

## **RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

### **TOPIC**

ELEMENTS OF MELANCHOLY, IDENTITY CRISIS AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE NOVELS OF SELECT PAKISTANI WOMEN WRITERS (WITH REFERENCE TO THE NOVELS : BAPSI SIDHWA- WATER, CRACKING INDIA, UZMA ASLAM KHAN - THINNER THAN SKIN, TRESPASSING, KAMILA SHAMSE- BURNT SHADOWS, KARTOGRAPHY, FATIMA BHUTTO- THE SHADOW OF CRESCENT MOON, SANA MUNIR- THE SATANIST).

### **ABSTRACT**

Every country has its own striking characteristics by means of her economic, political, geographical, gender and religious identities. Pakistan is one of the prominent countries in terms of socio-political and gender identities. The pangs of the gendered society have their turn to be heard attentively. My topic studies the various aspects of struggles, women undergo in their tryst with identity. In this connection, my topic covers novels of Bapsi Sidhwa's Water and Cracking India, Uzma Aslam Khan's Thinner than skin and Trespassing, Kamila Shamse's Burnt Shadows and Kartography, Fatima Bhutto's The Shadow of Crescent Moon and Sana Munir's The Satanist. My topic highlights the main undercurrents of the themes of the novels viz., Melancholy, Identity crisis and Transformation of the protagonists of the novels, especially, women characters. My topic particularly tries to depict the indelible painful experiences of women in a predominantly male chauvinistic society which is steeped in misconceptions and misconstrued ideologies and dogged by conservative sentimentalism of the people to the core, irrespective of their family background and social status. The topic further tries to establish that the suffering of women is not unique to Pakistan alone, but it is universal phenomenon.

Key words: Melancholy, Transformation, Identity, gendered society, protagonist,

pangs of suffering, male chauvinistic, undercurrents, indelible, steeped.

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

### TOPIC

SOUND AND SPIRITUAL SYMBOLISM IN JOHN MILTON'S "SAMSON AGONISTES", JOHN BUNYAN'S "PILGRIM'S PROGRESS" AND AUROBINDO GHOSH'S "SAVITRI"- A STUDY.

ABSTRACT : Sound symbolism denotes the idea that vocal sounds or phonemes carry meaning in and of themselves, where as spiritual symbolism denotes the deeper and inner meaning of certain words that fill our inner self with some sense of purpose and new explorations of inner voyage. My study aims at delving deep into meaning of some core words and their sound and spiritual symbolism and their relevance in our modern context. In this connection, I choose three works viz., John Milton's "Samson Agonistes", John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" and Aurobindo Ghose's "Savitri". There are three pertinent reasons behind choosing the topic for my study. First, the background of the works- the first two works are from Biblical source and third one is from Bhagavatam. Secondly, all these works are thoroughly lyrical and deeply philosophical and thirdly, all the works are fittingly ancient yet modern in their linguistic variety and beauty. My study tries to make a point that these classics are to be studied again and again for their ancient wisdom and freshness of approach in their narrative style.

Key words: symbolism, inner voyage, linguistic variety, spiritual, pilgrim, savitri, Biblical, Bhagavatam, Milton, Bunyan.