

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE IN HUMANITIES



Volume 7, Issue 3, March 2019

MONTHLY JOURNAL

An international platform for researchers

UELLH

International Journal of English Language, Literature in Humanities Indexed, Peer Reviewed (Refereed), UGC Approved Journal Volume 7, Issue 3, March 2019

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Prathibha P

Assistant Professor & Research Scholar,

PG Dept of English and Research Centre,

Vimala College, Autonomous,

Thrissur, Kerala, India

prathibha19@gmail.com

The Power of Women's Politics: A Comparative Study of the Select Works of Amitav Ghosh and Arundhathi Roy

Abstract

Women's Studies, with its emphasis on ascertaining the role of female identity in the society through detailed analysis of literal and social representations, has achieved considerable success in ameliorating their general position. In power discourses, women have mostly been rendered a subaltern status in the past which has been mitigated through persistent efforts at centralizing women's experiences and highlighting the part played by oppressive regimes in subduing dissenting voices. The Indian- English writers Amitav Ghosh and Arundhathi Roy also evoke a similar concern regarding the prevalent issues relating to women's status-quo, yet defend their individuality successfully by employing tactics to subdue dominant strategies of oppression thereby aligning to the project undertaken by the Women Studies collective. This paper aims to examine the representation of women characters in Indian- English literature and their tryst with power through Ghosh's female characters in *The Circle of Reason* (1986), *The Shadow Lines* (1988), *In an Antique Land* (1992), *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1996), *The Glass Palace* (2000), *The Hungry Tide* (2004), *Dancing in Cambodia* (2002), *At Large in Burma* (2002) and Roy's stand regarding