Book Reviews

Tribhuwan Kumar & Vijay Kumar Roy, eds. *Comparative Literature: Critical Responses*. New Delhi: Alfa Publications, 2014, pp. 291. Price: ₹ 895.00. ISBN: 978-93-83292-41-7.

Reviewed by
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Comparative Literature: Critical Responses is an anthology of twenty three articles written by distinguished academicians of Comparative Literature not only from all the corners of India but also from some foreign countries. The anthology is the result of the insight visualised by two young bourgeoning scholars, Dr. Tribhuwan Kumar and Dr. Vijay Kumar Roy to make literature convenient and comprehensive through comparison. As a matter of fact, the accurate and effective analysis of literature demands sound understanding of Comparative Literature as methodology. There is no exaggeration if the noted comparatist in India, Prof. Avadhesh Kumar Singh writes: "Comparison is a natural human instinct. It is the only valid approach to know the true worth of a work of art. In itself, like a mountain, each text is great. But one comes to know the true worth when we take it close to another mountain or the Everest".

The foreword by Prof. Avadhesh Kumar Singh offers a clear and easy-to-read approach to understand the concept of Comparative Literature and it makes the book more important.

The first paper by Dr. Madhur Kumar delineates with subtlety and perfection the various modes and aspects of Comparative Literature. The next twenty-two research papers are about spirituality across cultures; Oriental and Occidental views of Romanticism; Sanskrit scholar Kuntaka and Russian scholar Shklovsky; Eliot's critical theories and Sanskrit Poetics; the poetic world of Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist scholar; Exilic Identities; Macbeth, Tughlaq and Caligula (characters) as tyrants; Shelley and Majaaz's portrayal of love; Latif Bhittai; Benyamin's *Goat Life*; Sir Edwin Arnold's *The Light of Asia* and Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha*; the pain of the commonality of umbilical cord in *The Mill on the Floss* and *The God of Small Things*; Ruth Prawer Jhabvala and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni; Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai; Nayantara Sahgal and Doris Lessing; DF Bailey's 'Suitcase' and Bhishm Sahni's 'Chief Ki Daawat'; John Keats and Vijay Vaibhav's *Premanjali*; poetry of Shyam Singh Shashi and Mahendra Bhatnagar; Walt Whitman's Mysticism and Indian Philosophy; Language Politics and Dev Virahswamy's *Toufaan*; and Translation and Comparative Literature.

The editors have shown insight into bringing together responses of various scholars on various aspects of Comparative Literature, however it is impossible to deal with all the aspects in a single volume, for the canvas of Comparative Literature is surely vast. The anthology under review is an enviable publication and I am sure, it will be useful for the large group of researchers, as the trend of research is changing these days.

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