Abstract

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is one of the most prominent authors in Indian Writings in English as well as a well-known diasporic writer. Her novels commonly Express the issues of the contemporary world which is the important factor to take up this Research on Divakaruni’s works through the view of cultural materialism. The thesis tries to Bring out the historical facts and its impact on the people through the reading of cultural Materialism.

“Cultural Materialism” has become a leading discipline nowadays, particularly in English as well as in the Department of Cultural Studies. It is usually linked with the name of Raymond Williams but it is a phrase which rarely uses in his works. “Cultural materialism” has not Vanished with the death of Williams in 1989, but in fact, it seems to be flourishing. It is a way of Seeing current political issues through the “mirror” of earlier texts. Even though this new approach can Divulge considerably about contemporary culture and society, it ensures to outflow the “Historical” aspects of the particular texts considered.

The thesis introduces cultural materialist theory in detail and the scope of the theory. In addition, the possibility of cultural materialist view on some of the Indian English Writings has Been examined briefly. It also seeks out to give the broad estimate of contemporary Indo-American Women novelists and the themes they focus in their writings. The literature review on Divakaruni’s Writing has been brought out in detail to substantiate the choice of the title for research. It concentrates on the social realities on the texts. Some of the social realities such as feminism, Female infanticide, colonization, patriarchy, terrorism, and dowry system have been deeply analysed in the chapter.
The thesis discusses the influence of the author’s life in the novels as well as traces the history of migration and the importance of Diaspora. Divakaruni also gives importance to The Indian culture in her novels since she is an immigrant. As an expatriate writer in the habit of a major part between cultures and countries, Divakaruni as an expatriate writer brings out the every single fact of the Indian’s cultural activity. It throws light on the marginalized beings in the novels of Divakaruni. It also examines the sub categories of marginalisation like gender, race, sexuality and Class. She proves how these values and beliefs influence and determine the lives of the protagonists.

The thesis is a study on the cultural materialistic values, much portrayed through the characters and the events connected with them in the novels chosen for study. As the cultural Materialists argue the novels provide the social realities of the particular period in which they were written, the novels of Divakaruni play a role as mirror to reflect the contemporary society.