not surprising to come across people who say that they don't know how to speak their mother tongue well. The problem arises when

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such people actually takes pride in coming up with such statements. Awareness ought to be created about the importance of knowing our own mother-tongue. Well this in no way means that monolingualism should be encouraged but rather it means retaining the knowledge of our own language while learning other languages.

If language was nothing but only a medium of communication, those four students would not have given up their lives for their language and at a different level coming closer home, people would not make such a huge outcry over the government's decision to develop Nagamese. In spite of the significant role that Nagamese plays in our society as an alternate medium of communication besides English, not everyone is ready to take a step of developing it. Besides all the reasons that has been put forward by different people in the local dallies and social networking sites about the pros and cons of developing Nagamese, the fact remains that developing another language which is not one of our own further risks the existence of local languages on which very few linguistic works has being carried out.

To conclude, I would encourage each one of us to develop passion for retaining and developing our mother tongue upon which our cultural customs and practices are deeply rooted. Take pride in saying that you know all the four skills of language in your own mother tongue. Try to learn other languages as well as teach your own to others.

Long Live Mother Language/Tongue!

Dr. H. Salome Kinny Assistant Professor Department of English ICFAI University Nagaland

### **Campus News**

Former UGC Chairman Interaction: The Former Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Professor V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai interacted with the faculty members

of the university sharing his valuable insights on the teaching process and various socio-academic issues on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

### ICSSR sponsored National Seminar:

The Department of Political Science

conducted a two day National Seminar sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Nagaland, Shri Deo Nukhu graced the event as chief guest while Professor V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, (Former Chairman, UGC) delivered the

keynote

Assistant

Political Science
of 11 papers
presenters
as from various
institutions of



Professor, Department of chaired the seminar. A total were presented by from the university as well other prominent academic the country which include Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Guwahati), Indian

Kaini

Lokho.

Ms.





University, Patkai Christian College (Dimapur), and Nagaland University. Details of the papers that were presented are:

- "Interventions on Sex Trafficking: A Study in Assam", Dr. Sawmya Ray, Associate Professor, Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG).
- "Gender, Law and State", Dr. Sawmveli, Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati.
- "On Evangelical Christianity, History and the Making of Gender Relations among the Nagas, Dr. John Thomas, Dept. of Humanities
   Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG).
- "Are Women organizations in Nagaland, Movement
  organizations?", Renchumi Kikon Kuotsu, Dept. of Political Science,
  Patkai Christian College, Dimapur.
- "Tradition and Democracy: Matriliny and Political Participation of Women in the Khasi Hills",
  Basil N. Darlong Diengdoh, Research Scholar, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad
- "Women and Peace: A Stereotypic Responsibility in a conflict torn State.", Mamta Lukram, Research Scholar, Centre for Manipur Studies, Manipur University, Canchipur.
- "Food, Cooking and Market from Gender Lens", Surekha Longjam, Research Scholar, Centre for Manipur Studies, Manipur University, Canchipur.



- "Political Engagement in Nagaland: A Gender Narrative.", Dr. Moamenla Amer and Kikruneinuo Kuotsu, Dept. of Political Science, Nagaland University, Lumami.
- "The Masculine Heroine: Questioning the Hero (Heroine) Archetype in Mad Max Fury Road.",
  Dr. Elika Assumi, Dept. of English, ICFAI University Nagaland, Dimapur.

- "Gender discourse and the Church: Do Women share equal power with Men?", Achilo L. Kikon, Dept. of Political Science, ICFAI University Nagaland, Dimapur.
- "A Study of Armed Women Cadres in South Asia.", Elmie K. Rengma, Dept. of Political Science, ICFAI University Nagaland, Dimapur.

**Book Release:** On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2016, the book "Education and Nation Building" authored by Col. Dr. VRK Prasad, Vice Chancellor of IUN was

released by Prof. Rajasekharan

Pillai (Former Chairman, UGC) during the inauguration of the two day ICSSR sponsored National Seminar.



**Photos:** 

Hamidul Islam, BA 6<sup>th</sup> Semester & Sibu M. Chetia, Administration.

**NJY Memorial Rolling Trophy Volley Ball Match:** On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2016, the annual NJY Memorial Rolling Trophy Volley Ball Match was held in memory of the founder of ICFAI. Four teams of students from the various departments of the university participated in the match. The team from the Department of Management emerged as the winners of the match.



Photos: Vindhya Sagar, Dept. of Management



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Education

ducation

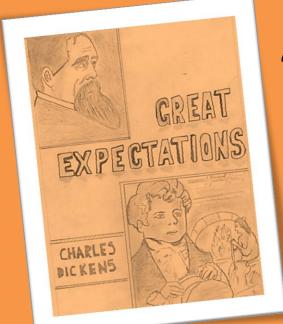
And Nation Building

# Great Expectations (A Graphic Novel) - Part 11

Ms. Temsurenla Ozukum, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English

his graphic novel is the outcome of a class project which was conducted as part of the internal assessment for a course titles 'Fiction from Richardson to Hardy' in the MA (English) class.

For this project, the class was divided into eight groups and was assigned different tasks based on the text "Great Expectations" by the Victorian novelist, Charles Dickens.



One of the groups was assigned to create a comic book based on fifteen important incidents found in the novel. They were very creative and delivered a presentation using these comic panels involving events and incidents which Pip, the protagonist undergoes and overcomes as he attains adulthood.

Here is a short summary of the novel:

Great Expectations is the coming of age story about

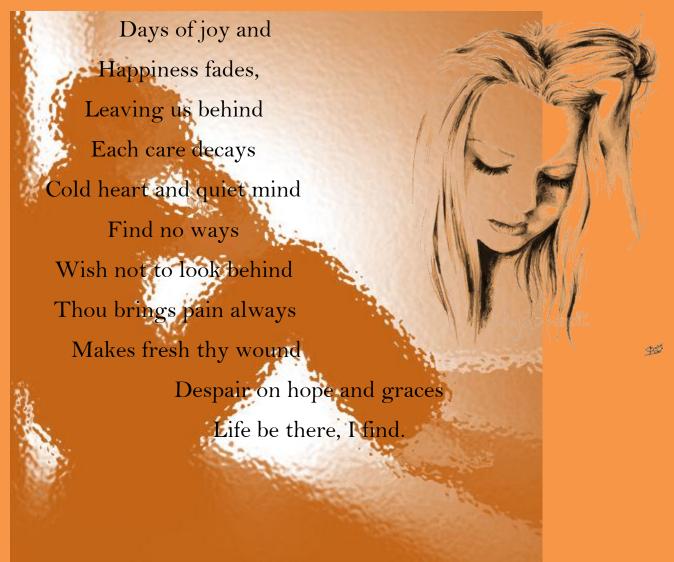
Philip Pirrip, otherwise known as Pip. The novel is narrated by Pip, a young orphan who seeks to become a gentleman in order to earn the love of the beautiful but cold hearted Estella. Estella has been adopted by the rich but strange lady Miss Havisham to seek revenge on men. With the help from a mysterious benefactor, Pip leaves his country home in Kent for London to become a fine young gentleman. In the process, he distances himself from the coarse life and upbringing of which Estella has made him ashamed. Eventually, Pip redeems himself and the novel ends with Pip as a matured and chastened individual.

This is the eleventh installment in the series.



## Life, thou are unfair

Azatoli K. Chishi, MA (Eng.) 4th Semester



# An Answer To A Mom's Prayer

Best Contribution of the Month

Thungbeni Kithan, MA (Eng.) 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

was in the year 2010 in the month of July during summer vacation Mary went to Shillong for her further studies. Shillong is a place where we hardly feel the heat of the sun; it's filled with fog, cool breeze, well maintained roads, hygienic surroundings, full of well-mannered people and so it is considered as one of the most beautiful places. Mary landed in Shillong where she stayed with her elder sister in the hostel. Since it was her first time staying away from home, she felt scared, anxious and nervous but she tried her best to overcome the fear that was stuck inside her. Arrival of the day for her class commences, she had to go alone as her sister was busy with her work. She took the challenge to go by herself to college where she met so many new friends. As the days went by she became comfortable staying in a new place. She was so innocent that right after her class gets over she will go directly to her hostel. The weather of Shillong was so unpredictable that there will be a heavy rain in

the morning and morning and college heavy umbrella She started not even

was

Hearing sickness her worried and she mother Mary's emotions, she wanted could not as Mary was far Mary was recovering from her up and told her to her emotions and tensed daytime the sun will rise and sometimes sun in the rain at daytime. One day while returning from rain started to pour and since she was without she got drenched. On returning to hostel fell ill. to lose her appetite. Her throat was dry, could utter a word and she coughed terribly. She hospitalized for some days.

> news about Mary's the mother became tensed. was in a state of confusion. filled with Susan was to look after her but she away from her. One day after

her sickness here mother called come back home as Susan could not bear feelings. Mary agreed with her mother and came back home. Susan at first couldn't recognize her own daughter because she had become so thin and pale. Mary was a stubborn girl; she carried a stiff heart that she was not even bothered about her sickness. Susan called up for a prayer warrior to help her sickness through prayer because she had great faith that God will answer her prayer. The prayer warrior came and prayed for Mary where God showed

her a vision that Mary was about to die and that she had only few months to live.

Susan being a strong mother did not lose hope even after knowing that her daughter was about to be inside a grave. Instead of losing hope, her faith in God even became stronger. She went on a fast for twenty days for her daughter's long life. She kneeled down and prayed from morning till night with her full heart. She went to prayer center and entrusted her elder daughter to look after Mary and made a promise that when she returns home Mary will be fine and with good health.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of her fasting as she was praying inside the church she saw Mary

lying in front of her covered with a white cloth and a rose on her chest. She cried to God and prayed "Oh God, why am I seeing this? Don't take away my daughter so soon. She is innocent; she has not yet experienced the world. God please give her a long life." That was what Susan prayed to God with her full heart. After completing her fasting, the prayer warrior told her that only because of her strong faith in God and her prayers that saved her daughter's life. She was filled with joy and excitement and thanked God for the miracle upon her daughter. She never gave up on God and continued to appreciate every little thing that comes around her. Mary regained a new life, continued with her studies with a good health without any sickness and now she about to complete her master's degree by God's grace. Susan advised Mary to thank God every day for the good deeds God has done to her and also to pray both in better and hard times.

If we truly believe in God and within ourselves keeping in mind that "Yes, I can do it because I have God beside me" then nothing can stop us from anything, any situation or any problem. With God in our life we can defeat anything. God really answers our prayers.

DON'T STOP BELIEVING.



"Blossom"

Contributed by: Hamidul Islam, BA 6th Semester

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