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Comparative Analysis of Minority Literatures : A Case Study of African American and Dalit Women's Autobiographies



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ABSTRACT

This research paper throws light on two down-trodden minority communities i.e. African Americans in the United States of America and the Dalits in India as African Americans are caught and exploited in the double jeopardy of race and class (poverty) and the Dalit/s subsequently low castes and poverty. To make the case more worse is of women in these categories. The case of African Americans and Dalit women is even worse. As they are caught in the triple jeopardy gender. The Dalit women in India are also caught in their triple jeopardy of low caste and poverty along with the untouchability they suffer with the Dalit men.

The African American and the Dalit literatures are the artist's outcry of anguish and pain and suffering that they have join fought the ages. Apart from the other

genres of literature the autobiography is more intimate and close to the heart of the authors and the readers; as readers want to peep into the inner turmoil/ lives of the authors.

This research paper makes a comparative and comprehensive these two above mentioned minority community's literatures with special to African American and Dalit women's autobiographies. This research paper aptly analyzed the dilemma in which the African American or Dalit women are caught is a narrow ghetto circle of race gender, class, poverty is portrayed in artistic way in the minority women's autobiographies or that the created their Black Women's Aesthetics / Poetics or the Aesthetics of Protest or in Marathi i.e. they created ICI.

RESEARCH PAPER

Introduction :

Mr. Baraq Hussain Obama's conquest / victory to the U.S. Presidential power created an unprecedented history not only in the U.S., but in the world. It was a victory of representative of African American minority community suppressed and oppressed by the majority of the whites in the United States of America. On this ontological explorations, of the African Americans and the Dahty' in India reveal many astounding and proliferating similarities. Quite miserably anatomically the thorough epistemic and comparative study between two cultures, and live yet have to be undertaken, as skeleton and superficial efforts are inadvertently undertaken now and then by many and various scholar. But these studies are also limited to the to the sociology and now politics of literature apply the insiders and outsiders scholars in the circle. A well balanced, natural aesthetic oriented, comparative exploration of the two fields is yet to be undertaken which is Herculean task in itself requiring rigorous and excruciating pain of the part of the scholars.

The comparative literature has a prolonged tradition and this phenomenon is now flourishing and is appealing to the doyen as well as young scholars. The comparative literature among its two assonant and dissonant elements results unprecedented qualities.

A well balanced study of the ethos of African American and the Dalit exploit i) social ii) political and iii) aesthetic characteristics. This research paper explores I thrusts light on all above the mentioned areas and tries to uncover and explore the comparative analysis of two minority literatures i.e. African American and the Dalit Marathi literatures.

To consider the first social dilemma of African American is quite necessary. The African American were quite exploited on the racial base i.e. Negro. When the first cargo of the Negro slaves with a black women was first brought in 1619 in Jamestown in Virginia from Africa. The traumatic inhuman saga of black slavery in the annals of American history begins which lasted for more than 150 years. This inhuman history made the Negroes in human they were treated in an inhuman way like animals sold on auction blocks.

When humanity was a dream, so arts were dream for them but after 150 years the tappers of their African arts / roots were kept buttoning i.e. through African, culture, dancing, singing, folk arts, quit making etc. and the art of reading and writing was considered crime. A new field of literature was developed. And finally later on which has become a world renowned field of study called African American Literature which created Nobel Laureates like Toni Morrison and others like Alice Walker, Paule Marshal, Gloria Naylor and others.

But behind the glorious landmarks and saga of Saga of African American literature lie the inhuman suffering the Negroes who were caught in the double jeopardy of race and class; but

the African American women were more over were caught in triple jeopardy of race, gender, and class.

The dilemma of the Dalits or the Shrudas or the downtrodden in Indian is no more different than the African Americans. Like their co-brothers the Nagroes in America, the Dalits in India are caught in shackles of caste and poverty and untochability. The Indian Chaturvarnya System laid down by the Sawarnas or the Upper castes exploited the Shrudas or the lower castes and tortured them physically as well as mentally. Like the Negroes they were treated like beasts, and it was not crime but sin to read and write and they were made to do the menial jobs not fit for the human beings.

Hence so far African American and the Dalits had no social and political rights and privileges. They had to struggle to achieve them and sacrifice themselves to acquire them. In their struggles of African American history, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. who tried to emancipate slavery were assassinated. They were martyred. In the history of Dalits there is long tradition from Mahatma Jyotioba Phule, Shahu Maharaj, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who struggled for the achievement of the rights of the deprived sections.

On this backdrop of the social political struggle for self-identity through different movements the African Americans and Dalits created their own literatures and aesthetics. Through their literatures they protested the upper class mentality and the exploitation they had suffered This is called The Aesthetics of Protest it we find many commonalties like symbols, metaphors, and different figures of speech, modes of language Movements like Dalits Panthers followed from the Negroes. The African American literature flourished in the all the genres starting with the Negro girl Phillis Wheatly and the Harlem Renaissance of early 1920s saw the upsurge in works are Richard Wright's Native Son, James Baldwin's Go Tell It on the Mountain, and Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man. Similarly other men writers also dominated also in the annals of African American literature, When we compare the African American literature with Marathi Dalit literature written by men like Daya Pawar's, Laxman Mane's, P. S. Sonkamble's, Sharakurnar Limble's ,Narendra Jadhav's, and other classic autobiographic works by Dalits writers along with all other genres in Dalit literature they reveal the same anguish and suffering like the African Americans. But the novel has not originated and developed in Dalit literature.

With all the concern when we study special niche carved by African American and the Dalit women writers. It is more excruciating. African American women's literature has prolonged tradition of women's autobiographies like Maya and Angelou's multivolumed autobiography entitled I know Why Caged Bird Sings in the early 2011 century which is poignant saga of the suffering of adolescent girl child Maya. Similarly

Dalit autobiographies and especially Dalit women autobiographies also have a long tradition as there are near about more than fifty Dalit autobiography. To speak of Dalit women's autobiographies from Bebi Kamble's to recent Urimal Pawar's is a prolonged cavalcade. The African American and Dalit women's autobiographies have brought a new experience in literature which is called Black Feminist Poetics / Aesthetics or Dalit Feminist Poetics. In tradition African American women's autobiographies Maya Angelou's multivolumed I know

Why The Caged Bird Sings is a land mark. In •Marathi Dalit autobiographies from Bebi Kamble's IPT 3TT to recent Urimal Pawar's 3ii1 is a prolonged cavalcade. The study of Caged Bird Sings and 3-H and other African American and Dalit Women's autobiographies reveal the inner turmoil of narrow ghetto circle of race, gender, class, poverty, in which these women are caught and it is portrayed in an artistic way and the slings they have to suffer.

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