



### Subaltern Narratives in Fiji Hindi Literature

By Vijay Mishra

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**A fascinating, distinctive and illuminating text that insightfully explores with reference to Fiji Hindi literature the importance of vernacular literature in the reconceived fields of diasporic, subaltern and postcolonial studies.**

Subaltern Narratives in Fiji Hindi Literature is the first comprehensive study of fiction written in Fiji Hindi that moves beyond the hegemonic and colonially-implicated perspectives that have necessarily informed top-down historical accounts. Mishra makes this case using two extraordinary novels *Āukā Purān* ['A Subaltern Tale'] (2001) and *Fiji Maa* ['Mother of a Thousand'] (2018) by the Fiji Indian writer Subramani. They are massive novels (respectively 500 and 1,000 pages long) written in the devanāgarī (Sanskrit) script. They are examples of subaltern writing that do not exist, as a legitimization of the subaltern voice, anywhere else in the world. The novels constitute the silent underside of world literature, whose canon they silently challenge. For postcolonial, diaspora and subaltern scholars, they are defining (indeed definitive) texts without which their theories remain incomplete. Theories require mastery of primary texts and these subaltern novels, 'heroic' compositions as they are in the vernacular, offer a challenge to the theorist.

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#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Vijay Mishra is an emeritus professor of English and Comparative Literature at Murdoch University, Australia. His most recent work is *V S Naipaul and World Literature*. [Assuming it is published by March 2024]

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