

CHAPTER 48

SLAVONIC & FINNO-UGRIAN STUDIES

Doctoral Theses

01. MEENAKSHI
Depiction of Childhood in Contemporary Russian Fiction.
Supervisors: Prof. Namita Ranganathan
Th 26892

Abstract

Abstract Our research entitled 'Depiction of childhood in contemporary Russian fiction' is a study of selected works in contemporary Russian literature which depict childhood. We chose this topic to highlight the marked change that can be observed in Children's literature in the past many years in Russia, especially in comparison to what was being written in the Soviet times. If the stories of that time highlighted a happy childhood, conveying lessons of friendship, spirit of adventure and an overall optimistic outlook, the contemporary stories, serving as our research material, portray a rather gloomy and dark side of childhood. Children in these stories are being subjugated to so many inhumane hardships and trials, that the idea of "Happy childhood" is totally deconstructed. The thesis is divided into four chapters with an introduction and conclusion. The first chapter outlines the theoretical background relevant to the topic, with a short overview of the history of Russian Children's literature. The following three chapters consist of an in-depth analysis of stories written by some award-winning writers chosen by us for this specific study. We were able to draw some conclusions about the essence and nature of child characters and portrayal of childhood in contemporary Russian literature. We tried to highlight some issues regarding the role of this literature in the lives of children and young adults, the values being imparted to them, the language development, the idea of pure entertainment versus moral education and others. This topic, to the best of our knowledge, has not been studied amongst researchers of Russian literature in India before. Our research, therefore, can be of great use for students of literature and the material can be used for special lectures on the theme of childhood in literature.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Song genres of folklore 3. Descriptive analysis of the relationship between man and nature in folk calendar songs of the Hindi belt 3. Descriptive analysis of the relationship between man and nature in Russian calendar folk songs 4. Comparative analysis of the relationship between man and nature 5. Bibliography and conclusions.

02. NEETU
Nostalgia for The Soviet Past in Contemporary Russian Literature: A Study of Selected Post Soviet Novels.
Supervisors: Prof. Amitava Chakraborty
Th 26893

Abstract

This dissertation studies Nostalgia for Soviet past and its manifestation in post-soviet literature. "Nostalgia" is a cultural and sociological category. Hence, we studied the whole concept of Nostalgia, dynamics of its emergence, evolution and its functions at the end of XX century. We have chosen the representative literary works of first two decades after the fall of USSR i.e., from 1991 to 2010. The thesis contains following parts: Introduction, four chapters, conclusions and bibliography. To create an appropriate background of the thesis, in Chapter I, we studied the history of Soviet Union from its emergence to its fall (1917 - 1991), reasons for the collapse of SU and the emergence of nostalgia for the Soviet past in post-Soviet period. In Chapter II, we studied the concept of "nostalgia" as a cultural and sociological category and the dynamics of its emergence, evolution. The reason for its spread as well as its types and functions have also been studied in this chapter. Chapter III is a detailed analysis of the four selected works of Russian writers of post-Soviet period (Svetlana Alexievich, Andrei Volos, Elina Chizhova, Mikhail Elizarov). The literary analysis of the selected works shows the origin and development of the concept nostalgia for Soviet past of the writers of post-Soviet period. In Chapter IV, we gave a typology of the concept of nostalgia for Soviet past based on the analysis of selected literary works of post-Soviet period. Further, we categorised all the four literary works according to the classification given by renowned philologist, anthropologist and expert on 'nostalgia' studies S. Boym, who talked about the two types of nostalgia i.e., restorative and reflective. The main argument of the dissertation is to study the phenomenon of nostalgia, as obtained in the selected post-Soviet novels and investigate the usage of 'nostalgia', while it decodes the Soviet past. Re-assessment of the Soviet past through the eye of the present, was a necessary element of study.

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. The fall of the Utopia: a brief history of the erstwhile Soviet Union from its emergence to its fall (1917-1991). 3. Nostalgia as a cultural and Sociological category. 4. Analysis of the literary works. 5. Typology of the nostalgic thus analysed. 6. Conclusion. 7. Bibliography.

03. VASHISHT (Deepika)

Women's Writing and Evolution of Feminist Ideas in Second Half of The XIX Century: A Study of Selected Works of Women Writers.

Supervisors: Prof. D. Uma Devi

Th 26894

Abstract

This dissertation studies the formation of feminist consciousness and the evolution of the feminist ideas in Russian womens writing of the second half of the XIX century. For this purpose, we have chosen representative works written by Russian women writers of the second half of the XIX century. The thesis contains following parts: introduction, four chapters, conclusion and annexure. To create an appropriate background of the thesis, in CH I we reexamined major events from Russian history of XIX century, particularly, Decembrist revolt, Russia-Crimean war, democratic reforms, upsurge of womens issues and revolutionary movement at the end of XIX century. In CH II we studied the emergence of Russian womens writing in the end of XVIII century and its development in the beginning of XIX century. Here we also analyzed four works of women writers of first half of XIX century to show that feminist consciousness was already taking its shape in that period. CH III is a detailed analysis of six selected works of Russian women writers of second half of XIX century (Avdotya Panaeva, Nadezhda Khvoshinskaya, Sofia Sobolevs, Sofia Kovalevskaya, Olga

Shapir and Maria Krestovskaya). The literary analysis of selected works shows development and evolution of feminist idea in the womens writings of second half of XIX century. In CH IV we gave a typology of main characters, presented by women writers from second half of XIX century This thesis will fill the gaps present in Russian literary history of XIX century. It will also break old established myths about the non-existence of Russian women writers in prerevolutionary era and their image as sleeping beauties. The main argument of the dissertation is to re-discover the lost continent of women writers, writing herstory.

Contents

1. Revision of “women’s question” in Russia in the context of its origin and ormation of feminist ideas in the XIX century. 2. "Women's literature" and formation of feminist ideas in the first half of the XIX century. 3."Women's Prose" and the Evolution of the Feminist Ideas in the Second Half of the XIX Century: Rediscovery of the "Hidden Atlantis" of Women Writers. 4. Typology of the images of "New Women" inferred from the analysis of selected stories. Conclusion. Bibliography. Anexure.

04. YADAV (Sandeep Kumar)

The Manifestation of Dissent in The Selected Works of A.I. Solzhenitsyn of 1960s.

Supervisors: Prof. Amitava Chakravorty and Prof. Ranjana Saxena

Th 26895

Abstract

This study deeply analyses the manifestation of dissent in selected works of A. I. Solzhenitsyn in the 1960s. The introduction sets out key goals and objectives, and also emphasizes the significance of the chosen topic in the context of the dissident movement in the Soviet Union during this period. The main theses about the specifics of the expression of dissident ideas in Solzhenitsyn’s literary works are formulated to guide the research. The first chapter, on the history of dissidence in Russia, provides an extensive overview, starting from previous decades and covering events up to the 1960s. It emphasizes the importance of context for a deeper understanding of the dissident movement in Russia during this period. The second chapter focuses on the formation of Solzhenitsyn's personality, emphasizing the influence of external factors and personal characteristics that shaped his dissident position. This aspect is considered integral to understanding the origins of his literary dissidence. Chapters 3-6 provide detailed analyses of specific works by Solzhenitsyn, including *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, *Matryona’s Yard*, *Cancer Ward*, and *In the First Circle*. Each chapter examines themes, symbols, and ideas in detail, identifying manifestations of dissidence in various aspects of his work. The conclusion summarizes the results of the analysis, emphasizing Solzhenitsyn's role in the formation of dissident culture in the 1960s and highlighting his contribution to the literary expression of dissidence in the Soviet Union. The bibliography includes a variety of sources, providing a rich basis for further study of the topic.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. History of dissidence in Russia: from the past to the 60s of the twentieth century. 3. One day in the life of ivan denisovich: one word of truth will conquer the whole world. 4. Matryona's Yard: a village is not worth it without a righteous woman. 5. Cancer ward: there is nothing in the world that I would be willing to pay for any price. 6. In the first circle: the word will destroy concrete. Conclusions. Bibliography.