

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2025

(2nd Year, 4th Semester)

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Subject Code : UG/MINOR/TH/22/201B

LITERARY APPROACHES TO ORAL HISTORY

Time : Two Hours

Full Marks : 30

Answer *either* in English *or* in Bengali but all *three* in the same language.

All questions carry equal marks.

CO1 : (Answer **any one** question from **CO1**)

1. (a) Do you think that oral traditions belong only to anthropological communities ? Justify your opinion.

Or

- (b) Comment on the relationship between oratures and collective memories. Substantiate your answer with relevant examples.

CO2 : (Answer **any one** question from **CO2**)

2. (a) Alessandra Portelli argues that oral history offers a unique perspective beyond simply supplementing traditional written sources. Analyse Portelli's key arguments about what distinguishes oral history. How does he believe oral history contributes to our understanding of the past in ways written documents cannot ?

Or

- (b) 'Memory, as it seems, is everywhere. From cells to museums, text messages to dementia, memory as an object of study is perpetually elusive and evolving'. Keeping this statement in mind, discuss how power dynamics and social inequalities shape the creation, preservation and interpretation of both 'lieux de mémoire' and oral history narratives. Give suitable examples to support your argument.

CO3 : (Answer **any one** question from **CO3**)

3. (a) 'The point of hearing (and now reading) story is to study it in and of itself' – Discuss how Lee Maracle with such statements in "Oratory on Oratory" suggests a 'non-Western model' of reading oral narratives.

Or

- (b) How memory may play an important role in search for truth and reconciliation ? Answer with reference to Urvashi Butalia's 'The persistence of Memory'

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