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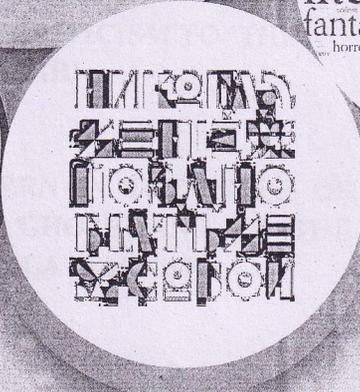
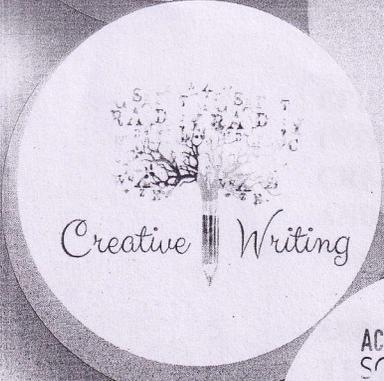
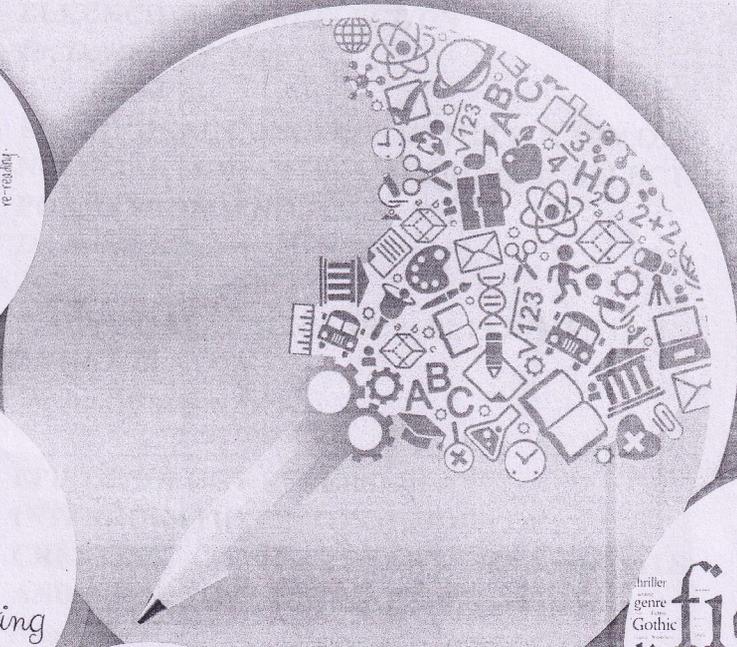
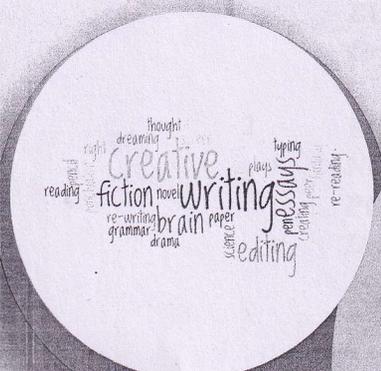
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on

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REPRESENTATION OF TRANSGENDER IN ARUNDHATI ROY'S *THE MINISTRY OF UTMOST HAPPINESS*: A SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

In human civilization 'transgender' community or 'third gender' has been left forgotten and wiped off completely for ages. So representation of this community in literary works has become a new trend to be analyzed and discussed. All those persons whose internally felt sense of core gender identity does not resemble to their assigned sex at birth are called transgender or third gender. Transgender is contrast between one's feeling of who one is and how one is recognized by others. Transgender experiences the dubious relationship of the self to the body and the self to the others. The identities of transgender people do not relate to their biological sex so they are considered as nonconformities to the gender stereotype. So this community forms a distinct subaltern group marginalized by gender stereotype. Arundhati Roy, as a socially committed novelist, has tried to expose contemporary socio-political problems that are relevant to the study of subaltern, especially in South Asian context. It seems that the novel, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* is a result of author's observations of subalterns who are victims of social and political unjust. She has delineated the lives of transgender illustrating their limitations, suffering and humiliations. This research paper aims to examine the representation of transgender in a setting of democratic India through her characters.

Keywords- Transgender, discrimination, transwoman, subaltern, marginalization, representation.

Introduction-

The term 'subaltern' has been defined by different theorists and scholars in different ways. Lexically, the English word subaltern came from the Latin word- sub-alternus- which means under other. In that sense, the word subaltern refers to the inferiority of someone or something. Most studies conflate the word subaltern with several synonymous terms including subordinated, downtrodden, marginalized and oppressed. It was Antonio Gramsci who first applied the term subaltern to the Italian downtrodden, especially Italian workers marginalized by the hegemonic politics of Fascist party. Indian scholars namely Guha, Spivak and others applied the term in a broad sense to south Asian subalterns from both colonial and post-colonial times. Now a days, the word subaltern has become a euphemism for all browbeaten people suffering under the oppression of elite groups. According to subaltern theory "the norms are established by those in power and imposed on the 'Other' who has had no voice because of race, class or gender". (Sebastian, 2009, p. 899)

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017) is a novel written by a Booker Prize winning novelist Arundhati Roy in which the transgender issue has been incorporated through the portrayal of her protagonist Anjum who is a transwoman. Having gone through all the humiliations and identity