

**INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH
THROUGH KALEIDOSCOPE
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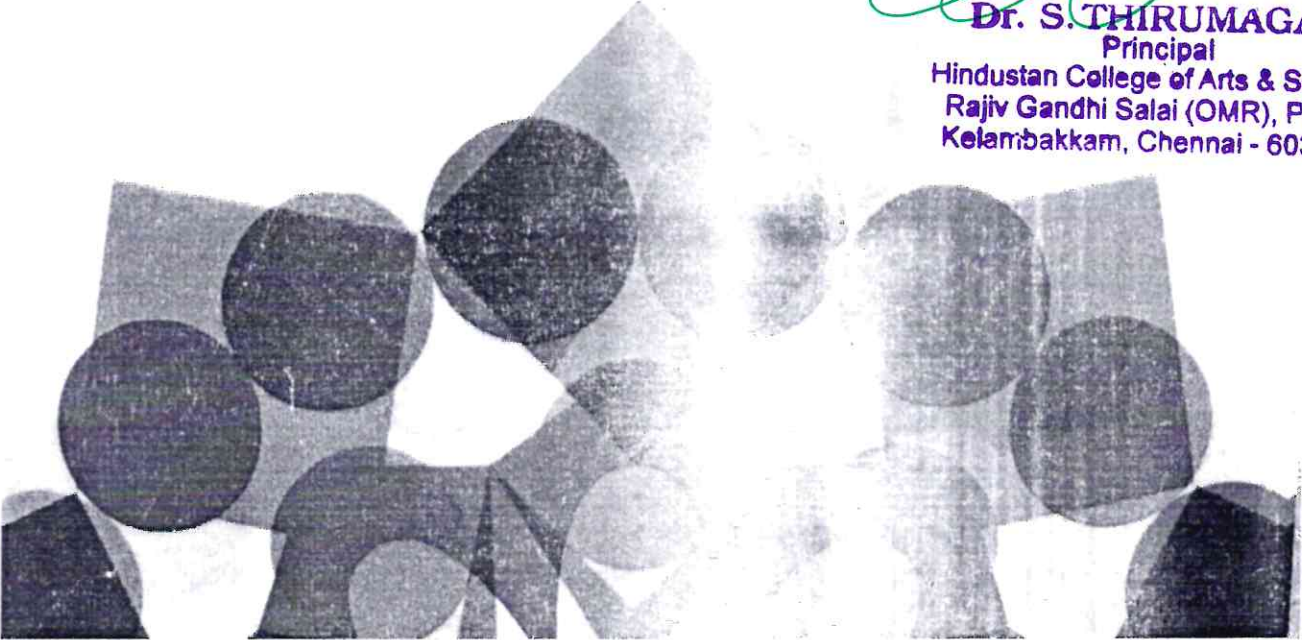
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Dr. S. THIRUMAGAN
Principal

Hindustan College of Arts & Science
Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR), Padur
Kelambakkam, Chennai - 603 103



9. Unseen women setting the "Leitmotif" in Indian Mythology: A Study in the select novels of Kavita Kane 68
- Ms. A. Udhayabanu
10. Comical and Ironical touches in Jhumpa Lahiri's Short Stories 75
- Mrs. G. Kameeshwari
11. Hollowness and Futility of outdated Customs and Traditions in Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai's *Chemmeen*: An overview 84
- Mr. S.Pravinkumar
12. Communal Power on Marginalised Sections in Imayam's *The Begetter* - *Pethavan* 92
- Mr. P .V .Narasimmarao
13. Theme of Casteism and Sufferings of Tribal People with reference to the Indian Film *Jai Bhim* 97
- Mrs. A. Vinodhini
14. Diasporic Elements in *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri 102
- Ramen Goswami
15. A Multiculturalism in Bharathi Mukherjee's the Select Novels 114
- E.Ranjani
16. Political Tyranny in Tagore's *Mukta-dhara* 121
- Mrs.P.N.Pushpalatha
17. A Study of Language Creativity in Indian Literature During Pandemic 129


Dr. S. THIRUMAGAN
 Principal
 Hindustan College of Arts & Science
 Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR), Padur
 Kelambakkam, Chennai - 603 103

Unseen women setting the "Leitmotif" in Indian Mythology: A Study on Select Novels of Kavita Kane

Ms. A. Udhayabanu

Assistant Professor, Department of English,
Hindustan College of Arts & Science, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu, India.

Abstract

In Indian mythology, we see women who are vocal about their desires are either vilified or ignored in the bigger picture. They are overshadowed as they are not the protagonist. This paper attempts to explore two such women Satyawati and Surpanakha by critically analysing the texts, *The Fisher Queen's Dynasty* and *Lanka's Princess* by Kavita Kane. In *The Fisher Queen's Dynasty*, she explores the unacknowledged side of Satyawati, the fisher girl who becomes the Queen later. She lends a certain mood to the narrative that of power and ambition which becomes the leitmotif in the latter half. Her arrival marks the beginning of dramatic play of politics and intrigue that is the hallmark of the Mahabharata. Similarly, in *Lanka's Princess*, Kavita Kane makes us see the familiar events of the Ramayana unfold from the eyes of the Surpanakha. It would make us wonder whether Surpanakha was a perpetrator of war or a victim. Ravan cannot be fathomed without a Surpanakha. It is often neglected and side-lined. We could see that it is the small events and incidents that fuel her inner desire for revenge. It is finally this desire, the simmering angst and bitterness that finally brings about the humiliating and she fuelled a war in the Mahabharata, it is accepted as she is the protagonist. Whereas, in the Ramayana, the turmoil is dealt with

Dr. S. THIRUMAGAN

Principal

Hindustan College of Arts & Science
Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR), Padur
Kelambakkam, Chennai - 603 103

Myth and Magic Realism in Chitra Banerjee's *The Palace of Illusion* and *The Mistress of Spices*

Ms. S. Ilakkiah

Assistant Professor

Department of English

Hindustan College of Arts and Science

Chennai

Abstract

The paper highlights the principal themes used by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in her novels *The Palace of Illusion* and *The Mistress of Spices*. Divakaruni revives the Indian tradition, culture, mythology and belief in all her works. The usage of stream of consciousness techniques, flashback techniques and dreams are so realistic which is very prominent in the novels of Divakaruni. She has mainly used magical elements in her novels which prove that they are the indication of reality and it has linked with psychology also. Divakaruni has mixed realism and magic which in reality is just a blend of all in magical realism. The traditional qualities are conveyed as myth and culture is embellished in magical realism. *The Mistress of Spices* follows the adventures of the Life of Love of a young protagonist Tilo, who is trained in the ancient art of spices and with special powers. *The Palace of Illusion* traces the Life of the Princess Panchali which retails the Indian epic Mahabharata through the eyes of Draupati. The presentation is pretty unique since the narration is made through a female character and the viewpoint of women living in a patriarchal world. This novel is an embodiment of half history, half myth and half magical. This paper discusses magic realism, myth and also euphemistic aspects with magic and reality.

Keywords: Magic Realism, Myth, Patriarchy, Feminism, Culture, Psychology

Dr. S. THIRUMAGAN

Principal

Hindustan College of Arts & Science

Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR), Padur

Kelambakkam Chennai - 600 107