

PREFACE

In Memory of Dr. Rajyashree Khushu-Lahiri (23 June 1959–3 August 2014)

Dr. Rajyashree Khushu-Lahiri was a well-known scholar and a devoted teacher. We all remember Dr. Rajyashree Khushu-Lahiri as an energetic, generous and affectionate human being. Her students remember her for providing them with unconditional support and encouragement. To her numerous friends and colleagues, she was a valued companion, loving yet forthright. Her research output is tremendous and surprisingly diverse. As the Head of the Department, she was committed to building the then nascent Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Ropar.

Her untimely death in a car accident in August 2014 came as a cruel shock to all those who knew her. She left a void which is impossible to fill, not only for her family but also for her students, friends and colleagues.

She emphasised hard work, originality and attention to details. She upheld feminist ideals all her life. She had a penchant for learning which never deterred her from exploring new areas. She started off as a student of English, studying the canonical texts of English and American literature. As a graduate student, she was struck by the political contentions of Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, Gayatri Spivak and others thinkers, and thereafter, she forayed into postcolonial literature and criticism. She was concerned about the pedagogic issues in teaching language and communication, especially after joining the Department of Humanities and

Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. Hence, communication and ELT became her areas of interest. Further, her interest in communication got her working in pragmatics. The scholarship she left behind is engaging and diverse.

The English Paradigm in India: Essays in Language, Literature and Culture is intended to celebrate the woman and the scholar that Dr. Khushu-Lahiri was. This volume seeks to bring out critical essays by people who impacted her work as well as those who were impacted by her. This volume celebrates the ideas she cherished and diverse methodologies she abided by and worked with during her career. This volume is Gedenkschrift by her friends and students to honour the work she has done, and that she could have done.

We are deeply indebted to Prof. Somdeb Lahiri and Prof. B.N. Patnaik for mentoring this book. We acknowledge Prof. Akshaya Kumar from Panjab University; Dr. Anshu Kujur from Miranda House, Delhi; and Dr. Hem Raj Bansal from Central University of Himachal for their valuable inputs. We would also like to thank the students Samriddhi Simlai, Dwimitra Chauhan and Rudra Chandak from DA-IICT for their support.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-981-10-5331-3>

The English Paradigm in India

Essays in Language, Literature and Culture

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2017, XX, 317 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-981-10-5331-3