

Partition Revisited: A Study of Trauma in the Partition- Poems

Abstract:

Partition is such a major event in Indian history that it has continued to dominate the collective memory of both the nations, India and Pakistan – and often overshadows the importance of independence from British rule because of the devastation caused by the partition that followed. It resulted in a brutal historical moment marked by one of the largest recorded forced migrations, with 15 million displaced, well over one million lives lost, uncounted sexual assaults, and blazing destruction of property. The relevance to study Partition from different perspectives is all the more important in modern world as the relation between contemporary ethnic and gendered violence raises questions about belonging that haunt nations today.

Through a study of partition poems in regional languages, my paper emphatically aims to convey the common concerns of citizens of both nations and the impact of divisive tendencies and communal riots leading to forced migration and the memories etched in their psyche. Partition poems notably of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, W. H. Auden, Jibanananda Das, Amrita Pritam, Shiv Kumar Batalvi, Agyega, Mehjoor and Annada Shankar Ray, Nida Fazli and Agha Shahid Ali will be examined to interrogate the impact of displacement and violent uprooting of people that left deep and disturbing scars on minds of millions. The paper shall also reflect on how the issues of migration, memory and loss suffered by the victims are commemorated in these poems that dwell deeper on the disturbing scars of partition.

Keywords: Partition poetry, Displacement, Violence, Migration, trauma

Profile



Prachi Priyanka holds a doctorate degree in English literature. Her doctoral thesis is an illuminative study on the convergences between poetry and painting since the publication of G. E. Lessing's *Laocoon* to the modern times. Her areas of interest include intertextuality and visual culture, Indian literature, Partition art and Diaspora studies. She writes in both English and Hindi and her research papers, poems and stories have been published in books, online journals, print magazines and short story anthologies. Her short stories collection '*Thistle & Weeds*' was published in 2016. Her book '*Caste, Class and Gender in Modern Indian Literature*' has been accepted for publication by Authorspress, New Delhi. Currently, she is Assistant Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sharda University, India.