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History and the Contemporary Ugandan Female Novel

Namirembe Theresa Frances, Alex Wanjala, Joseph Muleka

Department of Literature

University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya, Africa

Email: nalwaterry@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper discusses the narration of Ugandan history in fiction by analysing the works of three contemporary Ugandan female novelists to analyse their narration of different elements of Ugandan history and also the stylistic devices evident in the novels that aid in the representation of Ugandan history. The analysed novels under study are: Mary Okurut's *The Invisible Weevil*, Violet Barungi's *Cassandra*, and Jane Kaberuka's *Silent Patience*. The paper leans on the theoretical arguments of Georg Lukacs and Lucien Goldmann on the historicity of novels and also the role of novels as social chronicles. Christopher Odhiambo provides a focal point in understanding the proliferation of history, especially Ugandan history, in fiction. The paper concludes by noting that the examined novels succeed in representing the history of the Ugandan society from the pre-colonial times to the contemporary times while pitting women at the centre of the narration of different historical and cultural moments.

Keywords

Ugandan Literature, Ugandan contemporary female writers, cultural studies, historicity

Representation of Women in Omprakash Valmiki's Short Stories: A Study of "Eclipse," "The Beast," "Amma" and "The Homeless"

Suresh Kumar

Department of English

Government Sanskrit College, Tungesh, Shimla, India

Email: kumarsureshhpu85@gmail.com

Abstract

Most dalit feminist writers, academics, critics and activists opine that the dalit men do not address their issues adequately in their writings. In most cases, dalit men remain focused on the larger issues of caste and class based exploitation, oppression and unfairly ignore dalit women's specific suffering as a picayune subject matter. Omprakash Valmiki, in particular, was targeted for his deliberate blind spot of dalit women's throbbing in his seminal autobiography, *Joothan: A Dalit's Life*. Dalit women critics and literary historians find that Valmiki's life story offers a huge space for his father and depicts his mother in 'bits and pieces' only. He does not speak explicitly on patriarchy that existed both within his own household and in the society at large. The present paper is an attempt to study how Valmiki endeavours to break his silence on gendered issues and how he problematises patriarchy and represent women of different castes, classes, and communities in his short stories selected from his critically acclaimed collection, *Amma and Other Stories*. The stories: "Eclipse," "The Beast," "Amma" and "The Homeless" selected for the primary analysis unequivocally articulate on women's issues. They not only highpoint women's dominated and marginalised position in caste and gender afflicted Indian society, but also brings out their strength, and capability to fight back.

Keywords

Dalit, feminist, representation, caste, class, gender, patriarchy, oppression.

Cyborg as a Posthuman in the Manga and the Movie *Alita: Battle Angel*

Mekha Mathew

*Postgraduate and Research Department of English
St Thomas College, Kozhencherry, Kerala, India
Email id: mekhas4m@gmail.com*

Abstract

Battle Angel Alita is a cyberpunk classic published in 1990 by the Japanese manga artist Yukito Kishiro. Later, after twenty years, the manga character comes live on the big screen as *Alita: Battle Angel* through James Cameron and Robert Rodriguez. The manga and the movie portray the underlying realities of a post-war cyborg world. Through the extensive use of technology, cyborgs take the centre role eliminating a human-centric world. Kishiro's character Alita and her enemies such as Grewishka, Vector, and Nova take on a massive role in clearly manifesting the competitive world of machines. The methodology intends to portray the cyborg world, its different forms of beings, their lifestyle and how a cyborg takes up the main part of both genres, ie, the manga and the movie. The paper brings into light the mysterious and harsh realities of a cyborg as a posthuman and how the cyborg woman Alita takes the main role along with other cyborgs.

Keywords

Cyborg, posthuman, post-war society, transhumanism, technology.

An Enchantress or Fairy Godmother: A Postmodern Retelling of the Movie *Maleficent*

Parvathy Prasannan

Independent Researcher

Kaithakonuthottam, Adoor, Kerala, India

Email: parvathyprasannan95@gmail.com

Abstract

The fairy tales presents experience in lucid figurative form. Fairy tales are imbibed in Disney movies and Disney successfully transforms the fairy tales into screenplays. Recent years have witnessed many changes in the society and the traditional ideas and ways of living increasingly being called into question. Such questioning has led to a crisis of authority that goes under the name of postmodernism. It not only questions the traditional beliefs, but also tries to subvert the traditional concepts to provide a change in the concept of ideologies.

The rejection of metanarratives is clearly visible in the movie *Maleficent*. The film *Maleficent* gets its source from themovie *Sleeping Beauty* (1959) based on the fairy tale *The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood* by Charles Perrault. The movie *Maleficent* gives voice to the marginalised character, thus rejecting the meta-narrative of original *Sleeping Beauty*. The movie *Maleficent* has postmodern elements in it such as intertextuality, hyperreality, self-reflexivity, pastiche, parody, simulations, and paranoia. The ideal concept of true love is also subverted in the movie.

Keywords

Postmodernism, metanarrative, intertextuality, hyperreality, self-reflexivity, pastiche, parody, simulations and paranoia.

Corporate Social Responsibility: A Case Study of State Bank of India

¹Nithin Venugopal, ²Benson Kunjukunju and ³Ruby P. George

¹Post Graduate Department of Commerce

MPMMSN Trust College, Shoranur, Kerala, India

² Post Graduate Department of Commerce

Mar Thoma College of Science & Technology Chadayamangalam, Kerala, India

³Post Graduate Department of Commerce

Mar Thoma College of Science and Technology Chadayamangalam, Kerala, India

Email: venugopal.nithin@gmail.com

Abstract

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is becoming an increasingly important activity for businesses nationally and internationally. As globalisation accelerates and large corporations serve as global providers, these corporations have progressively recognised the benefits of providing CSR programmes in their various locations. CSR activities are now being undertaken throughout the globe. Commercial Banks in India are occupied in lots of operations which they showcase as their contribution in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The CSR activities of banks have gained further importance in the wake of new listing guidelines issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and on the introduction of Companies Act 2013. The main objective of this article is to make a study on the CSR spending pattern of Indian commercial banks with special reference to State Bank of India.

Keywords

Banks, Corporate Social Responsibility, Business Responsibility Reporting.

A Study on the Factors Influencing Charitable Giving with Special Reference to Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) in Kerala

¹Leena K. Cherian, ²Abin John, and ³Litty Thomas

¹Department of Commerce, St Thomas College, Kozhencherry, Kerala, India

²Department of Statistics, St Thomas College, Kozhencherry, Kerala, India

³Department of Commerce, St Thomas College, Kozhencherry, Kerala, India

Email: leenarev_83@yahoo.com

Abstract

Giving is not a business transaction. It is a human connection. To inspire donors to give, we need to make a meaningful connection by showing them why they matter and how they can make a difference. When we understand why donors give, we will be able to make a more effective appeal. We become civilised only when we show compassion towards those who are suffering.

Religions teaches us to be compassionate. As per Buddhism, the concept of charity is defined in two terms as "Dana" and "sweat Dana." Dana includes giving, sharing, and selfless giving without anticipation of return or benefit to the giver. Sweat Dana means the giver can donate time and effort such as working in a soup kitchen or on a construction project. In the words of Jesus Christ "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" Islam recommends *Zakat*, which is the third pillar of Islam, or compulsory giving for those Muslims whose incomes are at a particular level. Charity is an essential feature of Dharma- where Hindus believe that through Dharma, the soul will get Moksha. In addition, Government has motivated people to contribute to certain accounts which in turn give certain direct benefits like tax exemption, easily fulfilling the requirements of Corporate Social Responsibility etc. to the individuals and the Corporate. This paper focuses on the donors' perception towards charity giving.

Keywords

Charitable giving, donors' perception, CMDRF, tax exemption, salary challenge, religion.

A Study on the Impact of Merging of SBI and SBT with Special Reference to Kozhencherry Taluk in Kerala

Ria Mammen and Maria Susan Mathew

*Postgraduate Department of Commerce
St Thomas College, Kozhencherry, Kerala, India
Email:mammen.ria@gmail.com*

Abstract

Mergers and acquisitions are among the major aspects of corporate finance world. They allow enterprise to grow, shrink and change the nature of the business. This is no exception in banking industry, as well. A lot of dramatic events like mergers, takeovers, demergers etc. are taking place in the banking industry. Merging and acquisitions can make impact in Bank's performance to a greater extent. This paper analyses the impact of merging of State Bank of India and State Bank of Travancore. It studies the performance of banks and the satisfaction level of the customers. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The data is collected from 50 customers from SBI and SBT prior to merger. The study also enquires the difference in customers' satisfaction among SBI and SBT bank groups. This study is very relevant to know how the banks and its customers and employees react to the emerging challenges arising from merging.

Keywords

Merger of banks, performance of banks, customer satisfaction.