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## CONTRADICTING MONOLOGUE: DALIT AUTOBIOGRAPHIES AS A COUNTER DISCOURSE

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### ABSTRACT

Dalit Autobiographies, a recent offshoot, introduces a new world of experience in Indian literature. It widens the range of expressions and makes use of the Dalits who have been excluded from the mainstream Indian society and discriminated, exploited, humiliated and marginalized on the basis of low caste status. Dalit represent the marginal section of society who are denied access to the worldly affairs and due to the caste system and other distinct historical happenings Dalits, considered impure and unskilled were denied education. With the passage of time they began to articulate their identity and dignity in speeches and writings. They became aware of the impact of the caste system and started reacting against the monologue framed by the upper class people through counter discourse literature I-e autobiographies. Dalit autobiographies represent the communal life rather than individual life and are concerned with pathetic condition of fellow Dalits. Dalit Autobiographies act as a counter discourse in Dalit Literature because through their autobiographies the writers try to prepare a platform for Dalit communities so that they can express their anger with the help of their writings. Dalit autobiographies are mainly concerned with the pathetic condition of the Dalits and through these autobiographies they alert the fellow Dalits to struggle for their rights, which have been and are denied to them by the so called upper castes.

**Keywords:** Dalits, Autobiography, Exploitation, Caste System, Discourse

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### INTRODUCTION

Dalit Autobiography, a recent offshoot, introduces a new world of experience in Indian literature. It widens the range of expressions and makes use of the Dalits who have been excluded from the mainstream Indian society and discriminated, exploited, humiliated and marginalized on the basis of low caste status.

Dalits are the people who are known as untouchables, separated from the rest of society. Dalits are the masses that have been depressed and

exploited, socially, politically, and culturally on the name of religion, god, goddess, and other factors. They are called with different names in different parts of the nation such as Outcastes, Depressed Class, Untouchables, Ex-Untouchables, Harijans etc. Thus, we can say that Dalits represent the marginal section of society who are denied access to the worldly affairs.

The term Dalit is defined by different writers in different ways. According to government of India act 1935, Dalits are the people: