

anthropological perspectives, establishing a model of comparative judgment inspired by Kant's framework. Chapter 5 examines how the nineteenth-century French novel—especially highlighting the works of Balzac and Flaubert, reflects a new aesthetic shaped by colonial history. Drawing on Jacques Ranciere's ideas, the author contends that this literary transformation was not confined to France but was embedded within a broader global context. Challenging the conventional Eurocentric view of literary history, the book illustrates how colonial texts, translations, and depictions of the Orient influenced literary practices. The author suggests that the nineteenth-century French novels represent a World literature, shaped by a multilingual and multicultural logic, driven by the concept of 'literary sovereign.'

Chapter 6 explores the gradual development of English literary history, focusing on how literature transitioned from an autonomous and performative entity to an expression of national identity. Some of these ideas were first expressed as part of the 'literary sovereign' paradigm and were reinforced as they traveled across geographical and intellectual landscapes.

The author's previous book, *Postcolonial Writing in the Era of World Literature: Texts, Territories, Globalizations*, examines surrounding postcolonial studies and world literature, arguing that world literature as an analytical framework is no longer relevant. In this context, when read, this book appears to serve as a prequel to it, laying the groundwork for further discussions and reflections.

The book's engagement with cross-cultural and interdisciplinary issues clashes as well as intersects to shape contemporary literary discourse. It is an essential read for those interested in the entangled worlds of texts and territories, philological inquiries, and the intersections of literary and political power. Furthermore, the book provides valuable tools for decolonizing literary studies by tracing the genealogies of world literature and comparative literature—both deeply rooted in European colonialism.

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INDIAN DIASPORA LITERATURE: A CRITICAL EVALUATION. By Dipak Giri (Ed.). New Delhi: Malik & Sons Publishers & Distributors, 2024. 215 pp.

Dipak Giri's edited book *Indian Diaspora Literature: A Critical Evaluation* is an invaluable addition to Indian Diaspora studies. The most striking quality of this book is that it lays bare the intricacies of the Indian diaspora experience in simple and lucid language. In addition to giving readers a clearer understanding of the rich and varied contributions made by Indian diaspora writers, the book also offers a thorough and perceptive review. The varied experiences of the Indian diaspora are examined in this book using literary and cultural studies. It looks at the difficulties of living in two different worlds, identity formation, and cultural displacement faced by Indian immigrants. The book consists of twenty chapters written by scholars from different states of India. The scholars have contributed to the book, offering a wide range of perspectives on literature from the Indian diaspora. Well-known authors Kiran Desai, V.S. Naipaul, Amitav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni are among those whose works are examined, and their contributions to the topic are insightfully analyzed. A comprehensive understanding of the diaspora experience is provided by the collection, which blends literary analysis with social analyses, historical perspectives, and film studies. The effects of migration on individuals and communities, multiculturalism, interculturalism, and diasporic identity are among the significant subjects covered in the book. In order to show the breadth and complexity of Indian Diaspora writing, it examines a variety of literary forms, such as novels, short stories, poems, and movies.

The book deals with the various forms of migration, including forced displacement (like the indentured labour system) and voluntary migration in search of better opportunities. It analyzes the emotional and psychological impact of leaving one's homeland, including feelings of exile, alienation, and nostalgia. The anthology explores how diasporic individuals negotiate their identities, grappling with the challenges of maintaining their cultural heritage while adapting to new environments. It examines themes of multiculturalism, interculturalism, and the complexities of forming transnational identities.

The book examines how Indian diaspora experiences are reflected in various forms of art, including literature (novels, short stories, and poetry), film, and even folklore. It analyzes how these artistic expressions capture the nuances of diasporic life, from the joys of cultural exchange to the struggles of maintaining cultural traditions. The incisive and thorough collection of academic studies *Indian Diaspora Literature: A Critical Evaluation* explores the various themes, storylines, and experiences found in Indian diaspora literature. Numerous subject-matter specialists put together the anthology, which offers a thorough examination of the ways in which well-known writers from the Indian diaspora portray migration, cultural displacement, and identity problems. A distinct viewpoint on how literature captures the complex lives of immigrants, the subtleties of transcultural identities, and the difficulties of belonging to several worlds is provided by each essay.

D. Amalraj's essay on *One Amazing Thing* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni examines how diverse immigrants, despite their differences, find solace and resilience in each other during moments of adversity, and they find unexplored things "brighter" than what they have. She appeals that everyone should be heard, but that those who are lucky enough to find trustworthy friends are lucky is what makes her work so exceptional. In this context Amalraj's reference from *The Bible* is here quotable, "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (9-10)" This is relevant to family devotional study. For example, "Only when one is in adversity, one can find in a man whether he is really a friend in need or a hypocrite or a betrayer. (10)" Priyanka Singla's analysis of Githa Hariharan's short stories unveils the multi-dimensional layers of diaspora experience, and it showcases how these works reflect the emotional and psychological journeys of the displaced. The book also discusses the writings of other well-known authors, such as Shauna Singh Baldwin, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Rohinton Mistry (with a humanistic and realistic approach), whose stories explore themes of homelessness, alienation, and displacement. The struggles of the characters faced by them in the contemporary world with special reference to Parsi historical identity issues have been examined at length. Sapna Dogra's study on Baldwin's *English Lessons and Other Stories* highlights the diasporic battle with cultural and emotional dislocation, while Dr. Mahalakshmi's assessment of Lahiri's *The Namesake* masterfully examines the difficulties of transcultural identification. The most striking line, according to me, in Chapter 4 is, "Adaptation to a new environment is a complex process that has been studied in both literature and psychology. (33)"

The book broadens its focus beyond literature to examine diaspora perspectives through visual media. An interesting examination of how diaspora is portrayed in a few Indian films is provided by Himakshi Kalita's research on Indian diaspora themes in cinema, which highlights the power of film to bridge cultural divides and influence how people view migration. In addition, Shantilal Ghegade's study on diaspora literature and cinema emphasizes the variety of narrative strategies used by writers and filmmakers to depict the experience of immigrants. Ashish Kumar's chapter beautifully deals with migration and separation through folksongs. With the help of Bhikari Thakur's musical play *Bidesia*, the chapter throws light on the plight of migrants. The central idea present in it is, "Folklore is one of the prominent mediums to express the deep human sentiments, essential aspects of life, social codes, and lived realities of human beings through the orature of a particular society. (51)" As Kalyan Sonawane explores the critical role that media plays in influencing how Indian diaspora literature is understood, the collection also dives into the relationship between media and literature. By means of these analyses, the book demonstrates how the Indian diaspora is a worldwide narrative

that cuts over boundaries, media, and generations, rather than merely being a literary phenomenon. The essays that concentrate on cultural and personal narratives, like those by Sahadev Roy on Amitav Ghosh's *River of Smoke* and Aisha Haleem on *Divakaruni's Sister of My Heart*, offer a moving analysis of the emotional costs of migration as well as the conflicts between assimilation and cultural preservation. It deals with a provocative examination of the Indian indenture experience via Totaram Sanadhya's writings, and Agha Shahid Ali, who called himself "triple exiled," deals with the modern portrayal of Kashmir. With an emphasis on the suffering of exile and the yearning for a lost homeland, these articles highlight the emotional and historical burden that exiled communities bear. The book ends with Giri's chapter on Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*, which deals with challenges and problems faced by immigrants with the help of the characters like Biju, Sayeed, Gyan, Harish, Harry, Sai, etc., the chapter highlights the importance of memory; all characters are "shuttling between past and present. (181)" Displacement and alienation are suffered by everyone.

In short, Dipak Giri's *Indian Diaspora Literature: A Critical Evaluation* is an invaluable resource to the study of Indian diaspora. A good understanding of the rich and varied contributions of Indian diaspora writers is brilliantly provided. The book offers a thorough and perceptive examination and analysis of Indian diaspora literature, providing important insights into the nuances of identity, migration, and cross-cultural interaction in a globalized society. Essentially, anyone interested in exploring the themes of migration, identity, displacement, and the human condition as portrayed in South Asian literature will find these topics valuable.

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