

MULTIFACETED VIGNETTES OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

Edited by

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Dr Vinod K. Chopra and Dr Avinash Kumar

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CONTEXTUALISING CONFLICTS IN R. K.
NARAYAN'S *THE VENDOR OF SWEETS*

DR SURUCHI SHARMA

There are many writers who have enriched Indian Writing in English by their works in different genres. Among these, there are many male and female writers who have written their works in different genres and in different styles. These writers have enriched English literature in different periods. Many Indian writers have also earned much accolade due to their quality works and these writers have won many prestigious awards and honours. Among these, there are three writers Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R. K. Narayan who are known as the "Big Three" (Walsh 32) of Indian Writing in English. These writers are the pillars of Indian Writing in English on which the foundation of Indian Writing in English has been laid. R. K. Narayan is one of the reputed international writers who is widely known as a widely published writer. His works present the whole microcosm of rural Indian society and the influence of local traditions, myths and ideologies. R. K. Narayan has ridiculed the evils of the society in such a manner that nobody can understand that he has indirectly criticised the Indian society.

R. K. Narayan's full name is Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan. He was born on 10 October 1906 in Chennai and died of cardio-respiratory failure on 13 May 2001 in Chennai. He was brought up by his grandmother. He completed his education at the age of twenty-four and decided to become a teacher. He started writing novels also. His first novel *Swami and Friends* (1935) narrates the episodic narratives of the adventures of a group of schoolboys. It is generally seen that most of his works are set in the fictitious town of Malgudi. Though Narayan has written 34 novels and many short-story collections but his famous novels are

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Multifaceted Vignettes of English Literature is a remarkable contribution to the prevailing body of scholarship on English Literature that contains assorted range of essays on English Literature. This book is a sincere shot to explore numerous themes from the most popular genres of literature that makes it an intuitive crusade into the literary tradition. The scholars have made a foray into the minds of galaxy of writers and have successfully critically assessed their works. The present anthology establishes well-marked common threads between plethora of issues such as Feminism, Post-colonial Study, African American Literature, Australian Literature, Diaspora Literature, Aboriginal Literature, British Literature, Dalit Literature, Indian Writing in English, etc. The reality presented in the works explored in this anthology usually indicates purposive bearing of the author concerned. The essays included in this volume offer an insight of different theoretical and ideological perspectives along with their practical application to literary works. This anthology, unquestionably, will be relevant for the scholars of English Literature interested in understanding and analyzing literature from using various ideological perspectives and it will become the artistic expression of what Matthew Arnold maintains "the best that is known and thought in the world."

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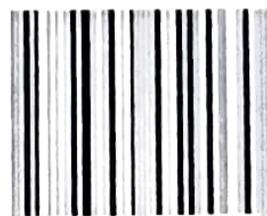
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