

A Poetics of Cosmopolitanism: Contemporary Indian English Poetry and the Shared Global Poetic Imaginary

Abstract

The proposed research intends to focus on the contemporary Indian English Poetry through the critical lens of cosmopolitanism. In an age of post-truth, techno-capitalism and terror where acts of intolerance are more pronounced than ever, the dream of a borderless poetic world-view that explores cultural plurality and world citizenship still remains a distant dream. It is at this juncture that the notion of cosmopolitanism provides an antidote to today's scaremongering pessimism. It offers an alternative to the jingoistic idea of nationalism and inspires the individuals to imagine themselves as a part of world culture that blurs all kinds of national and linguistic boundaries. And poetry which at its source is cosmopolitan in nature, acts as a dynamic resistance to homogenizing tendencies of the nation-states. By reimagining political discourses and recasting rigid social identities, poetry becomes an efficacious tool to transcend time and space, and create a tolerant world underlined by a mutual respect for difference. It is in this context that this proposed research intends to traverse the rich and diverse terrain of contemporary Indian English Poetry because in it we can find a truly holistic and cosmopolitan outlook. By transgressing the concepts of narrow borders and limited identity, it emerges as a powerful voice of the disenfranchised margins. What more, it becomes a metonym for the fecund celebration of diversity and interconnectedness; for shared social spaces and pluricultural ethos. For these reasons, the notion of cosmopolitanism assumes a far greater significance in the contemporary Indian English Poetry, because in its ability to forge an alliance with the proverbial home and the world, it can trace the presence of the local in the global and the global in the local. Hence, with particular reference to the vibrant poetry of Sudeep Sen, Arundhati Subramaniam, Ranjit Hoskote and Karthika Nair, this study intends to critically negotiate with the shared global poetic imaginary, and in the process 'curate' a poetics of cosmopolitanism in the context of the contemporary Indian English Poetry.

Keywords: Contemporary Indian English Poetry, Cosmopolitanism, Sudeep Sen, Arundhati Subramaniam, Ranjit Hoskote, and Karthika Nair