



Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies

School of Humanities

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Established By Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognised by U.G.C.)

Head Office: DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064; Phone: 033 40663214

Sixth Lecture of Partition Lecture Series: Report

In continuation with the activities of the Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies, a lecture on Partition was organized on 17th August, 2019 at the Conference Room of the University, NSOU City Campus, Salt Lake, Kolkata. On this occasion, Professor Sanjay Mukhopadhyay, an eminent scholar of film studies at Jadavpur University, delivered the special Lecture on "Asru Rekha: Partition o Ritwik Chalachitra" Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal, Professor in Bengali & Director, School of Humanities, was the Chairperson for the occasion. The Lecture was attended by lots of scholars and the researcher group of the People's Project on Bengal Partition.

Ghatak's movies are one of the most dominant masterful explanations of the injury of uprooting after the Partition. The social solidarity of the two Bengals was the source of inspiration for him. He never acknowledged the Partition, and it turned into an over the top subject with him. Professor Sanjay Mukhopadhyay has analyzed the various aspects of Partition on Ritwik Ghatak's films. According to him most of his films are predominantly represented the agony of Partition. He pointed out Ritwik has never accepted the Partition of Bengal, and thereby he centralized his character and theme on the same and criticized the decision of dividing Bengal. The sense of loss of Partition specifically highlighted on the selected films of Ghatak namely *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (1961), *Komol Gandhar* (1961) and *Subarnarekha* (1962). Professor Sanjay Mukhopadhyay had spoken more about these films and analyzed scene wise in detail. Cinema for him is not just the artistic reflection, instead is a medium of protest. Professor Sanjay Mukhopadhyay shared with us some of his personal interaction with the director, which is unfamiliar to all.

Professor Himadri Lahiri, Professor English, School of Humanities, was the discussant of this Lecture. He is in praise of his Lecture for his insightful and in-depth analysis of the films. He pointed further that his analysis was not just critical review but a kind of lenses through which one can understand the films in a better way.



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The special Lecture ends with much discussion on social, political issues on Partition and its implication on the society on a larger whole. Professor ends his speech with the lines of Ritwik "Cinema, to me, is a means of expressing my anger at the sorrows and sufferings of my people. Being a Bengali from East Bengal, I have seen untold miseries inflicted on my people in the name of independence – which is fake and a sham. I have reacted violently to this – and I have tried to portray different aspects of this in my films."