Preface

For this study, I have selected thirty short stories of Mahasweta Devi and Jhumpa Lahiri as Native and Diasporic writing, that attempt to explore Subaltern-Consciousness of Indian marginalised women. My argument is based on the Indian Postcolonial Feminist Theoretical framework, particularly, that of Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak who maintains that Indian women are exploited under various cultural contexts. I have analysed the short stories of Mahasweta Devi and Jhumpa Lahiri as an empowering voice of subaltern women of Indian Native and Diaspora to deconstruct their self-image in the context of oppression to actualise their worth as responsible members of their communities. The writers have structured their short stories within Indian Postcolonial Feminist aesthetics which are culturally contextualised. I have discovered a progressive development in the women protagonists from the select short stories through Postcolonial Feminist reading and discovered that the voices of the women are not silent. Rather they speak out their identity. The short stories depict Postcolonial Indian cultural context mainly, focusing on caste, class, ethnic, and gender exploitation. I have completed my study with select short stories that realises Mahasweta Devi and Jhumpa Lahiri as one of the greatest Indian women writers of Native and Diaspora who have redefined the image of Indian subaltern women.