

DOMESTIC SPACE AND SOCIAL ALIENATION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GHACHAR GHOCHAR AND NECTAR IN A SIEVE

Dr. Sambhaji Shivaji Shinde

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Adarsh College, Vita, Maharashtra, India

ABSTRACT

The social reality which is reflected in Indian Writing in English, using spaces that are the base of human relations and their identity itself. Domestic space thus emerges as an important site of negotiation and engagement with power and alienation and moral decay among these. The paper compares and contrasts Ghachar Ghochar by Vivek Shanbhag and Nectar in a Sieve by Kamala Markandaya in order to understand the functioning of domestic spaces as fields of social alienation. If Shanbhag depicts the contemporary, urban middle-class household as a prison of moral obligation, Markandaya imagines the countryside as an area decimated by poverty and socio-economic forces. By a close reading of the text the paper elaborates upon the fact that the family environment, the division in gender and the economic demands turns home into a space of psychological and sociological alienation. Using a sociological and realist perspective it holds that both texts uncover the fragility of domestic harmony under the constraints of socio-structural inequalities, despite being found in opposing settings. This comparative reading reveals how domestic spaces reflect broader social tensions and critical understanding of marginalization, silence, and survival in the Indian context.

KEYWORDS: Domestic Space, Social Alienation, Marginality; Indian Writing in English; Comparative Literature.

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