

CHAPTER 36
MODERN INDIAN LANGUAGE
&
LITERARY STUDIES

Doctoral Theses

01. ANAND (Ratika)

From Margin to Margin: Exploration into Queer Diaspora Writings of South Asia.

Supervisors: Prof. Amitava Chakraborty and Prof Kuhu Chanana

Th 26799

Abstract

The dissertation focuses on contemporary queer fiction in English from South Asia and its diasporas. The work builds upon recent scholarship that redefines queer diaspora discourse by undertaking a critical approach and intersecting insights from queer studies, postcolonialism, poststructuralism, identity theory, Marxist feminism and spatial theory. The thesis engages with the novels of Shyam Selvadurai, Ghalib Dhalla and some critical writings from the anthology by Rakesh Ratti to understand the complex coming-of-age experiences of gay members in South Asian society, which is essentially heteropatriarchal, upholding the binary model of gender normativity. The work closely studies the writings of Abha Dawesar, Suniti Namjoshi, and Tanwi Islam among other lesbian writers to critique the ideology surrounding gender and nation-state along with examining the subject of lesbian invisibility and sexual politics. The research argues South Asian queer subjectivities deserve greater rights and inclusivity citing the prevalence of homosexuality in their ancient history, religion and literature and how colonization cultivated anti-LGBTQ rhetoric to demean and criminalize same-sex relationships. The thesis further asserts that the Western paradigm is flawed and biased against non-White/non-Western/Third World queer subjects and this view is emphasized in the fictional writings by authors from the list of primary readings. They address the issues of sexuality, class, caste, language, ethnicity, racial discrimination and marginalization while analysing the role of literature in marginalizing queer sexuality. The thesis accesses spatio-temporal impacts on sexuality and reclaims queer spaces by transforming heteronormative public places into sites of resistance and renegotiating these geographical sites as queer/queer-mixed/hybrid spaces. The significance of queer organizations and literary newsletters in building a transnational queer network is also studied. Through its original contribution to the field and in-depth exploration of existing research and South Asian queer literature, this research adds to the emergent dialogues on queer diasporic subjectivities in South Asia.

Content

1. Gathering Fragments of Fractured Identity: Childhood Oddities, Symbolic Father and Fear of Abandonment 2. Queering Landscape: Radical Lesbianism, Sexual Politics, and Invisibility of Queer Women in South Asia 3. The Queer Politics of History and Language 4. Third space: Examining South Asian Perception of the west for Queer Sexuality. Conclusion and work Cited.

02. CHOUDHARY (Mandavi)
Indian Jewellery in The Present Socio-Cultural Context: Exploring Adornment To identity.
 Supervisor: Dr. Venkata Ramaiah Gampa
Th 26800

Abstract

The Present investigation on Indian jewellery studied it from different perspectives Positioning the experience of jewellery (making, selling, wearing, and observing) at the center. Indian jewellery is an undervalued and under-researched area of investigation, particularly in the Present context. Hence, the present work has established an initial conversation around it with the intention of pushing it further in other avenues. Since five aspects were selectively chosen for each chapter, the key findings related to the particular aspects have been included in the conclusion under their respective chapters after thorough enquiry and analysis, it was discovered that there are endless aspects of jewellery that can be examined in great detail. Thus, it was decided that five aspects would be analysed extensively, incorporating the narratives and voices if artists, makers, sellers and regular people who encounter jewellery on an everyday basis.

Contents

1. Decoding Cultural Dimensions of Indian Jewellery 2. Jewellery and the Art of Storytelling 3. Gender and Jewellery: Analysis perspectives and experiences 4. Indian Jewellery as an Artistic Expression 5. Jewellery at the Centre: Investigating the Present and the Future. Conclusion and Appendix.

03. DEEPSHIKHA
A Semiotic Study of Women's Articulation in Bhojpuri Marriage Songs.
 Supervisor: Prof. Uma Devi
Th 26801

Abstract

Bhojpuri folk marriage songs are usually sung by women. They sing songs on variety of topics and with variety of themes showcasing the life and experiences they live and the worldview that they have. Since songs provide a melodious way to easily articulate suppressed feelings and world view, it is vitally important to investigate these songs from women's perspective or from an 'inside-out' perspective. The present research aims at documenting and analyzing the folk songs semantically and studying the folk rituals to understand the complex symbols and the meaning of these songs from a point of view of the women of the society.

Content

1. Semiotics and its relevance in Studying Bhojpuri Marriage folksongs 2.the Symbolic Representation of Bhojpuri Marriage Rituals 3. Julia Kristeva's Semanalysis of Bhojpuri Marriage Songs 4. The Semiotics of Singing *GĀLI*. Conclusion, Bibliography and Appendix.

04. JILL (Mercy Jill)
Recasting Paradigms of Femininity in Indian Fiction: Comparative Study of Novels of Shashi Deshpande and K.R. Meera.
 Supervisor: Dr. Venkata Ramaiah Gampa
Th 26802

Abstract

The present research titled, “Recasting Paradigms of Femininity in Indian Fiction: Comparative Study of novels of Shashi Deshpande and K. R. Meera” is unveiling the possibility of a new femininity as found in the novels of Deshpande and Meera. The research studies, analyses, compares and contrasts the novels proposed for study. It seeks how Shashi Deshpande and K. R. Meera have set a „new cast” (Recasting the existing paradigms) for femininity through the extraordinary portrayals of women involved in the course of their fiction. The research dwells on four aspects—i. Most of Indian fiction followed a pattern to represent women. ii. Shashi Deshpande and K. R. Meera are changing the trend of the conventional pattern. iii. Re-casting of the existing forms of femininity is necessary and modern fiction is adhering towards that goal. iv. The new paradigm must be carefully understood for, the chances of misunderstanding the transition in representation is probable. The contemporary female representations altered the earlier notions of femininity in Indian fiction due to socio-political changes. In relation to this alteration in femininity portrayals, the fiction of Shashi Deshpande and K. R. Meera are noteworthy. Both Meera and Shashi have been weaving a rare kind of women in their fiction. These protagonists along with other female characters are challenging the conventional, popular, „known” variety of women portrayed in earlier Indian fiction. And thus, their representations act as recast for the old normative models.

Content

1. Femininity and its Paradigms: Representations in Indian Fiction 2. Novels of Shashi Deshpande: An analysis of Feminity Paradigms 3. Novels of K.R. Meera: An Analysis of Feminity Paradigms 4. Recasting the Paradigms of feminity in the Novels of Shashi Deshpande and K.R. Meera: A Comparative Study 5. Affirmation of the Recasted Paradigms: Shashi Deshpande and K.R. Meera. Conclusion. And Bibliography.

05. RASHI
Breaking the Norms: Representation of New-Women in select Indian Narratives.
 Supervisor: Prof. Govindaswamy Rajagopal
Th 26803

Abstract

This Concluding segment of the thesis sums up the all the findings of the research. The study explored the defining characteristics of the “New Women”, as depicted in the writings of four prominent Indian Women novelists viz. Kamala Markandaya, Shashi Deshpande, Anita Desai and Nayantra Sahgal. The research explored the struggles that women characters in different novels by the aforementioned writers underwent, in order to achieve freedom, peace and happiness. They’ve all made difficult choices, which led them to the path of liberation and independence. The research took into consideration different novels which explored different kind of struggles that women undergo. It examined the stories of women who are caught up in families that are not ready to give up their tradition-bound patriarchal approach in the times when the society is experiencing a gradual feminist shift. The novels analysed for the current research were: Possession (1963) and two virgins (1973) by kamala Markandaya, Roots and Shadows (1983) and that Long Silence (1989) by Shashi Deshpande, Where Shall We Go This Summer (1975) and Clear Light of Day (1980) by Anita Desai and strom in Chandigarh (1969) and the day in Shadow (1972) by Nayantra Sahgal.

Content

1. Advent of Feminism and Notion of the New Women: An Overview 2. The Quintessential Encounters of the East and West in the Narratives of Kamala Markandaya 3. Resilient Women Characters in Shashi Deshpande's Fiction 4. Anti-Patriarchal Women Characters in Anita Desai's Writings 5. Unconventional Women Characters in Nayantara Sahgal's Writings. Conclusion and Bibliography.

06. ROVEINE (P. Y. Rossilla)

Understanding the Customs and Practices of the Poumai-Naga tribe in the Present Socio-Cultural Context.

Supervisor: Dr. Ratnottama Das

Th 26804

Abstract

Every community, no matter how big or small, has their own set of customs and practices Likewise, the people of the poumai Naga tribe have its customs and practice which uniquely defines. This research work is specifically undertaken to document the various customs and practices, taboos and gennas, that the poumai Naga practice. With the coming of Christianity, education was introduced to the people of Poumai Naga by the Christian missionaries. Along with that, deriving logical conclusion for any dos and don'ts that were associated with the wrath of gods has been taught extensively rather than simply to belief on what was illogically narrated in the past. Further, People began to travel far for attaining education and also to avail healthcare facilities. In the process, foreign cultures slowly began to penetrate into the mind of the society which has eventually brought drastic changes in the old practices of the past. To change the established knowledge and bring about new knowledge in the mindsets of the people might have been difficult in the past as their beliefs and worldview were deeply rooted in the established knowledge and customs of the community before being exposed to varying environment and opinion. However, in today's scenario making people understand every action that led to certain consequences are not difficult Since the people are more open to embracing logical opinions and suggestions. People are now incline to change their mentality to certain practice if majority of the people in the society began to voice their distaste to it. Thus, consenting to certain harmful practices to disappear gradually. In the same way, Over a Period of time, some of the customary Practices also vanishes resulting from the irrelevance with the age.

Content

1. Historical Background and Domestic Life of the Poumai Nagas 2. Poumai Naga Community: Beliefs System and Rituals 3. Festivals and Gennas of the Poumai Naga Community 4. Customary Laws and Taboos of the Poumai Naga Community: Changing Perspectives 5. Conclusion and Works cited.

07. SHARMA (Pooja)

Sindhi and Punjabi Folk Narratives: A Study of Cultural Continuum and Blurred Boundaries.

Supervisors: Prof. Amitava Chakraborty and Prof. Ravi Prakash Tekchandani

Th 26805

Abstract

The thesis on the topic 'Sindhi and Punjabi folk Narratives: A Study of Cultural Continuum and Blurred Boundaries' aims to provide a parallel study of Sindhi and Punjabi folk narratives. This work begins with a look at the society and history of Punjab and Sindh with a view to understanding the growth of parallel synchronous

cultures that exchanged folk material and yet developed their own unique identity. This study has been conducted in the context of folk narratives encompassing folktales, folkdrama, folk songs, folk riddles and proverbs. The topic finds relevance in the interactive Indian traditions that may seem enclosed in self-sufficient language identities but become autotelic over time and travel across linguistic and social boundaries. This work goes beyond identifying types and probes questions of cultural significance, it helps enhance understanding of Sindhi and Punjabi folk narratives and their connections. Keywords: Sindhi, Punjabi, Folk Narratives, Folktales, Folkdrama, Folk Songs, Riddles, Proverbs.

Content

1. Sindhi and Punjabi folklife and Culture 2. Sindhi and Punjabi Folktales 3. Sindhi and Punjabi Folk Drama 4. Sindhi and Punjabi Folk Songs 5. Sindhi and Punjabi Riddles and Proverbs 6. Locating Sindhi and Punjabi Narratives in the Digital Age. Conclusion. Bibliography and Appendix.

08. TYAGI (Isha)

Marginalised Realities: Same Sex Politics in Contemporary Indian English fiction.

Supervisor: Rajendra Mehta

Th27159

Abstract

This research contends that the marginalization of sexual nonconformists in both the Indian nation-state and the Indian diaspora is countered by the portrayal of queer territory in modern Indian literature. By putting less emphasis on inclusion and visibility and more on alternate agential strategies like suppression and camouflage, I argue that the spatial reclamation in these texts also challenges the conventional understanding of queer empowerment. This thesis has explored the selected works in the light of politics of space and marginalization in representation and in narration by the authors. In order to address the marginalization of queer subjects, I have examined how queer space is portrayed in a few works of contemporary Indian fiction written in English. By using qualitative research methods and a theoretical lens, this research work shall have studied and analyzed the following contemporary Indian writings: *The Boyfriend* (2003) by R. Raj Rao, *Ladies Coupe* (2010) by Anita Nair, *A Married Woman* (2002) by Manju Kapur, *Mothers of Maya Diip* (1989) and *The Conversations of Cow* (1985) by Suniti Nismjoshi. By putting less emphasis on inclusion and visibility and more on alternate agential strategies like concealment and camouflage, I have contended that the spatial reclamation in these texts also challenges the conventional understanding of queer empowerment. I have examined the many ways these writings represent queer space and how they anticipate a unique mapping for the sexually marginalized. In order to contextualize the process of this displacement, I have examined alternative sexualities by focusing on the present historical and theoretical discourses around the issues. Queer space does not really emerge in the texts I'm analyzing as utopian spaces where people may escape reality, but rather as a location of struggle with a background understanding of conflicts. I look at the many ways that these writings depict queer territory and how they envision a distinct map for the marginalized sexual subjects. I analyze the connection between post-colonialism and alternative sexualities by concentrating on the current historical and theoretical discussions around the topics in order to understand the process of this dispossession.

Content

1. Understanding Same-Sex Desire and need for recognition 2. The City as the Queer Utopia or the Closet? A Study of R. Raj Rao's *the Boyfriends* 3. Unraveling the idea of "Belonging" Understanding the Diasporic Lesbian Self through fantasy and Space 4. Creating Parallel Spaces of Desire: An Analysis of *A Married Women and Ladies Coupe* 5. Conclusion and Bibliography.

M.PHIL DISSERTATION

09. AFSHA NAAZ
Reading Delhi (1970-2020) through walking stories of Muslim inhabitants from trans-Yamuna.
Supervisor: Prof. Amitava Chakraborty
10. BASAK (Rhitama)
Reception of the Sufi landscape in framing resistance in South Asia from pre-modern to progressive poetic traditions.
Supervisor: Prof. P. C. Pattnaik
11. BHATTACHARYA (Debanjali)
Locating the socio-cultural life of Kharin Sabar Tribe of West Bengal through select festivals and folksongs.
Supervisor: Ratnottama Das
12. CHOPRA (Shrestha)
Understanding the representation of the nurse in selected literary and cultural texts.
Supervisor: Prof. Premanathan
13. GOSWAMI (Akansha)
Electronic literature in India: study of interactive fiction 'Samsara'.
Supervisor: Dr. Venkata Ramaiah Gampa
14. GUPTA (Jagriti)
Womens question in the Hindi print culture: a study of Chandravati Lakhanpals striyon ki sthiti.
Supervisor: Dr. Venkata Ramaiah Gampa
15. JAKHAR (Sonal)
Select nineteenth century Indian plays: exploring Socio-Political transitions.
Supervisor: Dr. Venkata Ramaiah Gampa
16. MUKHERJEE (Netra)
The changing identity politics and the shift in the concept of masculinity in selected plays of Mahesh Elkunchwar and Mahesh Dattani.
Supervisor: Prof. K. Premanathan
17. PANDEY (M. Shriya)
Twentieth century Kumaoni literature: memoirs and literary movements.
Supervisor: Prof. D. Uma Devi

18. PRATEEK KUMAR
Theatre of oppressed as a dramatic model for community development in Indian context.
Supervisor: Prof. K. Premananthan
19. SANDHU (Anuroop Kaur)
Panjabi', a register of protest (1849-1920): a new historicist study.
Supervisor: Prof. Amitava Chakraborty
20. SHASHANK SHEKHAR
Modernity in Indian theatre: a study of select playwrights.
Supervisor: Prof. K. Premananthan
21. TRIPATHI (Shuchita)
Meandering the dynamics of popularity reading the contemporary 'Popular' in India through select novels.
Supervisor: Prof. Govindaswamy Rajagopal
22. YUMNAM (Oshin)
The khongjom war of 1891: storytelling and national imagination.
Supervisor: Dr. Rajendra Mehta