



Humour
Texts, Contexts



Editors

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HUMOUR

Texts, Contexts

Humour is so integral to the human mind in its broad continuum from wakefulness to more contemplative states, that it may seem deceptively trite even to talk about this vital quality.

Even when generally envisaged as anything that evokes involuntary mirth, humour is often keenly subjective to individual human beings.

The articles in this volume encompass a wide variety of topics primarily originating from the semiotics of humour diverging through a plethora of assorted genres. These studies illuminate the ways in which different tools of humour can be used in various texts/contextes to evaluate society, assess human nature and express conflicting worldviews unravelling the grotesque reality of comic stereotypes embedded in the narratives of humour.



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Ahoy... from the Aryan Land: Irony and Black Humour in the Songs of Poykayil Appachan

Ajay S. Sekher

It would be extremely interesting to write the history of laughter.

Alexander Herzen

Bakhtin begins his *Rabelais and His World* by quoting Herzen and analyses the interconnections between carnival and grotesque. The comical and humorous have the potential of subversion. These literary and cultural tropes have the capability of challenging and cancelling the effect of hegemony through temporary and playful ways. Poykayil Appachan was also using this subversive power of dark comedy, parody and black humour to challenge and resist the cultural hegemony and ethnic supremacist discourse of his chronotope in early 20th century Kerala. Using collective unconscious, repressions and memory in his guerrilla songs and spirituals he re-imagined the gradual cultural invasion from the northern Aryanland and ridiculed the infiltrators who came with begging hands and conquered the land in a few centuries through ideological means.