

6. ROLE OF MATRIARCHY: A GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON D K CHOWTA'S MITTABAIL YAMUNAKKA: A TALE OF THE LANDLORDS HOUSE HOLD

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Abstract

Gender had specific attention in the novel. This paper focuses on certain gender aspects corresponds to the novel. The major concentration however is on Yamunakka, the centre matriarchal figure. The establishment of Yamunakka's authority is discussed along with the political and hostile climates of Mittabail. Her characteristics traits. This chapter also concentrates on the features of the traditional matrilineal system followed among Bunts and analyses how it caters Yamunakka to build up her hegemony over the Mittabail. It also sheds light in to certain minor aspects featured in the novel such as toxic masculinity traits. The chapter also briefly discuss morality corresponds to the orthodox culture portrayed in the novel

Keywords: Matriarchy, Tulu culture, Minor language literature, Translation, Gender Perspective

The aspects of gender is widely discussed in the contemporary Indian fictions. Apart from the major languages, literature are also widely produced in minor languages. The literary genres, especially novels draw the cultural and social aspects of a particular linguistic community. These traits are often failed to be expressed in the major languages due to the linguistic barriers. Tulu is one of the five Dravidian languages, which includes Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam. The literary tradition in Tulu is minimum, when compared to the other languages. The major reason could be observed that the Tulu speaking areas were long ruled by Kannadiga rulers from the adjacent Kannada regions. This had diminished the scopes of Tulu to develop as a literary language. Kannada became the link language and it have experienced a special patronage from the royals. The last decades of the 1800s saw a resurgence in the Tulu literature. Many works had been published in Tulu over these years. These works belonging are to the different genres. They also brought the rich tradition and culture of the Tulu nadu in front of the readers. Today, the Tulu speaking regions are falls under the Kannada and Malayalam speaking Karnataka and Kerala states of India. Some of the Tulu works were also translated into English. *Mittabail Yamunakka* is a Tulu novel by Veteran Tulu writer D K Chowta. It was published in 2005. B. Surendra Rao and K Chinnappa Gowda translated the novel into English in 2017. Gender has ambiguous role throughout the novel. The major peculiarity in the novel is that it encompass several gender aspects. This also makes the plot very vibrant topic. However, the focus is mainly spend upon the Yamunakka and her existence as the matriarch of the Mittabail. There are different perspectives, which expected to meet the gender discourses. The structural functionalism understands human behaviour as part of systems that keep society organized and functional. Here, gender is means of organizing society into distinct roles complementing to each other. According to Talcott Parsons, either genders are socialised to take on traits that are complementary to each other, to make it easier to maintain stable and productive family units. Men were taught with instrumental qualities, such as confidence and competitiveness that prepare them for the labour force. Meanwhile women are taught with expressive qualities such as sensitivity, which prepare them to care for their families. Parsons also perceives that success of family needs people to have complimentary skill sets and gender gives us a way of pairing off these skills. In addition, society in turn encourage gender conformity by making people feel that they want to be romantically desirable. It rejected people go against the gender norms. However, it had its limits especially of accusing that it reinforces gender dynamics that give men power over women. Symbolic interactionists focused gender a part of day-to-day