

CHAPTER 16

ENGLISH

Doctoral Theses

01. BALVEER
Reflection on the Farmer Figure in Indian Literature in English in the Context of Globalization: From 1991 to Present.
Supervisor: Dr. Yogesh Kumar Dubey
Th 27475

Abstract

The thesis discusses that more than 50% of the Indian population is dependent on agriculture and allied sectors. Literature has the potential and responsibility to address and foreground issues and challenges faced by society. There is a dearth of literary texts on farmers that show the marginalization of the farmers by mainstream Indian Literature in English. Therefore, the thesis is an attempt to foreground the issues and challenges of the farmers presented through this category of literature. The thesis uses an interdisciplinary approach and various theories such as Marxism, Feminism, and Theories of Trauma to critically analyze the selected texts to understand the impact of globalization on Indian farmers.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Globalisation: An Overview 3. Indian Farmers and Globalisation 4. Major Themes in Indian Literature in English on Farmers 5. An Interdisciplinary Approach to Indian Literature in English on Farmers 6. An Analysis of Characterisation of Farmers in Indian Literature in English. Conclusion. Bibliography. Works Cited.

02. BORUAH (Bidyut Sagar)
Reception of Russian Literature in Assamese (1930-2000): Networks of Appreciation, Translation and the Political Milieu.
Supervisor: Dr. Haris Qadeer
Th 27476

Abstract

Discussions and translations of Russian literary works emerged in the Assamese public sphere essentially as a constitutive aspect of the Assamese intelligentsia's reaction to the Russian Revolution in the context of their growing engagement with the pan-Indian anti-colonial movement. This interest in Russian literature remained constant throughout the subsequent decades of political decolonization, the Cold War, and regional socio-political turmoil. The dissolution of the USSR brought a halt to the process of reception – new geo-political realities emerged and at 'the end of history' literary discourses shifted too. This thesis covers this long and tumultuous period by closely reading a few select texts – literary translations, essays on literary

figures and texts, discursive pieces on literary-political concepts, etc. These texts - marked by crucial historical shifts in regional and global terms - reflect the variegated nature of the reception. The literary appreciation was not essentially an uncritical response to the Revolution or the USSR. Rather, criticism of revolutionary violence or Soviet totalitarianism also emerged through the discussion of literature and choices of translation. However, there is an overall appreciation of deep commitment to literary realism and social issues prevalent in Russian literature of the nineteenth century onward. In the early twentieth century, this generic appreciation emerged as a defining element of the emergent notion of world literature itself in Assamese literary discourses. In the post-colonial times, both progressive literary discourse and a modernist one overlapped each other conjoining general appreciation with differentiated literary-conceptual articulations. Internal contradictions notwithstanding, Russian literature became a source for drawing a liberal humanist vision of literature in the context of volatile socio-political times.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. The First Encounter with the Russian Revolution 3. Translations and the New Imagining of the Rural 4. Reconfiguring the Literary Arena 5. Debating a New Organisational Logic 6. The Dying Embers. Conclusion. Bibliography.

03. JHA (Aishwarya)

Interrogating Texts, Mediums & Cultures: Disability Studies & Subjectivities.

Supervisor: Prof. Anil Kumar Aneja

Th 27478

Abstract

The research work scrutinises the nuanced representations of disability within 20th-century literary landscapes, investigating the modifications brought about in the representation of disability with the change in the medium. The investigation also engages in a comparative study of the texts with their western as well as Indian adaptations to study the tripartite relationship between disability, literature and culture by examining the primary texts and their cinematic representations. Through a meticulous comparative examination of literary masterpieces and their cinematic renditions in both English and Hindi, the investigation traces the evolution of disability portrayal across diverse media and cultural milieus. Canonical literary works by luminaries such as Elizabeth Kata, Ken Kesey, Ron Kovic, and Nicholas Sparks are juxtaposed with their celluloid adaptations. Furthermore, the inquiry extends to Indian literary and cinematic representations. This research delineates a historical continuum in disability representation, transitioning from narratives steeped in pity, heroism, or alterity to narratives foregrounding societal apathy and the struggle for disability rights. A crucial facet of this inquiry pertains to culturally embedded representations. It discerns that Indian cinematic depictions of disability at times incorporate heightened dramatic elements or lean on stereotypes vis-à-vis their Western counterparts, accentuating the imperative of contextual sensitivity in disability portrayal analysis. By unravelling the intricate interplay among disability, culture, and artistic medium, this study accentuates the subjectivity inherent in disabled experience. It posits disability as a multifaceted construct shaped by individual encounters, societal perceptions, and narrative mediums. This study contests the universality of disability experience by

demonstrating the influence of cultural and media specifications. It exhibits that disability is not a singular experience as demonstrated through the foregoing research but culture as well as medium specific. Furthermore, it posits that a comprehensive understanding of disability extends beyond intellectual pursuit, encapsulating historical, ethical, social, political, geographical, and cultural dimensions.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Exploring Intertextuality and Adaptation through the Lens of Disability Studies 3. The Evolution of Disability Representation in Literature: Tracing Cultural Contexts and Contemporary Trends 4. Interrogating Identity: An Intersectional Reading of Visual Disability in Literature & Films 5. Investigating Intersectionality: Cognitive Disability in Literature and Film 6. Stepping into New Narratives: Presentations and Representations of Locomotor Disability in Literature & Films. Conclusion. Works cited.

04. NEOGI (Soumyadeep)

Voices of Resistance from the Valley: Kashmiri Literature in English.

Supervisor: Prof. Anil Kumar Aneja

Th 27479

Abstract

The thesis delves into the evolution of Kashmiri Anglophone literature in the past fifteen years, emerging after the tumultuous 1990s insurgency. Against the backdrop of the enduring conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the study highlights literature's role in portraying the human dimensions of the strife, revealing the psychological toll on Kashmiri civilians. Authors like Mirza Waheed and Shahnaz Bashir, products of the insurgency era, offer profound insights into the conflict's impact. Their works depict Kashmiri life amidst violence, transcending mere literary expression to embody political resistance against dominant narratives. The research argues that contemporary Kashmiri literature challenges prevailing ideological interpretations, amplifying the voices and experiences of ordinary Kashmiris while critiquing state policies and militant violence. Starting with a historical analysis of the insurgency, the study underscores the significance of contemporary Kashmiri literature in capturing nuanced narratives absent in mainstream Indian cultural productions. It explores the theoretical foundations of resistance literature, positioning Kashmiri Anglophone literature as dissent against dominant discourses. Through comparative analyses, the dissertation examines diverse forms of resistance strategies deployed by authors, ultimately rejecting monolithic interpretations of the conflict. It concludes that contemporary Kashmiri Anglophone literature serves as a repository of collective memory, preserving the region's sufferings and functioning as human rights literature.

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1. Introduction 2. Conceptualising Kashmiri Anglophone Fiction as Resistance Literature 3. Voicing Dissent: Resisting State Discourse on Militarisation 4. Voicing Disaffection: Resisting Separatists and Militants 5. Voicing the Kashmiri Pandit Agony: Resisting Oblivion 6. Establishing Collective Resistance to Memorialise Human Suffering 7. Conclusion 8. Notes 9. Works Cited

05. PANDA (Shaswat)
Seeing Through Lives: Biography, Modernity and the Nation.
 Supervisor: Prof. Anjana Sharma
Th 27480

Abstract

This thesis titled Seeing through Lives: Biography, Modernity and the Nation interrogates a common presumption around biography as a genre— histories of lives as being coextensive with those of emerging nations. It offers a distinct treatment of the biographical genre by considering its affective appeal and materiality. While the materiality is primarily an indicator of print, mediation refers to the biographer’s infusion of non-textual and non-print elements into the printed medium. This thesis explicates a triangular model of biography in which the biographer, the biographical subject and the reader are connected to each other through shared historical knowledge and affective bonds, and argues that inasmuch as biography is a product of print modernity, its own modernity is characterised by complex human engagements with print. The thesis further proposes that transnational and transcultural print networks reconfigured biography as a genre in times that were characterised by strong nationalist fervour.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. A Reader among the Biographers: The Reading Public and the Nation in Dr. Johnson’s Lives of the Poets 3. Of Heroes and Hero-Worshippers: Thomas Carlyle, Biography and Nineteenth-Century Print Cultures 4. Carlyle ‘Sahib’ among the Natives: Transnational Print Cultures and Biographies 5. More than a Mere Biography: Jadunath Sarkar’s Shivaji and his Times (1919) 6. Whose (Auto)biography is it Anyway? Authorship and Print Community in The Story of my Experiments with Truth. Coda: Of Many Heroes. Endnotes. Works cited.

06. SHILPA B S L
Interrogating Representations of Disability in Superhero Comics and Graphic Memoirs.
 Supervisor: Prof. Anil Kumar Aneja
Th 27481

Abstract

Popular culture often constructs a stark binary between the realms of comics and disability. While comics are frequently perceived as escapist and joyful, disability is often associated with suffering and limitation. This dichotomy has historically obscured the complex intersections between these two domains. However, a growing body of research challenges this oversimplified binary, suggesting that comics can serve as both a reflective mirror and a transformative lens through which to examine societal attitudes and experiences of disability. Drawing on disability studies and comics studies, this research investigates superhero comics and graphic memoirs. The study explores the ways in which these genres both reinforce and challenge dominant ableist narratives. Employing a critical discourse analysis, we will examine multimodal representations of disability, paying particular attention to themes of power, agency, and identity. This study aims to contribute to ongoing conversations about disability representation by offering a nuanced understanding of how comics both reflect and shape cultural attitudes. By identifying both problematic and

progressive representations, we seek to inform advocacy efforts and promote a more inclusive and equitable society.

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1. Introduction 2. Uncovering Indian Disabled Superheroes: A Study into their Modes of Representation 3. Troubled Articulations of Mental Disabilities in Graphic Memoirs 4. Reconstructing Parental Identities of Children with Disabilities through Graphic Narrativization 5. Locating Disability Graphic Memoirs In India: Looking Beyond Euro-American Graphic Traditions 6. Reimagining Comics Visuality: Audio Comics, Tactile Comics and Haptic Technologies. Conclusion. Works Cited.

07. SOURABH KUMAR

Anti-Establishment Literature: The Dalit Panthers and Naxalbari Movemen.

Supervisor: Prof. Raj Kumar

Th 27482

Abstract

This thesis delves into the realm of anti-establishment literature through a classification of two significant movements in Indian literary history: the Dalit Panthers and the Naxalbari Movement. Emerging in the latter half of the 20th century, these movements represented formidable challenges to the established social, political, and economic orders in India. The thesis explores historical context, tracing the socio-political conditions that gave rise to both movements. It explores the origins of caste-based discrimination and oppression faced by Dalits, as well as the systemic exploitation experienced by peasants and tribal communities, which were central to the Naxalbari Movement. Through a thorough examination of primary sources, including pamphlets, manifestos, and literary works produced by the movements themselves, this thesis analyzes the ideologies, strategies, and objectives of the Dalit Panthers and Naxalites.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Methodological Explorations of Dalit Panthers and Naxalbari Movement Studies 3. Tracing the Evolution of Anti-establishment: Societal Dynamics Explored Across Sociological, Political, Economic, Cultural, and Literary Contexts 4. Understanding Socio-literary Movements Before and After Dalit Panthers and Naxalbari 5. Dalit Writers in Revolution 6. The Naxalbari Movement: An Exploration of Radical Poetry and Adivasi Resistance in 1970s Bengal as Anti-establishment Literature. Conclusion. Bibliography.