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**Chapter I**  
**Introduction**

In a word, literature is my utopia  
— Hellen Keller (*The Story of My Life*)

Literature exhibits a perennial quality by serving as an archival repository of written works. However, it is imperative to acknowledge that some literary compositions are primarily designed for oral transmission rather than textual consumption. Literature, as an art form, functions as a mirror of human existence, encapsulating individual and collective experiences, encompassing a spectrum of cultural traditions, behavioural norms, perceptions, ideas, and intellectual contemplations. This nuanced perspective underscores the capacity of literature to serve as a conduit for the voices of individuals who transcend temporal, spatial, and societal confines. The scholarly domain encompasses a diverse array of literary canons, including American Literature, Canadian Literature, Indian Literature, as well as specialised fields such as Disability Studies. These distinctive subfields within literature contribute to the enrichment of the understanding of various aspects of human culture and experience.

Disability is a socially constructed concept, influenced by spatial, temporal, and inclusive factors. As Lennard J. Davis in *The Disability Studies Reader* notes that, the disadvantage or restriction of activity caused by a contemporary social organisation which takes little or no account of people who have physical impairments and thus excludes them from participation in the mainstream of social activities (197). Perception of disability varies within contextual frameworks, where normalcy is defined by the able-bodied population, leading to the marginalisation of those not meeting this standard. Disability Studies focuses on proactive interventions

# Navigating Bias : A Critical Examination of Beverley Brenna's Select Works Through Ableism

*by Central Library Avinashilingam*

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