LITERATURE REVIEWS.

Virendra Pal in his article ‘Religion Caste and Modernity’ writes that the misunderstanding of the Dharma can be due to casteism and untouchability in the society. Ananthamurty’s Samskar shows that orthodoxy has no place in Hinduism; in the paper the impact of caste system in society is discussed. In Samskar main aspect taken is orthodoxy in rituals. Naranappa’s Samskar does not takes place for sometime is only due to orthodoxy.

The article ‘Myth and Purana: Decolonization of Indian English Drama’ by Nagaratj Holleyannavar starts with the definition of myth,

‘Myth is a fictitious belief of the people in a popular manner. It is a history told in a story’.

There are other definitions also given in it. In the Puranas myths are written in detail. The Ramayana and Mahabharata are full themes which are common stories even of today. So these Epics and Puranas provide a great deal of themes to writers of Indian English drama. Later in the paper the author has cited many examples from different play writers who has used themes based on myths in their dramas, like Rabindra Nath Tagore, Girish Karnad etc. this article has helped me a lot as its close to my theme of research.

Dr. Tuta Eswar Rao in his article, ‘Mythical Elements In Indian Plays: A Study of Naga-Mandal’ of Girish Karnad,’ deals with the Naga- Mandal in which Karnad has treated myth for the portrayal of socio-cultural problems and evils of the society, he has used myths in modern context and their relevance today. The play is from folk-lore, a serpent plays an important role. The paper studies about the socialization process of both men and men in the society. Apanna, hero of the novel has to undergo a test put to him by his wife Rani to survive. Anyways both are respected in the society. The ending is unorthodox when it was found that the snake that was killed is still alive.

Milan Swaroop Sharma in his article, ‘Rituals in Conflict with modernization: A Critical Perspective on Anantmurthy’s Samskara’ analysis the novel in the light of the social context. The novel deals with the backwardness of the Brahmins although they are learned. The reason behind this is that they stick themselves to age old conviction, belief, customs, traditions and
superstitions. The paper focuses on the cultural crisis, the social structure of our society, the orthodox beliefs present in the society. He also writes how everyone enjoys sex though it is banned, Brahmans are corrupt and so on. The paper is very impressive.

In her article, ‘Tradition’ and ‘Modernity’ in Conflict: An Analysis of Arundhati Roy’s ‘The God of Small Things’ , Sikhomoni Gogoi in the paper deals mainly with cultural transition of India from colonial to post colonial to present time. But the modernity in the novel is unclear or confusing. The Modernity in India is hidden process. She has critically analyzed the novel and come to the conclusion that all characters couldn’t get what they wanted, modernization is not just following west but a liberating force for the Indians.

M.V Sulochana and Dr. M.A.K Sukumar, in the article ‘Themes in the Novels of Mulkraj Anand’ is about the theme of five novels and these are, ‘Untouchables’, ‘Two Leaves and a Bud’, ‘The Road’ and ‘Big Heart’. She comes to the conclusion that all novels circulates around some social evils prevalent in our society. On top of these evils comes is the caste system which is theme of all these novels except ‘The Road’ which deals with individual’s cultural conflict.

Sunanda Bose in her article, ‘Counterbalancing the Injury and Progress in Rama Mehta’s ‘Inside the Haveli’ writes about the independence of women writers. The novel discloses the progress of women under then orthodox society. Gita the protagonist establishes her position and identity in society without disturbing the social system, modernizes the traditional values. The paper also examines the relation between the role of women’s life and submission towards change. She concludes the paper by writing, ‘Empowerment cannot be given, it must be self – generated’.

Ram Bhawan Yadav in the article, ‘Colonial Histography vs Post Colonial Histography: History, Myth and allegory in Shashi Tharoor’s ‘The Great India’ writes the historical, mythical and allegorical aspects of the novel. Tharoor has written a modern epic in prose of India. The speaker in the novel is Ved Vyas who presents the entire history of India from nineteenth century till modern period up to emergency and after. He has blended the stories of ancient and modern India to present a image of India’s cultural heritage. There is analogy between mythological and historical characters. He has blended myth and history. The writer in the end concludes that this novel is Tharoors vision of a new India.
G.D Barche in his book, ‘Intrepreting Literature: A Myth and A Reality’ has analyzed the concept of myth and reality in different texts. The book consists of interpretation of nearly twenty and so, and divided into three sections these include poetry, novel and drama. He has critically analyzed these texts from the point of four elements and these are universe, artist, audience, and God first three element were introduced by M.H Abrams Barche has introduced the fourth i.e. God.

‘Epic India’ a book by C.V Vaidya writes about the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. He has described social, political, intellectual and religious condition of the country during the period. The book is divided into eighteen chapters, it describes mainly ideas, concepts and institutions of the old Vedic period in relation to race, caste, marriage, food, dress, government, trade, religion, astronomy etc. he has used the contribution of Upanishads Manusmriti and writings of Magasthanese and some Greek authors also.

Lata Mishra in her article ‘Ethical Wisdom and Philosophical Judgement in Amish Tripathi’s The Oath of the Vayuputras’, deals with the culture. Culture plays an important part in a society and a country. She writes that society is continuously in interaction with its surrounding, if there is no interaction then it will lead to its destruction. In third section Shiva’s dream is talked on large. Sita’s Vikarma, philosophy of Karma, is shows

The article by Ajay Kumar, Indian Mythic Vision in W.B Yeats and T.S Eliot, is a critical study of how Yeats and Eliot were influenced by Indian philosophy. They both have borrowed ideas from Indian myths and mystic lores and used them in their literary work. The paper discusses continuously the influence of Indian culture on both of them, how they have interwoven the eastern and western myths. Yeats was influenced more as compared to Eliot. Eliot draws his ideas from Upanishad, Gita and Buddhist texts. He says myth is of vital importance in the modern world. In the end the paper writes about the Yeats attempt to bridge the gap between subjective east and objective west.

The paper, Religion Caste and Modernity : A Study of Ananthmurty’s Samskara by virendra Pal tries to present a fact that caste and untouchability make many times people misunderstand the Dharma. Anathamurthy in his novel shows that orthodoxy has no place in Hinduism. The novel is totally modern in view. The main theme of the novel is that casteism is a dominating factor in
our society, but the novelist says that it has no place in the modern society and also that religion has given no sanction to caste as many believes. The paper also supports the novelist’s view that caste system is only supported in Dharma Sutra, Smritis and shruties. The paper one by one discusses the theme in the novel. In the concluding paragraph the author quotes from Rigveda, Manusmritis, Gita and Vedas and shows that the caste system was not based on birth, rather it was based on occupation. The paper is very interesting and has helped me very much.

*The paper, Wagging Tales of Religion in Arvind Adiga’s ‘The White Tiger’* takes into consideration the effect of religion in modern civilization. The beginning of the paper explains why religion failed in the east, with the progress of science, life style of the without responding to the changes of the new demands of the age. This novel portrays the real picture of Indian society. The way of looking at the religion is now totally global and scientific. The paper deals with story of the novel, social and economic inequalities of contemporary India is seen. Many religious place Varanasi, river Ganga etc are mentioned. The concludes by author’s view that religion has declined in this modern world.

*The Paper The Christian, Hindu and Buddhist Philosophy in The Cocktail Party* by Mala Issac, Sadhana Agarwal and Alka Singh is an interesting paper. The aim is to analyse Eliot’s play in the light of the Christian, Hindu and Buddhist Philosophy. Eliot was a strong Christian with ample of knowledge of Hindu philosophy, metaphysics of Patanjali and the Bhagawat Gita. It is an Idea play, martyrdom of Celia, the suffering of all major characters represent nirvana, the attainment of still life all these refers to philosophy of Gita. The play also gives a message that illegitimate relationship is like a hell in the society. In the conclusion the author writes that in the play Eliot does not remain just Anglican rather he explains it through the Hindu and Buddhist Philosophy to analyse the book.

Dr Madhuri Sood in her Paper Spiritual Values in R.K Narayan’s Novels, writes that when author writes anything the cultural values and realities are always there in his mind which is reflected in his work. The whole paper then covers the influence of religion and spirituality in works of many author including T.S Eliot, Raja Rao, and Milton and few novels of R.K Narayan. The literature specially drama originated from religious tradition. T.S Eliot ‘WasteLand’ and Yeats many poems are of religious background here Milton’s ‘Paradise Lost’ is also discussed in detail. The Indian literature is deeprooted in religion and culture. Authors like R.K Narayan, Raja Roa,
Mulk Raj Ananda has written on Philosophy and Indian thoughts. R.K Narayan in his novels ‘The English Teacher’, ‘The Guide’, ’The Financial Expert’ etc are all novels relating to spiritual and Indian values. The paper is very interesting and impressive, I enjoyed reading it.