SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND CASTE EXPLOITATION IN MULK RAJ
ANAND’S UNTOUCHABLE AND ARUNDHATI ROY’S THE GOD OF
SMALL THINGS- A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Veermankai Yoharatnam

University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
sammysandra@ymail.com

This paper aims to analyze the social injustice and caste exploitation in Mulk Raj
Anand’s Untouchable and Arundhati Roy’s The God of Small Things. The famous Indian
Novelists Mulk Raj Anand and Arundhati Roy are involved with India’s social and political
problems, particularly concerning the socially marginalized, down-trodden and dispossessed
people. Mulk Raj Anand’s novel Untouchable awakens the people from their deep slumber
and rouses them to think about India’s social evils and social injustice that are perpetuated in
the name of caste, gender, religion and tradition. Arundhati Roy in her novel The God of Small
Things mirrors all these concerns, unsettling awareness and anxiety for those who have been
marginalized by the harsh and cruel oppressive systems of Indian society. Themes like struggle
of the socially oppressed and harsh reality of untouchables are the crucial issues in their novels.
The main objective of this research is to examine, compare and contrast these two novels
Untouchable and The God of Small Things. I would like to pinpoint the hierarchical structure
of power and oppression at various levels and the bitter exploitations of the downtrodden. I
have planned to use analytical and comparative methods. The qualitative methodology of this
research will be carried out through texts, journals, articles and informal interviews. I would
like to develop my own arguments on the basis of the host of criticism collected from various
sources. Over the last five decades radical changes have been seen in almost all walks of life,
challenging the basic assumptions and beliefs and bringing under merciless scrutiny age-old
faiths, traditions and theories. This paper compares and contrasts these novels and mirrors the
pathetic plight of untouchables who were subjected to inmitigable social indignities and
inequalities. Thus, I attempt to analyze, compare and contrast Untouchable and The God of
Small Things on the basis of social injustice and caste exploitation in India.