

**LINGUISTIC DECONSTRUCTION OF GENDER IN MYTHOLOGICAL
REINTERPRETATIONS: A STUDY OF *THE FOREST OF ENCHANTMENTS* AND *THE
PREGNANT KING***

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ABSTRACT

*The research paper delves into the intricate interplay of language and gender within the context of contemporary Indian fiction's mythological reinterpretations. Focusing on two remarkable novels, *The Forest of Enchantments* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and *The Pregnant King* by Devdutt Pattanaik, this study uncovers the linguistic strategies employed by the authors to deconstruct and reconstruct traditional gender roles against the backdrop of Indian mythology. The research navigates the multifaceted realm of language as a potent tool for reshaping gender dynamics. It scrutinizes how both novels utilize mythological language, symbols, metaphors, and narrative techniques to challenge and redefine gender norms. This investigation extends to the protagonists' agency through language, emphasizing moments of empowerment and resistance to entrenched gender stereotypes. Through a contemporary lens, the paper explores how these linguistic deconstructions of gender resonate with modern readers and engage with contemporary gender discourse. By anchoring the analysis in feminist literary criticism, this research underscores the authors' deliberate efforts to question and transform gender constructs within mythological narratives. It contributes to the ongoing dialogue on language, gender and agency in literature, shedding light on the transformative potential of narrative language in reshaping gender identities and empowering diverse voices within the mythological tapestry of Indian fiction.*