

Writing Identities

LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY : The Writings of Delhi Prasanna Pattanayak Vol.I

Edited by Debi Prasanna Pattanayak

2014, pp. 266, Rs. 1875/-

Language and Cultural Diversity : The Writings of Delhi Prasanna Pattanayak by Debi Prasanna Pattanayak brings together for the first time the collected works of this eminent Indian linguist and humanist in a career spanning over forty years, Debi Prasanna Pattanayak has engaged with language policies in India. All of his writings revolve around social justice, whether in education, language, socio-economic and political issues of the marginalised. His, is probably the lone voice advocating multilinguality in globalised world that clamours for oneness and monolingualism. He has time and again reminded us a about our strength as a culturally diverse and multilingual nation. He was perhaps the first among his generation of scholars to challenge western perspectives on languages and talk about indigeneity and contextualisation of languages and show through his writings that many languages can and do co-exist peacefully. Though critical of western perspectives on language, his all encompassing humanity does not shut any language or world view out.

RAMAKATHA

Edited by Molly Kaushal, Alok Bhalla & Ramakar Pant

2015, xxxviii+348, col. Ilus.124, ISBN : 978-81-7305-471-6, Rs.1400(HB).

The papers here range from textual to oral, performance and pictorial renderings of Rama theme both in traditional and contemporary contexts, covering a large geographic area and diverse communities. For example, Bhil Ram Sitama ni Varta, Kunkana Ramkatha, Gond Ramayani, Rama traditions among the Ramnamis of Chhattisgrah, Ramman of Garhwal, Bundeli Ramkatha, Mewati Ramkatha and Ramkatha traditions among the Khasis, to name a few. The volume also contains essays on traditional and modern presentations of Rama theme in Southwest Asia.

The volume is broadly organised under four themes : sacred geography; narrative; performances; and pictorial traditions. However, several of them overlap and flow into one another. The book is further divided into two sections : the first contains papers in English and the second in Hindi.

This book is a significant addition to the existing literature on Ramayana and Ramkatha traditions and of great value to scholars of Indian culture, folklorists, anthropologists and Indologists.