Conference Attendance details:

1. Conference Title: Magic and Literature (International Conference)

Date: May 27-28, 2016

Organizer: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Paper Title: “The Magic of Reality in Katherine Mansfield’s *The Garden Party”*

Abstract:

Katherine Mansfield’s *The Garden Party* is perhaps one of the most read and referred short story of the Modern Period of English Literature. It is a tale of a young girl’s (Laura) journey from innocence to experience from illusion to reality. The character goes through a moment of epiphany when she is face to face with reality and left to awe at its ‘marvel’ as all the illusions of social hierarchy shatters in front of her. The term ‘illusion’ has direct association with the idea of magic, imagination and false reality. Although the story is about acceptance of reality overcoming the illusion of a perfect world where all is magical, it ends with a curious note. Mansfield through the disillusionment of the protagonist shows not only the grim, dark and bitter side of reality but her appreciation of realism contains something beyond mere portrayal of aforesaid. In fact, the protagonist’s experience of reality ironically could only be aptly explained as magical. The paper will attempt to analyze and critically explain the possibility of an illustration of ‘magical reality’ in Mansfield’s narrative focusing on the author’s depiction of the protagonist’s experiences.

Key words: Realism, existentialism, illusion

1. Conference Title: International Conference on Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges

Date: January 12-13, 2022

Organizer: American International University-Bangladesh

Paper title: Love in Apocalypse: A Comparative Study through Deconstruction of *Life is Beautiful* (1997), *Wall-E* (2008), and *Love and Monsters* (2020)

Abstract:

Human nature can be explored through their reaction to various stimuli. These stimulants can be either positive or negative and numerous authors since the classical period have depicted the affective response to contrasting realities. Through a deconstructive approach the paper will attempt to compare and examine the emotional response of protagonists to the catastrophic settings portrayed in three motion pictures namely *Life is Beautiful* (1997), *Wall-E* (2008), and *Love and Monsters* (2020) to explain the resilient aspect of love in the face of apocalypse. In the backdrop of the Second World War, *Life is Beautiful* (1997) captures the strength of a father’s love that empowers the son in a time and place that can only be described as hopeless. *Wall-E* (2008)is a post-human fairy-tale that questions the structures that build human identity and redefines it. The third film on the list, *Love and Monsters* (2020) shows how hope and love can define what is possible and further depicts protagonist’s response the disillusionment of fantasized reality. The paper will refer to resilience theories, humanistic theories of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow, personality theories and social psychology theory of love to analyze the motivations of the protagonists and explain their behavior.

Key Words: Apocalypse, Love, Resilience, Reality, Identity