Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to examine the feminist aspects in the select fiction of contemporary women writers of the North-East India. The literature from the region is undoubtedly in its nascent stages; however, an emerging tribe of women writers of fiction from this often under-represented part of India offers a locus for the exploration of concerns in their narratives. The fiction of the select women writers are not overtly feminist, nevertheless, gender colours perspective, and interpretations of the texts allows feminist concerns to surface. The thesis focuses on carrying out a close reading on some feminist preoccupations which includes studying the female experience of violence/conflicts, oppression and discrimination that women face in patriarchal societies from a region where there is a massive lack of representation in mainstream awareness. It aims to shed light on the perspectives of women writer’s that represents the subaltern community of women in the region through a study of their fiction. The theoretical frameworks of major Feminist theorists such as Simone de Beauvoir, Elaine Showalter, Judith Butler, Gerda Lerner, Kate Millett, Helénè Cixous, Michele Barrett and other pioneering women intellectuals will be taken into consideration to create a meaningful discussion. To achieve a well-rounded discussion on women’s writers of fiction from the region and the feminist aspects in their works, the thesis has included a historical study of the evolution of literature from the region to better understand the unique and complex space that women’s writers from the North-East occupy. An attempt has also been made to connect how women’s movement that began in the West has influenced the tradition of women’s writing in India and the emerging trend of women writers from the North-East. In the development of my argument each chapter contributes to give insights into the preoccupations that arises in the fiction of women writers of the region.