

Issue No. 43, July 2021

ISSN: Print 2229-6557

Online 2394-9244

An affiliate of



tesol
international
association



An associate of
International Association of
Teachers of English as a
Foreign Language, U.K.

fortell

**Journal of
Teaching English
Language and Literature**



Forum for Teachers of
English Language and
Literature
www.fortell.org

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

5

ARTICLES

1. Conceptualizing the Ambedkarian Ethic of Care: Pandemic, Prejudice and Otherness
Mukesh Kumar Bairva 7
2. Towards an Understanding of Dalit Theory: The Debates in *The Cracked Mirror*
Vandana 18
3. The Pedagogical Potential of Dalit Life Writings
Meenakshi Malhotra 30
4. The Common Cultural Forms as an Aesthetic Tool in Bangla Dalit Poetry
Brati Biswas 41
5. *The Outcaste*: An Intersectionality of Self, Community and Nation
Provakar Palaka 51
6. Poetry, Politics and Dalit Imagination: Madan Veera and His Poetic Canvas
Narender Kumar 59
7. Emergence of Marathi Dalit Periodicals: A Brief Survey
Bageshree R. Bageshwar 70
8. Urban Middle Class Dilemma: A Social Psychological Review of Ajay Navaria's *Unclaimed Terrain*
Deepak Chaudhary 78
9. Social Realism and Dalit Sensibility in Devanoora Mahadeva's *Kusumabale*
Shibangi Dash 91
10. Reading Rajat Rani Meenu's Early Short Fiction: Laying the Foundations of Hindi Dalit Women's Writings
Abhinav Piyush 102

Reading Rajat Rani Meenu's Early Short Fiction: Laying the Foundations of Hindi Dalit Women's Writings

Abhinav Piyush

Abstract

In the now established Hindi Dalit literary sphere, several women writers have emerged to contest social and literary erasure, forced silencing and subordination in the last three decades. The emerging writings of Hindi Dalit women authors illustrate their negotiations with the intersectional realities of caste, class, gender and space as well as their inaccessibility to the print culture. This paper examines the early short fiction of Rajat Rani Meenu to understand the epistemic foundations of Hindi Dalit women's writings and their emergence as a politicized and radical entity. While registering the Ambedkarite influences, Meenu has provided a literary architecture to the emergence of contemporary Dalit political icons like Mayawati in her story *Sunita*. Her other story *Ve Din* (Those Days) becomes a rallying cry to foreground the relevance of gender critique in an already activated Dalit literary sphere.

Keywords: Hindi Dalit literature, Hindi Dalit women's writings, Dalit feminism, Dalit consciousness, education

Introduction

Rajat Rani Meenu's story *Sunita* (1995) is a narrative around an eponymous character where a model of testimonial narrative is put to use which almost reminds the reader about the autobiographical mould of literary representation of the early Hindi Dalit writings in the late 1980s and 1990s. It fictionalizes a young Dalit woman's aspirations to get education and having realized the hostility and brutality of the prevalent caste-ridden

Self-attested