

Introduction

Ethnic literature is the body of written works by people from a distinctive culture, language, or religion. Afro-Caribbean and African writers—Aime Cesaire, Frantz Fanon, Chinua Achebe, for instance, have made significant contribution to the theory and practice of ethnic criticism that explores the traditions, sometimes suppressed or underground, of ethnic literary activity. They provide a critique of representations of ethnic identity as found within the majority culture. More recently, scholars like Henry Louis Gates, Toni Morrison, and Kwame Anthony Appiah have drawn attention to the problems inherent in applying theoretical models derived from Euro-centric paradigms to minority works of literature, exploring new interpretive strategies for understanding the vernacular traditions of ethnic/racial groups that have been historically marginalized by dominant cultures.

Identity and culture are two of the basic building blocks of ethnicity. Through the construction/reconstruction of identity and culture, individuals and groups attempt to address the problematics of ethnic boundaries and meaning. Ethnicity is best understood as a dynamic, constantly evolving property of both individual identity

and group organization. It is the product of actions undertaken by ethnic groups as they shape and reshape their self definition and culture. However, ethnicity is also constructed by external factors like social, economic and political processes. There are multiple processes of ethnic identity formation, transformation, creation of collective meaning, construction of community through mythology and history and the creation of symbolic bases for ethnic mobilization.

“Ethnic literature” is a complex expression, dependent on factors like the writer’s ethnic identity, the language of writing and the literary expression of ethnic themes. This literature might be ‘about’ experiences particular to a certain minority group, but it is not exclusively meant for that. Similarly, ethnic writers are not different from other writers in terms of why and how they write. They focus more on the experience of segments of a society or nation that have been underrepresented in previous literature.

Focus upon ethnic short stories began in the 1950s with attention to Jewish life in the United States and it became much sharper in the mid-1960s, with African-American writers receiving the most attention.

Ireland has a strong tradition of ethnic short stories. Major Irish short-story writers include James Joyce, Seán O’Faoláin, Frank O’Connor, Mary Lavin, William Trevor, Edna O’Brien etc. Irish Literature, fraught with tradition, has a reputation for endlessly re-reading itself, revealing the pervasiveness of the Celtic myths and motifs. Irish short story explores the complexities of Irish identity, explicitly revealing how distinct Irish ethnicity/identity is both suppressed and conditioned by the colonization. These stories discuss the Irish landmarks whose political and cultural significance represent the consolidation of the Irish identity. They also explore the ways in which Irish cultural icons serve the nationalist cause.

On the other hand, Kashmiri short story began in the second half of the twentieth century and since then it has gradually grown in quantity as well as quality. The most prominent Kashmiri short story writers are Akhter Mohiuddin, Hari Krishen Koul, Ali Mohammad Lone, Amin Kamil, Hirday Koul Bharti, Farooq Masoodi, Rattan Lal Shant etc, who have written short stories which are at par with the best stories in other rich traditions.

Kashmiri short fiction is deeply rooted in its native soil. It is, thus, based in its native context that gives a unique position to it.

Despite being a modern genre, its bedrock is Kashmir's distinct cultural mores and mythical allusions. There are certain motifs, themes and characters in Kashmiri short fiction which are universally relevant though taking birth only in specific socio-cultural context of Kashmir.

Both Irish and Kashmiri short fiction stress their cultural, literary and ethnic fixtures. Therefore, these two literary traditions need to be examined to locate the ethnic element, comprising the persistent motifs, myths, native literary imagination, local characters, fables, locale, representation of landscape, seasons and allied themes in Irish and Kashmiri short fiction.

The ethnic writing inaugurates fresh mapping of identities and cultures, thereby suggesting new possibilities for the future. This dissertation shows how the writers' approaches to their ethnic identities are attempts at refiguring relations between literature and other areas of cultural life. Irish and Kashmiri short fiction has, therefore, been taken up for study from an ethnic perspective as these two literary cultures are perceiving a severe threat of extinction on account of various factors: external domination and internal tensions, political uncertainty and cultural marginalization.

Select short fiction from Ireland and Kashmir has been analysed from the perspective of Ethnic Studies, one of the recent literary theoretical approaches to deal with issues of identity, hybridity, local/ethnic/minority aesthetics. It looks at the kinds of techniques, characters and narratives that the writers have adopted to recreate or revisit their past to bring their ethnic element to the fore.

Undergraduate study approaches literature from a broad, cross-cultural perspective. The curriculum encompasses literatures, languages, and cultures from around the world. Students motivated to understand literature in the broadest terms or those interested in particular examples of literary comparison will find an intellectual home in Comparative Literature. A study of the more experimental, self-conscious narratives in modernist literature with emphasis on the major formal and stylistic innovations of representative modern texts. COM 326 / HLS 326. Tragedy. practices for researching Irish literature and to address some of the challenges scholars may face working in such a vast and evolving subject area. Histories and Surveys[edit]. N2915[edit]. An international bibliography of studies of Anglo-Irish literature (along with some original poetry and short fiction). Since the bibliography for 2006 (37 [2007]), entries are organized in two sections: general studies (with divisions for literature, theater, language and culture, and Irish-related work by non-Irish writers) and individual authors; in the installments for 1974–2005 (6–36 [1976–2006]), the general studies section is not subdivided; in the earlier ones, studies are listed by country of origin. Although not comprehensive, the bibliography is useful because of its international