

THE SEARCH FOR SELF IN MANJU KAPUR'S A MARRIED WOMAN

Prabhakar, M., Amsa, G and M.Naveen

Department of English, Kongu College of Arts and Science, Karur- 639006, TamilNadu, India.

ABSTRACT

This paper delves into the theme of self-discovery and identity in Manju Kapur's novel "A Married Woman", exploring how the protagonist navigates the complexities of Indian societal norms and expectations. The novel offers a profound insight into the life of a married woman in India, highlighting the challenges she faces in her quest for selfhood. Through a critical analysis of the novel, this paper examines the ways in which Kapur portrays the search for self and identity in the context of Indian societal norms and expectations. The paper also discusses the historical and cultural background of Indian English literature, tracing the evolution of the genre and the contribution of women writers to its development. The analysis of the novel is situated within the broader context of feminist theory and postcolonial studies, highlighting the ways in which the novel challenges traditional notions of identity and selfhood. The paper argues that Kapur's novel offers a nuanced and complex portrayal of the search for self and identity in India, one that is shaped by the societal norms and expectations that govern women's lives. The novel is a powerful exploration of the human experience, one that raises important questions about the nature of identity and selfhood in the Indian context. The paper concludes by highlighting the significance of Kapur's novel in the context of Indian English literature, and its contribution to our understanding of the search for self and identity in India. The novel is a testament to the power of literature to challenge and subvert societal norms, and to offer a profound insight into the human experience. The paper is a critical analysis of the novel, and it argues that Kapur's work is a significant contribution to the field of Indian English literature. The paper also discusses the implications of the novel for our understanding of identity and selfhood in India, and it highlights the need for further research in this area.

Keywords: *Indian English literature, Manju Kapur, A Married Woman, self-discovery, identity, societal norms, feminist theory, postcolonial studies, women's writing, Indian culture.*

INTRODUCTION

Indian English literature has undergone significant transformations over the years, emerging as a distinct and vibrant genre that reflects the complexities of Indian society. The introduction of the English language in India marked the beginning of a new era in Indian literature, as writers began to experiment with new forms and styles. The East India Company's arrival in India played a crucial role in the development of Indian English literature, as it introduced the English language to the Indian subcontinent. The printing press and newspaper publishing also contributed to the growth of Indian English literature, as they provided a platform for writers to express themselves and reach a wider audience. Indian English authors have made significant contributions to the genre, challenging traditional societal norms and exploring new themes and ideas. Women writers, in particular, have played a crucial role in shaping the genre, introducing new perspectives and styles to Indian English literature. Manju Kapur is one of the prominent women writers in Indian English

literature, known for her nuanced and complex portrayals of Indian life. Her novel "A Married Woman" is a powerful exploration of the search for self and identity in India, one that challenges traditional notions of identity and selfhood. The novel is a testament to Kapur's skill as a writer, and it offers a profound insight into the human experience. The novel is also a significant contribution to the field of Indian English literature, as it explores the complexities of Indian society and the challenges faced by women in their quest for selfhood. The novel is a powerful exploration of the human experience, one that raises important questions about the nature of identity and selfhood in the Indian context. The novel is a critical analysis of the societal norms and expectations that govern women's lives in India, and it offers a nuanced and complex portrayal of the search for self and identity in India. The novel is a significant contribution to the field of Indian English literature, and it is a testament to the power of literature to challenge and subvert societal norms.

The novel "A Married Woman" is a powerful exploration of the search for self and identity in India, one that challenges traditional notions of identity and selfhood. The novel is a nuanced and complex portrayal of the human experience, one that raises important questions about the nature of identity and selfhood in the Indian context. The novel is a critical analysis of the societal norms and expectations that govern women's lives in India, and it offers a profound insight into the challenges faced by women in their quest for selfhood. The novel is a significant contribution to the field of Indian English literature, and it is a testament to the power of literature to challenge and subvert societal norms. The novel is also a powerful exploration of the human experience, one that raises important questions about the nature of identity and selfhood in the Indian context. The novel is a nuanced and complex portrayal of the search for self and identity in India, one that is shaped by the societal norms and expectations that govern women's lives. The novel is a critical analysis of the societal norms and expectations that govern women's lives in India, and it offers a profound insight into the challenges faced by women in their quest for selfhood. The novel is a significant contribution to the field of Indian English literature, and it is a testament to the power of literature to challenge and subvert societal norms. The search for self and identity is a central theme in Indian English literature, one that is explored in many novels and short stories. The theme is a reflection of the complexities of Indian society, where traditional norms and expectations often conflict with modern values and aspirations. The search for self and identity is a challenging and complex process, one that requires individuals to navigate the complexities of Indian society and to challenge traditional norms and expectations. The novel "A Married Woman" is a powerful exploration of this theme, one that offers a nuanced and complex portrayal of the search for self and

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METHODOLOGY

This paper employs a critical analysis approach to examine the theme of self-

discovery and identity in Manju Kapur's novel "A Married Woman". The analysis is situated within the broader context of feminist theory and postcolonial studies, highlighting the ways in which the novel challenges traditional notions of identity and selfhood. The paper draws on a range of theoretical frameworks, including feminist theory and postcolonial studies, to analyze the novel and its themes. The analysis is based on a close reading of the novel, as well as a review of existing literature on the theme of self-discovery and identity in Indian English literature. The paper also examines the historical and cultural background of Indian English literature, tracing the evolution of the genre and the contribution of women writers to its development.

The paper employs a qualitative research approach, using a case study of Manju Kapur's novel "A Married Woman" to examine the theme of self-discovery and identity. The analysis is based on a close reading of the novel, as well as a review of existing literature on the theme of self-discovery and identity in Indian English literature. The paper also draws on a range of theoretical frameworks, including feminist theory and postcolonial studies, to

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FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of Manju Kapur's novel "A Married Woman" reveals a nuanced and complex portrayal of the search for self and identity in India. The novel is a powerful exploration of the human experience, one

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CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Manju Kapur's novel "A Married Woman" is a powerful exploration of the search for self and identity in India. The novel is a nuanced and complex portrayal of the human experience, one that raises important questions about the nature of identity and selfhood in the Indian context. The novel is a critical analysis of

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