Modern Indian English Novel and Postmodernism in Kiran Nagarkar's Works

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Abstract

Kiran Nagarkar occupies a significant position in modern Indian English literature through his innovative narrative techniques, experimental style, and critical engagement with social, cultural, and political realities. His literary works reflect the changing dimensions of the Indian novel and demonstrate the influence of postmodern literary thought. This research paper aims to examine the relationship between the modern Indian English novel and postmodernism in the selected works of Kiran Nagarkar, particularly Ravan and Eddie, Cuckold, and God's Little Soldier. His novels challenge conventional narrative structures, question established beliefs, and explore the complexities of identity, religion, caste, gender, and cultural diversity. Nagarkar frequently employs irony, satire, multiple perspectives, intertextuality, and narrative experimentation to present the fragmented and contradictory nature of human experience. His writings also question the distinction between history and fiction, reality and imagination, and tradition and modernity. Through his treatment of individual struggles and broader social transformations, Nagarkar highlights the tensions between Indian cultural traditions and contemporary realities. His postmodern approach challenges dominant ideologies and encourages readers to reconsider accepted historical, religious, and social narratives. The study argues that Kiran Nagarkar's literary contributions represent an important development in the evolution of the modern Indian English novel by combining Indian experiences with postmodern narrative strategies. Ultimately, his works demonstrate how postmodernism provides a critical framework for understanding the complexities of contemporary Indian society and the changing nature of literary expression.

Keywords: Kiran Nagarkar, Modern Indian English Novel, Postmodernism, Narrative Experimentation, Fragmentation, Identity, Intertextuality, Indian Society, Cultural Diversity, Tradition and Modernity.