



A Postmodern Study on Fictions of Anita Desai, Kiran Desai and Arundhati Roy

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Abstract

Postmodernism in Indian English fiction has significantly transformed conventional approaches to narrative, identity, culture, history, and social reality. This study examines selected fictional works of Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, and Arundhati Roy from a postmodern perspective, focusing on their distinctive narrative techniques and representations of fragmented identities, displacement, cultural hybridity, memory, gender, and marginalized experiences. Anita Desai's fiction explores psychological complexities, alienation, loneliness, and the inner conflicts of individuals negotiating between personal desires and social expectations. Kiran Desai presents themes of migration, globalization, cultural dislocation, and fractured identities, reflecting the uncertainties of contemporary life. Arundhati Roy, meanwhile, employs nonlinear narratives, multiple perspectives, linguistic experimentation, and fragmented temporal structures to challenge established social, political, and cultural hierarchies. The study analyzes how these writers question notions of fixed identity, absolute truth, linear history, and unified cultural experience. Their fiction frequently juxtaposes personal and collective histories while exposing the contradictions produced by colonial legacies, globalization, patriarchy, class divisions, and social inequality. Through irony, intertextuality, narrative fragmentation, symbolism, and hybrid linguistic expressions, the selected writers demonstrate important characteristics of postmodern literary discourse. The study argues that their fiction provides a complex representation of contemporary Indian society in which tradition and modernity, locality and globalization, and individual and collective identities constantly interact. Their works therefore contribute substantially to the development of postmodern sensibility in Indian English literature.

Keywords: Postmodernism, Indian English Fiction, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Arundhati Roy, Fragmentation, Identity, Cultural Hybridity, Displacement, Globalization, Gender, Narrative Techniques.