

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52660

Date: 07-07-2025

Title: Thuggee as Counter-Narrative: Resistance and Subversion in P Sachidanandan' s The Book of Destruction

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Syed Mohammed

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Review:

The abstract presents a compelling thematic premise that situates *The Book of Destruction* within the framework of subcultural resistance to dominant sociopolitical ideologies. The core argument—that the representation of the Thuggee subculture in P. Sachidanandan's work constitutes a counter-narrative to state-sponsored violence—is clearly articulated. The theoretical foundation laid through references to Stephen Duncombe and Dick Hebdige is well integrated and effectively supports the central thesis. By anchoring the discussion in concepts such as cultural resistance, self-construction, and disruption of normalization, the abstract underscores the political and ideological potency of literary subversion.

Content and Theoretical Grounding:

The use of Duncombe's notion of subcultures as "macro worlds" and Hebdige's critique of cultural consensus provides a solid theoretical lens through which to analyze the novel. The abstract intelligently merges these frameworks with the context of Anand's narrative, indicating a critical reading of how literature can expose and challenge mechanisms of social and political marginalization. The identification of the Thuggee subculture as an oppositional force resisting the state's homogenizing discourse reflects a nuanced understanding of how historical and cultural memory can be reclaimed in fiction.

Language and Structure:

The language is academically sound, with precise terminology appropriate to literary and cultural studies. The logical flow from broader theoretical premises to the specific textual example ensures clarity.

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Phrases such as “macro worlds,” “self-construction,” “myths of consensus,” and “state-sponsored violence” are used purposefully and contribute to the scholarly tone of the abstract.

Scholarly Contribution:

This abstract offers a significant critical intervention by reframing the Thuggee subculture not merely as a historical phenomenon but as a literary tool for ideological resistance. The connection between subcultural identity and narrative subversion opens up pathways for further exploration of marginalized voices in Indian literature. It aligns well with postcolonial and cultural resistance frameworks and enhances the understanding of Anand's literary agenda.

Overall Assessment:

This is a well-conceived and theoretically robust abstract. It demonstrates an in-depth engagement with cultural theory and literary criticism, while also contributing to broader discourses on resistance literature and subaltern representation. The intersection of historical revisionism, literary narrative, and subcultural identity is handled with analytical depth and clarity.