

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Themes, Perspectives and
Appropriations

Edited by
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Mapping Personal Trauma in Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*

Dr Suruchi Sharma and Dr Kusum Kanger

Michael Ondaatje's name needs no introduction in Sri Lankan Diasporic Literature as he is one of the shining stars who have radiated and enriched the world of English Literature through his creative oeuvre. He is a Canadian poet, filmmaker, novelist and editor. He is a versatile litterateur who was born in Colombo, Ceylon on 12 September 1943. He spent his childhood in England because his family moved to England in 1954 and after few years in 1962, his family went to Canada. He got his bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto and master's degree from Queen's University, Kingston in 1967. He began his writing career with a poetry collection *The Dainty Monsters* (1967). He published thirteen anthologies also. He also won many prestigious awards and honours for his dedication to English Literature. His noteworthy works are *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* (1970), *Running in the Family* (1982), *In the Skin of the Lion* (1987), *The English Patient* (1992), *Anil's Ghost* (2000), *Divisadero* (2007), *The Cat's Table* (2011), *Warlight* (2018), etc. His novels have been written primarily on the identity crisis and the personal traumas of his characters. A. K. Lakshmi and Dr W. S. Kottiswari also write that "Michael Ondaatje's fiction abound with people of multiple identities and consciousness" (311). It is also a noteworthy point in his novels that his novels have been written in the background of war, and the human predicaments, tragedies, death, loss, identity crisis, etc.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Themes, Perspectives and Appropriations

Literature is the storehouse of human experience and knowledge. In modern times, its written forms perform a fundamental cultural role to reproduce and reflect upon the present, past and future. This is done imaginatively through its subject matter and formal strategies from time to time. It is generally believed to be a primary vehicle to disseminate, stabilize and popularize the experience and ideas of the most agile individuals of different countries. Literary forms change with historical transitions, but the essence of human and non-human Truth in its plural characters continues to affirm this mode of human creativity. The anthology *English Literature: Themes, Perspectives and Appropriations* comprises of twenty-eight research papers from engaged readers of literature — various faculty members and research scholars from different states of India. This anthology addresses a wide variety of themes and perspectives ranging from different classes, religions, races, communities and countries. The papers included here encompass novelists, poets, playwrights and short-story writers from all over the world. The themes related to caste, class, gender, patriarchy, diaspora, racism, post-colonialism, modernism, mutual relations, tensions, traumas, etc. have been given appropriate place and adequate space. It is hoped that this anthology will prove very beneficial to the research scholars, independent researchers, teachers, professors and all others who have keen interest to do research in Literatures in English.



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