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HUMAN LIBERATION: SANGITA GHODKE'S POST-COLONIAL CARIBBEAN FICTION AND POST-COLONIAL SOUTH AFRICAN FICTION

(A Book Review By)

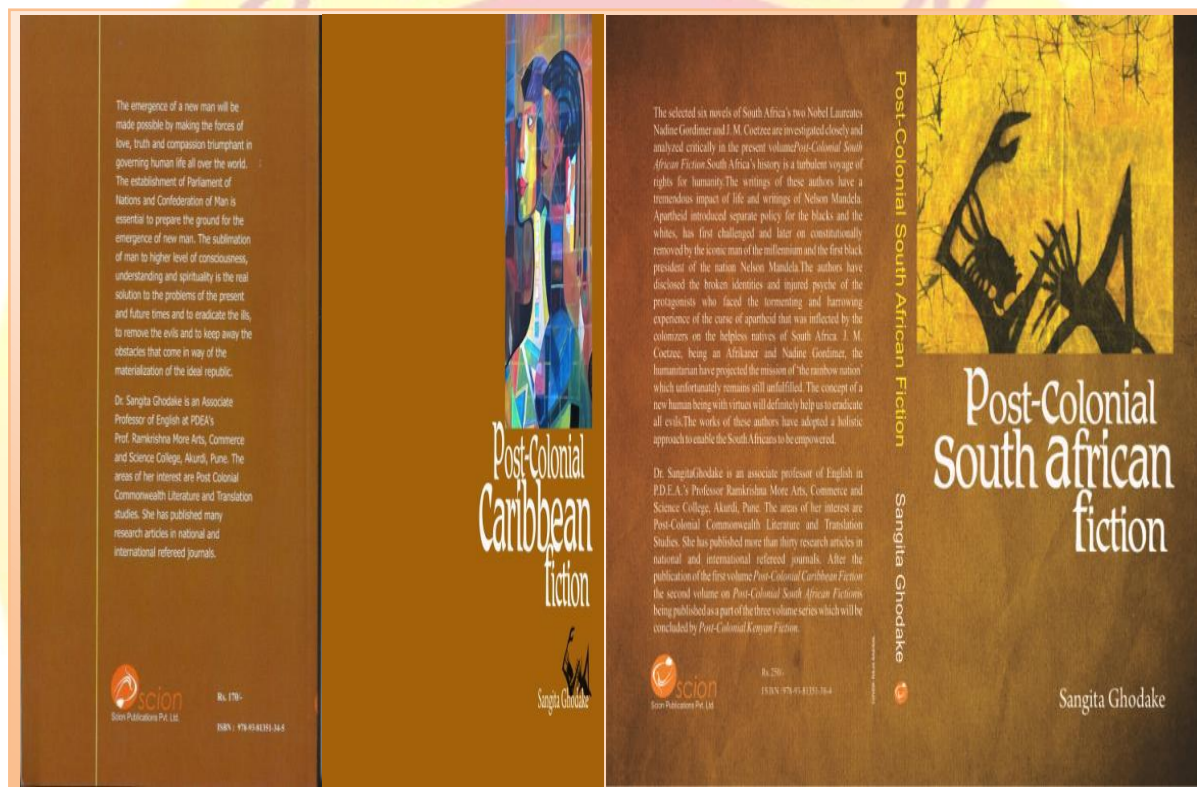
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- **Dr. SangitaGhodake** is an aspiring student, a reader and a critic of post-colonial literature, whose sole effort is to understand the shipwrecked mindset of the colonized. Her thorough study of marginalized literature leads her to the trajectory that started right from slavery and extended by colonization, decolonization and the present day neocolonization. Being a former colonized of Indian background she can very well understand the psyche of the marginalized African and the Caribbean citizens. She perceives entire post-colonial residents as salvagers and adaptable human beings. In present review, an attempt is made to analysis Ghodake's two books *Post-Colonial Caribbean Fiction* and *Post-Colonial South African Fiction* which are part of her trilogy with all critical fairness.

▪ **Dr. ArvindNawale**

Paulo Freire in his *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* rightly pointed out the problem of dehumanization,

Within history, in concrete, objective contexts, both humanization and dehumanization are possibilities for a person as an uncompleted being conscious of their incompleteness.....It is thwarted by injustice, exploitation, oppression, and the violence of the oppressor; It is affirmed by the yearning of the oppressed for freedom and justice, and by their struggle to recover their lost humanity.(Freire, 25-26)

Dr. Sangita Ghodake's assignment of trilogy speaks volumes of imperialistic exercise of dehumanization and the colonials' fight for retaining humanization. Her trilogy on 'post-colonial literature' is a series in which she has tried to give justice to the selected renowned authors' colonial texts of utmost suppressed colonized nations like the Caribbean, South Africa and Kenya. The books are the classics of English literature. The first part *Post-Colonial Caribbean Fiction* is published in 2013 and the second part *Post-Colonial South African Fiction* has come up in 2014. The third *Post-Colonial Kenyan Fiction* is in the pipeline which would come in 2015. The trilogy tries to cover up some of the very important issues related to socio-political, psychosomatic and cultural upheavals in colonial and post-colonial Africa and the Caribbean nations. It talks about social, psychological and individual liberty of a human being from his fellow being. The journey of the books started from enslavement of the colonized that has gradually ended into a message of 'complete freedom of his/her soul' from all kinds of discrimination.

Post-Colonial Caribbean Fiction's cover page portrays an uncommon face of a man and a woman with distinct features that highlight a fusion of multicultural identity of the Caribbean people. She has dedicated the book to her mother and mother in law who are less privileged in comparison to her generation. The book has been divided into six units namely *Introduction*, George Lamming's *In the Castle of My Skin*, V. S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas*, and *The Mimic Men*, *Towards New Beginnings* and *Bibliography*. The development of the protagonists as 'initiation into life' has been shown through four parameters, namely, initiation as a process, parenting, schooling and informal education, and culture. The last chapter contributes an idea of a new human being with kind and considerate mind and heart.

Lamming, the very first author of the book, has evoked a child's initiation into life very picturesquely in *In the Castle of My Skin*. It is a semi-autobiographical novel which is dedicated to the author's mother. It leads us back to the days of slavery. The white settlers entered into the Caribbean Islands with the purpose of trade and commerce but soon they realized that illiterate and ignorant slaves could be ruled very easily. The innocent masses of the islands realized their dehumanization very late in the late nineteenth century that resulted into the movement of decolonization. She has analyzed and explored the beauty and the pain of the growing years of G, the protagonist of the novel. The mother, being a single parent, stands for patience and sufferings. She raises her son into a sensitive and sensible human being. It appeals to us as a saga of every marginalized single mother who sacrifices her joys for the sake of her children. G, the very naughty child, gradually turns into a mature youth who understands his race's exploitation in Barbados when he reads books about African Americans' slavery. It is an awakening of a black boy who decides to fight for his rights.

Naipaul's *The Mimic Men* is also in the first person narrative mode. Ralph Singh or Ranjit Krupal Singh is a classic example of all the warping of personality that takes place during the formative years of children. The mimicry of the colonials starts with adopting the English name by the protagonist. How colonialism results in making copy cats or 'Mimic Men' is described very

sensitively in the novel. The real identity has been suppressed and colonial identity has been imposed on the main characters of the novel. The book aptly pinpoints the mimicry of all colonials who try to imitate their colonizers and forget about their original identity in the process. *A house for MrBiswas*, the second selected book of the same author, gives us an account of MohunBiswas, the protagonist's forty years' journey from birth to his death. It is an account of the life of Naipaul's father who struggles throughout his life for owning a house. Dr Ashok Chaskar has quoted in his foreword to the book,

Mohun's neglected childhood and his trials and tribulations as he attempts various career starts, are pathetic and brave at the same time. All these are the part of postcolonial upbringing which is full of wants and misery yet it is not like that those who spent their childhood will be happy and contented as adults. Yet the fact remains that they face life may be with courage or may be under an illusion. All this is a part of postcolonial ethos and this book will certainly help the students and research scholars of Postcolonial Literature.

Post-Colonial South African Fiction is tribute to the man of millennium Mr Nelson Mandela who passed away in the year 2014. The image on the cover page describes two native tribal Africans who are enjoying frenzy dancing. It suggests the loss of indigenous culture of Africa due to intrusion of the white settlers. The book is divided into seven units. It investigates closely and analyzes critically the selected fiction of South Africa's well-known Nobel Laureates Nadine Gordimer and J. M. Coetzee. It starts with a very exclusive 'introduction' of chronological details of apartheid history and the anti-apartheid activities of the natives. The author has selected two novels of the Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer purposefully. *My Son's Story* deals with the coloured family's trials and tribulations due to suppression of basic human rights. The second, *A Sport of Nature*, is a story of a white girl Hillela who stands firmly against her race for the rights of the marginalized in South Africa. Both the protagonists' journey is an unusual voyage of sufferings. Gordimer, being a humanitarian, makes her protagonists victorious in the end and gives the message that 'the ravaging cloud will no longer be victorious'. DrShubhangiRaykar has stated in her foreword that,

What is legally banned continues to exist and its presence remains intact psychologically. There are laws against prostitution, betting, tobacco and drug consumption but these practices exist. Apartheid is still in practice in seemingly intractable challenges of poverty, social inequality, discrimination and tyranny.

My Son's Story ends with the positive message that the natives of South Africa will reemerge like a Phoenix from the ashes. *A Sport of Nature* is a story of a white girl Hillela that gets transformed from an innocent child to an anti-racial activist of the top order. The novel ends by becoming a wife of a black president of an African nation.

J. M. Coetzee, the only author who has got two booker prizes and a prestigious Nobel, whose three parts of his fictional autobiography is an intellectual and emotional treat to all the readers. His autobiography focuses his frustration on the native land due to his white Afrikaner race and his feeling of 'the other' on the land of the colonizer. Every successful colonial has gone

through the same experience which is a curse of imperialism. The three parts of namely *Boyhood*, *Youth* and *Summertime* reveal fascinating journey of a shy and ordinary colonial boy from an Afrikaner family. The theme of initiation through which the protagonists are treated, fight the battle of their lives successfully by becoming winners in the end. The volume ends on a positive note of the possibility of an 'emergence of a new human being' in a 'rainbow colour nation'. The study of these novels that present the 'struggle for survival' will certainly help the students, teachers and researchers to get an insight into South African writings in English. I wish her all the best for her future prospects.

The final unit *Spring of Hope on New Horizons* offers practical solutions to the problems of inequality. Apartheid was constitutionally and officially removed. Apartheid is legally banned but it continues to exist and its presence remains intact psychologically. The period is carrying the burden of miserable memories. It poses a challenge of retrospection and introspection. The sufferers are helped to come out of the apartheid psyche. The twenty-first century is characterized by the success story of South Africa in which those at the margins have occupied the regions at the center. The books try to sum up the statement by emphasizing the philosophy that one has to understand that the history has taught us that there has always been an exchange of roles of the powerful and the powerless. The earth would be a pleasant place to live if every individual is treated on humanitarian grounds.



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