

Certified as
TRUE COPY



Principal
Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College,
Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai-400086.

Rethinking Socio-cultural Values in Literature



Edited By
Dr Ram Avadh Prajapati & Dr Abhishek Tiwari


Principal
RAMNIRANJAN JHUNJHUNWALA COLLEGE
OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE (AUTONOMOUS)
Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai-400 086, Maharashtra, INDIA

15 Neeraj

Rethinking Socio-cultural Values in Literature

Edited By


Dr Ram Avadh Prajapati

Assistant Professor of English,
Bareilly College, Bareilly
Uttar Pradesh, India

Dr Abhishek Tiwari

Assistant Professor of English,
Department of Humanities,
Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University
(A Central University),
Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi

**Certified as
TRUE COPY**



Principal
Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College,
Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai-400086.

Notion Press, India

Contents

Preface	7-8
1. Making closeted Silences of a Nation Speak: Use of Double Helix Strands of Cultural Anthropology and Forensic Anthropology in Ondaatje's <i>Anil's Ghost</i>	
Dr. Neeta Chakravarty	9-18
2. Exploring Cross- Cultural Dimensions in Vilas Sarang's "A Revolt of the Gods" and Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings": A Study of Religious Hypocrisy	
Mrs Maria Ahmed Shaikh	19-31
3. Situating Diasporic Home and Memory in Agha Shahid Ali's Poetry	
Dipak Kumar Mandal	32-43
4. Negritude and the Poetry of Langston Hughes	
Sanjeev Kumar	44-66
5. Shaping Political Ideology: A study of women in Tagore's works	
Prof. Steven Lobo	67-77
6. Race consciousness in Edgar Mittleholzer's <i>A Morning At The Office</i>	
Dr. Devanampriya	68-87

Certified as
TRUE COPY


Principal
Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College,
Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai-400086.

1.

Making closeted Silences of a Nation Speak: Use of Double Helix Strands of Cultural Anthropology and Forensic Anthropology in Ondaatje's *Anil's Ghost*

Dr. Neeta Chakravarty

In *Anil's Ghost*, Ondaatje highlights the turmoils of Civil war, with even the Government as accomplice, in Sri Lanka. He uses Cultural Anthropology and Forensic Anthropology to reveal the perpetrators of crimes. Cornish and Clarke's rational choice theory explains that crimes are pre-mediated by people determined to commit them while Walklate assures that surveillance measures could deter them. Charles R. Tittle's *Control balance* theory explains the need for changing the ratio of controls in order to strike at the root of deviant behaviour. Ondaatje suggests that by revealing the truth of a nation, one can check similar transgression of power again.

ious
med
ahid
the
ping
' by
er's
ring
har,
hali
"A
ost-
in
l of
ugh
Hit

factions who pride in indulging increasingly in heinous activities, killing people and leaving behind neither any witness nor the victim of the crime. This resulted in the citizens trying to trace their kith and kin in an attempt to bring about some sort of closure.

Anil, Ondaatje's protagonist, who was originally from Sri Lanka, now works with of the Centre of Human Rights in Geneva as a forensic anthropologist representative. Donning the cap of her new identity, she returns to her roots, and works in collaboration with Mr. Sarath Diyasena, the Sri Lanka government archaeologist. Although both intend to investigate into the truth of organized campaigns of murder on the island, the government complicity in the crimes, puts aspersions on their success. Although, her life is protected due to her Geneva connection, Sarath's is vulnerable. Cultural Anthropology and Forensic Anthropology are made full use of, by the duo.

Violence, has had a recurring history in Sri Lanka. Glimpses of the Boddhisattvas invaded for their monetary value is a case in point. Ondaatje provides a glimpse of the impact of such an act:

Cave 14 was once the most beautiful site in a series of Buddhist cave temples in Shanxi province. When you entered, it looked as if huge blocks of salt had been carted away. The panorama of Boddhisattvas— their twenty-four rebirths— were cut out of the walls with axes

circumstances and on the basis of the injuries seen in the bodies starts deducing the methodology used to kill them: "The next corpse brought in had flail fractures on the rib cage. It meant he had fallen from a great height—at least five hundred feet—before hitting the water belly-down. The air knocked out of the body. It meant a helicopter" (Ondaatje 2000, 14).

Anil's Ghost finds the mention of an expert called Palipana and exposes the dilemma's in the field of Archaeology. Palipana was a revered epigraphist of Sri Lanka, Sarath's teacher, who was the best archaeological theorist in the country and was nearly always right. He committed an act of forgery, wrote about runes and verses that could not be located. Perhaps, this deviant behaviour of Palipana can be explained on the basis of *Control balance* theory put forth by Charles R. Tittle. Firstly, Palipana was seen as a master in his field. As a result, he had the chance to control the direction of thought regarding the archaeological monuments of the nation. However, when the control was asserted by one of his own proteges who expressed doubts about the existence of texts that the master purportedly translated, the ratio of controls balance changed and exposed the deviancy in his means to bring about the truth. However, Palipana firmly believes in the importance of the mind in constructing the past rather than relying on visible archaeological evidences alone. He called this as the superiority of the mind or ascendancy of the idea which is capable of transcending the truth. In one sense, Ondaatje, redeems Palipana of such grave

arrived at. Thus Anil is able to pin the age of a skeleton found by them at 28 at the time of his death, Palipana suggests the use of Netra Mangala or the art of painting eyes on a holy figure on a lump of clay to enable identification of the body.

Cruelty becomes a byproduct of violence, in a strange way almost anticipated by the citizens who get used to it. Interspersed in the novel, we find ruthlessness galore. Lakma, a twelve year old relative of Panipana, unfortunately, sees her parents killed in front of her eyes and this has a detrimental effect on her development:

The shock of the murder of the girl's parents, however, had touched everything within her, driving both her verbal and her motor ability into infancy. This was combined with an adult sullenness of spirit. She wanted nothing more to invade her (Ondaatje 2000, 103).

By declaring the situation as akin to a war, Sarath indicates the dilemma of both, the victims and the victimizers. Sarath Diyasena explains:

This is an unofficial war, no one wants to alienate the foreign powers. So it's secret gangs and squads. Not like Central America. The government was not the only one doing the killing. You had, and still have, three camps of enemies—one in the north, two in the south—using

**Certified as
TRUE COPY**


Principal

**Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College,
Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai-400086.**

rs,
nd
he
en
n.
e
id
as
ie
as
te
it
e
n
o
n
l.
d
e
f

nature of various occupations, tend to carry permanent marks of the stress and strain suffered by the practitioners on their bodies. Thus, there is prevalence of metal poisoning among painters. He also draws attention to the essential pelvic deformations of weavers, as found by Englishman Thackray. He further compares javelin throwers among Neolithic Saharans of the Niger to modern golf professionals. Developing the idea, this enables looking for these markers even in skeletons to deduce what profession they followed during their lifetime. Drawing from similar conclusions, on the basis of a careful study of the strictures on the skeleton's ankle bone, Anil surmises that he worked in a mine in his later life after having worked in his early days in a profession that required him to stretch both his arms uniformly, trying to reach up or forward.

In any study of the culture of a place, it is essential to glimpse it in totality. So, we find that Ondaatje juxtaposes two different pictures of Srilanka. On one hand, the violence of the present invariably shows itself throughout the novel and on the other hand, we are provided a sneak peek into the country that was. The past was golden with peace being the most outstanding feature of the times. It is symbolized by Buddha and the tenets of Buddhism. In a sense, the past seems to be most desirable in the backdrop of the present. Yet, the present throws its shadow over such desires. A statue of Buddha is mutilated and destroyed for apparent monetary gains. However, Ananda regenerates the Buddha and another Buddha, even larger, is produced. Seeds of