



Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

A Critical Spectrum

Dr. Manoj Kumar



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CONTENS

Foreword

Sr. No.	Title	Author	Page
1	Postmodernism: Meaning and Matter	DR. R. K. MANDALIA	07
2	Postmodernism: A Perspective Reading	DR. NIRMALA PADMAVAT MEGHANA JOSHI	13
3	Tribal Assertion and Post Modernity: A Study of Bhil Songs of South Rajasthan	DR. H.S. CHANDALIA MANSINGH NINAMA	21
4	The Philosophical Elements in the Epic Work of Rabindranath Tagore's <i>Gitanjali</i> : The New Postmodern Poetry	G. BALAKRISHNA REDDY	33
5	Self Fulfillment a Distant Dream in Githa Harisharan's <i>The Thousand Faces of Night</i>	G. GEETHANJALI	40
6	Is Taslima Nasrin a Nomadic Feminist Writer?	SRIKANTHS	50
7	Salman Rushdie as Dauntless Man of Letters	DR. PRAKASH NARAIN	56
8	Reflections of Postmodernism in Salman Rushdie's <i>Midnight's Children</i>	DR. PREETI SHARMA	62
9	Magic Realism to Virtual Realism: Salman Rushdie's <i>Midnight's Children</i> to <i>Joshep Anton</i> - A Memoir	PROF. MUKTA SHARMA DR. MEHZBEEN SADRIWALA	67
10	Remythologizing Reality: A Postmodern Reading of Shashi Tharoor's ' <i>The Great Indian Novel</i> '	PANDURANG BARKALE	85
11	Glorification of Woman's Persona: A Post- modernist View in Raja Rao's Novels	GAJANAN P. PATIL	91
12	The Socio-Economic Aspects of <i>Coolie</i> : A Postmodern Analysis with Reference to <i>Munoo</i>	CHANDRAMANI	99
13	Elements of Magic Realism: A Postmodern Reading	DR. MADHAVI NIKAM	107

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Reflections of Postmodernism in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*

DR. PREETI SHARMA

Post-modern literally means 'coming after' modernism. It is precisely the period which we are now into, it is also used to refer to a set of ideas that 'go with' this period in history. This set of ideas is a reaction to and, to some extent, a rejection of the ideas of modernism. These set of ideas refer to the set characteristics of this particular era of Postmodernism. The reflections of these characteristics are vigilant in the literature of this era-the Postmodernist Fiction. Brian McHale lists four prominent characteristics of literary postmodernism-self-conscious narration, conspicuously arcane or technical language, long lists of objects used to create either cramped and busy world or a barren and empty one and grammatically incorrect or 'back-broke' sentences. All four appear in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*.

Other features which are also predominantly noticeable in Postmodern literature include Multiple identities followed by fractured identities and fractured narratives, heteroglossia wherein there is a diversity of voices, styles of discourse or points of view in a literary work and especially a novel which includes diversity of voices also known as polyphony. Intertextuality is another feature of Postmodernism which is done to influence the reader and add layers of depth to a text, based on the readers' preceding knowledge and understanding. There is a collage representation visible in the text by collecting and combining varieties of literary pieces together and also another very important and unavoidable feature is the imitation of the style or character of the work of one or more other artists, this features referred to as Pastiche unlike parody celebrates rather than mock the work

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The book is an anthology of critical essays of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's works. The essays throw light on various themes such as Diaspora, alienation, searching for identity, mythology, pain of immigrants, marriage, problems of women etc. It will be experiencing the varied experiences of existential characters, diasporic problems and the novice theme of Magic Realism in a new perspective. The book also encompasses certain papers which compare Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's works with other contemporary writers such as Jhumpa Lahiri, Shashi Deshpande, Laura Esquivel, Neil Gaiman etc. The book is a compilation of multiple critical views in a nutshell. The book will guide the students as well as researchers to broaden their threshold of knowledge about the writings of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in greater detail.



Dr. Manoj Kumar has earned his Ph.D. (English) from JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University, Udaipur. Besides, He has done M.Phil (English) and M.A. (English and History). He also has some certificates and diplomas to his credit such as Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching of English (PGDTE), Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching of English (PGCTE) from EFLU, Hyderabad and Post Graduate Diploma in Folklore and Cultural Studies (PGDFCS) from IGNOU, New Delhi.

Presently, he is working as an Assistant Professor in Amity University Rajasthan. His areas of interest include Folklore, Cinema and ELT. He has published several articles in national and international journals of repute on various topics. Dr. Kumar has also participated and presented papers in several national and international conferences. He has authored a book titled *Exploring Folk Literature*. He has experience of more than a decade in teaching English Language, Literature and Communication Skills to UG and PG students.



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