



A  
Conglomeration  
of  
Literature,  
Language and Theory

*Edited by*  
Dr C. Ramya

Copyright © Editor  
Dr C. Ramya

First Published: 2022  
A Conglomeration of Literature, Language and Theory  
ISBN: 978-93-92459-05-4

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored, adapted, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopying, micro-filming recording or otherwise, or translated in any language — without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and the publisher. Authors concerned are solely responsible for their views, opinions, policies, copyright infringement, legal action, penalty or loss of any kind regarding their articles. Neither the publisher nor the editors will be responsible for any penalty or loss of any kind if claimed in future. Contributing authors have no right to demand any royalty amount for their articles.

*Published by*

**MALIK AND SONS**  
**PUBLISHERS & DISTRIBUTORS**

---

C-293A, Street No. 3, West Karawal Nagar, New Delhi - 110094

Mob.: 9953879692 E-mail: malikandsonspub@gmail.com

Typesetting at: R.S. Print, New Delhi

Printed at: Research Printing Press, New Delhi

34. Jawaharlal Nehru's <i>An Autobiography</i> : A Critical Assessment .....	233
Dr Mamta Rani	
35. Contextualising Feminism: Patriarchal Pressure in Monika Ali's <i>The Brick Lane</i> .....	239
Dr Kusum Kanger	
36. Patriarchy, Pain and Powerlessness: East-West Encounter in Jhumpa Lahiri's <i>The Namesake</i> .....	245
Dr Suruchi Sharma	
<i>Index</i> .....	253

# 36

## **PATRIARCHY, PAIN AND POWERLESSNESS: EAST-WEST ENCOUNTER IN JHUMPA LAHIRI'S *THE NAMESAKE***

**DR SURUCHI SHARMA**

---

Several feminist movements have emphasised to ensure the equal social, political and economical rights for the women but when these women have to stay in a foreign culture, their survival becomes quite difficult. It is merely a conviction that all the human beings regardless of their gender, class, religion, ethnicity and castes are being treated in the social, economical and legal arenas. It is merely a false statement as Simone de Beauvoir says, "One is not born, but rather becomes, woman. No biological, psychical or economic destiny defines the figure that the human female takes own in society; it is civilisation as a whole that elaborates this intermediary product. . . that is called feminine" (293).

It has been depicted in many postcolonial novels in which the female characters have to go to a foreign land for their personal reasons. Some of them get a shocking experience there because women have to face double or triple marginalisation even in their own country. They have to face the next level of marginalisation on the basis of their culture and country. Apart from it, they face a severe identity crisis also. Some people think "identity as a production, which is never complete, always in process, and always constituted within, not outside representation" (Hall 10).

*The Namesake* (2003) is a debut novel by Jhumpa Lahiri in which she describes the problems of the immigrants and particularly women through the character of Ashima Ganguly, the wife of Ashok Ganguly. Her husband is a faculty member in the United States of America. Ashima is a simple girl from West Bengal who had no

# A Conglomeration of Literature, Language and Theory

Edited by  
Dr C. Ramya

This anthology entitled *A Conglomeration of Literature, Language and Theory* is brought out with the sole intention to explore various aspects by touching on a variety of thematic concerns, thereby proving a platform for all voices with a focus on such issues as woman's voice and suffocation, trauma of a homemaker, exploration of mourning and melancholia, feminine warmth and female voice, human predicament, humanist vision and social consciousness, tragic peripeteia, historic vision, problem of black soul and identity, struggle of Black Americans and hope for freedom, dislocation, displacement and alienation, religious identity, quest for self, feminist subjectivity, liaison with urban sensibility, existentialist ontology and human nature, patriarchy, diaspora, dalit consciousness. This edited anthology of literary insights and explorations on varied issues and perspectives is specially designed for the teachers/scholars pursuing research and all academic pursuit. Every effort has been made to make the anthology as comprehensive as possible. A glance at the contents of the book would suffice to understand the usefulness of the book, for treatment of each topic is without any shadow of doubt, quite comprehensive and thought-provoking. This anthology would be of immense interest to the general reader as well. This anthology will, no doubt, go a long way to serve the scholars and teachers alike for a profound understanding of general themes and issues projected in literature, thereby kindling interest in the minds of all the general and literary minds in particular.



**MALIK & SONS**  
**PUBLISHERS & DISTRIBUTORS**

C-293 A, Street No. 3, West Karawal Nagar

New Delhi-110094

Mobile No: 9873248544, 9312442975

Email: [malikandsonspub@gmail.com](mailto:malikandsonspub@gmail.com)

ISBN 978-93-92459-05-4



Price: ₹ 1250 | \$ 40