

SPECIMEN FORMAT FOR THESES OF MONTH

Faculty : School of Arts and Social Sciences

Department : English

Branch/ Area: : English Literature/ Indian Writing in English

Sub Subject Heading: : Retellings of Indian Mythology, Neo-Marxism

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Title of the thesis : A Neo- Marxist Study of the Select Retellings of
Mahabharata.

(i) Script -

Nomenclature of Degree: : PhD

Month & Year of Enrolment: : July 2018

Month & Year of Registration: : July 2018

Month &Year of Submission: : March 2024

Month &Year of Award : January 2026

Name of Supervisor : Dr. A. Vijayarani

Designation of Supervisor : Associate Professor

**Centre/department/school in
which research was conducted** : Department of English/ School of Arts and Social
Sciences

University's Name & Address : Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and
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Abstract within 300 words:

Myth is a dynamic and man-made belief to maintain the culture of a society. It is revisited and altered according to the necessity of people and acts as a guiding source for people. The retellings of Mahabharata fascinate the researchers to apply literary theories and experiment it from different points of view. The present study is an attempt to explore on the retellings of Mahabharata by Devudtt Pattanaik (Jaya: an Illustrated Retelling of Mahabharata), Anand Neelakantan (Ajaya: Roll of the Dice), Kavita Kane (Karna's Wife: the Outcast's Queen) and Ashutosh Nadkar (Shakuni: Master of the Game) by applying a Neo-Marxian concepts 'Theory of Cultural Hegemony' and 'Role of Intellectuals' by Antonio Gramsci. The researcher has taken both male and female characters from the chosen primary texts to discuss about the cultural domination prevailed during the ancient time and has also highlighted on the functional solution enumerated by Gramsci with the aid of the characters. The study explicates on the retellings of Mahabharata with certain aspects from Gramsci's 'Theory of Cultural Hegemony' and 'Role of Intellectuals'. Elucidates on the purpose of retelling of Mahabharata by critically analysing the selected texts and elaborates on the cultural aspects from them. The study also draws attention to the culture based dominations, capitalist ideologies and gives a practical solution for domination in accordance with Gramsci. The area of research is relevant in this present scenario to highlight the cultural hegemony which still exists among the Indians in different forms. The work is significant as it can relate the issues depicted by the authors of the selected retellings of Mahabharata with our current society.

i) Major objectives :

- To explore the Marxist modes of analysing literature
- To get an insight into the art of and the need for retellings of myths
- To analyse the select retellings of Mahabharata in the light of Neo-Marxist Literary Criticism
- To identify the Marxist social hierarchy that is established and exposed in and through these retellings
- To analyse how retellings of myth can contribute to make or break a social hierarchy

ii) Methodology :

The selected primary texts are critically analyzed to get an insight about the need for retelling Mahabharata. Antonio Gramsci's 'Theory of Hegemony' and 'Role of Intellectuals' act as the theoretical base to explore on the culture based domination in the selected primary texts.

The documentations and citations in thesis are in accordance with the eighth edition of **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Paper.**

Examiners

Internal Examiner :

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