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The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund

The JU-SYLFF Association invites you to

JU-SYLFF Lecture Series
Lecture No. 2016-5

Speaker:

Dr. Partha Pratim Basu

Professor,
Department of International Relations,
Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Topic:

Discourse Analysis (DA)

Date:

April 26th, 2016 (Tuesday)

Time:

4:15pm – 5:15pm (Including Q&A Session)

Venue:

**Global Change Programme,
First Floor, Biren Roy Research Laboratory
Jadavpur University**

Note on the Speaker

Dr. Partha Pratim Basu is a Professor in the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Note on the Lecture

DA represents a qualitative approach to textual analysis. There has been a dramatic upsurge in analysis of texts in social sciences in general. This popularity is rooted in an awareness of the growing importance of language and meaning for politics and as well as of the power of mass media.

DA seeks to probe the origins of social practices and institutions, and must critically analyze the discourses linked to them and continue to give them legitimacy and meaning.

Discourses are ensemble of ideas, concepts and categories through which meaning is produced and reproduced in a particular situation.

DA brings to light the elements of a discourse through analysis of language, semiotics (latent meaning in texts) and conventions found in texts - written, oral or visual.

Further, these elements of a discourse, the meaning they produce or reproduce can only be understood in relation to some broader context. In other words, DA is concerned with not just the text itself but relation of a text to its context (e.g. source, channel, intended audience, connection to other texts and events) plus wider relations of power and auth which shape the context.

Thus, DA is both interpretive and constructivist.

Contributions of **Wittgenstein** ('Language is a medium oriented to action, used as much to do things as to make statements'); and **Foucault** ('discourses are embedded in power relations');

Steps in DA: to explore (a) the relationship between discourse and reality in a particular context, and (b) the process through which power of discourse has demonstrable effects.

Critical Discourse Analysis: focus on 'change and emancipation'.

Ref:

- *Sandra Halperin and Oliver Heath, Political Research: Methods and Skills, Oxford: UP, 2012, chapter 13.*
- *Peter Burnham et al, Research Methods in Politics, New York, Palgrave, 2004.*