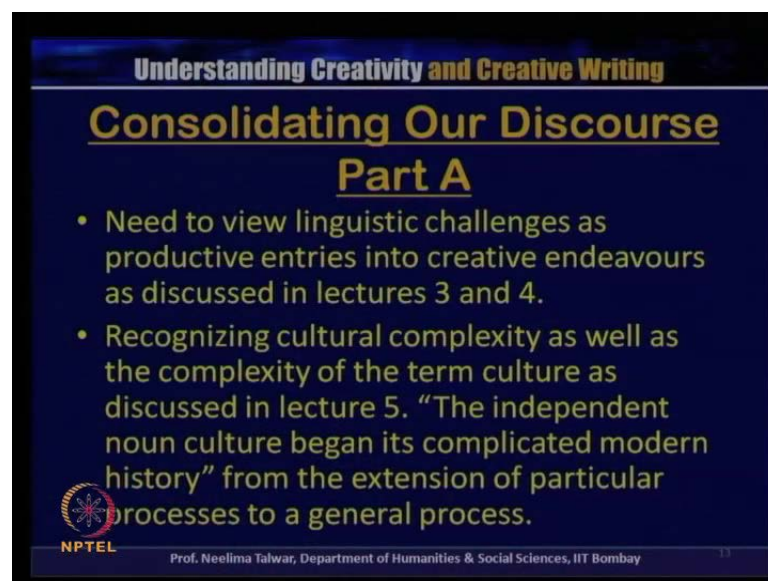


**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**  
**Prof. Neelima Talwar**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay**

**Lecture - 11**  
**Divergences and Convergences**

If you recollect a professor Raymond Williams in key words, he had talked about the fact that words are not stable, they keep changing through historical experience. All though he did say that creativity is the only word with a consistently positive meaning, very often words gain positive or negative meaning, and also there meaning gains different kinds of associations. So, that term culture according to him in its earlier formation, in its modern form it sort of has this connection of particular its let me read this actually as it is.

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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

**Consolidating Our Discourse**

**Part A**

- Need to view linguistic challenges as productive entries into creative endeavours as discussed in lectures 3 and 4.
- Recognizing cultural complexity as well as the complexity of the term culture as discussed in lecture 5. "The independent noun culture began its complicated modern history" from the extension of particular processes to a general process.

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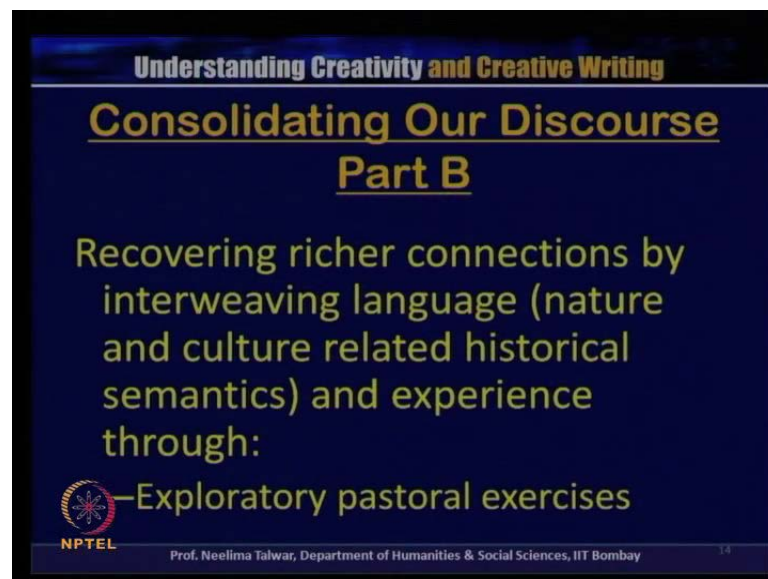
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The independent noun culture began its complicated modern history, from the extension of particular processes to a general process. Now I sort of feel that this will give us an interesting lead in terms of some of the activities that I want to now add to the psychosocial dimension that we have talked about or the auto telic dimension that we talked earlier.

So, now let us see what I want to add to the discussion. Now this is of course, based on my personal perception of what we need to do, because very often, you know when one

interacts with young people, there is a certain sense of you know their direction their involvement and various other experiential things that one begins to notice. Because it is a very fortunate situation when you teach young people you are constantly in touch with changes that unfold in society. Because all of these are concentrated within this young people and their you know feature directions. One thing that I feel is sometimes missing is a sense of some kind of active driving relationship with nature and the term nature is with the capital N.

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So, therefore, this particular exercise is actually meant to recover richer connections by interweaving language that is nature and culture related historical semantics and experience, through what I have described as pastoral exercises. So, I hope this idea is clear to you. So, in order to extend over discussion further, so far we have talked about psychosocial stages as stages that show the relationship between the individual and the social interrelationships or the social institutions, which have been created in order to satisfy the needs of that particular stage. But, we have actually perhaps not talked about everything, it is not possible also, because after all you know actual life is amorphous and you know the social science is like psychology or anthropology what they try to do is to extrapolate certain aspects concentrate on them and provides some key insights.

But, after all when you write none of this sort of ideas you know compartmentalize ideas will help you. So, one thing that I feel is missing in those psychosocial insights or though

psychosexual insides or the auto telic insides which also comes from developmental psychology were the whole purpose is to strengthen the sense of the self. So, what is missing is this active exploration of are psycho natural interrelationship. Now this I am queuing this term in order to draw your attention to the fact that we have actually a very sort of primordial kind of relationship with nature. Now the term nature itself is very complex, but we will try to again use the sense of nature as Raymond Williams has evoked it in a certain definition that he has provided.

So, let us first of all see what this excise is all about and I will also then dip into the sense of culture which Raymond Williams had he evoked which was also related to interface with nature that is how I view have you that earlier you know connotation of the word culture. The reason, you know interesting to go back to that definition is may be perhaps nostalgic or it may be related to the fact that actually in childhood, we inevitably have a very active relationship with nature. And it is possible to conceive of childhood experience where this is really not. So, in case you have not had a very active driving relationship with nature, I think absence itself could be a subject matter of deliberation, discussion, and introspection.

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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

## Composition

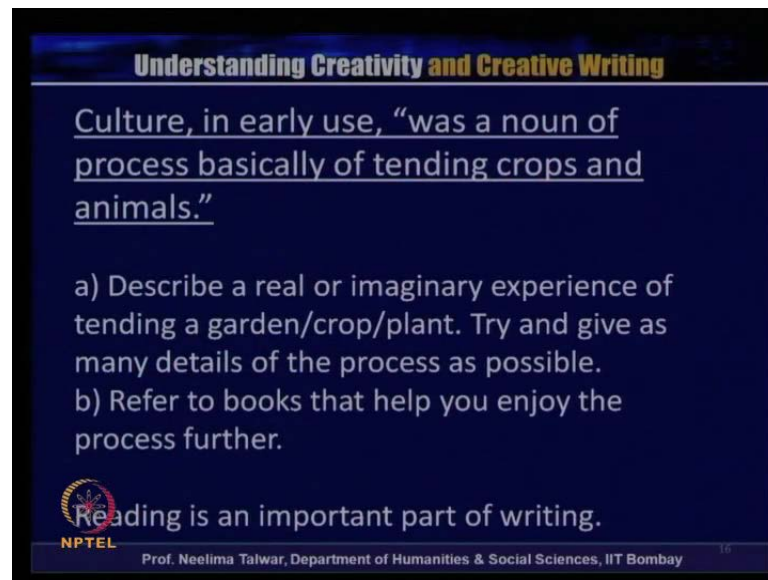
Pastoral Exercises to:

1. explore early connotations of the word 'culture'
2. overcome polarisations and alienation from the natural world.

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So, let us look at this excise first. The pastoral exercises, number one is explore early connotations of the word culture. Overcome polarizations and alienation from the natural world that is the purpose of the composition.

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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

Culture, in early use, "was a noun of process basically of tending crops and animals."

a) Describe a real or imaginary experience of tending a garden/crop/plant. Try and give as many details of the process as possible.

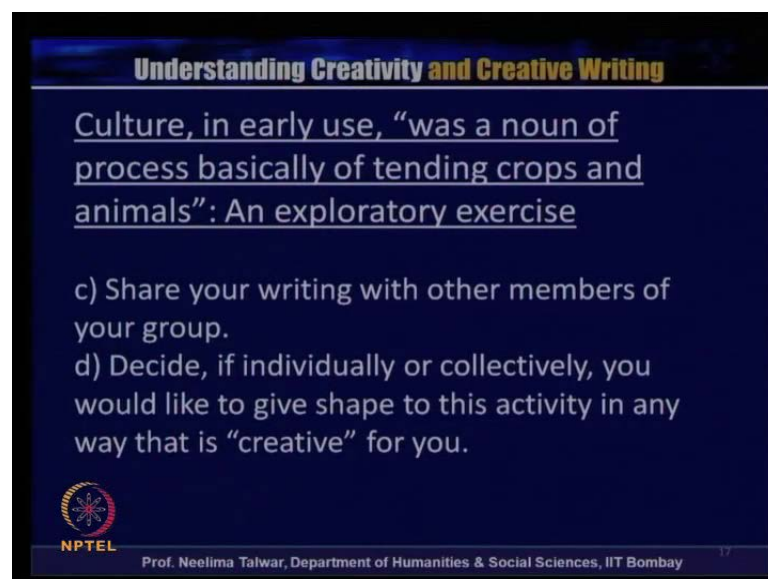
b) Refer to books that help you enjoy the process further.

 Reading is an important part of writing.

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And so now, this is the exercise and as I said this exercise is based on Raymond Williams and his statement in key words, where he says that culture in early use was a noun of process basically of tending crops and animals. So, this is the first question have a close look at it. Describe a real or imaginary experience of tending a garden, crop, plant. Try and give as many details of the process as possible. To refer to books that help you enjoy the process further. Remember reading is an important part of writing. So, this is one activity.

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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

Culture, in early use, "was a noun of process basically of tending crops and animals": An exploratory exercise

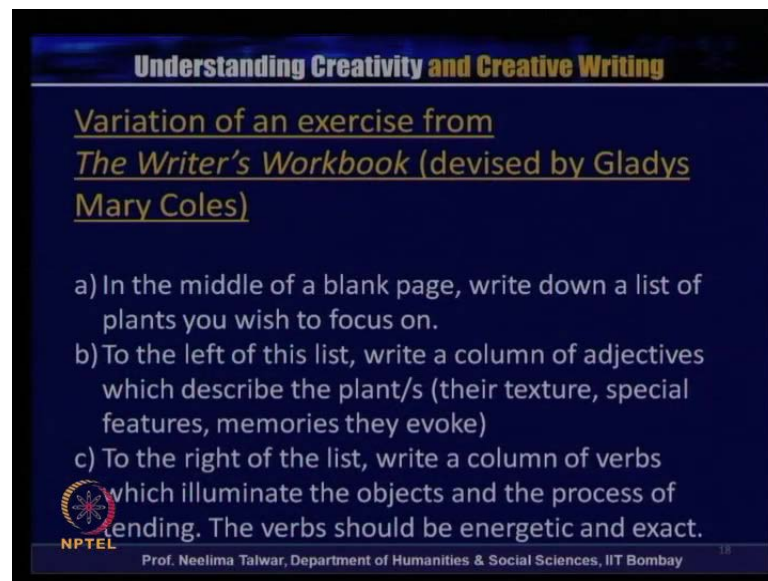
c) Share your writing with other members of your group.

d) Decide, if individually or collectively, you would like to give shape to this activity in any way that is "creative" for you.

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But, we also would like you to share your writing with other members your group. Decide, if individually or collectively, you would like to give shape to this activity in any way that is creative for you. Now I do not want to prescribe anything, but you can decide for yourself. So this is not, this may be composition activity, but you can also redefined it in some other ways.


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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

Variation of an exercise from  
*The Writer's Workbook* (devised by Gladys Mary Coles)

- a) In the middle of a blank page, write down a list of plants you wish to focus on.
- b) To the left of this list, write a column of adjectives which describe the plant/s (their texture, special features, memories they evoke)
- c) To the right of the list, write a column of verbs which illuminate the objects and the process of tending. The verbs should be energetic and exact.

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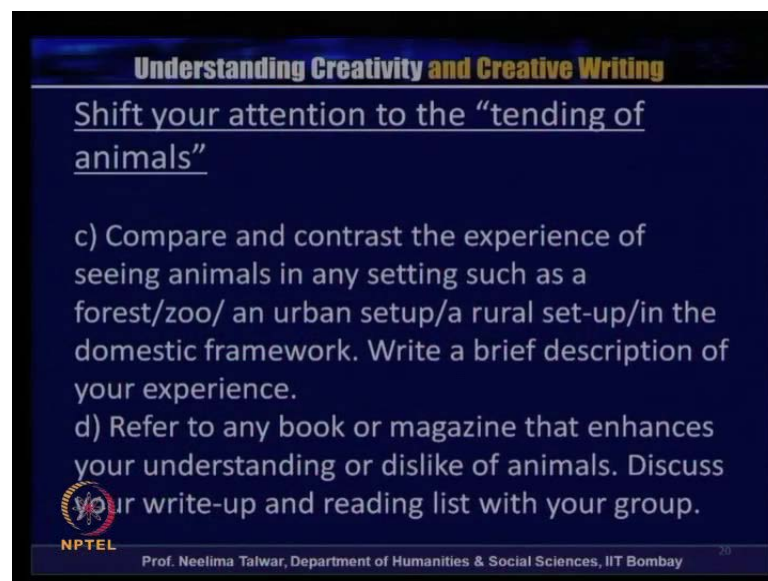
Then there is variation of an exercise from the Writer's book that we would like you to again attempt. In the middle of a blank page, write down the list of plants you wish to focus on. To the left of this list, write a column of adjectives which describe the plant/s their texture, special features, memories they evoke. To the right of this the list, write a column of verbs which illuminate the objects and the process of tending. The verbs should be energetic and exact.

Now this exercise will also refine it further and give you some samples to in lecture ten, which will be the concluding lecture of this module. So, right now, I do not want to show you any samples, I do not want to you know limit this activity. I am opening it up for what I would sort of ten to consider as very vital, very interesting fascinating area of our own being which I can perhaps use this newly coin label of psycho nature insight or psycho natural insight into one self.

So now after under taking this particular activity, I am moving rapidly, but you know you can undertake this activities at your own place. You can also go back and fought,

you may have to go back to earlier lectures to again make sure that you understand this idea, because these activities are built on activities and ideas that have been discussed earlier, it is not possible to repeat them all the time. So, this is an act of consolidation and also an act of moving forward with more discussion, more possibilities, more angles of vision in teaching one has to develop building blocks. So, these are building blocks that have been shared with you.

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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

Shift your attention to the “tending of animals”

c) Compare and contrast the experience of seeing animals in any setting such as a forest/zoo/ an urban setup/a rural set-up/in the domestic framework. Write a brief description of your experience.

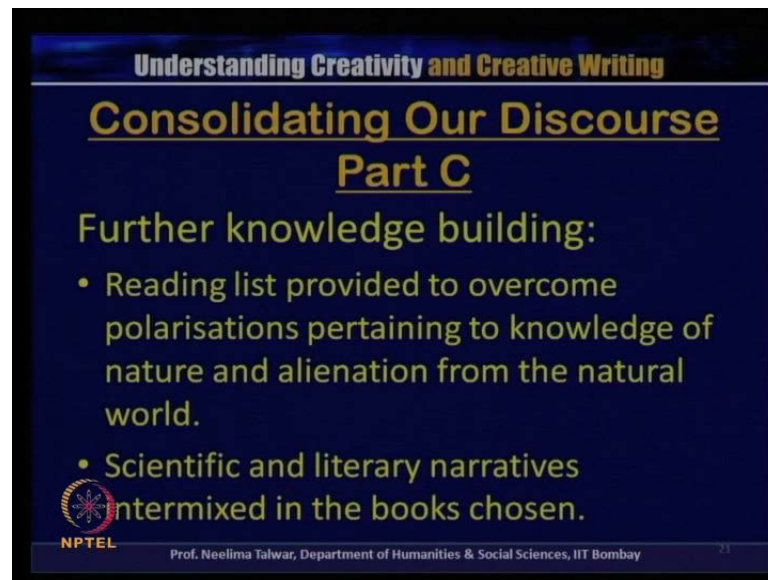
d) Refer to any book or magazine that enhances your understanding or dislike of animals. Discuss your write-up and reading list with your group.

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Now from plants, you can shift your attention to animals. And of course, you notice that I am using plants and animals in relationship to the term nature and in terms of tending of plants and animals that Reman Williams talked about earlier its definition of culture.

So, now compare and contrast the experience of seeing animals in any setting such as a forest, zoo, an urban setup, a rural set up wherever in the domestic framework, you make your choice and write a brief description of your experience. Secondly, refer to any book or magazine that enhances your understanding or dislike of animals. Discuss your write up and reading list with your group. So, again you know this may reveal interesting precipice of your own sensibility and also the kind of social and cultural framework you been expose to but again I suppose my subtext if you I can use that word of my assumption here is that there is this natural relationship with everything around us. You know then total environment the natural environment which sometimes we are not aware of. So, it is good to be able to think about it.

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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

**Consolidating Our Discourse**

**Part C**

**Further knowledge building:**

- Reading list provided to overcome polarisations pertaining to knowledge of nature and alienation from the natural world.
- Scientific and literary narratives intermixed in the books chosen.

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For further knowledge building, we have provided a list to you and the reading list provided to overcome polarizations pertaining to knowledge of nature and alienation from the natural world. So, this is the very you know you can say charged and personalized way of looking at conversances and diverseness, because a I mean, I feel that when we talk about our own sense of self there is much more to us. Then we realize there is them the richer relationship that we actually have we may have curve them we have not we have been expose to this kind of discourse and discussion.

So, I have taken the liberty of interpreting convergences in terms of text that I am very excisable to you and also that also help us understand the world around us you know very sharply. So, now, this a text that have a chosen they have scientific and literary narratives inter mixed and I fine that very will interesting I think when we talked about nature and study of nature. And now I am shifting my attention from your own personal experience and also this excises we did in are to in understand ramification of culture and how it refers to the relationship with nature in its earlier information it gave us. Some sense that relationship in simpler society ours is a very complex economic and social order, but nostalgically we can go back and forth and we can also evoke certain possibilities within over self.

So, this particular you know discussion of nature inevitably leads to the discussion of systematic study of nature which often the term science is use for that purpose. And

therefore, we will also include that term science while we are trying to work out various relationships way we do not really promote polarizations between different systems of knowledge, because actually in a being we have everything which is connected. You know vitally connected and the systems of knowledge they of course advance are understanding of certain aspects of reality, but for a own being we need to have a larger sense of human life or human experience.

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**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

**Science: Multiple Connotations**

- "...the theoretical and methodical study of *nature*...the natural sciences, primarily physics, chemistry and biology." (278-279)

A definition that seeped our national discourse through Pandit Nehru's interpretive statements

- When used in the context of social or human sciences such as psychology, anthropology etc, it refers to "methodological rigour." (280)

See: Williams, *Keywords* 276-280

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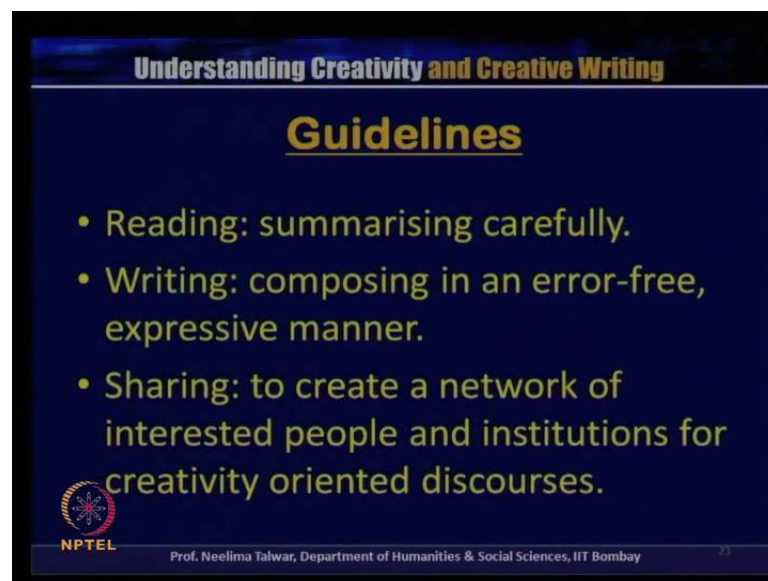
So, now adds this term here and very quickly I would refer to Raymond Williams definition where he says that the theoretical and methodical study of nature is now called the natural sciences and subjects such as physics, chemistry and biology. These are associated with the natural sciences, the reason you know this is chosen because this term science also has undergone a lot of transformations in its original sense. It was a synonym for knowledge, but it also undergone a lot of changes historically. So, this is where this course is pitched in terms of polarization and we are trying to overcome polarizations. So, the term natural science when we talk about nature is very relevant for us.

This particular definition is very interesting and will work on it in the next lecture, because we will look at national discourse in terms of young people, in the sense of youth and many other related issues in the next lecture. But a definitely this particular definition, I had seeped our national discourse through Pandit Nehru's interpretive

statements, policy statements when India became independent. You know, this sense of science as this you know this study of nature, and the significance of this study of nature in order to understand the modern world. Spend use in the contest of social or human sciences when the term science is used in these context, it refers to methodological rigour it does not mean the same thing as it you know. It he wok some different relationship, but we talk about natural sciences and human sciences.

So, keep that in mind if you want more explanation may be we can find this interactive mechanism through which this discussion can we advanced, but keep the sense of nature natural science in mind while looking at the reading list. So, know why when you start reading from the reading list that is provided what I would like you like you to do know it is not only just read, but also to summarize what have to red.

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The slide has a dark blue background with a lighter blue header. The header text is 'Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the header, the word 'Guidelines' is written in a large, bold, yellow font and is underlined. There are three bullet points in yellow text: '• Reading: summarising carefully.', '• Writing: composing in an error-free, expressive manner.', and '• Sharing: to create a network of interested people and institutions for creativity oriented discourses.' In the bottom left corner, there is a small circular logo with a red and blue design, and the text 'NPTEL' below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a small number '23'.

**Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing**

**Guidelines**

- Reading: summarising carefully.
- Writing: composing in an error-free, expressive manner.
- Sharing: to create a network of interested people and institutions for creativity oriented discourses.

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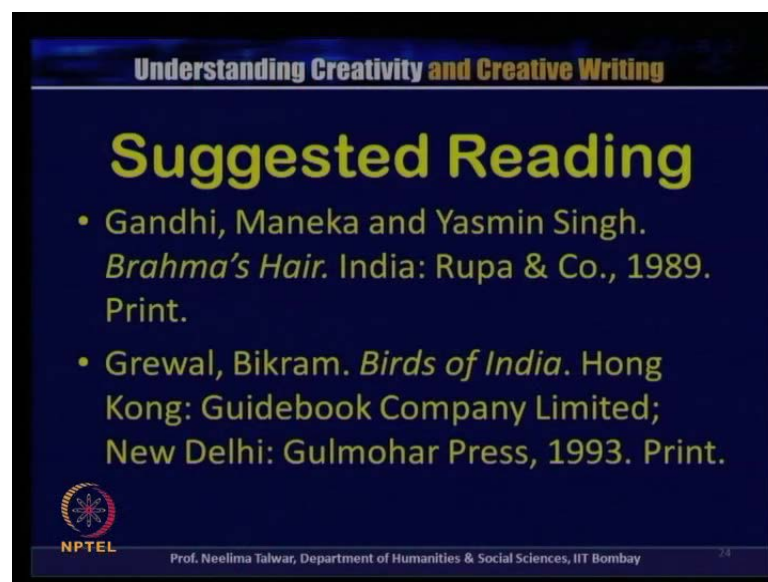
And in fact, learn to paraphrase carefully because summarizing is a very, very important academic skill, and it cannot really you know be the it cannot be developed automatically. You have to a undertake this excise is frequently in order to developed skill of summarizing meaningfully. So, you can take up any summarizing notebook or sort of language work which teach is you have to prepare summaries, but I would like you undertake this activity were is regularly with anything that you read.

The second thing is that you are writing you should make sure is error free, it is not enough just want to write, but you have to learn to write correctly and your expressive

writing also needs to be grammatically correct. I say this because I have just finished evaluation work and on the one hand a lot of students in that particular group had zeal for creative writing for composition, and yet you know the kind of care that is necessary for simple things like corrects, you know sentence construction, spelling etcetera often.

I find people become a little less careful about this. So, please make sure that your writing is error free, also like you to share your ideas your writing, your readings with a lot of other people, and try and create a network of interested people because these are new ideas new ways of doing academic work on. I think if you began to share your ideas with people they may be their will be enough peoples for this idea to be institutionalized.

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So now this is the suggested reading less and unfortunately I noticed that some of these books are really not very widely known. I have always wondered as to why this is so, but in any case very quickly, I will give you some sense of these books and I use them as an example of what I described as narratives where both scientific and literary narratives are intermixed. This is what I had said earlier. So, how is it intermixed in Maneka Gandhi and Yasmin Singh, *Brahma Hair*. In this kind of book you get a balanced picture because each chapter ends with the botanical description of the tree.

So, now, this is kind of material which I feel in you know is very useful in case you have not been exposed to this kind of reading. It is almost like a training or field guide for looking at not only natural objects and natural entities around you, but also to begin to see how

this are seen by different kinds of people what kind of fantasy, what kind of with the mythological structure is created around them. And how its seeps in to the consciousness of the people there are lots of festivals lots of rich holders associated with many trees.

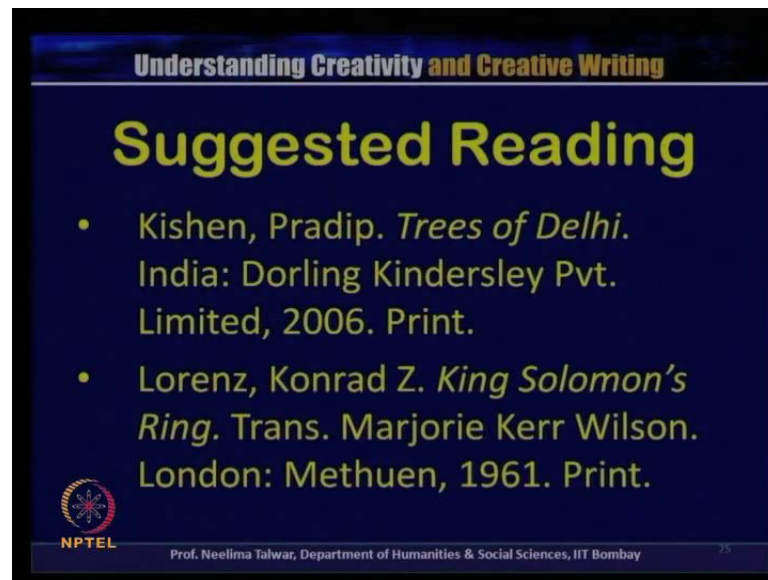
The second book that I have recommended here is a book of birds by Grewal of course the Salemalies books are very well known i have a of curse chosen books where the victorial qualities very good. So, Vikram growls book a birds of India which is the feel guide. So, than you can look at this feel guides which give you scientific information about the birds, but they also from time to time dip into cultural information like variety of names or certain other cultural associations of some of this you know the birds in order to add to the Pestorial excise ivideotaped a bird which according to Vikram revald is a son bird she sort of built a nest near my kitchen.

So, I will be able to share it with you if time permits my IIT home is located the toper rocky lands scamp garden close to the pawailake video recordings have a add to the pleasure of watching the beauty and the drama of the land scamp. This particular nest building caught my attention because the next itself has you can see looks like a birds hanging upside down. It seen purged on edge of single brand of the red hibiscus or Jasswanth the video help me capture the nervures moments of the birds.

She is right know gone to pickup flowers, and insects and tricks. It also help me capture its wearing traitors fly's back an folds to you Salimalies words the flower bird was happy building its nest close to the bird flower. When he comes back to the nests can you see if it is a purple son bird or flower pecker, I think it is a purple round son bird found in peninsular India storing the observation in the video form is a mode of logging. Once observations I am in certain about it is a imaginative connection to my writing process the nest and it precarious delegacy yoked in feeling, I hope you will enjoy looking at it.

There are couple of other things I have started using video has a medium. So, that I can understand what it can do its do medium and also how it can unhands what we already we are familiar with in a more positive ways. So, we may be very observe it about as surroundings, but does it add to it in any way does it modified in some ways and will I still I know reached to (( )) any conclusions, but we have do all share some with you.

(Refer Slide Time: 23:08)

A presentation slide with a dark blue background and yellow text. At the top, it says 'Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing'. Below that, in a larger font, is 'Suggested Reading'. There are two bullet points listing books. The first bullet point is for 'Trees of Delhi' by Pradip Krishen, published by Dorling Kindersley Pvt. Limited in 2006. The second bullet point is for 'King Solomon's Ring' by Konrad Lorenz, translated by Marjorie Kerr Wilson, published by Methuen in 1961. At the bottom left is the NPTEL logo, and at the bottom center is the text 'Prof. Neelima Talwar, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Bombay'. A small number '25' is in the bottom right corner.

Understanding Creativity and Creative Writing

## Suggested Reading

- Kishen, Pradip. *Trees of Delhi*. India: Dorling Kindersley Pvt. Limited, 2006. Print.
- Lorenz, Konrad Z. *King Solomon's Ring*. Trans. Marjorie Kerr Wilson. London: Methuen, 1961. Print.

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The next book which I recommend very strongly is the Pradip krishen *Trees of Delhi* although is the book devoted to the absolutely wonderful astoundingly beautiful trees of delhi, but it is really very lovingly return book with outstanding victorial quality. And I think both for scientific and cultural information, and also horticultural information. It is a very very useful book you will enjoy that very much. And finally, lorenzkanrad z king Solomon's *Ring* for animals my favorite chapter in that book is the covenant which is about the man and dog relationship.

And I am also using the world man I should be saying human and dog relationship. So, this book also I would recommend really very strongly, and this professor a Lorenz wroted for a common reader. So, it is really not a book which is mint exclusively for the expert although I am sure zoologies anthologies or neethologies all of them would enjoy this books by the great Austrian Nobel Price wining in naturalist and one can really learn to watch an communicate with birds like king Solomon after reading this book.

So, this is these are the other books that we had dipped into and I hope you enjoyed this segment. And even if there are this absence absence in your experiential frame work please do not feel raffle by it. In fact, this absence often give us very important insides and these are separated activities that is activities that draw your attention to certain aspects of your experience, but the totality will be infinitely more beautiful in infinitely

more mysterious and in infinitely more challenging and that is where are creativity is tested.

Thank you.