

Introduction to Postcolonial Literature

B.A. Sixth Semester, CBCS

Postcolonial Literature

- Literature by people from former colonised countries
- Addresses the problems and consequences of decolonisation of a country
- Deals with political and cultural independence of formerly subjugated people
- A range of literary theory is connected to postcolonial literature that addresses the role of literature in perpetuating and challenging cultural imperialism

Postcolonial Literature Characteristics

- An umbrella term used to denote works by writers from postcolonial nations and those written about the impacts of colonialism
- Challenges the mainstream narratives about colonialism and colonial populations by presenting the other side of the story
- Postcolonial literature functions as a vehicle to display postcolonial cultures to counter stereotypical narratives around them

Themes of Postcolonial Literature

- Hybridity
- Language
- History
- Hierarchy of Power
- Intertextuality

Postcolonial Literature: Examples

- Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1958)
- Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* (1981)
- Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* (2017)
- Other award-winning postcolonial writers include Kiran Desai, Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy, and Ben Okri