

Guest Lecture by Prof. David Wesley

Prof. David Wesley had an interactive session with the students of 3rd BA English Literature on 13th December, 2018 on Cheryl Strayed's *Wild: A journey from lost to found*. A male opinion and perspective about women's writing was thus sought through his talk. The session started off with Prof. Wesley giving everyone a brief outline about the prevalent patriarchal influence in almost every writings that has been penned down over the years. He emphasised on the subjective approach that is pervasive in the writings of the men, especially when they write about women. They tend to merely reduce them to their desired notions and in accordance to him, subjectivity for a man is objectifying a woman. Also, for a very long time, women have been treated indifferently or in his words "other-ed".

Coming to the memoir of discussion, Prof. Wesley states that a woman's passage to her history is through her memories. Memory, as he interprets, is the material for the reconstruction of the history of woman. It isn't thus a mere objective documentation of history but a powerful political tool that brings out the fact of the matter or absolute truth that stays unearthed. By sending the memory through a process of fictionalisation, the mood, atmosphere and the physicality of the past is made present. Also, he emphasised on history not being mere history of the events that occur in the past but that it is the history of thoughts and emotions that hold strong.

He propagates memoir to be an excellent example for the documentation of emotional history and change inducing memories. He says that memoirs guard people against forgetfulness that has been a driving force for the patriarchal dominance for centuries.

In the end, a question and answer session was conducted where students asked various pertinent questions which were vividly answered, bringing an end to this thought provoking, empathy inducing and thoroughly fascinating session on Women's writing.

