



INDIA UNRAVELLED

The Representation of Women in Literature and Society

A Special Issue on

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
(75 Years of Indian Independence)

Editor

P. V. Laxmiprasad



Lata

Arjun S. Nair

Quintessence of the Sublime: Women in Select Novels of Sudha Murthy

Anju S Nair

Women dominate their own experience by imagining it, giving it form and writing about it. Their imaginative versions of themselves as supporters of the social structure, guardians of the species, and possessors of wisdom unavailable to men – versions derived partly from the arrogance of anger – in effect re-create the “mighty female deity”. In their exact recording of inner and outer experience they establish women’s claim for attention as individuals. They define, for themselves and for their readers, woman as she is and as she dreams. “We are indications of a development of womanhood which is not yet recognised. It has, so far, no ready-made channels to run in. But still we have looked and tried, and found that the present rules for women will not hold us, – that something better and stronger is needed.... There are women to come after us, who will approach nearer the fullness of the measure of the stature of a woman’s nature” (cited in Showalter 100).

However, in writing about herself the woman is also reaching into writing and her story will more obviously be informed by a dynamics of ‘self-becoming’. She can break through restrictions, both real and self-imposed, to have it ‘her own way’ in her writing. In speaking to herself as the imagined other, in writing a monologue as she says, she is also acting out her need to be heard and this to some extent thwarts her writing, making her conceal emotionally as much as she reveals.

Sudha Murthy in her novels, *Mahasweta*, *Gently falls the Bakula* and *House of cards* puts forward the fact that killing the angel is a revolt against male domination, and neglect of women. It is a fight to restore self-respect and an effort to establish equality. In a sense it is a



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P.V. Laxmiprasad, M.A. PhD is an eminent academician, an erudite scholar, a literary critic, a resource person and a senior editor. He has so far published 40 books in English literature. Basically, his area of research interest is Literary Criticism. Besides, he has to his credit 70 research papers, 120 poems, 55 book reviews, a few translations and held interviews with literary legends. He has published research papers in UGC Care Enlisted and foreign journals. All his publications speak of outstanding credentials and long standing contribution to literature. His research interests include Indian Writing in English, English language Teaching and Literary Criticism. Overall, he has 300 publications to his credit. He has a strong passion for literature and music. Currently, he is teaching in the Department of English, Satavahana University, Karimnagar, Telangana.

Contact details: 07989446153

Mail Id: laxmiprasad.puram@gmail.com



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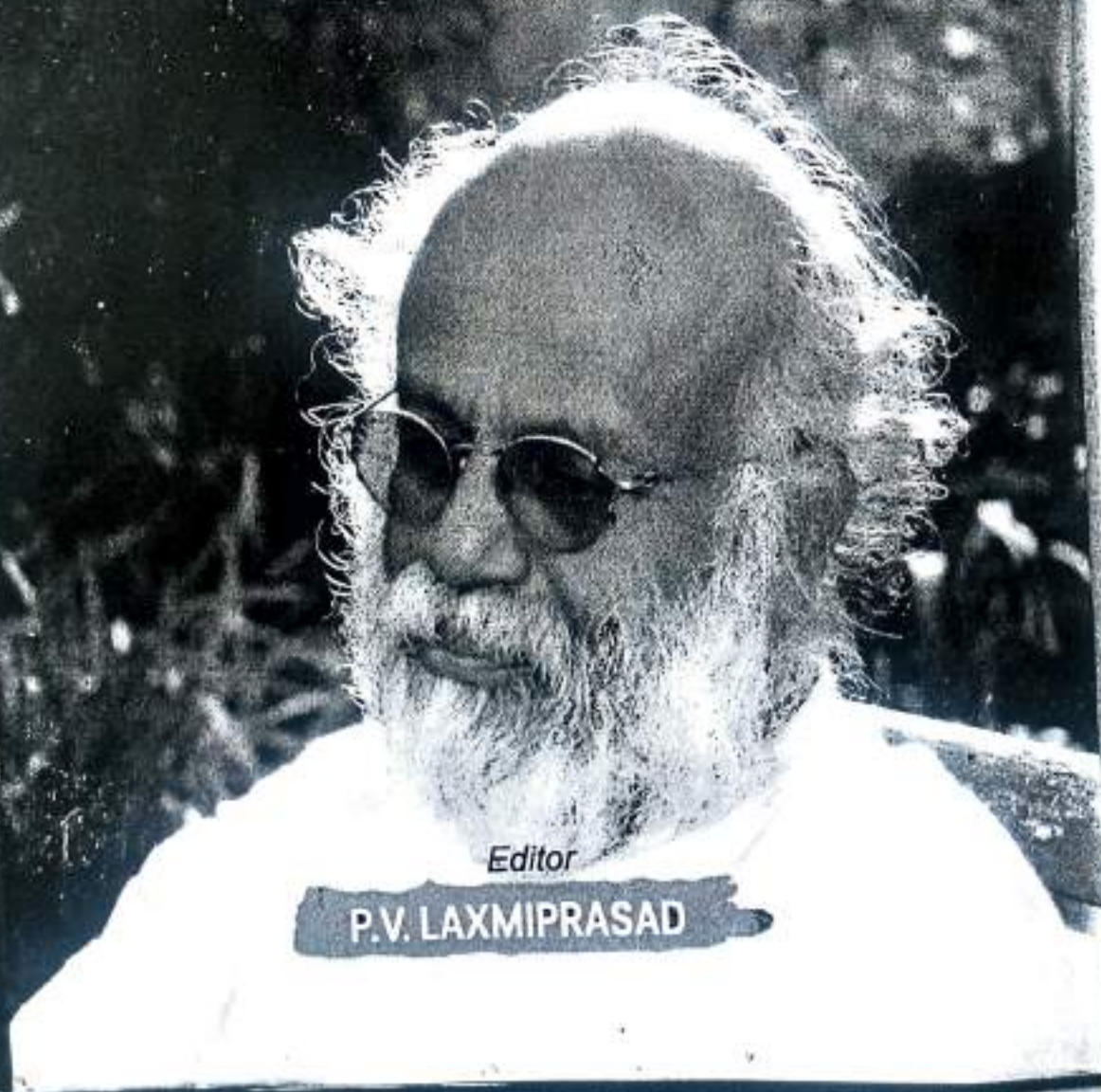


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The Novels of Daya Dissanayake

Critical Expositions



Editor

P.V. LAXMIPRASAD

Angus S. Ravi

CHAPTER 5

Daya Dissanayake's *Moonstone*: An Inner Journey towards Consciousness

Anju S. Nair

"Anicca vata sankhara. Everything in this world is impermanent. We live in an ever-changing world, while we ourselves are changing."

The human ideal is exemplified in the words of Hamlet, "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty!

Scholasticism ushered in an era of rational thought which led to several scientific inventions that opened man's eyes to the unexplored realms of the universe. While geographical discoveries revealed the existence of new lands and other cultures, there was an urge to question the traditional. With the advent of modernism there was an earnest concern for the new realities of human life and a desire to recreate it. In writing, the writers manipulated plot and language to create new narratives that defy chronology and clear-cut interpretations. The Sri Lankan writer Daya Dissanayake's novel "*Moonstone*" is concerned with the response of man in the face of situations that compel an individual to make a moral choice. The protagonist of the novel, Sandaruwan has a fantastic conception of himself – he thinks he is infinite. Sandaruwan was a billionaire businessman, living on his own little island. His father was still living the life of a poor farmer, all alone in a remote village in Sri Lanka. Sandaruwan was obsessed with the idea that he had to look after his father and provide him with the same luxurious life. Sandaruwan decides the best way is to get his father to be born as his own son.

The development takes place in the mind of the protagonist with the philosophical concept of rebirth that influences him. As rightly said by Tagore, the "mind has its necessity also. It must find out reason in things. It is faced with a multiplicity of facts, and is

the nation have established that the novels of Daya Dissanayake are strongly rooted in the meaning of life, reflection of deeper realities, life of re-incarnation, element of regression, life of inner journey, application of eutheics, ecological wisdom, title significance and spiritual pursuits and etc. This is where Daya Dissanayake speaks through myriad characters and themes. If the land of Sri Lanka figures regionally, it is universal exploration of issues like ecological wisdom and spiritual pursuit speak it eventually in all his novels. The revelations are but universal and appealing when we turn around each page. All his novels absorb the readers and engage them in serious attention. Cultural heritage and traditional history weave the literary thread of his novels. That is his class and scholarship as a creative writer.

– P.V. Laxmiprasad

The Novels of Daya Dissanayake

Critical Expositions



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THE FICTION UNFOLDED

Critical Gazes on Indian Women Novelists in English



Editor

Sr. Candy D' Cunha

Datta

Anju S. Nair

**Documenting Reality: Kavery Nambisan's
The Story That Must Not Be Told as a
Social Narrative**

Anju S Nair

The word 'slum' brings to mind myriad images ranging from an endless stretch of tin roofed and thatched roofed settlements, the noise, to the looks of its inhabitants. Ironically it is a part of a city but unlike the city's high-rises' which are synonymous with the influential and the wealthy, this area of the city is where the poor live, the densely populated urban areas marked by crowding dirty ransom housing, poverty and social disorganisation. Slum can be defined as 'A residential area where dwellings are unfit for human habitation by reasons of dilapidation, overcrowding, lack of ventilation or sanitation facility and having drinking water facilities in unhygienic condition'.

These places were occupied by those people with insufficient resources. As informal (and often illegal) housing, slums are often defined by: Unsafe and/or unhealthy homes, overcrowded homes, limited or no access to basic services, unstable homes, no secure land tenure. The state of affairs illustrated the impecunious state of its inhabitants. The absence of requirements/necessities of life propelled the inhabitants to do odd jobs for sustenance. Often the urge for money paved the way to the rise of many antisocial elements and activities in society. Lack of means for education and lack of means of survival forced them to take to iniquitous ways. The situation is so grim that it becomes the face of the bad guys.



Dr. Sr. Candy D' Cunha, M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of English at Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering and Technology, Vijayawada, A.P. India. She is the author of the book *Keys of Life* published in 2005 by Efficient Printers - Mumbai. She has edited two volumes on *English Language and Literature in the Era of Globalization I & II*, published by the Authors Press, New Delhi. *Ecosophical Vision and Self-Realization in Margaret Atwood's Poetry* was published by Academica Press, Washington-London. She has also published another critical work on *Eco-criticism in the USA*. Dr. Candy has published another critical work entitled *Existential Dilemma in the Novels of Rabindranath Tagore* by Aadi Publication, Jaipur, India. Further, in her pursuit of research she has co-edited a critical book *Contours of Shiv K. Kumar's Poetry: Relevance and Rediscovery* by Authors Press, New Delhi. She has a number of National and International publications to her credit. She has attended many International and National Seminars and workshops and delivered guest lectures at many reputed Institutions. She has been honoured with an award for all-round proficiency from Hungary in the year 2012. She was awarded the best teacher of Vijayawada by the Commissionerate of Archaeology and Museum, Government of Andhra Pradesh on March 14th 2008. She has worked on International book project on Ecology, guest edited by Dr. Ross S. S. Eastern University of Michigan, USA. Apart from being a researcher, she is also a good singer. She has done her TESOL certificate course from an American Institute. Dr. Sr. Candy is a versatile and a committed scholar, possessing a strong vision and is deeply convinced of her mission to serve the poor and the marginalized. From her early childhood, she dedicated her life to the poor and the needy sharing with them their love and compassion.



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The Poetry of
Raamaa Chandramouli
Critical Perspectives



Editor: P.V. Laxmiprasad

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Critical Study of Humanistic Concerns

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Exploration of Multiple Worlds

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The Nativist Vision of Life in the Works of
Basavaraj Naikar



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The Poetry of
I.K. Sharma

New Tracks and Literary Swings

A Volume of Critical Essays

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in the Novels of PCK Prem



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AUTHORS

1. Dr. S. Balakrishnan
2. Dr. K. Binu
3. Prof. Balakumar
4. Dr. Sumathy K Swamy
5. N. Brincha
6. Dr. C. Chitra
7. Dr. R. Dlayala Kirshasa
8. Dr. K. Fatima Mary
9. G. M. Gayathri, **Dr. Anju S. Mohr**
10. Dr. B.J. Geetha
11. Girija Gupte
12. Ms. R.K. Jaishree Karthiga
13. Ms. V. Jeya Santhi,
Dr. Catherine Edward, Dr. R. Selvam
14. Dr. K. Mangayarkarasi
15. V. Nithiya Parameswari
16. Dr. P. Padmini, M. V. Arumugam
17. B.P. Pereira
18. Dr. P. Rajendran
19. Dr. S. Ramanathan
20. Ms. R. Rohini
21. Dr. M. Rosary Royer
22. O. Sasi Devi
23. Dr. C. L. Shilaja
24. Dr. A. Soundara Rajan, Ms. K.A. Aparna
25. Dr. M. Subbiah
26. V. R. Suresh Kumar, M. Janet Jonitha
27. P. Tharini, Dr. V. Sangeetha
28. Mr. A. Vignesh Kumar, Dr. A. Selvam
29. Dr. T. Visumathi

Edited by
Dr. S. Balakrishnan



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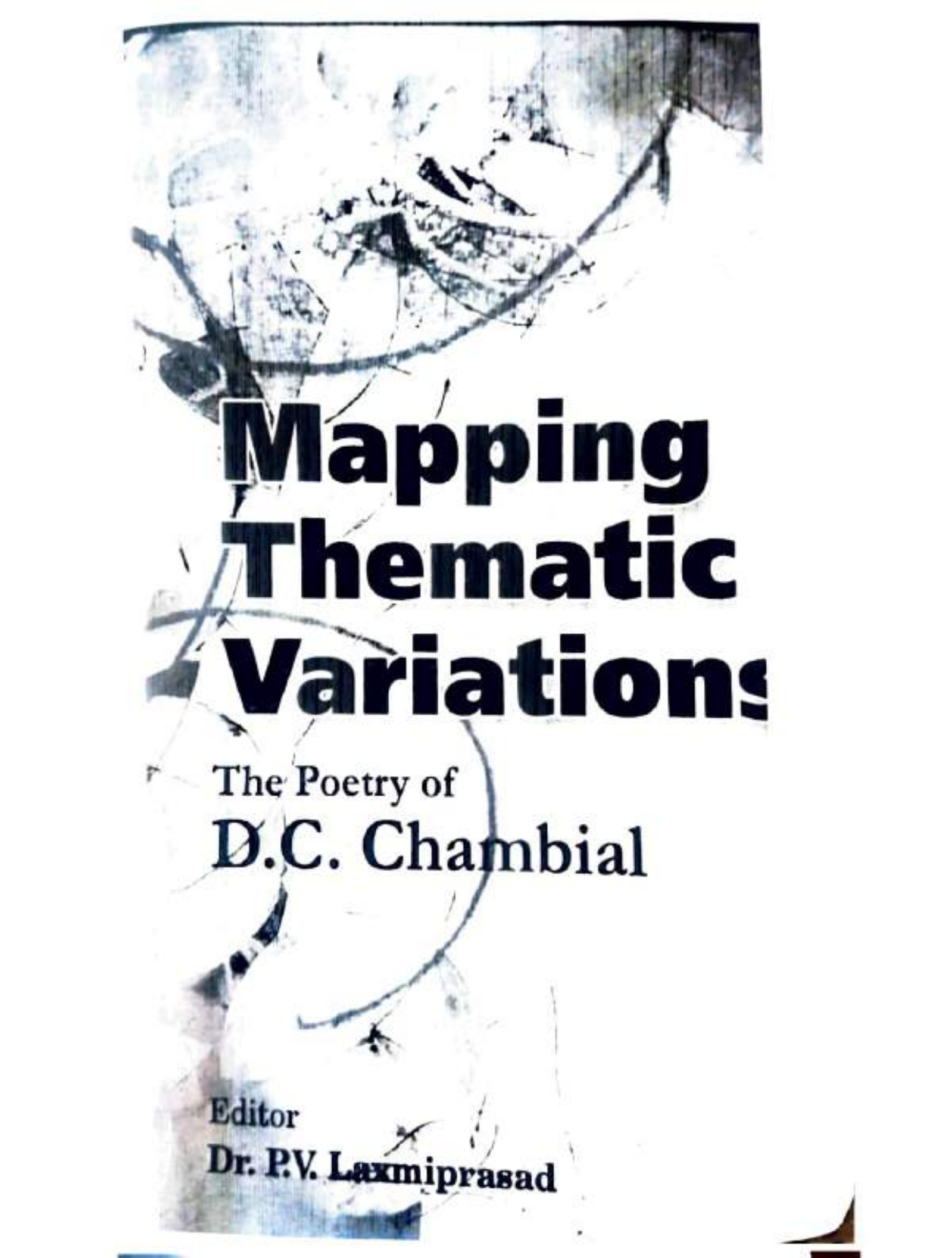
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DR.ANJU S.NAIR

List of Contributors

Global Literary Vistas



Department of English
Udaya College of Arts & Science
Vellamodi, Ammandivilai Post - 629 204
Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India.

RAJ PATHIPPAGAM

3E, North Street, Kurasady, Nagercoil - 629 004

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