

## ABSTRACT

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**Topic** : **History, Memory and Myth: A Study of Diasporic  
Constructions in the Poetry of A.K. Ramanujan**

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As Diaspora has emerged as a new branch of study, it is very important to trace the origin and history of diaspora. Diaspora literature deals with the literary works of migrated writers from their original birth place. It talks about the traumatic experience of those writers during their efforts of assimilation and adoption of the new culture. They face the problem of discrimination on the basis of their caste, class, religion and language. In this pathetic condition they look back to their own country, the birth place nostalgically. They compare the new culture with their own culture and religion. A.K. Ramanujan belongs to the diaspora category of writers. He migrated from India and settled in America as a Professor of English in the University of Chicago. He has written several essays and poems as well as on folklore of Indian culture, religion, myths and legends. His poetry proves that he was deeply rooted in Indian culture and religion, especially Hinduism. All these things point that he projected and promoted our Indian culture and Hinduism through his literary works. In this context this thesis attempts to critically study the poetic world of A.K. Ramanujan. Having this in mind this thesis is organized in this way:

The first chapter of this thesis titled *Introduction: Diasporic Historiography and A.K. Ramanujan* deals with the history of diaspora, origin of diaspora, various types of diaspora and contemporary diasporic literature as well as importance of A.K. Ramanujan as a diaspora writer. The Second Chapter titled *History, Memory and Myth in the Poetry of A.K. Ramanujan* deals with study of several poems in detail. This chapter explores the diasporic themes like history, memory and myth. In this chapter the researcher has discussed about the History, Memory and Myth in the poetry of A.K. Ramanujan. This chapter explores the diasporic themes like history, memory and myth in the poetry of A K Ramanujan. His poetry can be analyzed as a study of the human mind in relation to man's personal situations, his environment and the system in which he is born and brought up. His poems reveal the fact that life and literature are two inter-dependent constituents. He goes back into his past and childhood memories to get new ideas for his poetry. Hence, it can be said that childhood memories and longing for motherland are the characteristic features of diaspora tradition. Apart from depicting the Indian image he has succeeded in creating a new Indian English idiom. These idioms can be easily understood by Indian readers because they are familiar with Indian culture. He has written several poems on his family members, culture and religion with the help of memory. He has written several poems on his family members in which his mother, father and relatives are there. His second poetry collection *Relations* is full of common themes of

childhood memories, history, culture and religion of India. His poetry is concern with familial relationships, personal relationships, and social relationships, relationship with Indian culture, tradition, history and myth. He remembered all these nostalgically. The poet keeps looking backward to his past life as he gets nourishment from his past. He was looking backward to Indian culture, history, society, religion and myth to solve this various problems. Indian culture and landscapes attracted him and that is why he has written several poems on his Hindu heritage, his family, his relatives and culture and tradition.

The third chapter of the thesis titled *Techniques of A.K. Ramanujan* discusses various linguistic concerns poised by Ramanujan's poetry. It also tries to analyze how he has transformed them into linguistic opportunities to establish his identity as a Diaspora writer in an alien culture. Diction and imagery are the two distinctive features of his poetry which is discussed in this chapter.

In the *Conclusion* it has been summarized that history and memory as well as myths are the mode of self recovery for a diaspora poet who moved or we can say migrated from his own culture and civilization to another unknown and alien culture. After migration they are caught between their native culture and the adopted one and therefore, they try their best for self-recovery with the help of history and memory.

After close reading of his poetry as well as of his other literary works the researcher has reached on this point that family is the centrally thing in his poetry. His whole work is moving towards family. He has written extensively about his family, religion, culture as well as about myths and legends of this great nation. Memory played a creative role for him for writing about all those things. Indian myths and legends guided him during the critical circumstances and in the situation of any problem in an alien land.

The history of this great nation makes him to feel proud of his country. Historical events of this country also helped him to move forward with great pride. Not only this, Indian culture civilisation and myths as well as legends of this country worked as *Akshyaptra* for a diaspora writer like A.K. Ramanujan who get strength from going back into the lap of these.

Indian diaspora writers like A.K. Ramanujan clarify their doubts with the help of Indian myths and legendary stories. Hence, the researcher has to say that A.K. Ramanujan has projected and promoted Hinduism and Indian culture through his literary works. The researcher has also to say that the re-assertion of Indian culture and Hinduism on the world stage can be seen in his works by any reader.

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