



Top Writers from South India: Literary Style, Perspective, Characterization

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Abstract: Indian literature is renowned throughout the world for its intricacy and depth, with the range of fiction published in the subcontinent reflecting the implausible diversity of India itself. As part of our series on the best up and coming Indian authors, we look at four writers from South India who are retracing the borders of Indian literature, and engaging with the forces of globalisation and modernity which are reshaping their country. The writer believes that a writer is very much influenced with the environment in which he is born, the family, the education and the social structure. The paper gives a brief study on South Indian writers in the manner of their writing style, perspective and characterization.

Index Terms - Globalization, implausible diversity, writing style, characterization.

INTRODUCTION

The paper gives an elaborative study on the South Indian writers by summarizing writers from South India. **South Indian culture** refers to the culture of the South Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. South Indian culture though with its visible differences forms an important part of the Indian culture. The South Indian Culture is essentially the celebration of the eternal universe through the celebration of the beauty of the body and femininity. It is exemplified through its dance, clothing, and sculptures.

South India has a literary convention reaching back over two thousand years. The first known literature of South India are the poetic Sangams, which were written in Tamil around two to one and a half thousand years ago. The Kannada classic *Kavirajamarga*, written in 850 CE by King Amoghavarsha I, makes references to Kannada literature of King Durvinita in early sixth century CE. Tamil Buddhist commentators of the tenth century CE, *Nemrinatham* makes references to Kannada literature of fourth century CE. Distinct Malayalam and Telugu literary traditions developed in the following centuries. The artistic expressions of the South Indian people show their admiration of the magnificence of nature and its rhythms. Some of the works include *Silappadhikaram* by Ilango Adigal, *Tholkappiam* written by Tholkappiar, Thiruvalluvar's *Thirukural*, Kumaravyasa's *Karnata Bharata Katamanjari*, Pampa's *Vikramarjuna Vijaya*, *Andhra Maha Bharatamu* by the three poets namely Nannaya, Tikkana and Errana, *Shiva Sharana* by Basavanna and Akka Mahadevi's *Vachanas*. In South Indian literature and philosophy, women are considered very powerful. A married woman is regarded as auspicious, her shakti or feminine power, protects and empowers her husband and their children. Contemporary Kannada writers have received eight Jnanapith awards which is the highest for any Indian language.

1. Meena Kandasamy

In her breath-taking new novel, *Exquisite Cadavers* Meena Kandasamy raises the curtain and invites the reader into what is often seen as an inexplicable process. Sitting neatly in the margins Kandasamy dissects her creative process revealing how her ideas are worked into narrative. In her views one of the ways is that art is highly glamourised as a vocation... it remains this really spiritual thing and on the other hand, when you're doing it, it's really hard work. It's really about making the right choices. A lot of her work is about knocking off the fourth wall so to let the reader behind the scene to see what's happening and where it's coming from. She thinks the lucidity helps in a way.

2. Nayantara Sehgal

Nayantara Sahgal, in full Nayantara Pandit Sahgal, (born May 10, 1927, Allahabad [now Prayagraj, India), Indian journalist and novelist whose fiction presents the personal crises of India's influential amid settings of political upheaval. Sahgal first wrote *Prison and Chocolate Cake* (1954), an autobiographical memoir about her youth amid the Nehru family. She then curved to fiction, often setting her stories of personal conflict amid Indian political crises. In her fourth novel, *The Day in Shadow* (1971), for example, the heroine is an educated divorcee struggling in India's male-dominated society.

The contrast between the idealism at the beginning of India's independence and the moral decline of post-Nehru India that is particularly evident in *A Situation in New Delhi* (1977) recurs in such Sahgal novels as *Rich like Us* (1985), which confronts civil disorder, corruption, and oppression while detailing the internal conflicts in a businessman's family. Three of Sahgal's later novels—*Plans for Departure* (1985), *Mistaken Identity* (1988), and *Lesser Breeds* (2003)—are set in colonial India. *When the Moon Shines by Day* (2017) is a dystopian satire. Sahgal also wrote *Day of Reckoning: Stories* (2015).

3. Kamala Das

One of India's finest confession poets, Kamala Das wrote beautiful prose in Malayalam and English. Her writing reflected her strong feminist philosophy, portraying female susceptibility with a rare honesty and sensitivity. Her poems, have for long served as an inspiration to women looking to break the shackles of sexual and domestic tyranny, and therefore find relevance with women even today. A command of the English language is naturally the first requirement of an Indo- Anglican poet. Kamala Das's command over English language deserves to be admired. This command has duly been recognised by most of the scholars. She has a vast range of vocabulary. She understands the precise meanings of words. Kamala Das deserves high praise for her choice of words and for combining those words into phrases, clauses and sentences. In the choice of words she exercises a unique care. Her words are neither splendid nor dazzling. According to the requirements of the poem, Kamala Das is able to use simple and hard-hitting words. She is a poet in the confessional mode and thus her tone is conversational and her diction is often colloquial.

4. Anita Nair

Anita Nair is a prolific writer in English, who has written everything from crime fiction to short stories, poems, and even children's stories. She is best known for her novels "The Ladies Coupe" and "The Better Man". Through works like "Mistress: A Novel", that highlighted the changing relationship between a woman and her husband, Nair also brought to life the experiences of the everyday Indian woman in fiction. Anita Nair is the bestselling and critically acclaimed author of the novels *The Better Man*, *Ladies Coupé*, *Mistress*, *Lessons in Forgetting* and *Idris*. She has also published a collection of poems titled *Malabar Mind* and a collection of essays titled *Goodnight & God Bless*.

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