

CHAPTER 37
MODERN INDIAN LANGUAGE
&
LITERARY STUDIES

Doctoral Theses

01. BALAMURUGAN (C)
Writings and Life of Suramaniya Barathi: Multiple Transitions from Tradition To Modernity.
Supervisor : Dr. K. Premananthan
Th 22961

Abstract
(Not Verified)

Modernity in Tamil social life came into existence during the 19th century through western education and Colonial Governance and changed the way of thinking and perception of Tamils. Some of the reformers, poets, and thinkers tried to evolve the Tamil Modernity in Indian context by distancing from Colonial Modernity. Ramalinga Vallalar a Poet and reformer attempted to restructure the religion and social life through his Spiritual Movement. The pioneer of Dalit Politics Ayothidaasa Pandithar found a movement to eradicate untouchability and develop a social movement to achieve equality and justice to depressed and backward classes of Tamilnadu. Subramaniya Barathi (1882-1921) was recognized as the National Poet of Tamil nadu by the Tamils and has been taken as the icon of literary modernism as well as the Social modernity by Tamils. His contribution to Modern Tamil Literature is accountable to many emergences and new awareness in Tamil sensibility. However he was not only a poet but played a multiple role in Tamil culture as a poet, journalist, publisher, cartoonist, composer, patriot, nationalist, reformist, prose writer, short story writer, translator, interpreter of religious devotion, a cultural reconstructionist, a theorist of literature and symbol of proto-modernist. Barathi was split between tradition and modernity, and much pained in the process of modernization as he was much fascinated by the ancient knowledge and Indian epistemology. He did not subscribe to the superstition and social injustice in the name of tradition; he received the revolutions of the world with enthusiasm and tried to revolutionize the Tamil life in multiple aspects and to change the fundamental framework of Tamil values. This thesis undertakes the rereading of a cultural icon in the context of postmodern and Dalit Politics and tries to identify the multiple transitions in the epistemology of Tamil literature during the early modernism.

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1. Introduction 2. Gender construction in Cangam literature 3. Concept of Masculinity 4. Concept of Femininity 5. Intersection of Feminine and Masculine identities 7. Politicization of Gender in Ancient Tamil Society. Conclusion. Bibliography. Annexure.
02. MANIKANDAN (R)
Contemporary Themes (Kathai Karu) in Modern Terukkoothu.
Supervisor : Dr. D. Uma Devi
Th 23206

Abstract
(Not Verified)

Terukkoothu is a folk theatre usually performed in the open mostly during the folk temple festivals in the villages of Tamil Nadu. This performance enacted the classical stories like Ramayana, Mahabharata and various other mythical stories of Tamil Nadu. To keep the Terukkoothu alive these troupe joined hands with the modern drama troupe and crafted a new form of koothu that is called as 'Modern Terukkoothu'. This research studies and explores Terukkoothu with its collaboration with the modern stage and contemporary themes borrowed from the Modern Drama. The drama and Koothu were performed differently so that people realize the difference between them. The functions of performing folk arts and Terukkoothu in modern drama. The evolution of Modern Terukkoothu, explanations about its concepts and the position of Terukkoothu in modern theatre are also explained. The elements of Modern Terukkoothu have been studied with the help of the epic theatre concept propounded by Bertolt Brecht. The traditional Terukkoothu artists adopt themselves according to the modern context and also the difficulties they face while performing Terukkoothu. The developing situation while performing the Terukkoothu according to the modern concept has been sociologically analyzed. The stage in which the Terukkoothu has been performed by college students also enumerated. Moreover, make-up, steps and also the functions of music in the Modern Terukkoothu have been studied. The context in which Terukkoothu has been evolved into Modern Terukkoothu. It also explains how it is performed in the intellectual aspect and through the view of upper class. The ill-effects of the growth of modern media on Terukkoothu have been analyzed as well and along with that it also outlines how the evolved Modern Terukkoothu reflects the media dependent position. The politics behind the union of modern artists with the Terukkoothu artists has been reviewed on the socio-economic perception.

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1. Introduction 2. Koothu and Terukkoothu through ages 3. Modernization of Terukkoothu on the basis of contemporary themes 4. Changing scenario of the Terukkoothu Troops 5. The socio-cultural background of the evolution of Modern Terukkoothu. Conclusion. Bibliography. Annexure.

03. PANDIKUMAR (S)
Gender Politics in Cangam Literature
Supervisor : Dr. K. Premananthan
Th 23154

Abstract
(Not Verified)

This thesis takes Cangam literature as the area of research to investigate the gender politics of the ancient Tamil society and gender construction in ancient Tamil literature there is a scope of reading the classical text in Feminist perception. Both the Agam (Love and Familial) and Puram (War and Societal) tradition of Tamil are based on the concept of gender identity and gender ideology as they define the role of masculine and feminine in social and political context. The concept of femininity is very much pivotal in the construction family and its ethics. The identity of women in Cangam literature is defined according to the ancient social practices and beliefs as the binary opposition to masculine identity. The role of woman as lover, wife, mother, daughter, sibling, friend, nurse, performer, courtesan, poet, priestess, artisan, agriculture labor, vendor, deity, etc., are located in a social context by the poets of ancient Tamil but the dramatic tradition of literature modifies the role of women which expands their presence beyond familial space. The role of masculine is an extended one; kingdom, state, empire, war, land and other lands, trade, education and culture. The counter part of Feminine space is family, habitat, farms and orchards and role is primarily confined within motherhood and maid. The feminist reading of Tamil has deconstructed these role and shows the metaphors of subversions by enumerating symbolic roles of women as Mother Goddess which includes the image of 'Heroic Mother' and Primordial Mother the metaphors of 'Anangu' (Deity) 'Soor' (Ferocious Goddess) Peymakal (Demonic woman). The objective of this thesis is to enumerate the ancient concept of femininity and the role of women in socio-cultural space and to evaluate the gender politics of the ancient Tamil society by the tool of Feminist Theories and theories of gender politics.

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1. Introduction 2. From poetry to politics 3. Religion and reform 4. Antiquity and Nationalism 5. Concern and conflict with modernity 5. Confrontations and crisis of self 6. Conclusion. Bibliography. Annexure.

04. PRIYALEKHA (N. S)
Comparative Study of the Construction of Feminist Space in The Novels of Amrita Pritam, Kavita Singha and Kamala Das.
 Supervisor : Dr. Amitava Chakraborty
Th 22962

*Abstract
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This is a comparative study of three well known writers in contemporary Indian literature. Such an initiative is motivated by the uniqueness with the respect to their style of writings and questioning of the dogmas of contemporary practice. Amrita Pritam, Kavita Singha and Kamala Das are considered as outstanding women writers in three major Indian languages such as Punjabi, Bengali and Malayalam. The study explores the portrayal of female characters in the selected novels of these three writers. A close reading of these writings one can identify certain general characteristics that their writings have the tendency to deviate from the conventional contemporary literature of their own socio-cultural context. The study also looks into the characterization of males in the same novels of these writers. Protest against patriarchal oppression and the politics of patriarchy are the most significant features of their writings. This gives a complete picture of their view regarding man-women relationship and identity. Though there are many scholarly works dealing separately with the writings of Kavita Singha Kamala Das and Amrita Pritam, it has been a new initiative in comparative literature to bring them together around the theme of the construction of feminist space in their novels because these writers registered a strong protest against the patriarchal social norms, thereby representing a radical departure from the mainstream literary tradition. Therefore, this study is a comparative analysis based on four theoretical postulations of feminism such as sexual politics, authentic realism, anxiety of authorship and gynocriticism. Despite of being from different socio-cultural backgrounds, the thesis argued that there is a significant amount of similarity in the treatment of female characters in the writings of these three women writers.

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1. Introduction 2. Socio-cultural background and works of Amrita Pritam, Kavita Singha and Kamala Das 3. Women protagonist of Amrita Pritam, Kavita Singha and Kamala Das 4. Treatment of male characters in the novels of Amrita Pritam, Kavita Singha and Kamala Das. Conclusion. Bibliography.

05. RAJANI KUMARI
Presence of Buddhist Elements in Eastern Indian Literature.
 Supervisor : Dr. Ratnottama Das and Dr. Indra Narain Singh
Th 22963

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 Supervisor : Dr. D. Uma Devi
Th 23207

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