REVIEWS OF LITERATURE

Satish Kumar’s Fiction, A Survey of Indian English Novel shows an expression of the most intimate consciousness of life and society, form an impressive core of literature. Indian English fiction expresses thoughts, feelings and emotions in a rationale and interesting manner, and directly or indirectly throws light upon different changes in its own way. Hence, the reflection of change in different fields of Indian society manifests the significance and utility of the Indian creative writing in English.¹

B. R. Agrawal & M.P. Sinha’s book *Major trends in the post independence Indian English Fiction* presents a reasonably comprehensive account of the development of the Indian English novel since Independence. The novel during the colonial period has a different outlook and was more concerned with the problems of the Indian people suffering under the British Yoke. The partition, the communal riots after partition, the problem of casteism, the subjugation of women, and the poverty of the illiterate masses became the focal points. This book will be of immense help to the students of Indian English fiction and the general reader.²

William Henry Hudson’s *An Introduction to the study of English Literature* presents a detailed study of forms of literature which helps to researcher for studying English Literature systematically. In the course itself, ample illustrations were provided of every point considered.³

A History of English Literature (2004) a book edited by Dr. Sharad Rajimwale attempts to fulfil the requirement of the researchers whose curiosity leads them to explore worthy sources of information. This book is the inclusion of the latest literary and critical theories that occupy the present-day scholars. A sense of history easily helps one get a better view of the preceding developments that create necessary for the growth of certain literary phenomena.⁴

Mahesh Dattani (1993) is one the most popular playwrights of India. For the past twenty four years he has been pushing the boundaries of Indian theatre by creating pieces that deal with social issues such as homophobia, gender discrimination and child molestation. His plays like Tara, Dance Like A Mar, Final Solutions connected with all these issues which are portrayed in the fictions of Arvind Adiga. The play Final Solutions first played in 1993 which tells the story of two young Muslim men seeking the protection of a Hindu family during a communal riot, explores the causes of religious conflict. Dattani provides an optimal site at where to explore
these questions to provide a platform for promoting pluralism. In reality, religious communism emerges out of the political manipulation of social issues.⁵

Chetan Bhagat has presented his global ideas in his first book *Five Point Someone* (2004). The novel deals with the system of education and training in the so-called prestigious Indian Institutes of technology and points to the failure of the system in achieving their vision and mission.⁶

Chetan Bhagat’s book *One Night @ the Call Center*, published in the year 2005. It is a novel that talks about the life of the employees in a call center, its virtues and vices.⁷

Chetan Bhagat (2008): The third book “The 3 Mistakes of my life”; the story is set in 2001 in Gujarat. The novel follows the story of three friends and is based in the city of Ahmadabad in Gujarat. The three main characters Govind, Ishaan and Omi exemplify these three issues business, cricket and religion which are woven inextricably into the modern Indian psyche. The story is based on the real life incidents. Such current issues are exposed like communal riots, religious extremism, contract base education, sports fixing, politics, racism, fanaticism and discrimination systems.⁸

Chetan Bhagat’s *2 States: The Story of My Marriage* (2009); the book is all about an IIMA couple’s struggle to marry over the cultural differences that face hardships in convincing their parents for approval of their marriage. The general issue of this book is the racism, socio-cultural disparity versus inclusiveness of young generation.⁹

Chetan Bhagat’s *Revolution 2020* (2011) the story is concerned with a love triangle, corruption and a journey of self-discovery. As the plot takes the three to depths of desperation, love, ambition and crushing disappointment. It’s an attempt to highlight the rampant corruption rooted in India's education system and bring out the anomaly of non-profit organisations and commercialization of education.¹⁰

Premchand (first 1936) (2002): *Godan*, a story of stark realism, is Premchand’s most outstanding novel. The realism, artistry and tenderness with which he has created the characters here, particularly that of Hori, are unparalleled and unsurpassed in the whole fiction of India. Hori is an immortal character symbolic of the peasantry of this century.¹¹
Kamala Markanday’s ‘A Handful of rice’ is an account of a horror seeds of urbanization tasted by the common man like Ravi, who comes to Madras to fulfil his life dreams, but very soon disillusioned by the life style of Metro India. Though Ravi has very ideal back-ground, but at Madras he easily get associated with rogue and pushed to continue with ugly shade of city life. He becomes addict to drink even smuggling and theft. The novel also gives a vivid description of insensibility of rich, their hardness of heart, the exploitation of small by big, the black-marketer etc. These are the true images of new Metro India.\(^\text{12}\)

Kamala Markandaya in her Bombay Tiger (2008) creates a vivid picture of the tumultuous world of Bombay industry and politics. Love, lust, romance, illegitimate progeny and cinema — all of it permeates of the book and also represents capitalism. In some ways it reveals the raising issues of workers’ rights and the urban poor.\(^\text{13}\)

Markandaya in her last novel pleasure city (1982), strives to bridge the gulf between two cultures of the East and West by developing love and intimacy. Rikki, a poor and rustic Indian boy and Tully an English officers as Dr. Patnail sums up, we may say that the one persistent theme, that underlines all the novels of Kamala Markandaya, is a constant search for the identity mainly by the female protagonist.\(^\text{14}\)

Anita Desai’s novel ‘Voices in the City’ has received adequate critical response. Anita Desai’s skilful handling invests the city with a character. Nirode’s sketch on the other hand is rather insipid. Anita Desai is a poet of metro horrors, skilfully evoking a picture of streets and lanes scarred by bottomless poverty, the haunt of stinking syphilitic beggars, lepers and rickshaw-men. The trams and over loaded buses, stinking and creaking at the rush hours blaring taxi-hours, start vividly from the filth, refuse, blood and squalid litters of the side-walks and verminous alleys. The characters move in the various circles and suburbs of the doomed metropolis. Smoke becomes a symbol of darkness and despair for Monisha, for Amla, Nirode the smoke that hangs thickly over the city.\(^\text{15}\)

The contemporary India is aptly illustrated in Anita Desai’s write-ups. Cry, The Peacock is a story of a female whose own world collides with her husband’s practical world thus making her feel dejected, lonely and demoralized. The oppression and depression, the anxiety and fear, the
frustration and foiling of the female protagonist set against a typical Indian scenario brings out the very best of the writer in a coherent way in this novel.\textsuperscript{16}

The Village by the Sea: an Indian family story is a novel for young people by the Indian writer Anita Desai. It is based on the poverty, hardships and sorrow faced by a small rural, community in India.\textsuperscript{17}

Shashi Deshpande (That Long Silence) very renowned name in post-Independence Indian English fiction also portrays a bitter and realistic portrayal of the city of Bombay In her ‘That Long Silence’. The city of Mumbai is depicted as the embodiments of all that is foul, corrupt, degraded and degenerate, both materially and morally. The streets of Mumbai are garbage-strewn, shit-pocketed and foul-smelling. Same as Shashi Deshpande here Arvind Adiga also has represented in his fictions the Indian thematic concept.\textsuperscript{18}

Mulk Raj Anand's Untouchable (1970) is also reveals the dark sights of India. This novel shows the realistic picture of society. In this novel Anand has portrayed a picture of untouchable who is sweater boy. This character is the representative of all down trodden society in pre-independence of India. The protagonist of this novel is the figure of suffering because of his caste. With Bakha, the central character, there are other characters who also suffer because of their lower caste. Untouchable shows the evil of untouchability in Hindu Society The novel's emphasis on an individual's attempt to emancipate him from the age old evil of untouchability. Mulk Raj Anand depicted the practice of untouchability is essentially a matter of pretentious religiosity and exploitation and also exposed the social realism in contemporary Hindu society.\textsuperscript{19}

Two Leaves and a Bud (1937) is a novel by Mulk Raj Anand first published in 1937. Like his other novels, this one also deals with the topic of oppression of the poor, and is about peasant who tries to protect his daughter from a British soldier. The story is based in the tea plantations of Assam.\textsuperscript{20}

by Mulk Raj Anand (b. 1905) Coolie (1936). He was educated at Lahore, London and Cambridge, and holds a doctorate in Philosophy. Generally regarded as a leftist; Anand’s works focus on the wretched and downtrodden, with a sense of sincerity and urgency.\textsuperscript{21}
Raja Rao, whose novel *Kanthapura* (1938), set in rural India, established him as a major figure on the Indian literary scene. This is the story of how Mahatma Gandhi's struggle for independence from the British came to a typical village, Kanthapura, in South India. This edition includes extensive notes on Indian myths, religion, social customs, and the Independence movement which fill out the background for the American reader's more complete understanding and enjoyment.  

*A Passage to India* (1924) is a novel by E. M. Forster set against the backdrop of the British Raj and the Indian independence movement in the 1920s. The main theme is that the racial tensions and prejudices occur between indigenous Indians and the British colonists who rule India.  

*The Financial Expert* is a (1952) novel by R. K. Narayan. The central character in this book is the financial expert Margayya, who offers advice to his fellow townspeople from under his position at the banyan tree. He is a man of many aspirations and this novel delves into some level of psychological analysis.  

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (2007) is the theme intended to criticize the communist regime. He saw sweeping through Russia and spreading to Europe and even the United States. Communism, he thought, was inherently hypocritical. He saw many similarities between the communist governments and the previous czarist regimes in old Russia.  

Rudyard Kipling was, first and foremost, a man of his time; born and raised in India in the 19th century, he was a fervid supporter of the Raj. Kipling's *Kim* (2002) in it the Protagonist Kim is recruited as a spy in Britain's struggle to maintain its colonial grip on India. The humanity of his characters consistently belies Kipling's private prejudices, and raises Kim above the mere ripping good yarn to the level of a timeless classic. However his portrait of India and its people is remarkably sympathetic.  

In 2006 Kiran Desai became only the second Indian woman to win the Man Booker prize for her second novel, *The Inheritance of Loss*. The daughter of eminent Indian novelist Anita Desai, Kiran Desai is at the vanguard of a new generation of Indian writers in English exploring themes of globalization and exploitation in 21st century India.
Rich Like Us (2011) by Nayantara Sahgal Set in New Delhi traces the story of 2 women – Sonali & Rose – against the backdrop of Emergency. The story travels into past, briefly touching upon several issues like– the lives of upper class during British rule, the accumulation of wealth, injustice to the poor, the sufferings of lower class during Partition, the role of women over the years, political situation, Indian family values, patriarchal society, the injustice meted out to people during Emergency, and so many others."

The Thousand Faces of Night (1992)– This book analyzes the intersections of gender, caste and the (re)telling of history in the narratives by contemporary South-Asian woman writer Githa Hariharan who represents the reality for a considerable section of Indian womanhood inserted in a brahminical, high class environment. Telling story, that is, creating history, is in itself a way of producing new entities, new identities. Consequently, from this angle, plotting family and lineage is very relevant.

The God of Small Things– winner of the Booker Prize in 1997– by Arundhati Roy depicts the fatal consequences of the inter-caste sexual relations in a supposedly caste-less Christian and at the same time communist community. Roy’s and Hariharan’s stories call for a re-vision and transformation in the three main power structures–State, Religion and Family–subverting, thus, the canon and claiming the subalterns’ space in History.

Vikram Seth’s A Suitable Boy The novel is divided into 19 parts. The novel is set in post-independence, post-partition India. The novel follows the story of four families over a period of 18 months as a mother searches for a suitable boy to marry her daughter. The 1349-page novel alternatively offers satirical and earnest examinations of national political issues. This novel covers the various issues faced by post-independence India, including Hindu-Muslim strife, abolition of the Zamindari system, land reforms and empowerment of Muslim women.

A biographical novel entitled by Narendra Jadhav's "Outcaste - A Memoir Life and Triumphs of an Untouchable Family in India" Compelling and deeply compassionate, the novel is an illuminating chronicle of one of the most important moments in Indian history. The novel reflects the lives of India's 165 million Dalits, whose struggle for equality continues even today. Jadhav recounts his family's remarkable journey from penury to privilege. In the novel, Jadhav tells the awe-inspiring story of his family's struggle for equality and justice in India.
Rohinton Mistry’s Country Canada, the book exposes the changes in Indian society from independence in 1947 to the Emergency called by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Mistry is generally critical of Gandhi in the book. Gandhi, however, is never referred to by name by any of the characters, and is instead called simply "the Prime Minister". The characters, from diverse backgrounds, are brought together by economic forces changing India.33

Vikas Swarup’s debut novel Q & A is one of the most famous novels of the twenty-first century. The novel is a tale of a young boy's rise from the Indian slums to national fame. Q and A is a darkly comic and charming novel that delves beneath its compelling premise to examine life’s profound dilemmas—good vs. evil, rich vs. poor and perception vs. reality. Brilliantly conceived and executed, Q and A paints an enthralling picture of humanity in all its guises.34

Jude the Obscure, (1895) the last of Thomas Hardy’s novels, began as a magazine serial and was first published in book form in 1895. Its hero, Jude Fawley, is a working-class young man who dreams of becoming a scholar. The other main character is his cousin, Sue Bridehead, who is also his central love interest. The themes in the novel revolve around issues of class, education, religion and marriage.35

Kiran Nagarkar (1949): married, based in Bombay, Kiran Nagarkar works in an advertising agency. His first novel – in Marathi – Saat Sakkam Trechalis (or seven sixes are forty three) is a landmark in Marathi Literature. His first English Novel, Ravan and Eddie, appeared last year. Cuckold is his latest novel.36

Amitav Ghose (b. 1956). His first novel, The Circle of Reason (1986) written in the modernist mode of magical realism was highly acclaimed and has been translated into several European languages.37

Midnight’s Children is a 1981 book by Salman Rushdie that deals with India’s transition from British colonialism to independence and the partition of India. It is considered an example of postcolonial literature and is set in the context of actual historical events as with historical fiction.38