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academic discipline. Disability needs to develop itself as an interdisciplinary 'subject that is as much at home with theory as with pragmatic solutions' (Shildrick 2012: 30).

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Writing from, of and by the Northeast: Locating the Northeast in the Novels of Mamang Dai, Siddhartha Deb and Anjum Hasan¹

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How does one locate the new canon of Northeast writing in English? Is it part of the broader canon of Indian-English writing, or does it belong in the multilingual terrain of writings from the Northeast, or does it stand independent and apart? What is the Northeast – a construct, a region, a people, an identity, or more? This paper perhaps poses more questions than answers. Many of the questions may be reminiscent of the earlier debates about Indian-English writing, which went through a series of angst-ridden labels – Anglo-Indian literature, Indo-Anglian literature, Anglophone literature, Indian Writing in English, and Indian-English Writing, each with different implications.²

Three English novelists from the Northeast are examined here, namely: Mamang Dai based in Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh; Anjum Hasan from Shillong, based in Bangalore; and Siddhartha Deb, also from Shillong, Meghalaya, but based in New York. While the former lives in the Northeast, one lives elsewhere in India, and the last lives abroad. Since it is very challenging to make any representative selection of novelists from the Northeast, given the internal diversity of the region and its contesting identities, my selection is based on the simple fact of the diversity of the current location of the chosen writers and the fact that they have written more than one novel in English.

The paper has three sections: 1) a brief historical overview of debates about Indian-English writing and the context in which English writings from the Northeast have emerged; 2) an examination of how the chosen three writers locate or dislocate themselves through their novels in an intersecting global, national, regional and