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# THE INTERIORS

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**Editor**

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## EDITORIAL

Literature is indeed the most explicit record of the human spirit. It is a medium through which the essence of our living is made paramount by linking it to imaginative experiences. A creative writer has the perception and the analytic mind of a sociologist who provides an exact record of human life, society and social system. Fiction, of all the literary genres, is the most characteristic and powerful form of literary expression. It is in fact the latest of living forms to be evolved and the most dominant in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Literature reflects not only the social reality but also shapes the complex ways in which man and woman organise themselves, their inter-personal relationships and perception of the socio-cultural reality. The attitude of the author towards men and women portrayed by him in his works and the attitudes of the characters, male and female to one another highlight the gender relationships as well as the author's attitude towards these relationships. The author explores and examines the varied shades of relationship in all their bewildering complexity. And this process covers the entire gamut of human experiences, the most significant being the man-woman relationship.

Indian English novelists, especially women novelists have dealt with family relationships with seriousness as the traditional heritage of India attaches great importance to the family unit. Writers like Kamala Markandaya, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Bharati Mukherjee, Manju Kapur, Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai, Shobha De et al have extensively dealt with the theme of man-woman relationship in their writings. The Indian society which had been so conventional and tradition-bound could not remain impervious to the new forces that had started slowly influencing it through education and social awareness. This brought about a change in the prevalent attitudes and beliefs and accelerated a tendency which favoured a new order in place of the old—from the narrow confines of the four walls of the house to the wider canvas of the society. The women novelists in English through the sensitive portrayal of the psychic conflicts and the psychological contours of modern women have tried to underline the importance of subverting the established stereotypes and replacing them with more sensible, sophisticated and sensitive women. Such women undoubtedly play a major supportive role in the family and society without neglecting their conventionally attributed domestic responsibilities. Modern women are progressive and conscious of their rights but at the same time realize that their real positions lie within the family unit which she must sustain and protect.

The present volume of *The Interiors* comprises twenty seven papers ranging from G.B. Shaw's anti romantic stance to Arthur Miller's psychoanalytic approach and Hemingway's allegorical world; from Kiran Desai's existential alienation to the feminist world of R. K. Narayan, Shashi Deshpande and Bapsi Sidhwa; from the Dalit vision of Mulk Raj Anand, Arundhati Roy, Aravind Adiga

and Om Prakash Valmiki to Ruskin Bond's world of children and from the dramatic world of Shakespeare to the poetic sensibility of Toru Dutt. Besides, there are research papers related to the theme of identity crisis in the writings of Amitav Ghosh, Rama Mehta and Taslima Nasrin. A couple of scholars have focused on the narrative technique of Rohinton Mistry and Khaled Hosseini in their papers. Some recent writers like Zia Jaffrey, A. Revathi, Tuhin A. Sinha, Jasvinder Sanghera have also been given proper space in the present issue of the Journal. Besides, the scholars have discussed the status of Indo-Anglian Fiction in pre-independence India and the role of meaning in English language in their papers. In addition to the scholarly papers a few poems have also been included in creative writing section of the Journal.

The challenging task of publishing the present issue of the Journal has been possible only because of the constant encouragement of my mother, Dr. V. R. Agrawal, former Professor and Head, Dept. of Sanskrit, Post-Graduate Centre, Gaya College, Gaya (Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya) who shaped my personality and raised me to the height where I am. I invoke her grace for any good that I may do in this life. I feel obliged to the members of the Advisory Board, to the panel of reviewers and the Editorial Board but for whose continuous support and encouragement this Journal would not have seen the light of the day. I am really grateful to Dr. B. N. Sahay, former Professor and Head, Department of English, Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya for going through most of the papers minutely and giving valuable suggestions. I thank all the contributors, especially the research scholars for their contributions. I also thank my departmental colleagues, friends, well wishers and all associates who rendered support to me in one way or the other.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not record my thanks to my wife, Ms. Shalini Agrawal (M.Sc., Botany) whose active and ungrudging help proved fruitful in completing the work requiring sustained and patient labour, undivided attention and pointed concentration. I also bless my sons Arush Agrawal and Ansal Agrawal for helping me a lot in the completion of the project. Sri Ajay Kumar, Proprietor, Shivam Computer Press, too deserves thanks who designed and printed the Seventh issue of the Journal.

Finally, I invite the active co-operation from readers in the endeavour to promote a proper understanding of literature as an aid to make living really worthwhile. Constructive criticism and suggestions from scholars are earnestly solicited for the improvement of the Journal in future issues.

1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018

Neeraj Kumar