

Intersectionality in Marginalization: A Comparative Analysis of Caste and Gender in S. Hareesh's Moustache and K.R. Meera's Hangwoman

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Intersectionality posits that social inequality is not simply the result of a single factor, but rather a complex interplay of various social categories such as race, class, caste, and gender. It emphasizes that power relations are often interconnected and manifest in various social institutions. These power relations can be hidden or masked by ideology, and intersectionality calls for an examination of how they specifically intersect, such as in racism and sexism.

The novel *Hangwoman* originally penned in Malayalam by K.R. Meera, is set in Kolkata in some time close to the present day. It pits feminism against a debate on capital punishment. This book can also be seen as a commentary on the state of feminism in our country, and the difference between it being a talking point, and a tangible palpable state of affairs.

Moustache by S. Hareesh

The novel delves into the intricate interplay of caste, class, and community. The author utilizes magical realism to weave a narrative that bridges the themes of resistance and subjugation. This creates a powerful exploration of the concept of agency.

This paper seeks to understand how intersectionality is a tool to understand the power relation of caste and gender within these narratives. Subsequently, the paper explores the agency of power and resistance of these characters. This study delves into the ways in which caste and gender intersect to shape the experiences of marginalized individuals.

Keywords: Intersectionality, gender, caste, and resistance