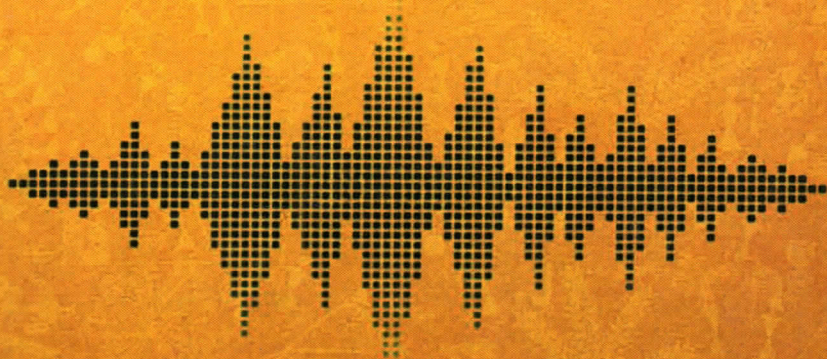




Subaltern Speak

Perspectives on Malayalam Dalit
Representations



Edited by
Dr. Binu K D

Publication Division, Government College Tripunithura

“

Turn in any direction you
have caste. Caste is the
monster that crosses your path.
You cannot have political
reforms, you cannot have
economic reforms, unless you
kill this monster

”

Dr. B R Ambedkar

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Subaltern Speak
Dalit Representations in Malayalam

Editor : Dr. Binu K.D.

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1

Dalit Literature in Kerala and Dalit Poetry in Malayalam

Dr Ajay S Sekher

Think of it regret fills within...

Poykayil Appachan

Dalit political and cultural interventions in Kerala have a long history going back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This turbulent period of social reformation and Cultural Revolution is popularly known as the Kerala renaissance. Though modern day Kerala was formed only in 1956; a Malayali identity formation and cultural/linguistic solidarity can be identified in the discursive contexts of renaissance. This linguistic nationalism, or regionalism rather, is still forging ahead in various walks of life in Kerala in various avatars. Travancore, Kochi and Malabar were the former princely states of the region. Malabar was directly under the British Madras regime, while the other two southern states were ruled by royal families within the imperial power of the Raj. There is considerable difference in the historical experience of untouchability and exclusion within Kerala.

Renaissance was a direct result of reformist intervention. It came from many sources in the form of missionary intervention, western enlightenment modernity, colonial administration, judiciary and education etc. But the real social change was a direct result of the politics of the marginalized. The education and organization oriented lower caste protest movements were the real catalysts of the event. Missionary educational and