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Joseph Koyippally Joseph

Authorship and Mediation in *Hortus Malabaricus*: Rereading the Erasure of Matteo di San Giuseppe

Abstract

This article rereads *Hortus Malabaricus*¹ as a multilingual and unevenly credited archive of colonial knowledge rather than the achievement of any single authorial figure. While the work has long been attributed to Hendrik Adriaan van Rheede², and more recent scholarship has foregrounded Itty Achuthan as its principal indigenous authority, both accounts can flatten the dense mediations through which Malabar's medico-botanical knowledge entered a European textual regime. Reading the prefaces, testimonials, translation layers, and publication history of the *Hortus* alongside work on colonial bioprospecting and early modern knowledge circulation, it argues that the text emerged through a collaborative but asymmetrical assemblage involving local physicians, translators, editors, engravers, and, crucially, the Discalced Carmelite missionary missionary-botanist Matteo di San Giuseppe³. Matteo's role has been repeatedly minimized because he occupies an awkward place in both colonial and postcolonial narratives: neither sovereign European compiler nor recoverable indigenous source, but a Catholic intermediary whose manuscript labour and visual practices were foundational to the project's early formation. Situated within debates on authorship, textuality, and archive, the *Hortus* appears not as a transparent repository of native knowledge but as a contested textual formation in which authorship itself became a site of power.

Keywords

Hortus Malabaricus, *Viridarium Orientale*, Matteo di San Guisippe, Colonial bio-prospecting, Colonial textualisation, paratextual legitimacy, archival erasure, layered mediation

Reji A.L.

Time, Space and the Dialectics of Memory in Malayalam Fiction

Abstract

This paper examines the intricate relationship between time, space, and memory in select Malayalam novels through the theoretical framework of cultural memory studies. Drawing on the insights of scholars such as Juri Lotman, Pierre Nora, Aleida Assmann, Astrid Erll, and Birgit Neumann, the study explores how literary narratives function as repositories of individual, collective, and cultural memory. The analysis demonstrates that Malayalam fiction preserves and reconstructs the socio-cultural histories of Kerala by intertwining personal recollections with broader historical, political, and communal experiences. Through representations of ancestral homes, villages, landscapes, ritual spaces, and sites of historical significance, these novels transform geographical locations into dynamic memory spaces that shape identity and cultural consciousness. The study investigates works by major Malayalam writers including O. Chandu Menon, C. V. Raman Pillai, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, O. V. Vijayan, M. T. Vasudevan Nair, M. Mukundan, Anand, Sarah Joseph, K. R. Meera, and Narayan, among others. It argues that memory in these narratives operates as a dialectical process of remembering and forgetting, enabling the negotiation of history, trauma, community, and selfhood across generations. Ultimately, the paper establishes Malayalam fiction as a significant cultural archive that preserves the collective memory of Kerala while continuously reimagining the past in relation to the present.

Keywords

Cultural Memory; Malayalam Fiction; Collective Identity; Memory Spaces; Historical Consciousness; Narrative Representation

Preeti Kumar
Tania Mary Vivera

The Politics of Humour: Analyzing the Strategies of Humour in Select Indian Political Cartoons

Abstract

The myriad ways in which visual storytelling shapes cultural narratives, influences societal perspectives, and engages audiences across diverse range of genres has been central to the rapidly evolving discipline of visual media studies. However, one area of study that requires long-term engagement is that of the topical single panel cartoons, which are both cultural artefacts as well as mediators of public opinion, that appear in newspapers and periodic news magazines. This paper studies selected political cartoons of two prominent publications of India – the *Times of India* newspaper and the *India Today* news journal – to decipher parallels in the modalities of humour during the period 1975-2000, when newsprint and news journals were not challenged by their digital counterparts and, therefore, had greater power to construct and constitute popular opinion. The paper argues that the cartoon metaphor is not easily accessible by the public and utilizes the Conceptual Metaphor Theory and Conceptual Blending theory to analyse the aesthetic, formalistic, historical, and cultural complexities in the discursive framing of the cartoon imagery thereby highlighting how cartoons do not lend itself to easy comprehension and that newspaper and magazine political cartoons demand varied levels of conceptual cognition in interpretation.

Keywords

Political cartoons, Conceptual Metaphor, Conceptual Blending, Humour, Indian cartoons

Deepa Mary Joseph

Matrimonial Advertisements in Kerala Society-A Sociolinguistic Approach

Abstract

Sociolinguistics is a linguistic methodology which tries to study the language using the social and linguistic variables. It examines the correlation between social variables and linguistic variable. Sociolinguistics methodology has focused on the analysis of the language and society in order to study the social and linguistic variables. Every language bound with distinctive culture and social structure. The study of particular language also helps to understand the social and cultural structures of the society in which the language exists. This study focuses on the advertisements which have been placed for finding the prospective brides and grooms. Matrimonial advertisements are one of the major categories in the classified of the print media and electronic media. Though the advertisements contain a genuine cause of finding out the perfect partner, it also carries the social and religious aspects of one's life. The match happens only on the basis of certain criteria. These criteria contain the social variables as religion, social status, caste, education, job and family heritage. In this context, Marriage Advertisements are not merely advertisements to find a life partner, rather a social discourse in the system of language

Keywords

Sociolinguistics, Matrimonial advertisements, Partner, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, CSI Nadar, Bride, Groom

Jayalakshmi E.
Shalini Moolechalil

Metabolic Rift, Alienation, and Environmental Degradation: A Marxist Ecological Reading of Sarah Joseph's *Aathi*

Abstract

Environmental degradation and climate change have emerged as dominant themes in both international and domestic literary contexts. Among the many interdisciplinary methodological approaches that have been developed to comprehend this diverse field, Marxist ecological criticism stands out as a significant approach that prompts us to look at the metabolic relationship between nature and material life, emphasising the socio-economic dimensions of climate change and environmental pollution. This paper attempts a Marxist ecological reading of Malayalam woman writer Sarah Joseph's novel titled *Aathi* (translated into English as *Gift in Green*), aiming to understand the intricate connections between nature and material life. Additionally, it seeks to identify how social and cultural locations influence the categorization of privileged and vulnerable groups.

Keywords

Marxist ecology, environmental fiction, metabolic rift, alienation.

Shibin L. Das
Manu T.

Islamophobia in Sports: Intersectional Perspectives on Exclusion, Resistance, and Cultural Politics

Abstract

Islamophobia in sports has emerged as a critical issue at all levels, from everyday grassroots discrimination to global media controversies. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of Islamophobia in sports through an academic lens, drawing on evidence from 25 scholarly sources and recent events. We apply critical race theory, intersectionality, and postcolonial perspectives to understand how anti-Muslim prejudice in sport reflects broader societal tensions around race, religion, gender, and national identity. Key findings reveal that Islamophobia manifests in multiple forms, including hate speech, exclusionary policies (e.g., hijab bans), and biased media portrayals, yet the resilience and agency of Muslim athletes and communities continuously contest these. Muslim participants respond by creating inclusive sporting spaces, mounting advocacy campaigns, and leveraging star athletes' influence to counter stereotypes. Our discussion interprets these patterns as a form of structural racism and cultural "othering" embedded in sport, while highlighting how Muslim athletes' resistance challenges both overt bigotry and subtler marginalization. The conclusion calls for multi-level interventions from inclusive policies and education to media responsibility and community initiatives, to combat Islamophobia and foster genuinely inclusive sports cultures. Ultimately, while sports have often mirrored Islamophobic exclusion, they also hold potential as platforms for resilience, solidarity, and transformative change.

Keywords

Islamophobia, Sports, Critical Race Theory, Intersectionality, Postcolonialism, Anti-Muslim Prejudice, Structural Racism, Cultural Othering

P. Sivashankari
M. Sudha Devi

Survival under Patriarchy: The Psychological Toll on Women in Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus* and Tsitsi Dangarembga's *This Mournable Body*

Abstract

This research explores the complex psychological impact on women living under patriarchal systems in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus* and Tsitsi Dangarembga's *This Mournable Body*. By placing these stories within the context of Crenshaw's intersectionality theory, the study examines the intersection of gender-based oppression, cultural expectations, and postcolonial influences, highlighting their significant effects on female identity and mental well-being. In *Purple Hibiscus*, Kambili Achike represents the quiet suffering of women confined by authoritarian family structures. Her father's strict adherence to patriarchal and religious dogma creates an environment filled with physical and emotional violence, damaging her sense of self and autonomy. In contrast, *This Mournable Body* traces Tambudzai Sigauke's journey into deep despair, illustrating the layered trauma stemming from systemic misogyny, internalised colonial beliefs, and unmet dreams. Tambudzai's fractured mental state reflects the damaging consequences of patriarchal and colonial oppression on her self-image, further complicated by her vulnerable economic situation. This paper examines the thematic connections between trauma, agency, and resistance, showing how patriarchal oppression is sustained through both blatant systems and subtle cultural practices. The journeys of the protagonists reveal the ongoing cycle of shame, guilt, and isolation that women face, as well as the empowering potential of resistance and solidarity in reclaiming their identities. By comparing these narratives, the research highlights the widespread nature of gendered oppression while recognising the unique socio-historical and cultural factors that influence women's experiences in Nigeria and Zimbabwe. The study highlights the pressing necessity to break down patriarchal and neo-colonial systems to ease the psychological and social challenges faced by women. By examining how these realities are portrayed in literature, this paper adds to wider discussions on gender, power, and resilience, calling for transformative approaches that enable women to rise above the socio-psychological limitations imposed by patriarchy.

Keywords

Patriarchy, trauma, oppression, resistance, resilience

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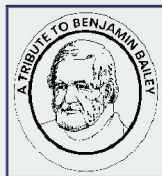
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