

The background of the book cover features a close-up of white lace fabric with intricate patterns. In the lower-left corner, there are vibrant red and green flowers, possibly poinsettias, partially visible. The overall aesthetic is elegant and textured.

# **Multiculturalism in Literature**

**Critical Insights**  
*(An Anthology of Creative Chapters)*

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**Edited By**

**B. Pavithra & Sudhir Mathpati**

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## Grappling with Hybrid Identities: Reading the Jewish American Narratives in Paul Auster's *Invisible*

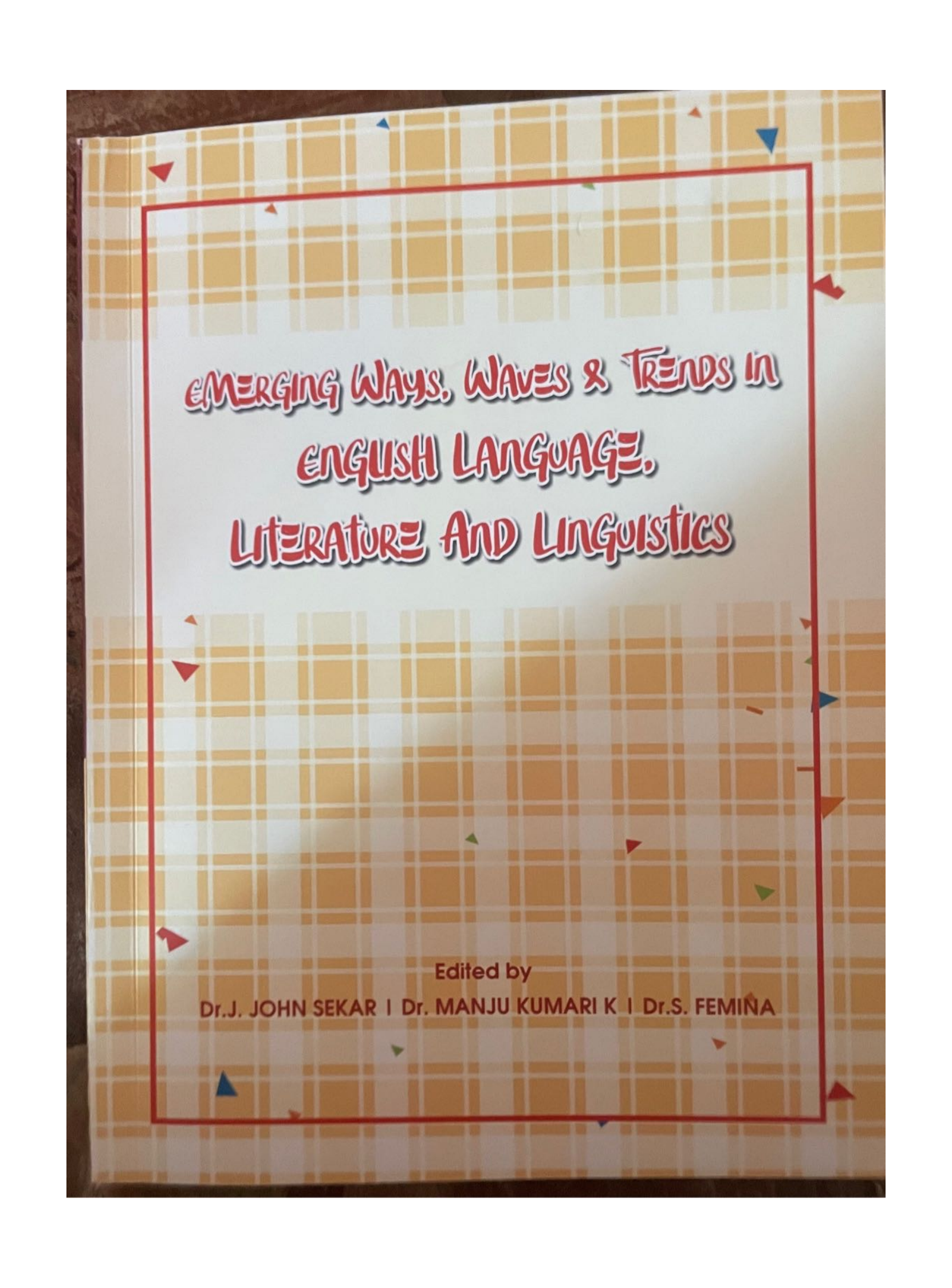
\*Dr. J. Iswarya

I think cultural identity is not fixed, it's always hybrid. But this is precisely because it comes out of very specific historical formations, out of very specific histories and cultural repertoires of enunciation, that it can constitute a 'positionality', which we call, provisionally, identity. Cultural hybridity is increasingly the normal state of affairs. - Stuart Hall

As Steven Connor remarks in his book, *Postmodernist Culture: An Introduction to Theories of the Contemporary Author* (1996), one of the most imperative ways in which postmodern theory attempts to cultivate postures of disidentification is by means of a revival of the role and function of the avant-garde. The concept of the cultural avant-garde is, of course, a prime element in most narratives of modernism and the emergence of postmodernism out of it (Connor, 271). It indicates a rather more underlying evolution, denoting a growing cultural situation that functions as both an augmentation and a critique of modernism.

Paul Auster is definitely not among the most popular contemporary writers in America. But he enjoys envious visibility even in places such as China, France, and Germany as there is something that is compellingly unique about his literary works that refuse to be labelled as stereotypically American. In fact, they are predominantly European and particularly modern (while being scrupulously postmodern at the same time). Being Jewish by birth, American by nationality, and a postmodern philosopher by temperament, Auster has always grappled to know himself through his writing.

Auster has never explicitly expressed a nationalistic vein of thought, exhibiting his pride in being an American but he essentially sets almost all his novels only in postmodern America, with typically postmodern American characters. Paul Auster's



**EMERGING WAYS, WAVES & TRENDS IN  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE,  
LITERATURE AND LINGUISTICS**

Edited by

Dr.J. JOHN SEKAR | Dr. MANJU KUMARI K | Dr.S. FEMINA

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## CHAPTER 3

### DESERTION AND WILLFUL ABANDONMENT OF CHILDHOOD AS DEPICTED IN ANNE TYLER'S *DINNER AT THE HOMESICK RESTAURANT*

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#### Abstract

Anne Tyler (born 1941) is one of the inspiring twentieth-century American writers. Tyler draws attention to contemporary families and their distinctive relationships. She pens with humor on the approaching runaway husbands, wives, fathers, mothers and children. Her concern on topics relating to family, home and identity have turned out to be increasingly noteworthy in her later works. Tyler's most celebrated novel is *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*. This novel was much appreciated for its psychological insight, rich characterization and well-developed plot structure. It examines many facades of family relationships, especially between the mother and child, rankling between siblings that widen into the world beyond. This paper aims to link the two fields of psychology and literature. Tyler's *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* has been analyzed on how the interpersonal trauma of desertion and willful abandonment experience in childhood has its impact on the persona in adulthood. The study reveals to what extent Anne Tyler, in her novel, succeeds in indicating the psychological difficulties that follow abandonment which leads to disturbed attachment styles, impenetrability with trust, reducing social skills and the inability to comprehend social interactions.

**Keywords:** *Interpersonal Trauma, Desertion, Willful Abandonment, Dysfunctional, Fatherless Families, Hyperactivity Disorder.*

#### Introduction

"By building a child's social and emotional capabilities we enable children to be happily engaged with others and with the society, and learn, to develop fully, to attain and to achieve. In essence, it delivers school ready, life ready and child ready members of the society" (The Allen Report 2011).

The family unit is the basic social unit of any society. This relationship provides equilibrium in a sexual, emotional, intellectual and social way as none other can. From the very primeval times to the present day, family has maintained its importance in its role of a primary and vital unit of the social organization. During the last thirty years, the United States has witnessed a major family transformation – the beginning of the end of the traditional nuclear family. Some significant changes have occurred, for example, the divorce rate increased while mothers decided to give up marriage, resulting in a large number of children being raised in single-parent households. It can also be seen