



Dr. Sangita Ghodake is a dynamic woman, a crusader whose sole motto is the emancipation of the colonized. With her erudite scholarship and profound knowledge of the post colonial fiction she came up with the Trilogy. Being a sensitive and empathetic person she can internalize the psyche of the marginalized and can interpret and analyze their pains and pangs in an incredibly effective manner.

"I oppose all kinds of discrimination that has come through binary opposition. It is difficult but not impossible to get rid of any kind of suppression and oppression. Humanity is the need of the hour": Dr. Sangita Ghoda

Book Review

Initiation into Life: Post-Colonial Caribbean Fiction and Post-Colonial South African Fiction

Reviewed by

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Dr. Sangita Ghodake's two books from the trilogy of *Post-Colonial Fiction* are noteworthy and it is her remarkable contribution to colonial and post-colonial studies. She has published many research articles on the same topic in national and international refereed peer reviewed journals. Her project of trilogy on post-colonial fiction has come up with the two parts and the third is in process. The trilogy on the selected post-colonial fiction is a scholarly and erudite attempt that depicts and illustrates the socio-political, psychosomatic and cultural upheavals in colonial and post-colonial Africa and the Caribbean nations. After the publication of the first volume *Post-Colonial Caribbean Fiction* (Total No. of Pages: 170) the second volume *Post-Colonial South African Fiction* (Total No. of Pages: 200) has been published as a part of the three volume series; which

will be concluded by *Post-Colonial Kenyan Fiction* in 2015. These selected regions were the marginalized colonized countries in the past and the authors had to face adversities due to the unfavourable living conditions.

The purpose of publication of the books was to make some 'reference material' available on the selected academic arenas that are less trodden by the researchers. All the selected texts are post-1960s publications of the Booker and Nobel Award winner authors. The first book *Post-Colonial Caribbean Fiction* is a comprehensive prologue on the post-colonial theory with special emphasis on the Caribbean colonial background. The appropriate cover page expresses the multi-cultural face of the Caribbean identity. It deals with the struggle of the Caribbean protagonists who have to come out of the restricted psyche of the colonized. The selected authors of the first book are V. S. Naipaul and George Lamming and the selected novels are the classics of English Literature. V. S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* and *The Mimic Men* speak about the initiation of the protagonists of Indian origin Mohun Biswas and Ralph Singh on their respective Caribbean islands namely *Trinidad* and fictional island *Isabella*. Their journey starts with the problem of identity, as all the residents of the Caribbean Islands possess different lands of origin and have to familiarize themselves with multiple roles other than their origin. Mohun in *A House for Mr. Biswas* is a typical portrayal of a middle class man who struggles to own a house. Ralph, in *The Mimic Men*, is exposed to the hypocrisy of the colonizers on their land who treat the colonials as second rate citizens. It completely transforms him from an innocent and ignorant citizen to a successful politician on his native island. Both the protagonists face dilemma of not getting associated with either Indianness that they experience at home or cannot get gelled with the multicultural environment outside their homes. George Lamming's *In the Castle of My Skin* depicts mother-son bonding of African-Caribbean family. G, the protagonist, initiates into life through his encounters with the white settlers, the landlord Mr. Creighton and the society members. He gets initiated when he leaves his village for higher education and reads and learns about the African American slavery. He realizes his status as a slave on his island. It is an awakening experience for him and changes entire perception of his life. He decides to work for the welfare of his society. The new human being that we are

searching with an assimilation of global and local identity can be found in the Caribbean mind-set. Their exposure to multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural encounters outside the home has been brought out with the four parameters, namely, initiation, parenting, schooling and culture. The book is formally concluded with a futuristic vision *Towards New Beginning* that offers solutions to all kinds of discriminations.

The second book in the trilogy *Post-Colonial South African Fiction* analyzes and investigates five novels by the two Nobel Laureates Nadine Gordimer and J. M. Coetzee. The book is dedicated to the iconic hero of anti-apartheid struggle of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. The detailed chronological history of anti-apartheid movement facilitates the readers to understand the history of resistance to the apartheid policy that was designed to ensure white supremacy. The cover page represents the folk indigenous cultural identity of the Africans through their traditional dance. Nadine Gordimer's *My Son's Story* perfectly brings out destructive effects of the unjust policy of apartheid. The protagonist Will, named after William Shakespeare, is raised up in the disturbed state of relationship of his parents. His father's extra marital affair and the racial discrimination that he experiences, intensifies his agony. He also experiences discriminatory treatment in the society due to his marginalized coloured race. In spite of his illegal residence in the white suburb being bombed by the white government, he never loses his hope. His home was petrol bombed by the white government because of the charges of leaving illegally in the white suburb. He and his community give the message of 'never lose hope'. He warns the white government that his race can't be burnt out. Like the immortal bird phoenix they will re-emerge from the ashes. Her second selected book *The Sport of Nature* depicts a white girl named Hillela who doesn't get secured childhood. She gets love and sympathy from a black revolutionary whom she marries. He becomes the President of a newly freed nation. Unfortunately he is shot dead and Hillela, in spite of her white race, becomes the heir of her husband. The author is trying to suggest that racial discrimination will not long last. The dawn of freedom will be seen very soon.

The fictional trilogy of J. M. Coetzee's autobiography is a tale of an ordinary shy colonial boy John who learns to fight his own battle and is celebrated as one of the most widespread authors in the world. The first part *Boyhood* is described as *scenes from*

provincial life, speaks about his safe and secured childhood in the Afrikaner family. His bonding with his mother is described as ‘a tortoise in the shell’. The second part *Youth* is a remarkable book which speaks about frustrations of a colonial youth who wants to get noticed by the entire world. His struggle on the land of the colonizers speaks volumes about the injustice done to the colonial youth. The first two parts are written in the third person. The last part *Summertime* written in the disguise of the biographer by the author himself. He is shown as collecting the information of his own personal and private life after his death through imaginary interviews of the closed ones and friends and a few diary entries of the author. The three parts can be concluded as a life story of a shy, timid and marginalized colonial youth who transformed himself into a Nobel Laureate.

The authors have disclosed the broken identities and injured psyche of the protagonists who faced the tormenting and harrowing experience of the curse of apartheid that was inflicted by the colonizers on the helpless natives of South Africa. J. M. Coetzee, being an Afrikaner and Nadine Gordimer, the humanitarian have projected the mission of ‘the rainbow nation’ which is yet to come into reality. The concluding part *Spring of Hope on New Horizons* presents the concept of a new human-being with a charismatic personality. The new human being with virtues will definitely help us to eradicate all evils. In these works the authors have adopted a holistic approach to enable the empowerment of the South Africans.

Both the volumes give exclusive list of secondary sources that would assist the budding scholars and researchers in their research. The selected authors are the promising contemporary writers of their respective regions due to which the selected texts are included and prescribed for UG and PG in most of the Indian universities. The students, teachers and researchers will definitely use these volumes as a quality reference material. On the whole, both the volumes provide critical insight into the problems faced by the children and youth in marginalized colonial countries.

- ***Post-Colonial Caribbean Fiction***

ISBN: 078-93-81351-34-5

Scion Publications Pvt. Ltd., Pune

Year 2013, pages: 160 price: 170/-

- ***Post-Colonial South African Fiction***

ISBN: 978-93-81351-12-3

Scion Publications Pvt. Ltd., Pune

Year 2014, pages: 196, price: 250

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