

THE FRENCH CONNECTION - AN INITIATION PROGRAMME INTO THE LEARNING OF FRENCH

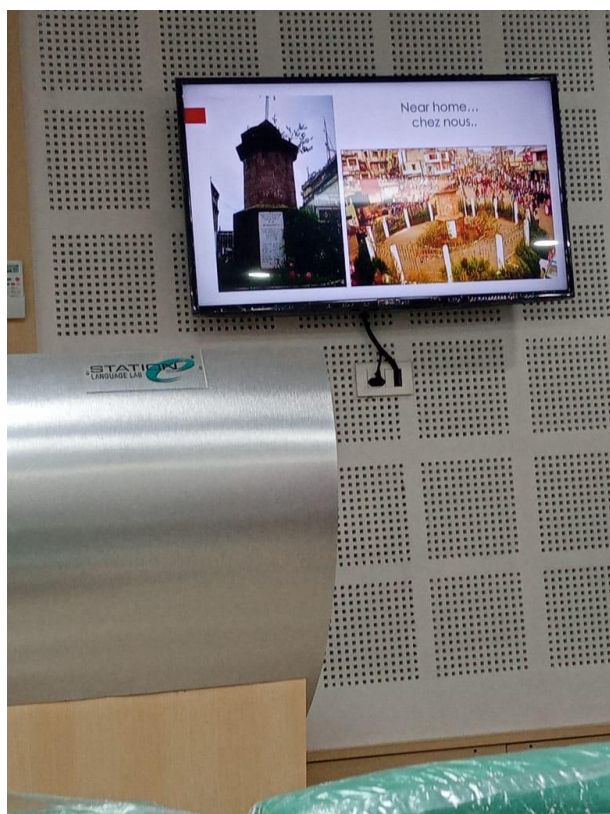
A Report



The NEP 2020 has given impetus towards the learning of foreign languages. In addition to high quality offerings in Indian languages and English, foreign languages, such as Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, will also be offered at the secondary level, for students to learn about the cultures of the world and to enrich their global knowledge and mobility according to their own interests and aspirations. Research has shown that learning a second language can have a positive effect on first language development. The transfer of literacy skills from one language to another leads to both languages being enhanced. This, in turn, can result in improvement in other areas of the curriculum. Acquiring a second language makes it easier to learn a third, fourth or fifth language. The social aspect of learning a second language can also be significant. Not only does it develop the learner's social and interpersonal skills, it can also give the learner a more global perspective by making it easier to meet people from different backgrounds, to experience new cultures, and to travel to various countries around the world. Learning a second language leads to greater appreciation of, and sensitivity towards, linguistic and cultural diversity in one's own country as well as global issues. In light of the recommendations by the NEP and the advantages of learning a second language, The English Department, Shillong College has thus decided to introduce a French language learning programme called "The French Connection".

THE SESSION WITH DR. DHARMENDRA KUMAR SINGH IN PROGRESS

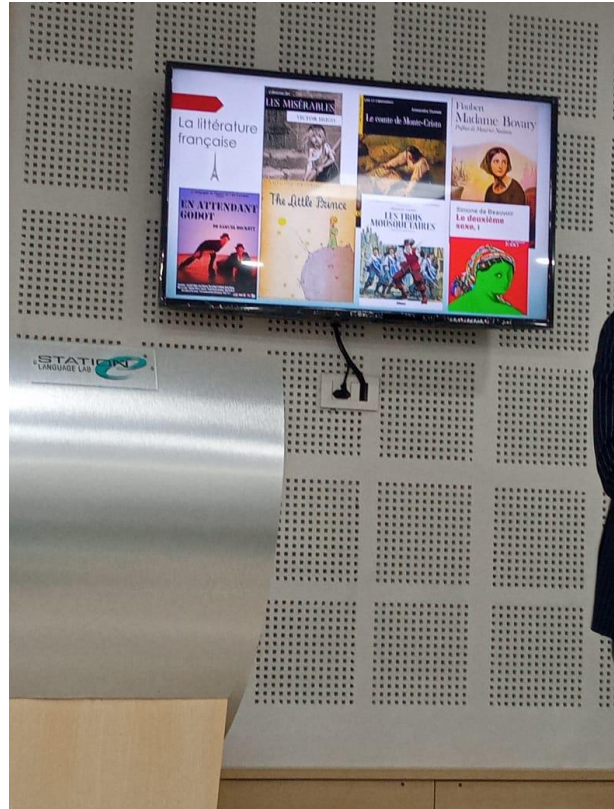
The French language is spoken by 68 million people worldwide and is the official language of 27 nations. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English. Along with English, it is the working language of the United Nations Organization, UNESCO, NATO, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Labor Bureau, the International Olympic Committee, the 31-member Council of Europe, the European Community, the Universal Postal Union, the International Red Cross and the Union of International Associations. French is the first or second language of over 40 countries and is spoken on every continent. It is estimated that 200 million people around the world speak French and that 100 million people are learning French. English and French are the only languages spoken on all 5 continents and taught in every country in the world. "French is the lingua franca of culture, including art,



cuisine, dance, and fashion. French is popularly considered the language of culture, taking learners into the worlds of fashion, gastronomy, the arts and architecture. Learning French offers access to the works Victor Hugo and Marcel Proust, Charles Baudelaire and Jacques Prévert, the songs of Édith Piaf and Charles Aznavour, the movies of Claire Denis and Jean-Pierre Jeunet in the original language. As Laura K. Lawless, creator of Lawless French states, "French is the lingua franca of culture, including art, cuisine, dance, and fashion. France has won more Nobel Prizes for literature than any

other country in the world and is one of the top producers of international films.” Thus, learning French accords multiple advantages to the speaker to navigate a multi-lingual, multi-cultural globalised world.

The French language has deep connections with the English language, literature and traditions. It was the language of the court following the Norman Conquest of 1066, existing side by side with the English language that was spoken as the vernacular. This meant that the French language considerably influence the vocabulary of the English speaking masses, with over 10,000 French words being adapted into the English language and about 75 per cent of these still in use today. Words like *justice, judge, jury, challenge, danger, realm, sovereign, power, joyful, parole, telephone, virtue, vice,*



charity, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousin, beef, veal, mutton, pork, dinner, tailor, carpenter, butcher, mason, painter have their origins in the French language. Other French words like *cliché, déjà vu, and faux pas* continue to be used in everyday speech. French spelling also helped transform Old English into the modern English we speak today as words like *queen, ship* and *should* used to be spelled “*cwen,*” “*scip,*” and “*scolde.*” French also has its influence on English pronunciation and accentuation. For example, the “ai” sound in English words like *fine, price* has been influenced by the long “i” sound in French. The connection between the languages has also led to the creation of hybrid words such as *overpower, colourless, rebirth* etc.

GLIMPSES OF THE LECTURE

The French Connection

Organized by
The Language and Skill Development Lab,
In Association with
IQAC, Shillong College

Date: 16th December, 2021
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Venue: Language Lab, Shillong College

1:00 P.M.	Welcome Address- Dr. <u>Dhira Bhowmick</u>
1:05 P.M.	Short Speech- Dr. E. <u>Kharkongor</u>
1:10 P.M.-2:00 P.M.	French Connection Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh , Assistant Professor Department of French Studies, The English and Foreign Languages University, <u>Shillong Campus,</u> <u>Shillong.</u>
2:05 P.M.	Vote of Thanks- Shri. P. Nicholas Jyrwa

The connection between French and English extend beyond vocabulary and pronunciation. French is the language of key texts that influenced and shaped English literature in its early beginnings such as *Roman de la Rose* by Guillaume de Lorris and *Lais*, *Lanval* and *La Friene* by Marie de France. It is the language of philosophers, thinkers and critically acclaimed authors like Descartes, Heri Berson, Simone de Beauvoir, Michel Foucault, Lyotard,, Lacan, Jules Verne, Émile Zola, Marcel Proust, Alexandre Dumas, Camus, Charles Baudelaire, Eugène Ionesco, Samuel Beckett and others whose works have been translated into English and continue to be studied in English literature classrooms across the world. The long history of warfare and peace between England and France, the influence of French aesthetics upon the theatre, fashion and court of England are topics that receive considerable attention in classroom discussions of the English renaissance and development of English literature up to the Caroline age. The study of modern and post-modern literature

cannot be initiated without a foray into the works of French philosophers and theorists, and the movements in art, philosophy and gender studies that can trace their origins or maturity in France. After all, French is an analytical language that structures thought and develops critical thinking. It is the language of great philosophers like Descartes, Sartre and Derrida, among others and eminent scientists like Pierre and Marie Curie, Pasteur, Georges Charpak, etc. It can thus be established that the French language in the English literature classroom has multiple benefits; from understanding the complex history of English language and literature to allowing learners to enjoy the brilliant works of literature they already love in the original language of the text to broadening their cultural horizons as well as encouraging their capacities for critical thinking, analysis and negotiation.

The French Connection an initiation Programme into the learning of French was organised by The Language and Skill Development Lab in association with IQAC Shillong College on the 16th of December, 2021 in the Language and Skill Development Lab. Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of French Studies, The English and Foreign Languages University came in as a Resource Person on the day and initiated the Post Graduate teachers and students of First and Third Semesters into basics of French language learning. The Programme was attended by the Principal, Dr. E. Kharkongor, Vice Principal Shri K. D. Roy. Principal delivered a short speech on the occasion.

In a very interesting and engaging presentation, Dr. Singh detailed out the benefits of being multilingual, how language introduces us to cultures helps in mental development of aptitudes. Made an interesting presentation on the global presence of the French especially India and Meghalaya. French theorists and mighty literary figures and their masterpieces were brought into reference and stressed on the need for reading them in the original. Helped pronounce French words correctly while also introducing the students and teachers to new French words. He talked about career opportunities, played movie clippings of *Lost in Translation* to show how translation and interpretation can provide multiple career opportunities. The 70 minute long session ended with questions from the teachers about minimum period required for learning French, the structuring of the language the accuracy of machine guided learning. French music completed the feel of the French classroom on the day.

Dr. Dharmendra K. Singh

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The English and Foreign Languages University
Shillong Campus, Shillong
Meghalaya 793022



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Educational Qualifications

PhD	2021	Centre for French and Francophone Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Thesis: Politique de traduction et transmission: la littérature hindi en français (1980-2010)
M.Phil.	2014	Centre for French and Francophone Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Thesis : La traduction et transmission de la littérature dalite en français: étude de cas- les nouvelles choisies d'Omprakash Valmiki et d'Anita Bharati

Areas of interest

Translation, interpretation, anthologies of Hindi and French short stories

Teaching Experience

- Assistant Professor in The English and Foreign Languages (EFL) University, Shillong Campus, since December 2016.
- Teaching Assistant in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2014-2016

Languages Known

Hindi, English, French

Academic activities

- Presented paper on "The Socio-Historical Ontology of Translation: Reference to the French Translations of Literary Texts in Hindi", National Institute of Technology (NIT), Shillong.
- Presented paper on "Visual images and its impacts on the teaching and learning of a foreign language in the North-East India", in National Seminar on "Contesting the

sight of Sights: The Discourse of Visual Media Cultures with Special Reference to Northeast India”, The English and Foreign Languages (EFL) University, Shillong Campus.

- Presented paper on “The Politics of Translation: India’s Representation in France through Translated Anthologies of Short Stories in Hindi”, The English and Foreign Languages University (EFL), Shillong Campus.
- Participated in “Community Radio Awareness Workshop” organized by Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and The English and Foreign Languages (EFL) University, Shillong Campus.
- Present paper on “Myths Taboos and Superstitions: Sociological Impacts on Khasi Society in Meghalaya” in National Seminar on “Different Types of Folk Arts of Northeast India”, ICSSR, Shillong.
- Participated in Workshop on “Decoding social Media: Dynamics, Uses and Abuses”, organized by Tezpur University.

Budget for THE FRENCH CONNECTION

LANGUAGE LAB, SHILLONG COLLEGE

DATE: 16/12/2021

S.NO.	PARTICULARS	RATE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
1.	Tea	5/7	20/15	100+105=205
2.	Veg. Sandwich	12	35	420
3.	Water	10	35	350

AMOUNT Rs. 975

THE FRENCH CONNECTION
Organized by
The Language and Skill Development Lab
DATE: 16/12/2021
TIME: 13:00

S.NO.	NAME	SIGNATURE
Smt 1.	IVANISHA. M. KHARKONGOR	J.k.kongor
Smt 2.	HABANDAJOP KHONGPHAI	Jphai
Smt 3.	PERRY BRANDON LYNGBA	Lyngba
Smt 4.	RIDER SAMATI	Samati
Smt 5.	KARENIA MAJAW	Karenia Kariya
Smt 6.	PHIDASLIANG NONGSIEJ	P.Nongsieij
Smt 7.	IBANGADJEST S DKHAR	Bkhar
Smt 8.	BARKHA PRADHAN	B. Pradhan
Smt 9.	MARKYNTILIN MARBANIANG	M. Marbariang
Smt 10.	RUMAYA SANCHI M. DANGGO	Rumaya
Smt 11.	RIBAPHYLLA WANNIANG	R. wanniang
Smt 12.	BRANDON JULIAN. WATRI	Brandon
Smt 13.	ANGEL KHARBUDON.	Angel
Smt 14.	AGREESHA MARY LYNKGHOI	A. lyngkhei
Smt 15.	Madari DKHAR.	Madari
Smt 16.	Deinawansa Lyngdoh	Lyngdoh
Smt 17.	Jerefer Marbariang	Jerefer
Smt 18.	Phibansara L. Marshillong	Phibansara
Smt 19.	Sharaihun lyngdoh kynshi	Sharaihun