

Unravelling the Possibilities of a Marxist Reading of Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*

- Anjan Saikia

Abstract

*Aravind Adiga, a significant contemporary Indian writer, has dealt with a large number of crucial issues concerning the postcolonial Indian society. Adiga received the Booker prize for the novel **The White Tiger** in 2008. His works have manifested some of the vital and crucial issues of the Indian society and the challenges that the common and peripheral Indians are facing in the wake of large scale exploitation. Karl Marx, a German philosopher, had undoubtedly more influence on the political discourses of the twentieth century than any other thinker of the time or of the previous centuries. The ideas propounded by him way back in the nineteenth century and the subsequent interpretations of the same in accordance with different situations by critics like Louis Althusser, Georg Lukas etc. are simply termed as Marxist. Today various facets of the Marxism have been incorporated in many crucial areas by interpreters. **The White Tiger** candidly displays the presence of the powerful and the powerless in Indian society in the postcolonial era. The basic tenets of Karl Marx can be applied to this novel so as to investigate many crucial issues concerning the Indian society. The paper is, thus, an attempt to explore whether a study of the novel **The White Tiger** by Aravind Adiga can be based on the principles of Karl Marx. Further an attempt has been made to find out whether economic situations, literature, morality etc. would entail a new understanding of the text or not. It is also worth mentioning here that an attempt to explore various aspects of the novel from the Marxist point of view has been made.*

Keywords : Marxism, Postcolonial Indian society, Peripheral Indians, Economic situations.

Mahesh Dattani: The 'Most Serious' Playwright Underlining Contemporary Urban Indian Social Issues

- Dr. Jaspal Singh

Abstract

For Dattani, theatre is a serious activity that can reflect true social dynamics. He is considered as the 'most serious' Indian playwright in English. He uses theatre to underline the social evils prevalent in the urban society. He writes plays on themes where other playwrights maintain their silence. Dattani brings theatre closer to the real life experiences. His characters are people from day to day life

who can be commonly identified. He articulates the voices of the oppressed sections of the society whose identity is veiled under myths and social prejudices. They have been pushed into darkness and are forced to survive in silence having no voice in reality. He underlines the prejudice and discrimination these oppressed sections of society are subject to. The present paper tries to investigate a variety of serious urban contemporary issues that Mahesh Dattani takes up in his plays and how through his practical knowledge of the theatre, he innovates means and methods to communicate the problem to his audience/readers and sensitises them towards it.

Keywords : Identity, Society, Crisis, Prejudice, Space, Conflict.

On The Usage of Epicene *they*

- Asmita Sood

Abstract

*English language does not have a singular, third-person pronoun that is unmarked for sex, which has posed problems for speakers and writers. On one hand, using 'he' as a pronoun for epicene, third-person subjects marks the subject as male by default, while on the other hand, **they**, which matches the antecedent for semantic animacy and retains the epicene status of the referent flouts its grammatically singular nature. This essay explores the usage, history and controversy around singular, epicene **they** and pursues the argument that the prescriptivism against epicene **they** has resulted in its decreased usage in written texts but not affected its spoken usage.*

Keywords : Epicene, Singular, Perceptivism, Prescriptivism, Grammarians, Context.

Existential Concerns and Identity in Girish Karnad's *Tughlaq*

- Priya Sandhu

Abstract

*Identity, at an individual, social, or institutional level, is something that we are constantly constructing and conferring all through our lives, by interaction with others. Being at the center of meaning, a human being has the potential of thinking and raising doubts, thus making his existence reasonable. The question of identity becomes a question of self – fulfillment and can only be completely realized if it is acknowledged by others. This quest for identity and meaning of existence lies at center of the persona of Tughlaq, an immortal character created by the eminent playwright Girish Karnad in his play **Tughlaq**. Written in 1964 by Karnad, **Tughlaq** is a play about an idealist king who struggles to make his existence authentic, instead he faces existential alienation. In the present research paper, I will explore the negations and tensions, which constitute the multifaceted character of Tughlaq in*

search of a utopic empire for his subjects. Every individual fashions his existence according to the various choices made by him. It implies the indefinable nature of man who despite his freedom of choice is a bundle of contradictions. The conflicting personas of Tughlaq, from a sensitive and intelligent ruler who sets out to do the best for his people, to a madman who suffers an increasing sense of alienation and finally a tyrant who is forced to abandon his earlier idealism will be analyzed, to fathom his descent into alienation, existential crisis and self-estrangement.

Keywords : Identity, Self-fulfillment, Existence, Contradictions, Alienation, Dualism.

Mapping the Sacred in R.K. Narayan:Contextualizing Spiritual Suffering in *The English Teacher**

- Dr. Amandeep Rana

Abstract

*“The question about the meaning of life, even though dismissed with disdain by some positivists and post modernists, remains one of the most pertinent and challenging questions man has ever asked and continues to ask. Even the modern literary masters have been seriously concerned with this question and in their literary output they have tried to come to terms with the despairing answer suggested by contemporary science and philosophy”. Pursuing any (post)modern text in light of ‘the sacred’ seems to me almost identical to visiting a 19th century or older text with post colonial literary theories at hands. We are in times when applying traditional approaches to evaluate literature is looked over as ludicrous and outlandish and when more emphasis is laid on practising postmodern and contemporary literary theories. As it is always dangerous to venture beyond the little known space, I will keep my study confined to a single writer and a single theme. In the present paper, I will attempt to visit R.K. Narayan for finding the sacred concerns of man by contextualizing the theme of spiritual suffering in his literary output (his novel *The English Teacher*).*

Keywords : Sacred, Spirituality, Suffering, Paranormal, Detachment, Renunciation.

Social Aspect of Motherhood – A Study of Imtiaz Dharker's *Zarina's Mother*

- Dr. Jasveera Anoop Minhas

Abstract

Recent feminist theories state that motherhood has been considered as a major cause of female subjugation. For centuries, the patriarchal forces have idolized motherhood and even though motherhood is natural and universal, it has been entrapped in the institutions of patriarchy. Motherhood has been considered as a sex-specific role essential and has been identified as one of the major causes of gender polarisation and gender disparity thus propelling studies on motherhood to the fore. In this paper, the compulsions and circumstances that influence maternal behaviour have been analysed. Imtiaz Dharker's poem *Zarina's Mother* has been used as database because poetic texts provide a rich source of personal data that helps in corroborating theory and its concepts. This poem has been viewed from the post-colonial Marxist feminist perspective here.

Keywords : Motherhood, Social, Feminism, Marxism and Post - colonial.

The Essence of Renaissance in Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*

- Swati Suri

Abstract

Christopher Marlowe (1564-93), predecessor of Shakespeare and one of the 'University Wits', was an enlightened English dramatist and poet, who established himself as a master of blank verse- a creative form of dramatic expression. The period of Marlowe's dramatic activity comprises six brief years, from 1587 to 1593. Yet during this short span he wrote splendid plays – all reflecting his essential spirit and nature, all full of passion. Marlowe has been called "the finest flower of English Renaissance". *Doctor Faustus*, the greatest tragedy written before Shakespeare, is suffused with the rainbow colors of Renaissance. It was considered to be the best play of Marlowe because in this play he was able to handle quite successfully the classic elements of tragedy that is - pity and terror. The Renaissance man was fascinated by new learning and knowledge. He took all knowledge to be his province. He regarded knowledge to be power. He developed an insatiable thirst and curiosity for knowledge, power, beauty, riches, worldly pleasures and the like. *Doctor Faustus* represents the Renaissance spirit in various ways and the present paper is an attempt to trace such elements.

Keywords : Lust, Power, Knowledge, Devil, Greed.

Challenges To English Language Teaching In India

- Dr. Dhiraj Sharma

Abstract

The present paper aims at bring forth the challenges to English teaching in India. Some of these challenges can be overcome with the passage of time but new challenges arise in the usage of English. In India, untrained teachers teaching in several schools are themselves square pegs in a round holes. 92-95% of people use their mother tongue as the mode of communication, as such less importance is given to English. Use of Language lab is a perfect way to master English but in India, this type of infrastructure is not available easily. Priority is given to Science and Mathematics over English. Lack of proper correction and less emphasis on feedback are also strong reasons for its weak position in many regions in India. Even the teachers lack insight as far the teaching English (Reception and Expression of language) is concerned. The purity of language is in danger and it must be rectified. After discussing various facets of the problem, the paper concludes by suggesting that only by providing a good learning environment to the students, this malady can be controlled.

Keywords : Mother Tongue, Foreign Language, Objectives, Remedial Teaching, Listening.

Shobha De's Socialite Evenings and Starry Nights:

A *Fin de Siècle* Analysis

- Priyanka Mahajan

Abstract

*The end of 19th century turned out to be a free-ranging revolution for feminism due to radical changes in the traditional image of Woman in Western society, culture and literature. A number of social, economic and political factors can be attributed for separating women's movement from Christianity and conservative propriety thereby, leading to the growth of a **fin de siècle** phenomenon called 'New Woman'. These new women were resolute to attain autonomy through life, growth, and experience. The representation of new woman in culture and literature assumed various hues and shades with the passage of time. Since 1980s, issues including sexual assaults, unlawful carnal knowledge etc. taken up by new feminists of the West have had a strong impact in emerging countries like India. The last decade of 20th century may also be characterized as the **fin de siècle** for women because a number of female writers in Indian fiction have realized their dream of women empowerment through their portrayal of new women. The present*

paper is an attempt to underline the multiple identities of new women in Indian fiction through an analysis of Shobha De's Socialite Evenings and Starry Nights.

Keywords : New Woman, Fin de Siècle, New Feminism, Post Colonial, Women Empowerment.

Pursuit of Love and Dread of Hazards in Shakespearean Comedy

- Pratyusha Prakash

Abstract

*"The spirit of hazarding is allied with Providence," states Holmer (97), which suggests that in Shakespeare's comedies, lovers who are willing to hazard all must be willing to take a gamble. In most cases, the gamble of courtship is the greatest gamble they are able to take. Most of Shakespeare's comedies throw us, during the brief period of courtship, into a world where typical gestures are no longer applicable - a "green world" of sorts - only to once again bring the world back to stability when the period of courtship ends. By throwing us into a world of seemingly limitless license, the plays present to us several possibilities at once. The ideas of character limitations are suspended. However, these characters must also surrender themselves to the rules of the game - which are lacking. The only rule seems to be that they must play the game, and in doing so, they must be prepared to "hazard all". In his Romantic Comedies, troubles and tribulations are manifested through umpteen asides and are resolved through risky gambles and dauntless spirit of hazarding. In this essay, I will discuss the baggage and the dangers that some of the lovers in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Twelfth Night* take into this period of courtship.*

Keywords : Love, Ceding, Autonomy, Hazards, Talisman, Emblems.

Mahasweta Devi –The Bold Voice of Feminism

- Aashia Sahota

Abstract

The present paper aims at interpreting Mahasweta Devi's feminist point of view, which emerges as a dilemma in some of her works. One of India's foremost writers, Mahasweta Devi weaves her stories in a unique pattern to represent doubly

marginalized women. She believes in writing for the tribal, downtrodden, and underprivileged. No wonder she is considered as one of the most dauntless Bengali female writers. She is applauded as much for her fiction as for being a gallant chronicler of social justice. As a typical creative writer, she endeavours to bring challenging stories from different subaltern groups. Due to her book, "Breast Stories," Mahasweta Devi is known for her feminist stance. The women she writes about have an immense sense of self-respect and are prepared to struggle till the end.

Keywords : Feminism, Marginalized, Subjugation, Dalit, Patriarchal, Subaltern

Pedagogy of Teaching English In India

- Archana Vasudev

Abstract

In India, English is taught and learnt as a foreign language. Hence, Indian students face difficulties in learning it. During British rule in India, the difficulties in problem of administration were largely due to the lack of communication. Therefore they introduced the teaching of English in India, making it an integral part of the Indian education system. As far as the methods to teach English are concerned, the most common method is Grammar- Translation method. Direct method is a reform in reaction to the use of Grammar- Translation method. To overcome the difficulties faced by Indian students taught by direct method and dislike of English people for grammar- Translation method, Prof. C.J. Dodson from university college of Wales, introduced the bilingual method of teaching. The main emphasis of the structural approach is on learning new structures and the use of these structures in communication. Moreover if we are interested in teaching Grammar to the students, there are two ways of teaching – the Deductive method and the Inductive Method.

Keywords : Teaching, Translation Method, Direct Method, Bilingual Method, Structural Approach, Deductive Method, Inductive Method.

Natural Language : A Socio-Cultural Stance

- Dr. Pankaj Sharma

Abstract

Human language is sensitive enough to acquire its shape and shade as per the surrounding conditions. Every language evolves over a period of time, place and ethos. The paper Natural Language: A Socio-Cultural Stance, studies selected

languages viz. Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, English and Punjabi comparatively and explains- how influenced by society, culture and geographical conditions, a language gets affected and reflects its intrinsic quality. The paper thus studies the nature and attitude of a language in particularity like, Urdu as the language or verse, English of communication and Sanskrit of philosophy. The paper in its next stage studies how the socio-cultural values regulate the merits and demerits of a language. The paper further probes questions: why Urdu is written from right to left whereas most of other languages are written from left to right. The impact of religion, architect, costume, design etc. thus naturally get linked to this search. Having studied various factors that go into developing a language, the research paper finally proves that the shade and inherent quality of a language is largely an extension of socio-cultural-geographical stance.

Keywords : Natural Language, Socio-cultural Stance, Society, Intrinsic Value.

An Evaluation of the Parent-Child Relationship and Attachment Patterns in Tillie Olsen’s “I Stand Here Ironing”

- Khushbir Dhaliwal

Abstract

The early bonds between a child and a parent influence many aspects of the child’s personality. It becomes the core material for development of the personal identity of an individual. Parental love and care is important, not only because the child is insufficient to look after himself, but it also goes a long way in enhancing psycho-social development and behavioural adjustments in the child. Emily, a nineteen- year old girl, protagonist of Tillie Olsen’s story “I Stand Here Ironing” faces behavioural and adjustment issues. Her mother is unaware of the problem, until, she is informed by a teacher from Emily’s school. It is then, she realises, the cause that led Emily to develop emotional and behavioural issues. Apparently, the cause is none other than her own self and her bond with Emily since her childhood. While, she narrates the story of Emily’s childhood, she also narrates her own story of mothering and parenting. The present paper aims to study by a psychological approach, how child development is influenced by the type of parenting pattern adopted by the parents. The theories undertaken in the study are Baumrind, Maccoby and Martin theory of parenting styles and Bowlby’s theory of attachment patterns.

Keywords : Child Development, Parent-Child Relationship, Parenting Styles, Attachment Patterns.

Plight of Women in Globalized Society : Cinema and Manuscripts

- Aastha Saini Sondhi

Abstract

Globalization is the World-wide movement towards collaboration at economic, financial and cultural levels. The advancements in Science and technology, especially the revolution in the field of communication has indeed turned the world into a global village. Woman is God's most beautiful creation and she lives in several avatars –that of daughter, sister, wife, lover, and mother. The present paper tends to analyse the position of women in the globalized world and their portrayal in Cinema and literature. Is the modern women empowered or is she still at the mercy of men? The paper cites examples from mythology, history, real life incidents and films to conclude that there has been hardly any change in the position of women even after almost two decades into the twenty-first century.

Keywords : Globalization, Multicultural, Molestation, Empowerment, Sympathy.

No New Land, Amriika, The In-between World of Vikram Lall : A Treatment of Diasporic Issues By M.G. Vassanji

- Puneet Kaur

Abstract

*The prime focus of this paper is to articulate the problems faced by the Asian diaspora in Western countries. The protagonists in Vassanji's novels **No New Land, Amriika** and **The In-Between World of Vikram Lall** search for self and identity in Western countries. It is not for the first time that the writer has concerned his novels with the difficulties faced by the Indian diaspora. In most of his novels, he portrays the hardships and sufferings that the protagonists and other characters go through living in a 'diaspora space', 'hybrid space' 'third scenario' according to different theorists. Their state is of 'in- betweenness' because they can neither give up their old culture and neither traditions nor they can adapt themselves to the new ones. The paper focuses mainly on the characters in the three novels **No New Land, Amriika** and **The In-Between World of Vikram Lall** who face the problem of dislocation, relocation, rootlessness, nostalgia, cross- cultural confrontation because of their migration from the colonized state of East Africa to Canada.*

Keywords : Diaspora, Identity, Nostalgia, Dislocation, Relocation.