Jabber wocky

VOLUME 3
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Creativity is intelligence having fun.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Message from the Principal

"Success comes to those who work hard and stays with those who don't rest on the laurels of the past."
– Fr. Peter Johnson, MA, M.Ed.

I am gratified to know that the department of English has come out with the third volume of **Jabberwocky** showcasing an incredible combination of creativity and intelligence. Each issue of our departmental magazine is a milestone that marks our growth, unfolds our imagination, and gives life to our thoughts and aspirations. It unleashes a wide spectrum of creative skills ranging from writing to editing and even in designing the magazine. I congratulate the entire editorial team for their hard work and dedication in making this dream come true. I also laud the relentless efforts of our teachers for giving their best in bringing out the best in each student.

Congratulations and best wishes….
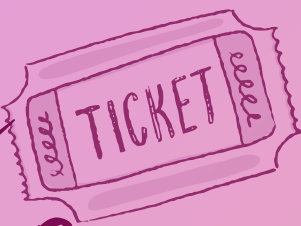
Dr. Pooja Pathak
Principal

Contents

Editorial Section

Editorial

Dear Readers,

This present edition of *Jabberwocky* is put together by the student editorial team, even as they learn the ropes of sifting through the submissions, compiling them, editing the whole issue and learning layout and design. The student editorial team is learning the various journalistic talents that are required to put together a student literary magazine.

I am happy to see our dear students attempt to express themselves, combining the word and the image, learning to imagine through words.

I am excited to see even non-writers take to writing, and try to say what they feel, in the best possible way they know how.

Jabberwocky is a platform for all our students to find their voice, in an atmosphere of creativity, compassion and freedom.

We welcome all budding writers, critics, poets, and journalists to read these pages. We hope that this online magazine reaches many digital screens and inspires more young students in our college to take to writing their minds, hopes and dreams.

Ruta Dharmadhikari
Head, Department of English

Reading and writing have been a part of the human experience for as long as humans discovered language. Through millions of years of evolution, literature has seen its fair share of changes. Writers have served as a medium to this change. With the dawn of a new era there comes a surge of new talents with an air of newness that shines through in their work. As it is said, "the only natural talent an artist has is the desire to create" and that quote stands true for every artist.

It is important to give a sustainable environment to these artists in their initial stages. Ta-da! *Jabberwocky* is the cauldron to brew the potions of your ideas. Lewis Carroll explained the meaning of the word: "wock" is the Anglo-Saxon word for "fruit". Putting it together with the word "jabber", meaning "an excited discussion", *Jabberwock* means "the fruit that is the result of excited discussions". *Jabberwocky* is an initiative of the Department of English. What sets it apart from other college magazines is that it not only provides a stage for the budding writers and journalists, but also provides students with hands-on experience of behind the scenes work. Speaking from personal experience working as editors, we learnt- collaboration, management, graphic designing, accountability and having defined roles. We learnt what is the meaning of administration.
We had a blast working on this and we hope you have just as much fun experiencing the fruit of our hard work.

Student Editorial Team

Poetry

Eternal Ally

In a caring realm, hearts entwine,
No possessiveness, love's design.
Adored flaws, trust unswayed,
Guiding to a brighter shade.

Hand in hand, through thick and thin,
Listening, no judgment within.
Shoulder to lean on, joy and tears,
In laughter's echo, conquering fears.

Dear companion, forever true,
Bonds of love connect me to you.
Through pain and joy, side by side,
Eternal ally, in life's wild ride.

Niyati Amit Shah
B.A. II

The Void

Moving on an unknown path,
Where forward is the only way to go.
Hesitant footsteps and fiddling fingers, trying to feel,
The cracks and crevices in search of something familiar.
A lifeless common room and deserted hallways,
All that's left is an empty space.
Not a soul in sight.

A certain uncertainty prickling behind the eyelids,
Not open, not closed, but still aware of the abandonment.
Exhausted is the kindred soul
Seeking an ounce of warmth,
Stone cold walls and biting wind
The frost is seeping into the bones.
In search of the autumn wind,
Lost in the sea, looking for the shore,
Struggling with a dilemma, an unstable mind with no solution in
sight.

Questions asked, to echo unanswered
from thick walls,
At a loss, dejected, looking for a way out,
The mind begins to familiarise itself with the cold,
Adapting and evolving for its own survival.
And no longer is the void unknown,
Peaceful and gentle
Is the silence, the numbing cold.
Trapped in the wilderness, another lost soul.

Sanjhi Nehrotra

BCT III

The Road I Travelled

I took the road less travelled,
In hopes of a better view.
I'm yet to reach my destination,
I walk on the route in isolation.
It's not only filled with pebbles and stones,
But the laughter and taunts of travelers that
travel on.
Parallel road;
I look around and see the canopy of tall
trees,
clouding my mind with doubt and
uncertainties.
But I walk in the hopes of the future,
Not seen by everyone and felt by a few.
For I take the road less traveled,
And that's where it's made all the
difference.

Muskan Batta
BBA III

The Human Mind

The human mind-
Sometimes it's a friend
Sometimes it's a foe
You never know.

Oh, it could work against you,
Middle of the day, you feel so blue
You don't know why,but don't worry,
It will pass, soon crash and burn.

The human mind-
It sabotages you
Or makes your life
Now that's no lie.

Oh, it could lead you to cry,
On the stage, you feel like you can fly
People are watching, life is a show
Enjoy it, savour it and smile wide.

Deboshree Sharma
B.A. II

Movie Review

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

The movie 'How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days' is a heart-warming and light-hearted romantic comedy. It teaches us a lot about love and how things should go. The movie opens the story of Andie Anderson, a writer at a women's magazine, and Benjamin Barry, an advertising executive, trying to prove their worth in their businesses. The movie revolves around the characters' ultimate goal to win a bet.

One of the most important lessons the movie taught us is that love can take us by surprise. We can never plan for it. Love can happen anytime, anywhere, and at any moment. We must be open to love and keep our expectations in check. It's also important to remember that it's okay to be scared and not to be in a rush to jump into a relationship without taking our precious time.

The movie teaches us to be honest and vulnerable with our partners. We must be willing to open up and share our true feelings and emotions, even when it's hard. We must also learn to be patient and forgive each other's mistakes. It's important to remember that relationships require effort and be ready to put in that effort.

We even learned that communication is the key to any relationship. We must be willing to talk and listen to each other. We should understand each other's perspectives. We must make our communication clear.

The movie taught us the importance of compromise. We must be willing to accept each other's differences and find a middle ground. We may not always agree with our partner. It's okay to disagree. We must learn to respect each other's opinions. We should be willing to compromise.

It's necessary to take risks and be adventurous in our relationships. We should be willing to try new things and put ourselves out there. We should accept that not every risk will be successful. It is okay to face failure in life.

My last thoughts on 'How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days' is that it's a great movie that teaches us many valuable lessons about love and how things should go. We should be open to love and be honest and vulnerable in our everyday relationships.

Srishti Moonat
Alumnae (2023-2024)

Gangubai Kathiawadi

Since movies are a vital part of my familial roots, I have always had a leaning towards the magic of cinema. My grandpa was a writer for RK studios (Raj Kapoor studios) in the 60s and my dad, well, he was and still is a passionate man who introduced me to Hindi movies. We'd be at the theater first day, first show and when the movie would end, we'd give our extensive reviews, compare opinions and basically act like movie critics; I want to honor that memory and write film review columns.

Some might think this movie is too massy, typical bollywood to be included but I say it's a must watch for everyone - men, women, kids, grandpa, grandmas. I mean everyone.

This movie handles sensitive and nuanced topics such as abuse, discrimination and feminism with such impeccable intricacy. It also somehow manages to sprinkle on some dark humor which adds a creative layer to the movie. The character of Gangubai adapts to a new environment and fights back, she embraces her situation. It's a journey of empowerment. Despite the drastically different conditions someone is in compared to Gangubai, you are still able to resonate with her character that is brave, real, naive, filmy, laced with dark, sometimes even self deprecating humor.

The movie is supported by the exceptional direction and musical composition of Sanjay Leela Bhansali. So it's not only a visual delight but also an audible delight.

One more thing that hypnotized me in the movie was how they portrayed feminism - the right way. Their feminism takes were rather three dimensional, integrated in our cultural roots and straight to the point. We live in 2023 yet many movies lack such refined feminist ways.

This movie is educational with massy and entertaining elements mixed in. The best of both worlds. I recommend it. It's my favorite for a reason.

Deboshree Sharma

B.A. II

Book Review

The Forest of Enchantments

Written by
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

"Ramayana" is an epic we all grew up learning about. It is a gripping tale about the victory of good over evil, about what is right and what is ideal, of ego and sacrifice, of betrayal and infidelity and more than anything, a tragic love story of two people. Shree Ram and Sita, as we say they are the incarnations of Lord Vishnu and Goddess Laxmi, and yet had to undergo the hardships of human birth woven by the strings of destiny for them. We all know about Lord Ram, what he went through, his transition from being the Prince of Ayodhya to the Maryadapurshottam Raja Ramchandra. And stood by his side as his strength and pride was Goddess Sita, a woman known for her grace, self-respect, valour, and sacrifice. A woman who is often overshadowed due to the epic's focus on Lord Ram's life.

First published in 2019, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's "The Forest of Enchantments" is widely acclaimed for its feminist retelling of Ramayana through the perspective of Sita, keeping her at the centre of the narrative.

The novel brings the spotlight to the life of Sita, as a daughter, as a wife, as a daughter-in-law, as a mother, as a Queen and importantly as a woman. Divakaruni has amazingly portrayed Sita as a woman of strong resilience, strength, grace, dignity, morals and wisdom. Narrated by Sita herself, the novel traces her life from birth to youth; through her marriage to motherhood; to getting abducted and to banishment; it delves deeply into her emotional turmoil and thoughts, the choices made and the sacrifices given. It weaves a rich tapestry where we learn about the hardships and disrespect she faced in her own society and family, as well as it explores the aspects of many neglected characters such as Mandodari and Kaikeyi, evoking a sense of understanding and empathy in the tale.

It's vivid writing effortlessly brings epic to life, reviving the much spoken tale of love and sacrifice, loyalty and duty. The well crafted plot, detailed expressions and engaging dialogues make it feel authentic and appealing. The staunch feminist take on the injustice and mistreatment faced by these women make it a very thought provoking read, offering a very nuanced and fresh view about their characters.

"The Forest of Enchantments" points precisely at the impact of Karma in the lives of the characters. Even though it is in reference with the cultural history and mythology, the societal setting and treatment women were subjected to, resonates even in the contemporary times. Through Sita's journey it questions the rigid societal norms and expectations placed on women, the so-called "need" for women to always prove themselves in terms of their purity or character. These standout aspects of the novel make it a timeless read.

"The Forest of Enchantments" is a beautifully crafted novel bringing Sita as a main character, giving voice to the women from Ramayana and connecting it with today's need for women empowerment. Personally, as a reader, as a mythology-lover and as a woman, I loved the way Divakaruni has come up with this beautiful work. Every emotions resonates within you, and leaves you with a powerful feeling of pride over being a woman and being the 'daughter of Sita.'

Shraddha Waghale
BA III

Articles
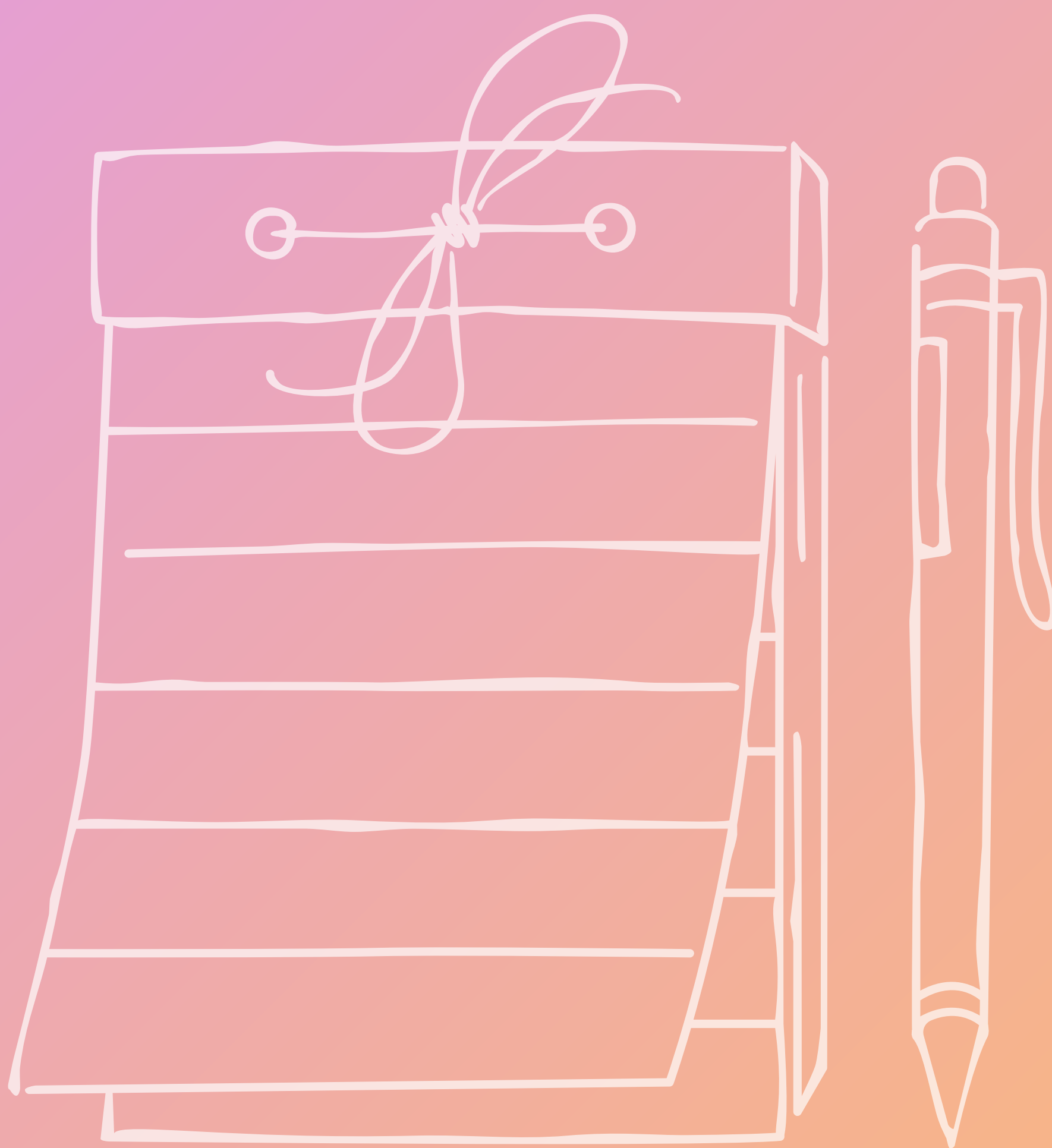
The Connectivity Of Human Hearts

Dear gentle reader, what is a human heart? A delicate piece of glass that is always half-broken. One just needs the right person to be the other half piece in order to complete the glass. Confusing? Let's dig deeper.

This writer has always been an Amorist by heart. Now, what do we really perceive by the term "Connectivity"? Attachment, a shared bond, relationship, interdependence etc. These are some very basic notions that people carry about the term "connectivity". But little do we all know, the word weighs so much more than what a normal human mind could think.

Connectivity is having a person. A safe place where all the peace resides. Humans are beautiful as they build connections, some of them are intentional. However, there are very rare people on this Earth who draw your attention to the fullest. The ones you don't have to pretend with. Those are your CONNECTION.

So you, dear reader, need to find your own. This article is rather driven by a psychological approach indicating what's and how's of human connections. Anna White once said "My fear of being real paralyzes me. I crave the connection but I'm not brave enough to open my hand. This is a great challenge ; to be seen, accepted, and loved". However, a true connection is when you are not afraid of reaching out and before you know it, the connection is already beside you. All the fears, factors of destruction come to an end with that one human. Hugs are the finest & feelings of deep rooted trust arise. It's all about the right human, the right bond.

Connection is when you're standing in front of a mirror with the rawest, unseen and unspoken version but oh…dear reader, the mirror is a human ; your human.
It is hypothetically true that a HOME is not necessarily four walls with a roof. Deep down, beneath the core of hearts, one can carve a home in someone. The writer has. The readers must find their true home, too. A home where your inner child is welcomed, nurtured and loved. Acceptance is another form of Connection. On the surface, dear reader, a connection is going to shape you and mould you into something you never thought you could become.
On this note, the connectivity brings along, the art of knowing. "I know you are that type"," Because I know you", are some of the very powerful phrases that help in articulation of bonds.

Perhaps, I,very often, have been regarded as a therapist. I know the reader has experienced the same. The ones that calm the chaos. But dear gentle reader, who is your calm? Your home? Your CONNECTION?

Aqsa Bagasrawala
BA III

Biting Nails & Introversion: A Small Talk on Anxiety

There are some rare moments of clarity where one feels like the lifestyle and character of an introvert is simultaneously easy to understand and also a matter that should be studied as an entirely separate subject matter of research in it's very own right.

The mind of an introvert is an entire world of it's own that is vastly different from reality. In most cases, not even a speckle of that world— good thoughts or bad thoughts— leaves their minds and slip out of their mouths or hands in the form of written or verbal expression. No, what stays in mind, stays in mind. An introvert would indulge in that world of everything possible and impossible that remains almost wholly within the confines of their own mind. However, that is not to say that they would not take the opportunity to ramble on about their countless crumbs and bundles of thoughts, ideas and emotions, when given the opportunity to wholly 'let it all out', free of judgement. They most definitely would. I would. I am.

Anyway, this is where the 'anxiety' element kicks in, especially in the case of introverts and even those who prioritize presenting a good self-image in the judging, observing eyes of society. However, introverts feel anxiety ten times more often and in terms of intensity, which plays a role in just about every social situation and challenge and how we expect it to go. Except.. well, we just happen to expect the worst most of the time, to the point that sometimes our loved one's take our misgivings and worries too seriously— which, believe it or not, often shows how much anxiety really tricks our brain and we kind of just accept whatever ridiculously depressing scenarios our anxious-stricken minds make up and throw it at the conscious part of our mind. Yet, in reality, other people have more faith in us than we do in ourselves.

Anyway, anxiety sucks so hard, regardless if you're extraverted and good at verbally expressing yourself or simply emotionally reserved. Everyone has it, and it sometimes gets so, so debilitating that you just have to pray to whatever supreme authority exists out there that your day will go without much hassle, because that said hassle, regardless of big or small, just simply ruin your entire day when your anxiety is just bad— because you spend most of that day worrying and overthinking about how you'll overcome that aforementioned inconvenience (read: "What will happen if I don't succeed?",

"All my friends and family will be disappointed in me if I failed this big task..", "What if I wasn't efficient enough in my performance? My elders will be disappointed..", "They'll think I'm weird if I did this, and they'll probably avoid me after this.." etc.) . Sometimes, people experience anxiety at such an intense level that they even get psychologically evaluated and diagnosed for it (Anxiety Disorder and other variations) because of how anxiety severely impacts their way of thinking and way of living in society to the point that they tend to avoid conflict or any form of social interaction with another person altogether. It sucks even more knowing full well that it doesn't matter what other people say, because you are yourself, and it is only you who can go through whatever task that is giving you grief; and you know fully well that there's 50/50 chance you'll either receive flak or praise. Even then, you would worry about whether the praise is given out of genuine feeling or simply out of pity for you.

People cope with anxiety in their own ways. It can be helpful if the coping mechanisms include exercising, journaling one's feelings, emotions and events (maintaining a sort of diary), and if possible, therapy as well. However, not everyone has the time, money, accessibility nor motivation to do all that, and as such, people oftentimes simply choose to keep it all to themselves (especially in the case of introverts). Anxiety is very normalized to a notable extent, and as such, we don't notice when we really start hurting ourselves when experiencing anxiety, especially when it starts getting overwhelming.

Yes. Hurting ourselves. That includes nail biting. From outside perspective, nail biting looks silly and even immature as a behavioral pattern. It's a major inconvenience when you end up biting too much of your nails and it starts hurting.. or accidentally picked and tore off the skin. The descriptions on nail biting in the biological context sounds scary too. But hey, it's not something that can be easily helped; you need a lot of true willpower to do so, really.

Nail biting is really not fun, especially since it's often a source of coping with anxiety that is suppressed deep inside of you. If you admit such things out loud, most will straight up 'advise' you to have a chat with people and vent out your feelings. Sometimes, that works. It really does. But then, if there's anything to learn when surviving in human society- where each movement you do or choices you make is judged and scrutinized heavily by others, revealing your weaknesses and being vulnerable to another person who is not very close to you (even if they're your close one, you have to be wary) is a sin in itself- in the sense that there's most definitely going to be that one person at some point in your life who will use your weaknesses and vulnerability against you.

It's incredibly easy for someone to misconstrue your words and utilize those misconstrued words perfectly to frame you as the bad guy or something similar to that. Such people who take such actions get very offended or upset when you explain the subtext behind your words or point out the implicit meaning behind their (unintentional or intentional) misconstrued interpretation of your words. In such situations, it's easy for some to stand up for themselves. However, oftentimes this is exactly what an anxious person would fear. It's genuinely not fun when people aren't able to fully grasp what you're trying to say- and this too, is another source of anxiety for some; especially those who care about their image and reputation in society.

It's not always bigger challenges like final exams or job interviews that gets a person anxious every time. No, everybody is different; some can cope well when out in public, some aren't that efficient in masking their anxiety and emotional vulnerability when outside in public, some get easily caught up and worried over the most trivial of tasks- you name it. However, we should understand that it's usually not a great idea to belittle someone or invalidate their feelings and actions if it is not problematic to other people. Empathy is still a very important skill at present day modern society that people have or have not developed in one way or another. No one can be perfect or exceptional in whatever they do, and every person needs a bit of encouragement or a push (validation) to move on forward. While behavioral patterns like nail biting isn't certainly the most harmless coping mechanism out there, it's not really anyone's place to judge someone based on that one recurring action or an action worth reprimanding.

We all have our own ways of coping with feelings like anxiety, as not everyone will be comfortable verbally expressing themselves or have the time and money to get professional help. However, self-awareness and in extension, taking steps to overcome harmful coping mechanism (at your own pace and with your own decision and commitment) is still a key to growing as a person. Harmful coping mechanisms, here (at minor levels like nail biting, picking skin, etc), are behavioral patterns that should be wholly stigmatized, criticized or even glorified, for that matter. No, sometimes, it's much more ideal to simply have a heart-to-heart or two with the person in question, make them aware of the nature of their (harmful) coping mechanisms, empathize with their worries rather than belittling or wholly invalidating them, and let them take their time and adjust themselves in that particular headspace to pave their own path to recovery.

Thank you.

Miesha Mahajan
BA III

Digital Technology and its Impact on Human Lifestyle

In the fast-evolving world we live in, complicated and tranquil artifacts can be controlled via fingertips. This wonder is possible due to digital technology. It is a boon to the human race which is commendable. You can sit in the car and switch on/off or adjust the room temperature through the air conditioner of your abode or you can change the color of your room by using a smartphone. These are just a few of the wondrous jobs done by today's technology. Two of the most influential components of technology that have aided us magnanimously are e-commerce and e-education.

Due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, education has turned out to be online as well. Students can sit at their homes and learn their respective subjects and much more via e-education. Many digital platforms like Byju's, Extra marks, and educational websites promote e-learning to different age groups. As for the sides of the coin, it also has its pros and cons. Merits of digital technologies are flexibility in learning, the ability to advance a career, a wide range of courses and programs, immediate applicable coursework, and affordability. However, there are certain demerits such as limited student feedback, social isolation, lack of communication skills, inaccessibility to computer illiterate population, and absence of accreditation and quality assurance. It also damages eyesight resulting in numerous deficiencies.

Let us have a peek at another digital wonder i.e. e-commerce. Any entity in any region, state, shape, or quantity can be purchased/sold through e-commerce. Transactions are made hassle-free and untouched. Merits of e-commerce are faster purchases, reduced cost, affordable advertising and marketing, no reach limitations, flexibility, and several payment modes. Demerits can be stated as security, tax issues, lack of reliability, absence of privacy, legal issues, and high labor and technological costs.

Digital technology is a marvelous and strongest product ever developed by human beings. It creates a huge impact on our routine life. It's both a blessing and a curse. Thus it should be used judiciously for ameliorating residents of Earth. Hence, don't let technology fool or rule you.

Rasika Kulkarni
B.Com II

The Tantalising Tale of Tantalus

tantalizing

/ˈtantəlʌɪzɪŋ/ adjective

> tormenting or teasing with the sight

or promise of something unobtainable.

We have all used the word "tantalizing" in one way or another. But did you know that the word "tantalize" has a Greek origin? It comes from a Greek story about a guy named Tantalus who was so evil that Zeus, the King of Olympus, came up with a special punishment just for him (he was good at that. Just see how he punished Prometheus).

Tantalus, the king of Sipylus, a kingdom that bordered Lydia and Phrygia in Ancient Greece. He was one of Zeus's many children and was part of the first generation of mortals who were given the privilege of dining with the gods on Mt. Olympus.

There are three different versions of Tantalus's mischief that led to his punishment.
In one of the versions, during the dinner with the Gods, Zeus stops Tantalus from consuming the ambrosia in a not-so-kind way. Offended, Tantalus tries to steal some of the divine nectar and ambrosia served and gives it out to mere mortals down below. When Zeus caught this, he was thunderous (pun intended) and banished Tantalus from Mt. Olympus. Angry at Zeus, and the other Gods as they didn't stop Zeus, he decided to perform the outrageous deed that he was infamous for.

In one version, he invited the Olympians to his palace for dinner. He then killed, diced, and cooked up in a stew of his son Pelops and planned to serve him to all the gods at dinner. The plan fell flat when the Olympians immediately recognized that something was amiss. When Tantalus's wicked trick was revealed and the gods decided to put Pelops back together and make him live again, the young man had to have a prosthetic shoulder made from ivory as Demeter, who was upset at still not having found her lost daughter Persephone, who had absent-mindedly eaten a chunk of Pelops's shoulder.

In another version, he is successfully able to feed the gods the Pelops stew. After dinner, when asked about the whereabouts of Pelops by the gods, Tantalus informed them that they had just consumed him. Angered and disrespected by Tantalus's audacity, Zeus punished Tantalus by cursing his kingdom and dynasty and creating a special punishment for Tantalus in the afterlife.

He was made to stand in a pool of water but could never drink from it as it drained whenever he bent down to have a drink. He stood below a fruit-bearing tree but never could grasp the succulent fruit hanging overhead. He was to forever remain in a state of insatiable hunger & thirst. The fruits & water always tantalized him by being in his sight but unobtainable.

So, dear readers, next time you use the word "tantalizing", I hope you recall the tantalizing tale of Tantalus.

Isha Wankhade
Alumnae (2022-2023)

The Twenties

Young adulthood's transition from youth should be liberated and expansive. However, as many have found out, it sometimes seems like a massive hoax.

The early twenties is a period of our lives when we should be optimistic and full of hope, and the world would be ours to shape but, at the same time it's completely natural and usual to experience anxiety and tension throughout your early twenties.

The decade of your twenties is one of learning and change. Your life can feel stressful at the moment, but take solace in the knowledge that you will ultimately work things out. Many people in my age group frequently wrestle with existential crisis and traditional job paths in ways similar to mine. You start to feel like a fly caught in a soup, destined to be flicked away with disinterest as a result of self-doubt, pointless college GPA chatter, and the propensity to compare oneself to others.

Your social interactions will change, too. If you decide to keep your old friends at the centre of your life, they will still be there. You will also build new friendships and acquaintances who will accompany you on your trip into your thirties and, ideally, beyond if you maintain a positive outlook and put an emphasis on action, patience, and courage.

Our social life during these years drastically changes from what it was in high school or college. The usual, engaging social life we formerly experienced seems to vanish overnight. It may cause some shell shock. Not only down the hall or on the next block are your buddies. Friends part ways to move for new careers like seeds blowing off in the wind. Those who persist quickly disappear from view owing to increased employment obligations. Casual face-to-face gatherings are more difficult to arrange now that time and proximity to one another are suddenly limited. It suddenly feels challenging to make new friends as an adult. Making friends seemed simple before moving into the real world. There were always friends around, and you had your tribe. Making meaningful social connections with new individuals, however, seems more difficult as professional duties increase. To make new adult connections, it feels like everyone is either too busy or too distant. Young adulthood starts to seem incredibly lonely without the person recognising it. Also on the other hand you begin engaging with a wide range of individuals. One of the most shocking cultural shocks you'll experience is when you first enter the workforce. You're always stepping into a social environment that already exists, has its own processes, and may be under continual pressure to assimilate.

Additionally, you start engaging with coworkers whose lifestyles are quite different from yours. You might not be able to fully understand their experiences and perspectives on life because of things like age, culture, or religion. It's completely normal to feel distracted and lost, but with time one learns to gain stability in life and move on. People often get to know themselves better in their twenties, by spending time with yourself eventually helps you to grow and move ahead in life. Your alone time turns into a privilege. You feel under constant pressure to perform well in order to create a good impression and improve your profession, and as a result, your personal time disappears almost completely.

You may feel as though you have never before struggled to find time to spend with friends or that you are simply too exhausted to do so. Contrasted with, you begin to feel more certain, especially at work where you start to put more of an effort. With others who are more like you at this period of life, you start to form some adult friendships.

You've managed to connect often over time with these new contacts, who are either coworkers or informal acquaintances. Socially, these connections fill a vacuum, but many of them lack the closeness of your youthful friendships.

The trajectory of human existence may be predicted regardless of the time period or epoch. However, perhaps there are now more resources available than ever before to meet and overcome the challenge.

Personally, I am aware that this may seem like a pretty typical example of anxiousness about moving on to the next stage of your life. But reaching 20 seems like a mix of the gloomy feeling of social unease and the strangling sensation of waking up because the fan was turned off while you slept. At least to me.

Shreya Nimje
Alumnae (2022-2023)

Is A Degree Important for a Successful Career?

For decades, college education was the "golden ticket" to a dream of high earnings, a comfortable lifestyle, and job security. But in the new normal, where the demand for skills has superseded the need to have an education, what is the relevance of a college degree in today's world? Companies have long used college degrees as a proxy for job competency and career readiness. But that never was a surety of anyone's candidature. Moreover, after the COVID-19 pandemic, the fight over labor, and the onset of the era of 'The Great Resignation', employers are now increasingly cognizant of the need to think differently about how to best attract and retain employees, reconsidering their requirements for successful hires.

In addition, there are many fields where a college degree is not a requirement for success. For instance, entrepreneurship, art, and creative writing are fields where success is often determined by one's creativity, talent, and perseverance rather than their educational qualifications. In fact, some of the most successful entrepreneurs and artists of our time, such as Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg, did not complete their college degrees.

Companies like Google, Netflix, Tesla, IBM, Penguin Random House and Apple are a few renowned names to have started the trend which others are following. These organizations assess skills and talent over having a college degree.

But if we talk about India, not every graduate gets a job in our country. YouthKiAwaaz quoted in the World Economic Forum in 2022 that just 1 in 10 graduates are employable. The website released another report saying that nearly two million graduates and another half a million postgraduates remain unemployed. Whereas, Times of India quoted that 36 percent of scientists in NASA are Indians. Those Indians have probably graduated from India under the Indian education system. Which means unemployment is not because of education. Immigration, being the reason, gives Indians the ability to earn more money, save more money, and generate wealth as they ordinarily can't do this in India. The best & better jobs are found in foreign countries as 45% Indians feel NRIs have much better job opportunities.

A major problem of our education system is that we don't understand the value of failure. The truth is, our brain learns after every failure. Ask yourself a simple question: how did you learn to walk? How did you learn to ride a bicycle? How did you learn to swim? When you fail, you understand what not to do. But in our education system, failure is a stigma. If we want to be a powerful nation we have to understand the value of failure. We have told ourselves that it's okay to fail. But don't be afraid of trying because the people who don't try, lose before the battle even starts.

In conclusion, while obtaining a college degree can certainly provide some benefits, it is not a prerequisite for success in life. Success is determined by a combination of factors such as personal drive, passion, creativity, and perseverance.

Kainat Akbani
B.A III

Beauty Standards

"Women should wear makeup all the time otherwise they don't put in any effort to look presentable. But it shouldn't be too much because it looks like they are trying too hard for attention. They should be skinny but with curves in all the right places and not too thick where you have your tummy. As a woman you should be fit but not too muscular, that's just gross on women, too manly. Of course, you can show some skin but not too much otherwise you would get shamed"

The beauty and wellness industry is getting quite toxic profiting from our insecurities while also creating them. If TV and news aren't enough there is always social media to make you feel inadequate, especially with big beauty influences. The article "A feminine double bind?" by Anoushka Benbow Buitenhuis discusses the way capitalism and beauty products combined to create an increasingly inescapable beauty standard for women.

In the 1920s, the trend of beauty standards was shorter hair and soon many women began to follow that. The 1930s was a time when many women began to strive for hourglass figures. In the 1980s big hair became essential while the 1990s glorified pale skin and skinny figures. In the early 2000s women strived to have a flat-tone stomach for low-rise jeans and spent a lot of time getting a bronzed glow. In today's world, women pay thousands of dollars for hair extensions, lip fillers, and cosmetic surgeries to look like celebrities who are praised because of their beauty.

A study called "The Real Truth About Beauty" found that only about 4% of women worldwide think of themselves as beautiful and 72% of women feel the pressure of looking beautiful. In the same study, it was found that overwhelmingly mature women around the world are most comfortable in using the words natural (31%) or average (29%) to describe their looks. Only 2% of women around the world choose beautiful to describe their looks. Thus 'beauty' is not only a word that women are very unlikely to choose to describe their looks, it is also one that many actually feel uncomfortable using to describe themselves.

The level of discomfort illustrates the degree to which women have become distant from today's idea of female beauty. According to dosomething.org, a survey found that more than 40% of women would consider having plastic surgery in order to look more appealing. The first article that has a common argument with this conversation is "Perception and Deception: Human Beauty and the Brain" published online in April 2019 by Daniel Yaroast argues that beauty standards are set by human nature. In "The universality of attractiveness judgment" section of the paper the author argues that there is absolutely no mention of skin tone or indication of race but in the "makeup and cosmetic" section the text does state that by lightening skin complexion cosmetics are used to counter the sign of aging. It also says that eye makeup helps make women's eyes look bigger which increases perceived attractiveness.

They say beauty is in the eye of beholders but does it remain true today? Real beauty comes from within but then why does appearance matter? The most beautiful people in the world are those who have a good heart but is that considered while creating a perception about a person? We live in a world full of beauty standards defined by external factors. Imagine being taught from a young age you need to change as soon as you pop out to fit what others' image of you are. This could easily make your self-esteem plummet exponentially. It teaches you to hate normal things on your body like hair, stretch marks, acne, discoloration, and other natural things everyone has. An article titled "Media Today- Unattainable Beauty" found on the girls' empowerment network discusses the impact of social media on women's self-image. It stated that out of over a thousand adolescent girls served, 88% of the girls believe that the media puts a lot of pressure on them to be thin. A new report by the Dove Self-Esteem Project surveying more than 1,000 girls aged 10-17 revealed that 1 in 2 girls say toxic beauty advice on social media causes low self-esteem. And 90% of girls say they follow at least one social media account that makes them feel less beautiful.Toxic beauty advice normalizes unrealistic and narrowly defined beauty standards, promotes potentially harmful beauty practices, and suggests that the key to building self-esteem is physical 'perfection'. #Fitspo, tells young people the perfect body can be achieved with diet programs and products like diet supplements whereas #Thinspo often shows images of extremely thin bodies or shares quotes discouraging eating, such as some examples of toxic beauty standards and pieces of advice available and promoted online.

A professor at the University of Colorado who researches body image Dr. Elizabeth Daniels states there is so much social currency around appearance, it is not like women opt into it, it's just in the air that we breathe. These unrealistic beauty standards move our society backward and have devastating effects on the people of a community. Under constant pressure to fit the standards, people start altering the way they look and instill unhealthy habits like taking diet pills, suffering from eating disorders, getting plastic surgeries, becoming victims of depression, and feeling worthless about all these beauty standards. Society shuts down any idea of accepting people who don't fit into these standards and instead prompts products that can make you feel more confident in the way you look.

After absorbing an ample amount of toxic standards as of now we are slightly getting better at opening our eyes up to "what is beautiful?". Most young people understand the relationship between toxic beauty advice, social media, and self-esteem, but they can still be encouraged to follow toxic advice in pursuit of unrealistic beauty standards. And over time, repeated exposure to it can damage young people's body confidence. Four out of five girls would like their parents to talk to them about how to manage toxic beauty advice on social media. They know they have a role to play in challenging it too – and they want our help. That's why we need to take action together to make self-esteem-boosting advice the norm on social media.

In recent years we have seen the rise of what is known as " the body positivity movement" whose main purpose centres around addressing unrealistic body standards, promoting self-acceptance, and learning self-love. Another moment known as "body neutrality" focuses on acknowledging what your body does and not how it appears, how your body allows you to try new experiences, travel, or get to work or home. These movements are transformative and necessary in many ways especially when you consider colorist fat phobic and superficial basis that lead to a particular body type being ideal in the first place. One's identity should never be swayed by social conventions. One's self-esteem should never be dependent on one's appearance. Appearances aren't everything. Character, values, and skills - these are attributes one must seek to acquire or develop. Don't try to emulate someone else's looks or personality. Be authentic - that's what will make you stand out. If you feel good about yourself on the inside then, no matter what, you - are - beautiful! There's nothing wrong with wanting to feel beautiful and desirable.

Continue to enjoy playing with makeup, wearing nice clothes, getting your hair done, keeping your body fit, etc. Beauty only becomes a problem when women feel invisible, not dolled up 24/7 or hate themselves when they don't look like a supermodel. The truth is, beauty is subjective and malleable. It's constantly changing throughout time, and standards differ around the world.

Who says we have to conform and compete in a beauty hierarchy? A healthier way to feel beautiful is to recognize yourself as an individual. All your talents, interests, traits, unique physical composition, and characteristics, from the way you smile to the way you move, make up who you are. If you feel like and allow others to see you as a multi-faceted individual, you won't have to compete with anyone.

A Vox article "Body positivity is a scam" says there is no hurt, unhappiness to women-hood to fatness or to blackness or to anything else that beauty standards have long treated as a problem. The conditions under which we loathe ourselves are socially constructed but in practical terms, they are very real. In simpler terms, instead of trying to transform ourselves or grow up enough to fit into society's expectations of what beauty is, accepting yourself regardless of how you appear seems to be the way of achieving its goal. Although there's some progress yet there is a long way to travel. As Naomi Wolf says, "The terrible truth is that though the marketplace promotes the myth, it would be powerless if women didn't enforce it against each other. For any one woman to outgrow the myth, she needs the support of many women. The toughest but most necessary change will come not from men or from the media, but from women, in the way we see and behave toward other women."

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Sejal Gharde
Alumnae (2022-2023)

Coming of Age Ceremony:
The Weight of Okay

I often find myself pondering a simple question: "How do I feel right now?" It's a query that seems innocent enough, but my responses are usually a cascade of synonyms for "okay." Fine. Alright. Decent. Passable. They all sound like variations of a dull melody, failing to capture the full spectrum of my emotions.

It's a strange sensation, feeling like I've lost so much, yet knowing that everyone I care about is still a part of my life. It's as if I'm mourning something intangible, a void that isn't quite identifiable but is ever-present. The weight of this unnameable loss presses down on me, even as I sit in the comfort of familiar faces and places.

Facing people I respect has become a daunting task. It's like a shadow looming over my interactions, whispering that I've let them down. Their expectations, whether real or perceived, form an invisible barrier that I find increasingly hard to breach. The sense of failure clings to me, and I wonder if they see it too, in the small hesitations and forced smiles that pepper our conversations.

There's a part of me that wants to rage against the adults in my life, to lash out when they scold me or offer unsolicited advice. The temptation to be petty, to throw a fit like a child denied their favorite toy, is strong. But a deeper understanding holds me back. I recognize the truth in their words, the lessons they're trying to impart. And so, I swallow the bitterness, acknowledging the wisdom behind their stern expressions.

Is this what they call maturity? This reluctant acceptance of responsibility, this silent acknowledgment of one's flaws and failures? It feels like a heavy cloak draped over my shoulders, one that I must wear with grace despite its weight. The journey through adulthood is less about grand epiphanies and more about these quiet moments of introspection, where every small step forward feels like an achievement.

As I navigate this hazy landscape of growing up, I hope my words resonate with others who might be feeling the same way. Perhaps, in sharing this piece of my heart, I can bridge the gap between my solitude and the collective experience of those around me. After all, we're all finding our way, one day at a time, with every synonym of "okay" guiding us through.

Jasmine Uppal
Alumnae (2023-2024)

Slang and sensibility: Redefining the English language with Gen Z

To paraphrase Charles Darwin, language came from incoherent noises and pointing which has come a long way.

From catastrophes to democracies, the most ancient relic we possess is our language, and much like everything else, it too could not escape the deathly grip of time. It is widely believed that there has been an undeniable urge to communicate ever since organisms developed cognition, which gives rise to language. This knowledge is widespread, but when or where language could trace its origin is a topic of never-ending debate.

The short answer is evolution. Language is one of many facets of humanity, and as times have changed for humans, so has their language. There are about 7,000 languages in the world and about 300 writing systems. English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, with around 1.35 billion speakers. The English language is about 1400 years old, and it is still continuously evolving. This evolution can be observed in action if we look at the slang of Generation Z and Generation Alfa.

What is so special about these two groups? Simply put, these generations had front-row seats to the mass societal evolution that has transpired in the past two decades, which involves economic crashes, the introduction of social media, the usage of virtual platforms for social and cultural exchange, governmental changes, prominent studies in every discipline, etc. For now, we must focus on using virtual platforms for social and cultural exchange.' Gen Z has had the internet at their disposal from a very young age. Chat rooms and limited characters, amongst other features of the early internet, laid the foundation for internet linguistics.

Albeit chatrooms, forums, and early social media had minimal interaction, there was still an established social hierarchy that one could traverse through with their influence and relevance. Slang soon became the catalyst for this mobility giving rise to a subculture that would later assimilate seamlessly into our spoken language. The more ordinary a word is, the easier it assimilates.

Post-COVID times have shown exponential growth in social media becoming an inherent part of an individual's personality; your thoughts define your algorithm, and your algorithm defines you. We can find a community for all our interests and be exposed to the linguistic nuances within them. Overall, there is a pattern amongst many that has stuck out to me the most, namely, our generally pessimistic approach towards the future, which hasn't been observed in the generations before us. While the older generations were hopeful in their outlook for the future, making predictions about what the future may look like, Gen Z has a widespread understanding of the rapid societal decline, remnants of which can be found in their expressions such as "I'm dying," "doomscrolling," "bed rot," "brain rot," "I'm dissociating," etc.

Yet another facet of Gen Z linguistics that fascinates me is 'Why is it low-key cool to talk like this?' A perfect example that brings me to my next point, our language is heavily influenced by the media we consume; a recent phenomenon called the "Peppa effect" might better explain it. "The Peppa Effect" is a phenomenon observed by many parents whose kids develop a fluent British accent regardless of the parents' proficiency in the language or accent. Differently put, this means that a person's language is a splitting image of their online presence.

Keertida Yadav
B.A III

From Pigeons to Emojis

Imagine a world where the messages flew on feathered wings, carried by Pigeons trained in the act of navigation. Centuries ago, before the era of smartphones and the click of keyboards, carrier pigeons were the prestigious messengers of their time. These birds surged across landscapes with urgent messages, covering distances and delivering news with remarkable speed.

Fast forward to today's digital age, where the formerly esteemed pigeons have given way to a new kind of messenger: the humble emoji. What started as simple pictographs have evolved into a dynamic language of its own, also evolving our digital expressions. Carrier pigeons were the delivery servants of ancient times - reliable yet prone to the occasional detour. Sending a message meant entrusting it to these little feathered babies, hoping they wouldn't stop for a snack or get distracted by a shiny object along the way. Yes, too risky. In contrast, texting today is like welding a magic wand of communication. With a swish and flick of a few taps on a touchscreen, the message zips into the cosmos of the digital realm. Faster than a feathered messenger ever could. Autocorrect acts as a virtual assistant, polishing our hastily typed words, while emojis infuse our messages with personality and emotions effortlessly. Emojis are pictographs, transcending language barriers to convey feelings, reactions and narratives in a single icon.
From smileys to thumbs ups, tiny symbols have revolutionised how we communicate, adding layers of meaning and humour to our digital conversations.

The evolution from Pigeons to Emojis reflect humanity's relentless quest for faster, efficient ways to connect. What once required weeks of waiting and meticulous handwriting can now be achieved in seconds. Yet, amidst this rapid evolution, the essence of human connection remains unchanged - whether carried by pigeon or pixel, our desire to share stories, emotions and experiences, still, persists.

As we wonder about the drastic evolution from writing on scrolls to texting with emojis, let's adore the ingenuity of our ancestors who used pigeons to bridge gaps and the advancement of modern technology that allows us to express ourselves in colourful and immediate ways. The transition from carrier pigeons to emojis illustrates not just technological advancement but also highlights how communication continually moulds our collective human story.
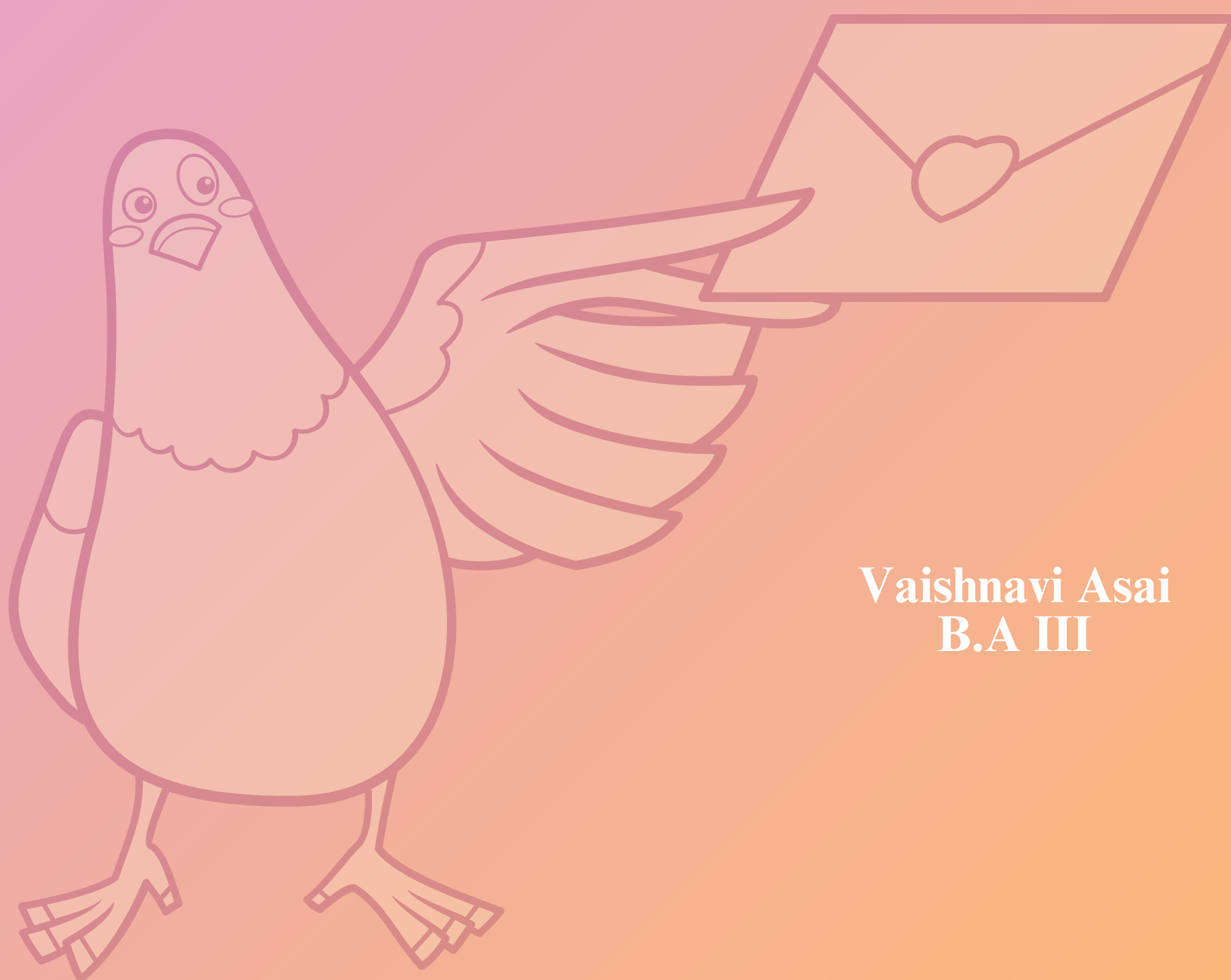
Vaishnavi Asai
B.A III

Impact of Generation Gap on Communication

'"Communication is the solvent of all problems and is the foundation for personal development. "

Our world is dynamic and is changing constantly. In this ever-changing world , the dynamics of human relationships are changing constantly. In such situations, the most crucial concept that affects our relationships, interactions and understanding is the communication. Communication is the source of exchange of ideas and emotions and is the key to resolve conflicts and to overcome obstacles. Just like a solvent is able to dissolve substances, in the same way communication can dissolve problems and difficulties.

"Effective communication is the foundation of successful relationships, teams, and organizations". But communication gaps often lead to miscommunications and misunderstandings and can even hinder our best intentions and lead to conflicts. The communication gap has now become a great issue that affects people of all ages, regardless of generational differences.

It is mostly because of the difficulties individuals face in conveying, interpreting and understanding messages properly. Sometimes, people misinterpret the meaning of the statement, whereas sometimes, the tone might hurt people and lead to strained relationships. This has become a common issue nowadays and causes misunderstandings that can hinder our ability to connect with others.

The main causes of communication gap are language barrier, generational differences, technological issues , psychological problems like distorted emotional state ,etc. Among which generational differences, which is popularly known as generation gap has resulted into technological as well as psychological barrier in communication.

The generation gap is a significant phenomenon that emerged due to generational differences in values, attitudes, and cultural norms. It can be witnessed between parents and their children or between older and younger individuals. This gap or difference has come into the picture due to the evolving nature of society, technological advancements, and the changing perspectives of each generation.

Every generation brings its unique values, interests, and expectations as society moves forward and progresses. For example, older generations value traditionalism, while younger generations embrace the changes and innovations.

There is also a huge difference in the environment of growth as well as in the perspective of the generations. Older generations often use formal language and stick to grammatical rules whereas younger generations especially Genzs tend to use informal language, slang, emojis, and abbreviations, reflecting a more casual and immediate communication style

Gen-Z is considered to be the most technologically advanced generation in history. However, this advancement has come at a cost. Excessive screen time has been linked to a delay in the development of other skills, particularly soft skills, as Gen-Z tends to spend more time on screens than with family and friends.

This generation gap can result in misunderstandings and conflicts within families. For instance, parents may feel that their children are too absorbed in technology, while children may perceive their parents as out of touch with modern communication methods.

These differing worldviews are responsible for creating misunderstandings and conflicts, which can be further exacerbated by historical events and technological shifts. This can lead to alienation within the family and result in a significant communication gap, leading to daily conflicts and heated arguments. Such a situation can also be described as a generational conflict.

The conflict between generations is largely due to the educational and knowledge revolutions. Today's young people have access to intellectual tools and technology that their parents didn't have in their time, making their knowledge more relevant. This conflict is further exacerbated by the dilemma of whether to stick to traditional beliefs or embrace new techniques and civilizations from outside. Sometimes, older generations fail to keep up with the changes, leading to strained relationships.

"In a relationship, when communication fades everything follows."

In a relationship, if communication breaks down, everything else falls apart.

To bridge the gap between different generations, it's important to have open conversations and respect each other. It's also important to recognize that different perspectives can help us learn and grow, and can prevent conflicts.

"The only thing you sometimes have control over is perspective. You don't have control over your situation. But you have a choice about how you view it." This means that to bridge communication gaps and avoid conflicts, we need to try to understand what the other person is thinking and feeling. We should avoid reacting too quickly to situations. For this, we need to observe more and listen more than speak. Immediate reaction may make the situation out of control so we should listen to understand and not react.

"The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said." Sometimes, we need to understand what the other person is trying to say without them speaking about it.

It's important to be empathetic and think before we speak or act. Communicating through heartfelt letters and having personal conversations can help us better understand each other and bridge the communication gap. This can help reduce the negative impact of the generation gap on communication and prevent misunderstandings and conflicts between different generations.

Khushi Gupta
BA III

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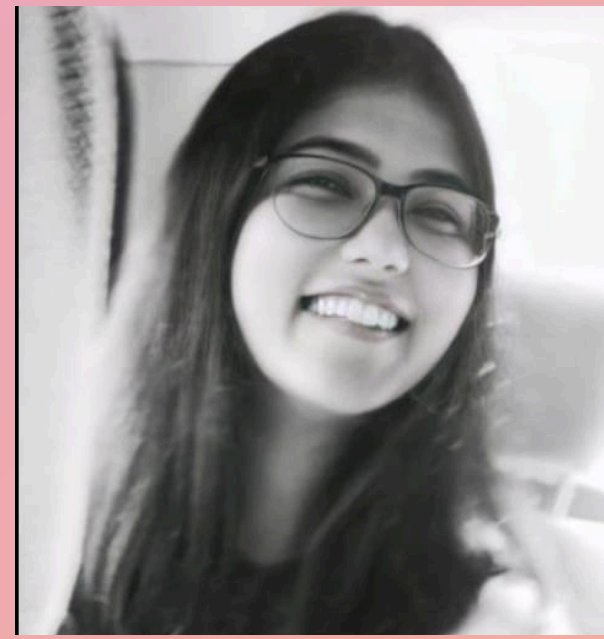SHE'S A CURIOUS PERSON WHO LIKES HELPING PEOPLE. SHE LIKES READING BOOKS AND MYTHOLOGICAL STORIES.

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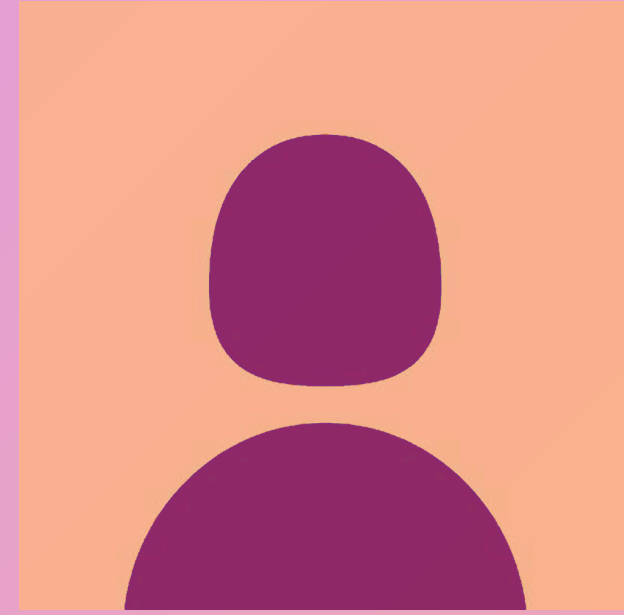
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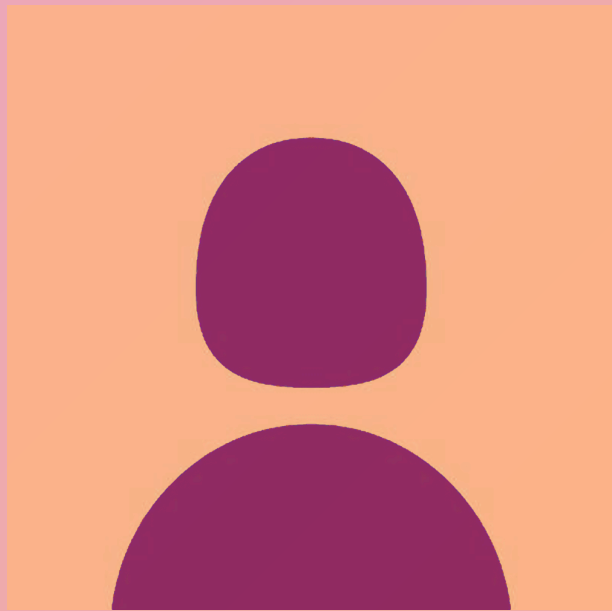
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