

Exhuming Subaltern Polemics in the Fictional Realm of Mahaswetha Devi

Abstract

Decades of studying history from below led to the development of Subaltern Studies in India. Aside from the pioneers of subaltern studies, a number of works helped create the conditions that led to the field's rise to prominence. Through her writings, Mahasweta Devi appears to be a direct saviour of the tribal people. The central focus of Devi's work is the suffering and extreme poverty of tribal people like the Santhals, Lodhas, and Sabars. She attempts to restore these tribes' lost dignity with the aid of history. The hallowed epic has been reexamined and scrutinised from the viewpoint of the underprivileged. The author considers those areas that have not yet been explored. Every reading of the narrative sees a conflict between the virtuous and the wicked. However, when viewed from the perspective of a subaltern, numerous atrocities were also committed by the virtuous. Lokavritta's pretences have also been made fun of. Thus, a woman's perspective of the world is presented in all of these works. Devi not only depicts the harsh truth of this world run by men, but she also provides a solution through her protagonists. The study demonstrates Mahasweta Devi's status as a legitimate subaltern writer while also attempting to fully comprehend the breadth of her key works. **Her most important works, which include Rudali, Bashai Tudu, Titu Mir, Bitter Soil, Imaginary Maps, The Book of the Hunter, Breast Stories, From Fiction to Performance, The Queen of Jhansi, After Kurukshetra, Five Plays, and Outcast, are enough to address various subalternity-related topics. Her other writings, such as Old Women, Till Death Do Us Part, The Glory of Sri Sri Ganesh, and Romotha, are equally beneficial in helping one comprehend the author's mentality.**

This thesis aims to illustrate the various facets of subalternity that Mahasweta Devi depicts in her writings. After a thorough analysis of her writings, it is reasonable to say that Devi has addressed the subject of subalternity in her works more than any other Indian author. Any reader can undoubtedly feel himself fortunate that he is able to view all the sufferings from a safe distance because the naked and harsh picture of all types of subalternity has been described in such an eye-opening manner. Devi, who clearly has a purpose, paints a devastating picture of this supposedly "shining and developing India" that we are unable to escape, even though it is based on Devi's actual experiences. She thinks that after reading her works, the reader should be aware of the facts and appropriately ashamed of the real India. She also believes in the importance of documentation. In her works, she blended her experiences from other cultures.

She has taken on the role of these voiceless people both in real life and in fiction. Many myths have brought back to life numerous unidentified tribal chiefs and heroes. Her perceptive eyes have examined and even dissected revered epics of Indian thought and it is discussed clearly in this thesis.