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## Speaking through 'Silence' for the Marginalised: Representing the 'Silenced' Voice of History through *The God of Small Things*

Chayanika Ghosh

### Abstract

The post-colonial reality of India stands as a complex chronicle of cultural, economic and political crises, ambiguities, conflicts and struggles for survival. A history of such reality, hence, requires to be represented from 'below' (in Partha Chattopadhyay's words) so as to depict the strategies of power, hegemony or marginality for instance. In *the God of Small Things* Arundhati Roy delves deep into the power discourse at work in post-colonial India and narrates a story of the 'voiceless'. This paper would try to locate Roy's delineation of the marginalised as victims of the greater power structure, in the context of the Indian history of caste, class and gender and identity formation. Pierre Macherey's notion of 'the journey to silence becomes, for Roy, the modus operandi for framing the narrative of the oppressed. The paper would also try to evaluate the role of the agency of 'silence' while trying to find an answer to 'Can the Subaltern Speak?'. The search for the binaries of the 'big' and 'small' will also get channelised into an understanding of the usage of 'god' as a metaphor in the narrative of power representation.