

मध्य भारती

मानविकी एवं समाजविज्ञान की द्विभाषी शोध-पत्रिका

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Poststructuralist Method : A Study in Cross-Cultural Application

Vandana Rajoriya

Poststructuralism is a methodology or an approach to knowledge that leaves no firm ground for the conception, formation or reassertion of truth or the various objects of knowledge like sense perception, faith, intuition, emotion, imagination, experience, language, reason and the like because the conscious possession of knowledge or truth always rests upon the activity of judgment whereas the post-structuralist approach altogether denies the possibility of arriving at any sound judgement. Here object can be understood as the term of reference of thought or any specific element in experience which yields conscious meaning or reflective significance for the thinking self.

The poststructuralist method asserts and highlights the impossibility of arriving at any final meaning. It is a powerful tool for confronting, examining, encountering, dismantling and breaking the boundaries of all sorts of prison houses of standards, norms, practices and ideas enforced upon our understanding by tradition, culture and society for ages. It also happens to be one of the most difficult to understand and unique but significant literary theories. The purpose of this research paper is to bring out a reasonable and comprehensive understanding of the Poststructuralist method by applying it to the select verses of some of the canonical works of Sanskrit classics like Kālidāsa's *Abhijnānaśākuntalam*, Bāṇabhaṭṭa's *Kādambarī*, Śūdraka's '*Māchakaikā*', and Viśakhadatta's *Mudrārākṣasa* among others.

Post-structuralism is a movement from work to text – A shift from seeing the poem or novel as a closed entity with fixed meaning to looking at it as (irreducibly plural) an endless play of signifiers which can never be finally nailed down to a single centre, essence or meaning. Poststructuralists like Derrida, Foucault and Lacan have rigorously scrutinised the situation of conscious and unconscious manifestation of language and experience through their works. Bernard E. Harcourt in his article entitled “An Answer to the Question: 'What is Poststructuralism?’ aptly summarizes the poststructuralist method. It is worth our while to look at the following extract from the article:

Poststructuralism, I suggest, is a style of critical reasoning that focuses on the moment of ambiguity in our systems of meaning, as a way to identify the ethical choices