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Reinterpreting Mahasweta: A Critical Study of *Breast Stories*



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Abstract:

It was the collection of **Breast Stories**, *Draupadi*— a story from the collection, in particular— that brought Mahasweta Devi to the forefront should it mean the world of literary audience and connoisseurs. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak translated the stories and having produced her analyses on two of them took the collection on an international scale. The collection evoked a great readership across India and the US. Some assessed the stories from the perspective of aesthetics while others from that of centring on the author and the translator. However, there was hardly anybody having studied or analysed the stories either from the sociological or ideological point of view. The author of the following paper has, therefore, essayed to factor those facts that demand urgent heed so far as representation of the peripheral and exploited classes of people in literature is concerned. Though well known as a champion of the tribals and untouchables (Dalits in the present context), Mahasweta has left the door of the foregoing representation otherwise ajar. The given paper is an attempt to bring to light the sociology of Mahasweta Devi.

Keywords:

Exploitation, tribal, untouchable, distortion, representation.