Abstract

‘Art and Activism: A Study of Arundhati Roy’s Writings from a Subaltern Perspective’ is the title of the research work. The thesis is outlined into six chapters which discuss at length how Roy’s writings are relevant to Gayatri Spivak’s theory of subalternity. The first chapter of the thesis is entitled ‘Art and Activism in Literary Writers.’ It examines how art and activism blend together in combating the evils of the society. The second chapter of the thesis is on ‘Subalternity: An Overriding Concept in Literature.’ It is an in-depth study of the works of Mulk Raj Anand, Toni Morrison, and Arundhati Roy with special reference to subalternity. Chapter three of the thesis deals with ‘Gayatri Spivak’s Theory of Subalternity.’ In “Can the Subaltern Speak?”, Spivak propounds her theory of subalternity. Her theory is based on the principle that ‘the subaltern cannot speak.’ When Spivak says that the subalterns cannot speak, she actually wants to say that the subalterns are not able to have transactions with others. ‘Art: Arundhati Roy’s Fictional World’ forms the fourth chapter of the thesis. It is a detailed study of the fictional techniques applied by Roy in her Booker Prize winning novel The God of Small Things. ‘Activism: Arundhati Roy’s Non-fictional World’ is the fifth chapter of the thesis. It is an analysis of Roy’s activistic writings. The analysis reveals that Roy has turned out to be an activist for the greater common good. ‘Subalternity as Reflected in Art and Activism of Arundhati Roy’ is the concluding chapter of the thesis. It focuses on the theme of subalternity in both the fictional and non-fictional works of Roy. The fictional and non-fictional characters in Roy’s works try to utter their thoughts aloud but others do not have the patience to listen to them. The problem lies not with the articulation by the subalterns but with its interpretation by the authorities. The key words used in the thesis include: Art, Activism, Subalternity, Mombatti and Laltains.