

Land Alienation and the Cloud of Struggles in Select Life Narratives from Kerala

Dimple Scaria

Abstract

This study takes up the questions of land, caste and the subject to bring out the fact that geographical space turns out to be a socially constructed reality rather than a mere physical entity. It tries to look at how the land acquires some social and historical dimensions and how this historically and socially reproduced land becomes a ground through which power relations get operated and hierarchies sustained. This is exemplified in the autobiographical works of C. K. Janu and Seleena Prakkanam. What makes it relevant to take up these life narratives together for the study is the interpenetration of caste and land in shaping the narrative subjectivity of these women with minimal acceptance in public intellectual discourse.

Keywords: Land, Power, Caste, Dalit, Tribal