

Title

Negotiating Identity and Culture: A Study of Indian Writing in English in the Postcolonial Context

Introduction

Indian Writing in English (IWE) has evolved into a significant literary tradition that represents the complexities of colonial legacy, cultural hybridity, and contemporary Indian realities. From pioneers like R.K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand to contemporary writers like Arundhati Roy, Amitav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Aravind Adiga, IWE has been instrumental in articulating India's multifaceted identity to a global readership. This research aims to explore how Indian writers in English negotiate questions of identity, culture, class, caste, and globalization, while simultaneously redefining what it means to be "Indian" in a transnational literary space.

Research Problem / Questions

- How does Indian Writing in English engage with issues of identity, nationhood, and cultural representation? - In what ways do postcolonial and diasporic conditions shape the themes, language, and style of IWE? - How do contemporary writers address intersections of caste, gender, and class within Indian society? - What role does English play in shaping both global recognition and local criticism of Indian writers?

Objectives

- To examine the historical development of Indian Writing in English and its major phases. - To analyze selected literary texts to understand how they portray postcolonial identity, cultural hybridity, and social issues. - To investigate the representation of marginalized voices (Dalit, women, regional identities) in Indian English literature. - To assess the contribution of Indian writers in English to global literary discourse.

Review of Literature (Brief)

- Early studies on IWE often celebrated its role in introducing India to the world (Mehrotra, 1991; King, 1994). - Postcolonial theorists (Said, Bhabha, Spivak) provided frameworks to analyze issues of hybridity, mimicry, and subalternity. - Recent scholarship emphasizes the politics of language, identity, and globalization (Mukherjee, 2010; Roy, 2018). - However, a gap remains in analyzing contemporary writers' negotiation of caste, class, and gender within a transnational framework.

Research Methodology

- Approach: Qualitative, analytical, and interpretative. - Theoretical Frameworks: Postcolonial theory, cultural studies, identity theory, and narratology. - Primary Sources: Selected novels/works by R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy, Amitav Ghosh, Salman Rushdie, Jhumpa Lahiri, Aravind Adiga, and Dalit English writers. - Secondary Sources: Critical essays, scholarly articles, reviews, and relevant theoretical texts.

Expected Outcomes

- A nuanced understanding of how Indian Writing in English reflects India's plural identity. - Insights into the role of English as both a colonial inheritance and a tool for global literary presence. - Contribution to postcolonial and cultural studies scholarship by highlighting underexplored

intersections of caste, gender, and globalization.

Proposed Chapterization

1. Introduction: Indian Writing in English – A Historical Overview 2. Colonial and Postcolonial Legacies in IWE 3. Identity, Hybridity, and Cultural Negotiation 4. Gender, Caste, and Marginal Voices in IWE 5. Globalization, Diaspora, and the Politics of Language 6. Conclusion: Indian Writing in English in the 21st Century

Bibliography (Sample)

- Mehrotra, Arvind Krishna. *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*. Permanent Black, 2003. - Mukherjee, Meenakshi. *The Perishable Empire: Essays on Indian Writing in English*. Oxford University Press, 2010. - Rushdie, Salman (Ed.). *The Vintage Book of Indian Writing: 1947–1997*. Vintage, 1997. - Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. In *Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics*. Routledge, 1988. - Bhabha, Homi K. *The Location of Culture*. Routledge, 1994.