

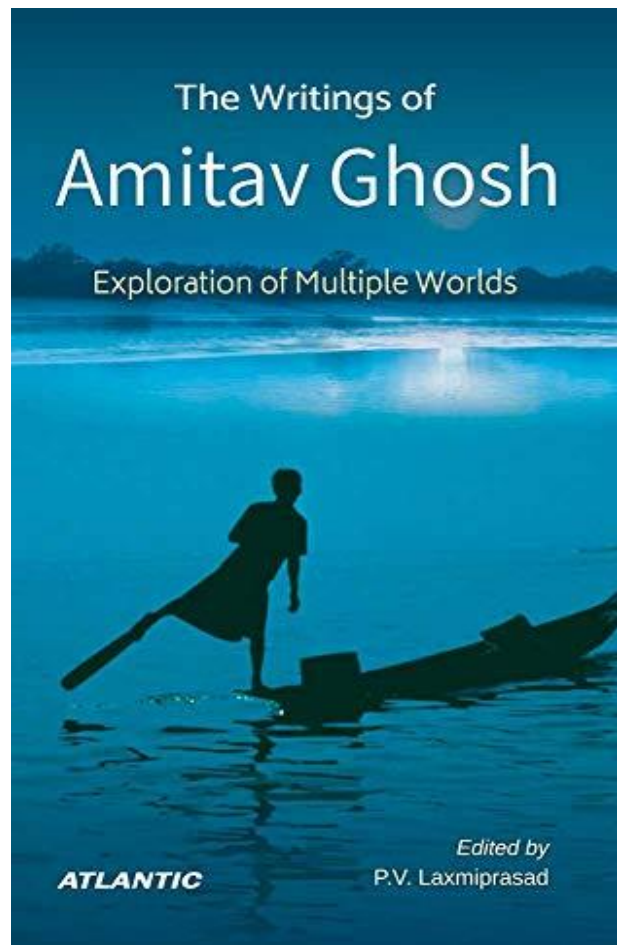
***The Writings of Amitav Ghosh: Exploration of Multiple Worlds*, Ed. P. V. Laxmiprasad, Atlantic Publishers and Distributors Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 2019, Pp 233.**

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Amitav Ghosh needs no introduction. He is a popular novelist in English. He is the recipient of several awards. He received Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Shree Award and Jnanapeeth Award so far. Working on Ghosh is really a blessing and equally an honour for the Editor and the contributors. Laxmiprasad, the editor of this research-oriented book has brought the writings of Amitav Ghosh to the limelight. This book edited by Dr. P.V. Laxmiprasad focuses on the significant dimensions of Amitav Ghosh's writings. The multifarious themes that abound in his writings are brought out through well researched articles by eminent critics.

D. Gnanasekaran's article Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies: A Fictional Metaphor for the

process of change effectively traces Amitav Ghosh's postmodernist leanings in his outlook on life. The writer's passion for history and his training as a social anthropologist is evident in his presentation. The critic shows how the ship Ibis is a dual metaphor – a metaphor for journey and a metaphor for fate. The ship is shown fighting a tempest while the real storm is in the minds of the people on the ship the novel is imbued with a deep commitment to human values. The novel seems to be a reflection of society and the self. C.A Asif's article Narrativizing History and Historizing the Narrative: Reading Amitav Ghosh's The Hungry Tide shows the



unravelling of stories of people and places. The critic shows how there is a mingling of fiction and fact, how the concept of home appears different to different people. The peculiar way in which Ghosh has presented things is effective. The article shows how the novel deals with the issue of immigration, exile and the question of home and homelessness. The connection between man and nature is as well as man and animals are explored. The history of a vast region, its people, the animals and nature is rendered. S. Malathy's article Impacts of Post-colonialism and Post-modernism in Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace* shows how Ghosh as a great humanist raises his powerful voice for the voiceless. *The Glass Palace* elaborates the colonial experience and is addressed to a specific period and the critic shows how the novel is a genuine attempt on the reinscription of past history and he succeeds in elaborating a complex canvas of interconnected stories. Culture Speaks: An Ethnographic Study of Amitav Ghosh's *In an Antique Land* by Prasaja V.P, takes the readers to different places, people and different cultures. Ghosh beautifully sketches the ethnographic map of Europe with minute details and descriptions. The article shows how ethnography can affect the study of human culture and behavior in the past and present. The critic opines that Ghosh succeeds in outliving the linguistic barrier. The critic successfully elucidates how a better understanding of the text is possible when studies with the perspective of anthropology and ethnography.

P. Premchandrar's Article Giving Voice to Subaltern in select Novels of Amitav Ghosh shows how Ghosh reconstructs the private history of the subalterns from the historical past and also voices their plight. His writings take the readers into the depths of historical past to show the shadowed parts of history. S. Mohan Raj's article The Art of Characterisation in Select Novels of Amitav Ghosh, explains how the characters in Amitav Ghosh's works authenticate their identity in the backdrop of challenges and existential crisis. Through his characters Amitav Ghosh interprets the issues of up-rootedness national boundaries and political and communal issues. R. Karthika Devi's article, The Colonial Impact on the Individual and the Social lives: A postcolonial Reading of Amitav Ghosh *Sea of Poppies*, explores how the *Sea of Poppies* in the manner of an epic narrative, revolves around the lives of the people from various backgrounds from different parts of the world. The ship, *Ibis*, is a symbol of colonial authority. Amitav Ghosh has presented the impact of colonial rule on Indian life. S. Barathi's article, Food as a Metaphor in Amitav Ghosh's *In an Antique Land*, illustrates how food represents a country's culture and could be studied to identify post-colonial ideologies. In any culture food plays a critical role, it represents universal cultural truths. Throughout the work Amitav Ghosh discusses the cultural issues of food and how food shows the acceptance of one's culture.

Charles Joseph's article Inclusion and Exclusion: A Postcolonial reading of The Shadow Lines, explains how the The Shadow Lines traces nearly a half century of interlocking relations of two families. It's about the partition of Bengal and the human experience of partition, which has disrupted the existence of natural communities. Riots, racism and racial discrimination and how 'hybridity' has become one of the most recurrent concepts are explicated. N. Asharudeen, Significance of History and Human Influence in the select novels of Amitiav Ghosh: A critical overview deals with discussion of the past and the present of human society in the works of Amitiav Ghosh. He attempts to reconstruct the effect of events that happened in the past. Anita Aruls's article, Marginalisation and Uncertainty in Amitiav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies illustrates how life is a package of unpredictability that keeps life interesting. Marginalisation and unpredictability are quite unavoidable in a place of colonial set up. Yet another article by Prasaja V.P titled Postmodern Historiography: A study on Amitav Ghosh's The Glass Palace, explains how history forms a major element in the novels of Amitav Ghosh. The Glass Palace challenges the institutionalized perspectives of colonial history. He destabilizes the hegemonic historiography. He offers alternate versions of history. Ghosh details the story of the colonial past. He adopts the technique of pastiche to create a narrative voice. He has employed key postmodern techniques in this novel, and proves his calibre as a postmodern historian.

The article titled The Shadow Lines: A Futuristic Post-colonial voyage by Gobinda Sahoo emphasizes how the novel The Shadow Lines is a postcolonial artifact of Indian writing in English. The novel covers three generations of the narrator's family spread over three different places. Amitav Ghosh questions the geographical boundaries that divide and separate people of one land from their own people. The novel divulges the fragility of partition. The novel is a notable creation of postcolonial literature.

Palakurthy Dinakar's Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide: A subaltern Narrative* highlights the pitiable conditions of the neglected strata of society in the Sunderbans. The refugees can be considered as subalterns and the novelist focuses on the state of homelessness as a source of willpower. Ghosh raises his voice in support of the subalterns which is noteworthy. Anju. S. Nair's critique titled Sea of Poppies: Introspective Narrative elucidates how the traits of metafiction can be traced in the writings of Amitav Ghosh. Metafiction draws attention to the fact that it is finally impossible to know where the frame ends and another frame begins. It also poses the question whether the ending of the events begins the writing, or the ending of the writing begins the events. The ending of the novel is marked with a touch of absurdity. In fact the novel does not have an end. On the other hand, the ending of the novel begins the events.

Lingaraj Patra's *In an Antique Land: A transcultural Travel Narrative* treats the novel as a traanscultural work of fiction that transcends the boundaries of local culture. It is a synthesis of various branches of knowledge. Travel in the novel is symbol of quest and discovery.

Transcultural communication in *The Hungry Tide* written by S. Jayalakshmi captures how the problems and concern regarding borders. It is concerned with issues of migration such as geographical enigma, travel, exploration, encounter and memory. S. Karthik Kumar's article *Nature vs Nurture: An Eco Critical Reading of Amitav Ghosh's The Hungry Tide*, represents how *The Hungry Tide* is a work with environmental orientation. Ghosh delineates the human intercommunication with nature through the experiences of the main characters. The novel depicts the fact that it is not easy to make human and non-human world co-exist in an ecologically challenging environment. D.Geraldin's critique titled *Maximalism in The Glass Palace* explores the postmodern theory, Maximalism in the novel *The Glass Palace*. The author gets out of the main stream of the story to tell many things that seem to divert the readers from the plot. *Shifting Countours/Marring Boundaries:A Cultural Reading of Amitav Ghosh's Sea Of Poppies* by Vidya Merlin Varghese shows how cultural differences or cultural divides have augmented the disparity among mankind. The article explains how the novel abounds in signifiers that make the cultural study of the work very enticing. Language, body and rituals are significant cultural markers of the text. The article proves how culture is manifested through different perspectives. G. Srilatha's article titled *A Paradoxical Reading of The Shadow Lines* with reference to *Tha'mma* illustrates the theme of partition. Through the life of *Tha'mma* Ghosh illustrates how a generation was affected by partition.

Ecological Degradation in Amitav Ghosh's The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable by Candy D' Cunha shows how this work of Amitav Ghosh enthral the minds of the readers to understand the destiny of humans. We need a paradigm shift in understanding and dealing with the ecological crisis that we are facing. The paper tries to trace various ecological concerns thus sending as message and hoping for a better world. K. V. Raghupathi's article *Multiple Narratives in Amitav Ghosh's travel Writings: A Reading of In an Antique Land* shows how Amitav Ghosh's travel writing is distinct from other forms of writing. The anthropological comparisons are well researched and thought provoking.

The critical volume becomes an authenticated book in the genre of criticism which is highly useful for research scholars. It is well-known that many scholars are working on Amitav Ghosh's novels for their doctoral degrees. It serves as a secondary source as it did in the recent

past. Laxmiprasad's effort in bringing such a book is reckoned to be the most valuable contribution.