

# MUSES Literary Newsletter

By The Department of English

Fortnightly

**SBRR Mahajana First Grade College (Autonomous)**

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## Title of the report: Enhancing Communication Skills through Drama Reading: Romeo and Juliet



“Language is a proud possession of the human race”, remarked Dr. Poornima M., the resource person who delivered a workshop on Enhancing Communication Skills through Drama Reading: *Romeo and Juliet* on 29th September 2025.

The Department of English, SBRR Mahajana First Grade College (Autonomous), Mysuru, organized a special lecture and workshop centred on Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. The session, led by Dr. Poornima M., was both engaging and insightful, emphasizing how language is a collective invention of humankind which evolves and gains richness through creative usage. Dr. Poornima illustrated this with examples such as the transformation of the word viral which once linked with illness and now meaning ‘famous’ and phrases like Computer ji from popular show Kaun Banega Crorepati highlighting how words acquire new meanings through usage.

She further elaborated on Shakespeare’s monumental contribution to the revival and enrichment of the English language, observing that before him, writers often preferred French or Latin. Shakespeare, she noted, “Englishised” borrowed words making English the language of the common man. His works not only expanded the vocabulary but also infused the language with emotional depth and poetic vitality. Focusing on *Romeo and Juliet*, Dr. Poornima discussed how the play captures the universality of love and human emotion. Expressions like love at first sight and love is blind, she observed, reflect Shakespeare’s lasting influence on everyday speech. The play’s conversational exchanges enhances communication skills, and drama reading serves as a practical tool for developing fluency, tone, and expression.

The session concluded with an interactive reading of select scenes, where students enthusiastically participated and reflected on the beauty of language and performance. Dr. Poornima remarked that each of us carries a *Romeo and Juliet* within, symbolizing the timeless nature of emotion and experience.

The workshop, held at the Department of English, SBRR Mahajana First Grade College (Autonomous), Mysuru, was attended by Dr B R Jayakumari, Principal, SBRR MFGC(A), faculty members and students, who found the session enriching, thought-provoking, and highly relevant to the study of language and literature.

**- Smt. Chandana K**  
Assistant Professor

## Title of the report: “Love, Friendship, and Betrayal in “The Merchant of Venice”



The Department of English, in association with IQAC, organized an interactive session on October 29, 2025, aimed at exploring Shakespeare’s “*The Merchant of Venice*” and its timeless themes of Love, Friendship and Betrayal.

Speaking about Literature, the speaker said, “Literature encapsulates who we are by expressing our emotions, beliefs and experiences through words,” and linked the idea to the timeless works of William Shakespeare.

Professor Nataraju said the Elizabethan era focused on the exploration of human mind and emotions, with characters reflecting the facets of human nature. On the theme of love, the speaker observed that Shakespeare portrayed platonic love, Portia and Bassanio for immaculate love, and Shylock’s love for his daughter Jessica for parental love.

On the theme of **friendship**, the resource person elaborated on platonic friendship, describing it as a deep bond founded on loyalty and care. Antonio’s willingness to risk his life to help Bassanio by pleading himself to repay a loan exemplifies the selfless and devoted nature of true friendship, showcasing Shakespeare’s wit and wisdom in portraying human relationships with depth and insight.

Discussing on the theme of **betrayal**, Prof. Nataraju explained how Jessica betrays her father, showing that revenge can extend beyond simple betrayal. He noted that Shylock’s love for money over his daughter and his eventual conversion to Christianity are also acts of betrayal. These layers highlight the complexity of human relationships in the play.

Shakespeare often violates conventional norms yet ensures that evil characters are punished, as seen in the famous *One pound of flesh without a single drop of blood* quote.

Prof. Nataraju highlighted **The Casket Scene**, describing it as one of the most symbolic and powerful moments in the play. He emphasized how effectively Shakespeare the caskets- gold, silver and lead as symbols to test the true virtue, wisdom, and character of the suitors.

The professor concluded the talk by saying that the study of “*The Merchant of Venice*” broadens ones understanding of human nature, illustrating how love, friendship and betrayal intertwine to shape life’s outcomes. Shakespeare, through his artistic brilliance, not only entertains but also imparts timeless lessons about morality, relationships, and the complexities of human behavior.

The session offered students a deeper understanding of Shakespearean drama, encouraging them to explore the emotional and philosophical dimensions of the play. The session ended with an interaction between the faculty and students.

The program was presided by the Principal, Dr. B R Jayakumari. The other attendees present were Ms. Geetha D, HOD, English, Smt. Poornima, PRO, and the department faculty members, Ms. Musrath Sultana, Smt. Vidya S, Ms. Brahamara K Udupa, Smt. Chandana K and Smt. Hamsaveni along with students.

- Smt. Vidya S  
Assistant Professor