

## Book Reviews

Basavaraj Naikar, *Perspectives on Commonwealth Literature*, Jaipur: Book Enclave, First Published in 2004 & Revised Edition in 2014, PP.254, ISBN: 978-81-8152-358-7, Rs1295/-

Basavaraj Naikar's *Perspectives on Commonwealth Literature* contains scholarly articles on the major Commonwealth writer's like Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, Obotunde Ijimere, Nadine Gordimer, Margaret Laurence, Patrick White, Tom Gibson, Norman Partington, Simon Harvester, Taya Zinkin, G.V. Desai, Gurucharan Das, Manohar Malgaonkar, Khushwant Singh, Chaman Nahal, Rabindranath Tagore, V.S. Naipaul, Derek Walcott, Gabriel Okara, A.J.M. Smith and J.M. Coetzee. It seems that Naikar's interest in Commonwealth literature initially began as an extension of his interest in Indian English literature; but this extension of interest soon became deeply absorbing and wide-ranging, involving not only Indian literatures but also literatures from Africa, Australia, Canada, the West Indies, the Asia-Pacific Region, and others. This book contains twenty-two scholarly articles that the author has written over the past twenty years on major Commonwealth writers. Some of these articles were published in reputed journals of India. The author has collected and published these articles in this critical anthology for the benefit of graduate, post-graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral students to expand their critical vistas.

Commonwealth is an extension of the word commonweal, which means general good or good for the entire community, which therefore must sound most appropriate because we are concerned with the commonwealth of learning, and of learned men. An important outcome of the political Commonwealth was the setting up of the Commonwealth Foundation to further consolidate the gains in the realm of culture. The advantage of commonwealth writers is that most of them are bilingual, for instance, Kamala Das, writes her Fiction in Malayalam and her Poetry in English while Chinua Achebe, writes Fiction in English and Poetry in his own Igbo. Thus they are better equipped with multiple and diverse experience which enables them to share "strangeness" through their literary creations. Patrick White cannot deny his indebtedness to Australian experience. Commonwealth literature therefore has come to mean all literature written or translated in English - no Standard English, but which in politics was probably the most powerful instrument of the colonial, in asserting his national identity who, having won his independence, now shaped a dialect of two to articulate the profoundest creative urges and aspirations of a distinctive sensibility. Commonwealth countries are scattered all over the globe and make "for one-fourth of the total population of the world: Canada and the Caribbean region across the Atlantic; Australia, that last cultural out-post of the British Empire; New Zealand, the Empire's Diary, and the islands of the South Pacific; Africa, that giant continent and the South-East Asian region, all of which have developed brands of English different from English-English and have, during the past quarter century especially, become so conscious of their identity that their "crippled dialect" has proved to be very "colourful" - because they have made it accommodate sensibilities to which English has remained a stranger and, in the past, even looked down upon.

Basavaraj Naikar's book *Perspectives on Commonwealth Literature* has been divided into twenty-two Chapters: Chapter(1) An Appreciation of Commonwealth Poetry, deals

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with some finest poems of poets like A.J. Smith, A.D. Hope, Gabriel Okara and Derek Walcott; Chapter(2) Cosmic Concerns in the Plays of Obotunde Ijimere, deals with instrumental role in stimulating the visual arts in Nigeria and Papua New Guinea; Chapter(3) Crime and Punishment in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*, offers a realistic picture of the brutal reality of South African life in the twentieth century; Chapter(4) *India: A Million Mutinies Now: A Postmodern Travelogue*, talks about V.S Naipaul's records of his four travels in India undertaken at different point of times; Chapter(5) Colonial Conflict in *Things Fall Apart*, depicts the colonial encounter between the Africans and the British; Chapter(6) Religious Conflict in *Arrow of God*, throws light upon several aspects of African religion; Chapter(7) The Conflict between Tradition and Modernity in *The Lion and the Jewel*, draws heavily on the theme of colonial conflict; Chapter(8) *A Dance of the Forests: A Socio-Political Satire*, is a complex play having archetypal characters, multiplicity of themes, complicated symbolism and multidimensional technique; Chapter (9) *Kongi's Harvest: A Political Satire*, is a political play depicting the life of Africa in general; Chapter(10) Quest for Freedom in *My Son's Story*, depicts the socio-political life of Africa through realistic mode of narration, and foregrounds racial segregation vide personal experience; Chapter(11) Marriage of Souls in *Voss*, depicts a different kind of marriage, perhaps a spiritual; Chapter (12) *The Stone Angel: The Story of a Woman with a Will*, depicts a typical feminine sensibility nourished on Canadian culture; Chapter(13) Colonial Conflict in *A Soldier of India*, depicts the ambivalent relationship between the Rani of Jhansi and the East India Company; Chapter(14) *Flow Red the Ganges: A Mutiny Novel*, is a mutiny novel written from the British point of view; Chapter(15) Bicultural Encounter in *Tiger in the North*, deals with the Indian life when the British were about to leave India. The cultural confrontation between the British and the Indians happens to be at the heart of the novel; Chapter(16) Childhood Experience in *Rishi*, deals with a novel written by a mature author about the experience of a child through the techniques of omniscient narrator; Chapter(17) Allegory and Symbolism in *All About H. Hatter*, deals with grotesque-cum-comic theme and peculiar technique; Chapter(18) The Tragic Dilemma of *Larins Sahib*, dramatizes the conflict between two forces, the British imperialism represented by the East India company and the Indian king Dalip Singh; Chapter(19) The Theme of Anti-Colonialism in *A Bend in the Ganges*, concentrates on the anti-colonial struggle between the British and the Indians popularly known as Quit India movement propelled by Gandhian dynamism; Chapter(20) The Conflict Between Imperialism and Nationalism in *I Shall Not Hear the Nightingale*, deals with the India of 1940's, when the colonial encounter between the Indians and the British was moving towards a climax on account of the emergence of nationalistic consciousness among the Indians; Chapter(21) The Trauma of partition in *Azadi*, offers an intensive picture of the effect of the traumatic experience of the partition of the country on the life of people living in the north-western border areas of India; Chapter(22) The Conflict between Bondage and Liberation in *The Home and the World*, deals with Swadeshi movement and the emotional theme of man-woman relationship are intertwined beautifully.

The book is a welcome addition in the Commonwealth Literature and is a useful reading for serious researchers. The book with an impeccable cover-design and fine printing is a must-read for every Commonwealth Literature lover at least from the subcontinent. This book has an interdisciplinary relevance. It will cater to the socio-

political, cultural and literary needs of the society. Issues and problems discussed and analyzed will enlighten the society and help to meditate on those problems. Researchers and scholars of Indian English literature will find the study highly informative and useful. It will also work as reference work on Commonwealth literature as it has been prescribed in most of the Indian Universities.

**Deepak Kumar Singh**

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T. Sai Chandra Mouli, *Essential Communication Skills for Dynamic Development*, Book Enclave: Jaipur, 2016. PP.212, ISBN: 978-81-8152-375-4, Rs.1250/-

T. Sai Chandra Mouli's edited book *Essential Communication Skills for Dynamic Development* contains twenty-four scholarly research papers on various aspects related to acquisition of communication skills that enhance blooming of inherent potential necessary to lead a dynamic life with commendable ease and poise. The concept of communication refers to the psychological, cultural and social rules which condition the use of speech. Communicative competence and linguistic competence appear to be distinctly different, but there are areas of contact and overlapping. In a way, linguistic competence is integral to communicative competence. In today's globalized scenario and cut throat competition, one has to be literally on one's toes to excel and make a point. Communication is the edge that one can acquire to guarantee one's route to success. Communication has a broad spectrum that encompasses both, verbal and non-verbal communication. In any sphere of work, presentation and public speaking plays an important role in expressing our ideas, information, plans and layouts. The greatest of ideas can fall flat on their face unless successfully communicated. And communication is not confined merely to words. Sometimes even the right words fail to make an impact when the speaker is unaware of the correct non-verbal signals to be incorporated in his/her presentation. The obstacles to a successful and powerful presentation that are often overlooked needs constant appraisal.

T. Sai Chandra Mouli's edited book *Essential Communication Skills for Dynamic Development* has been divided into twenty-four Chapters. In Chapter One, Use of Technology in Developing Interpersonal Skills of ESL Learners, discuss the benefits of using technology to develop interpersonal skills among ESL learners of Asia and Africa. Interpersonal skills are the skills that a person uses to interact with other people; Chapter Two, Relationship between Intercultural and Linguistic Competence of Students of English: A Study, deals with the various aspects of linguistic competence, as the term is applied to mastering the combination of sounds, syntax, and semantics; Chapter Three, Teaching English, talks about the necessity of English as a medium of teaching and communication and the growing importance of English, as is evident in the growing number of writers and poets having resorted to English in writing their works; Chapter Four, Methods of Teaching English, discusses the importance of Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) methodology, as it imposes a great responsibility on the teacher; Chapter Five, Teaching English and Other Foreign Languages in the Soft Skills Programme of the University of Madras: An Innovative Academic Note, opines that in today's world it is important to be well-equipped with soft skills along with hard skills. Soft skills are critical skills that needed to be developed