

**Sanjukta Pal**

Research Scholar, The English and Foreign Language University

[Sanjuktaphdlit23@efluniversity.ac.in](mailto:Sanjuktaphdlit23@efluniversity.ac.in)

Department of English Literature, EFL University,

Osmania University Main Road,

Secunderabad, Telangana 500007, India

**Title** – Narrativizing Subalternity: Study of Select Fictional Works of Mahasweta Devi

**Abstract**

Once W.B. Yeats suggested J. M. Synge, “Give up Paris... go to Aran islands. Live there as if you were one of the people themselves; express a life that has never found an expression” (Synge 1968,63). In response to that Synge has written about the life of a distant world, which is segregated from the ‘big world’. Writing is an act, a process of knowing the people and understanding the universe. It gives voice to the voiceless and reveals the unrevealed. It brings out the hegemony and hierarchy between dominator/ dominated, colonizer/ colonized, able/disabled, white/black, have/ have-nots. Mahasweta Devi, an iconic, activist, remarkable vibrant writer of Bengali literature, much of whose work has been for the indigenous people and which deals with their misery, misfortune, suffering and exploitation. I have selected the fictional works – *Draupadi*, *Aranyer Adhikar*, *Sishu*, to analyze Devi’s representation of the subalterns and tribals. There is a history of representation and most of the writers maintain that style to present the dispossessed, marginalized, suppressed and oppressed. This paper seeks to discuss how Mahasweta’s representation of the subaltern and tribal differs from the other writers. It examines how ‘the act of resistance’ becomes a very much part of her writing which tries to subvert and challenge the mainstream dominant discourse.

**Keywords:** subalternity, representation, indigenous, predicament, hierarchy, hegemony

ORCID ID: 0009-0004-5599-8768