

From the Editor's Desk

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It is indeed a pleasure to present a collection of papers mostly rooted to Indian tradition and culture. The critical acumen, in this series, seems to take a delight with comprehensiveness rather than shallow singularities. Researchers have paid special attention to specific details of the texts to prove their argument and their overall presentation, bordering on ambition, gets in tune with the present day milieu and literary philosophy. The papers outlined here are in terms of words borrowed from their own analysis rather than independent study out of the anxiety that the essence of the study would miss the mark.

Grishma Manikrao Khobragade tries to scrutinize Arundhati Roy's novel to show how she is conscious of the caste system and that have come up in the contemporary India and to analyze the caste consciousness of Arundhati Roy's novel in terms of its overlapping effect on social system. The concern remains to find out how the different structures have their bearing on the characters and their social responses. The study is based on the hypothesis that Arundhati Roy's novel effectively depicts the caste consciousness of modern India. It is concluded how casteism with its philosophy of individual redemption and Marxism which overlook caste system cannot bring viable uplift of Dalits.

Dr. Anupriya Singh's study on Mahesh Dattani's *Dance like a Man* brings in the idea of queer theory which encompasses any kind of sexual activity or identity that falls into normative and deviant categories. The attempt is to showcase the general inhibitions to a man taking dance as a career and the subordination of women in a patriarchal society. Queer analysis of the play reveals that one has to fight back to the social prejudice and traditions otherwise one will undergo perpetual suffering and subjugation.

Smt. Abirami Balakumar makes a thorough analysis of the poem 'Eagle' by Tennyson. Tennyson was often criticized for lacking high seriousness and comforting philosophy, in Victorian age, when people's faith as well as the earlier documented scientific theories were questioned. But as the critic claims, our present day eco-sensitive situation makes Tennyson's poetry more relevant to our era.

Sanjay A. Diwekar's critical analysis of Shashi Deshpande's novel *That Long Silence* deals with the problem of identity crisis of female protagonist Jaya and it reveals the intriguing picture of ordinary middle class educated women who is trapped in the institution of marriage. The researcher opines through the analysis that the solution to problems within relationships does not lie in walking away from them, but rather in rebuilding the relationships in such a way as to give little place for problems to crop up.

Ms. Ambika Bhalla analyzes Postcolonial Eco-feminism in Kamala Markandya's *Nectar in a Sieve*. The heroine, Rukmani, is forced onto the threshold of a rapidly changing India marked by the centralization of power, increased economic activity, and urbanization. Her decision to return to the land, her decision to adopt a homeless boy, take us back to ecofeminism through her commitment to an expanded notion of

community. She explains how the colonized is never in a state of fixed powerlessness vis-à-vis the colonizer, but is rather in a position to exercise power. Rukmani's position becomes not only one of an agent of her own will but as a force that the postcolonial state must respond to.

Dr. Nidhi Bhatt's paper titled "A Comparative study on the Feminine issue by Kamala Markandaya and Shashi Deshpande", tries to showcase how these two women writers beautifully highlighted the socio-cultural consequences upon an Indian woman. The purpose of this study of the woman is to highlight the real image of women and to make people acquainted with their pathetic condition. The point of departure of this study of Kamala Markandaya and Shashi Deshpande is the hypothesis that literature is the product of a given milieu, language and individual sensibility. Together they constitute a cultural entity, rooted in the changing traditional value system of a people.

Dr. V. Swarnalatha's paper is a review on *Harmattan Haze on an African Spring*. It focuses on Africa's post-colonial experience in the new millennium. It highlights Soyinka's position on the contradictions on the continent and he takes the question of development to the individual. It is a collection of essays, which focuses on Africa's post-colonial experience in the new millennium and shows his concern and passionate commitment for Africa and their never-ending corruption and racism with no scope for the development of the country. Soyinka's new book touches on many aspects of African literature, colonialism, slavery, religion, racism, that have been long debated.

It is hoped that the papers presented here would enable a thorough re-reading of the texts in context. Happy reading to all!