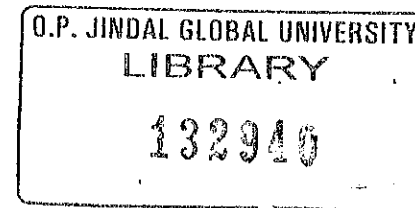


# A New Approach to Literary Theory and Criticism

R.S. Malik  
Jagdish Bhatta

132940

# A New Approach to Literary Theory and Criticism



R.S. Malik

Former Head, Postgraduate Dept. of English,  
C.R.A. College, Sonapat (NCR)

Jagdish Batra

Head, English Language Centre  
O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat (NCR)

O.P. Jindal Global University  
Library

O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY

132940

20 MAY 2016

801.9509  
MA-N

*[Handwritten signature]*

## Preface

Published by

**ATLANTIC**

PUBLISHERS & DISTRIBUTORS (P) LTD

7/22, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002

Phones : +91-11-40775252, 23273880, 23275880, 23280451

Fax : +91-11-23285873

Web : www.atlanticbooks.com

E-mail : orders@atlanticbooks.com

Branch Office

5, Nallathambi Street, Wallajah Road, Chennai-600002

Phones : +91-44-64611085, 32413319

E-mail : chennai@atlanticbooks.com

Copyright © The Authors, 2014

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner. Application for such permission should be addressed to the publisher.

### Disclaimer

The author and the publisher have taken every effort to the maximum of their skill, expertise and knowledge to provide correct material in the book. Even then if some mistakes persist in the content of the book the publisher does not take responsibility for the same. The publisher shall have no liability to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly, by the information contained in this book. Hence, the book should be taken as a general guide only.

The publisher has fully tried to follow the copyright law. However, if any work is found to be similar, it is unintentional and the same should not be used as defamatory or to file legal suit against the authors/publisher.

If the readers find any mistakes we shall be grateful to them for pointing out

The advent of poststructuralism has made literary criticism a highly complex and technical affair, so much so that not only ordinary students but also several teachers feel baffled and bewildered at the prospect of having to deal with it. In order to comprehend literature, one has, in addition to grasping literary theories, to be familiar with numerous linguistic, psychological, political and cultural theories that impact the production and reception of literature these days. From meta-narratives to epistemological premises—all get interrogated in these postmodern times.

This book is not meant to be a comprehensive study of the sprawling domain of critical, literary and cultural theories. It is rather a modest attempt to explain different theories and movements in simple language for the benefit of students of postgraduate classes of Indian universities. The length of the chapters has been kept limited to two to three thousand words each in which the writers have sincerely tried to sum up important concepts and approaches. The format followed in preparing these essays is to begin with the historical development of any theory, elaborate and illustrate different approaches, move on to the key features, critics and methodology, and conclude with its evaluation. An extra edge has been provided through citations from valuable sources relevant to each area of study.

As a matter of record, it may be mentioned that the following chapters have been written by the first author, with

American Deconstruction, Marxist Criticism, New Historicism, Gender Studies, Psychoanalytic criticism, Feminist Criticism, Phenomenological Criticism, Reception Theory, Intertextuality, Reader-response Theory, and Social Media Studies.

The book is the result of cumulative endeavour of two professors of literature of long standing, both of whom share the hallowed relationship of teacher and pupil, respectively. Needless to say, their classroom experience of several decades has helped them to prepare concise and compact write-ups which should satisfy the needs of student community. However, there is no limit to improvement; therefore, the authors welcome feedback from students and teachers who are the best judge of the value of this endeavour.

**R.S. Malik**  
**Jagdish Batra**

## Contents

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <i>Preface</i> .....                         | <i>iii</i> |
| 1. Modernism .....                           | 1          |
| 2. New Criticism.....                        | 9          |
| 3. Russian Formalism.....                    | 15         |
| 4. Structuralist Criticism .....             | 24         |
| 5. Poststructuralism and Deconstruction..... | 32         |
| 6. American Deconstruction/Yale Critics..... | 41         |
| 7. Postmodernism .....                       | 47         |
| 8. Marxist Criticism.....                    | 55         |
| 9. Psychoanalytic Criticism .....            | 62         |
| 10. Archetypal and Myth Criticism.....       | 71         |
| 11. Feminist Criticism.....                  | 76         |
| 12. Feminism in India .....                  | 83         |
| 13. Gender Studies/Queer Theory .....        | 95         |
| 14. Phenomenological Criticism.....          | 101        |
| 15. Reader-response Theory.....              | 107        |
| 16. Reception Theory.....                    | 113        |
| 17. Existentialism.....                      | 119        |