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'Social Transformation Through Dynamic Education'



**BHARATI VIDYAPEETH  
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The Influence of *The Ramayana* and *The Mahabharata*  
on Indian English Literature

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# Souvenir



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**Yuganta : A Modern Perspective Towards Mahabharata**

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**Abstract**

Iravati Karve's *Yuganta* is the celebrated book on the Mahabharata. Iravati Karve herself has translated her own book *Yuganta* (originally in Marathi) in English which was prepared mainly for a foreign audience. She studies the humanity of the Mahabharata's great figures with all their virtues and their equally numerous faults. She inquires so many questions which are more scientific, secular and anthropological in the widest sense. She also appreciates the literary values of the epic. She identifies social problems of the past and present alike and human needs and responses in her own time. Seen through her eyes the Mahabharata is more than a work which Hindus look upon as divinely inspired and venerate. It becomes a record of complex humanity and a mirror to all the faces which we ourselves wear.

This paper tries to evaluate *Yuganta* and its contribution in Indian Writing in English. Iravati Karve's interpretations of the characters in Mahabharata have become torch bearers for many other Indian writers in English like Shashi Deshpande and many other women writers. The paper also attempts to compare some contemporary points of views on Mahabharata with *Yuganta*.

**Keywords :** complex, humanity, scientific, anthropological view, modern interpretations, contemporary views.  
**Biodata :** The presenter has been working as a teacher of English in junior college 'Shardabai Pawar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Shardanagar'. She has published her book 'Purva - Paschim' and contributed to the collection of poems 'Rangghanu'.

**Ramayana and Mahabharata as Reflected in Shashi Deshpande's 'A Matter of Time'**

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**Abstract**

Ramayana and Mahabharata by sages Valmiki and Vyasa respectively have given shape to Indian Literature in general. Mythological themes and characters in Indian English literature are mostly influenced by the great epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. They present ultimate triumph of good over evil which is the most exploited theme of Indian English novel. They also deal with the role of destiny in the human world. Indian English Literature is saturated with several types of mythological characters from these two epics. Such characters also present their relevance with contemporary Indian society. For instance Mahabharata presents the struggle of Pandavas and Kauravas, their familial ties and war, Lord Krishna, his Geeta, Shakuni's manipulation of the game of dice, greed, lust etc. On the other hand Ramayana presents ideal world of human relationship, devotion of wife to husband, brother's love for elder brother, parental relationship etc. The similar combination of good and evil, ideal and the antagonistic, we find in Shashi Deshpande's *A Matter of Time* - a story of three generations bringing forth the sufferings of women from three generations - Kalyani, Sumi and Aru. From theme to characters the present novel shows glimpses of these two epics. We also have reference to Bruhananda female role played by Arjuna in Mahabharata. Researcher's main concern is to present similarities between women characters of 'A Matter of Time' and these two great epics.