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Globalization and Literature

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Introduction

Globalization is a concept very difficult to define, especially because the term or concept has come to refer to a gamut of variables interlocking and trends so much so that once the term 'Globalization' is mentioned it evokes a lot of passion and emotion. Whereas the perception of globalization dominant in Western Europe and North America is the existence of extensive opportunities for economic development of the world and significant contribution to make better the people's condition of existence. The Third World perception of globalization is that of a harmful process that maximizes inequality within and among states. We can say that globalization, integrating and fragmenting the world, uniformity and localization, increased material prosperity and deepening misery and homogenization and hegemony, is a complex process and phenomenon of antinomies and dialectics.

In India the process of globalization started with the introduction of New Economic Policy in 1991 after continuing the import substitution for nearly forty years. As an economic activity Globalization has not remained detached with other cultural aspects of the society. Aravinda Adiga's *The White Tiger* was published in 2008, and before, at the end of that year, it had made its author famous throughout world. I would like to explore it in the light of representation of modern India.

This 2008 Booker Prize winner novel *The White Tiger* studies the contrast between India's rise as a modern global economic giant and the protagonist, Balram, who comes from rural poverty background. Past six decades have witnessed changes in Indian society, and these changes, many of which are for the better, have overturned the traditional hierarchies, and the old securities of life. A lot of poorer Indians are left disturbed and perplexed by the New India that is being formed around them. However fast Indian economy may be growing, the lives of the poor people still show the grim picture of rural India. Therefore it is clear that the major theme of the novel is to present the effects of globalization on Indian democracy.

The critic Gikandi, in his essay, explores the problems that arise in connection with reading globalization through English Literature, starting with the overly optimistic assumption, bolstered by postcolonial theory, that globalization represents the end of the nation-states and the proliferation of cultural relationships characterized by difference and hybridity. Neco Israel says that globalization's impact on literature in many ways with both positive and negative associations. Anthony Pym's essay, *Globalization and the Politics of Translation Studies*, is very important. Pym sees globalization as a consequence of technologies reducing the costs of communication.

The special issue of the journal *South Atlantic Quarterly* (summer 2001) focuses on the fate of literature as a discipline in the age globalization and connects its debates with established arguments linked to postcolonialism. The concern of Liam Connell's essay *Global Narratives: Globalization & Literary Studies* (2004) is to elaborate a prefatory account of how globalization can be understood as a textual characteristic. Some texts which deal with globalization are – Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* (1997), Vikram Chandra's *Red Earth and Pouring Rain* (1995), Mohsin Hamid's *Moth Smoke* (2000), Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006), Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* (2000).

The term *globalization* term has been in increasing use since the mid-1980s. Many researchers explore works of literature so as to find reflections of diverse globalization themes within the texts and contexts and also to verify the realities of globalization through literary forms. Other literature / literary studies are developed into a platform for evoking, supporting and interpreting different social, political, literary, and cultural concepts within the realm of globalization.

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