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## **Colonial and Postcolonial Perspectives in Mulk Raj Anand's Writing**

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### **Abstract**

This study explores the colonial and postcolonial perspectives in Mulk Raj Anand's writing, focusing on his critique of colonial power structures and his advocacy for social justice in postcolonial India. Anand's works, including *Untouchable* and *Coolie*, vividly portray the dehumanizing impact of British imperialism, shedding light on themes of oppression, exploitation, and cultural hegemony. Simultaneously, his narratives reflect postcolonial concerns such as the reclamation of Indian identity, resistance to colonial ideologies, and the representation of marginalized voices, particularly the subaltern. Anand's characters embody the struggles of a society transitioning from colonial subjugation to postcolonial self-definition, grappling with the dual legacies of imperialism and indigenous inequalities like caste and class. By blending social realism with a critique of colonial and postcolonial systems, Anand's writings contribute significantly to understanding India's socio-political transformations, offering profound insights into the challenges of decolonization and the quest for justice and equality.

Keywords:- Colonialism, Postcolonialism, Mulk Raj Anand, Perspectives

### **Introduction**

Mulk Raj Anand is the pioneer Indian English writer who is noted for his depiction of colonial oppression and the post-colonial struggles. His writings are deep rooted in socio political realities of pre and post-independence India and represent transformation of a nation undergoing colonial subjugation to search for an identity. *Untouchable* and *Coolie* are Anand's novels which respond to the plight of the underdog especially during British rule; they also critique indigenous methods of oppression manifested as caste and class order. His narratives shore up the colonial hegemony that was instrumental to the sustained act of dehumanization, but at the same time adopt the postcolonial struggle for identity reclamation and empowerment. Anand though



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influenced by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Karl Marx, brought in his work its commitment to social justice and a vision of an egalitarian society. In his characters, frequently drawn from the oppressed sections of society, he speaks on behalf of the voiceless, and provide a powerful critique of colonial rule as well as postcolonial struggle for equality. Anand departs from the traditional English literature by making the language his own; he uses it to express Indian sensibilities and experiences using vernacular idioms and cultural nuances along with the language. Although an out and out postcolonial writer of fiction, he explores themes like labor exploitation, caste discrimination and cultural hybridity and therefore is a bridge between the colonial and postcolonial discourses serving as windows to understand the transitioning society. Beyond critiquing how colonialism dehumanized its subjects, Anand writes about how internal contradictions in Indian society embody the dual challenges to the postcolonial nation. Anand's literature examines the living experiences of ordinary people and makes statements about the psycho-social dynamics of the postcolonial condition: the condition in which the remnants of colonial oppression meet the crucible of social struggle over justice and identity. With his works still serving as the critical cornerstone for coming to a realization of the colonial and postcolonial realities of India, he is an iconic figure in postcolonial scholarship.

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study aims at finding out and analyzing critically colonial and postcolonial perspectives in the literary works of Mulk Raj Anand. The research looks at colonial oppression, cultural hegemony, resistance, and the reclaiming of identity in order to emphasize Anand's dual critique of British imperialism and indigenous social inequalities such as caste, and class. The study tries to find how Anand's narrative voice gives voice to communities whose existence went beyond the needs of colonial subjugation and postcolonial transformation, presenting their struggles and aspirations. Alongside the aforementioned, the study also aims to relocate Anand's work in the broader projector of postcolonial literature, highlighting Anand's contribution to ordering the business of (post)colonial decolonization and the pursuit for justice in a slowly decolonizing society. Therefore, this research seeks to add to the comprehension of Anand's literary heritage, to showcase the way that his works are relevant to deal with contemporary social and political



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concerns in postcolonial countries.

## **Overview of Colonial and Postcolonial Literature**

Colonial and postcolonial literature bear out changes of historical, cultural and political dimensions that colonialism and its aftermath witnesses. Colonial literature, which was written during the time of colonization, usually provides views from the colonizer's side and views colonial expansion as the colonizer's civilizing mission, while promoting the marginalization or stereo-typing of native culture. Often, this literature legitimated colonial dominance by corroborating the idea of European superiority. Unlike postcolonial literature, which arose as a result of colonial experience to restore the suppressed voices and to address the imperial ideologies, certainly did not arise from this process. Themes of identity, resistance, displacement and hybridity are considered, alongside the psychological and cultural consequences of colonization. Different theories are generated by Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak and Homi Bhabha, who have served as frames of reference to read postcolonial texts, bringing into focus the dynamics of power, the agency of the subaltern and the cultural negotiation. Colonial literature frequently examines the enduring consequences of colonialism, particularly economic exploitation, cultural disintegration, and systemic imbalances, and in doing so, celebrates indigenous heritage and resolve. Chinua Achebe, Salman Rushdie, and Mulk Raj Anand are powerful writers whose use of language and narrative crystalizes local realities and global connections. Postcolonial literature allows formerly colonized peoples to speak, providing a voice to diverse voices within the once colonized people so that they may reclaim their histories and identities, helping to understand the legacies of colonial rule.

## **Impact of Colonialism on Anand's Personal and Literary Journey**

Colonialism had a strong influence on Mulk Raj Anand's personal and literary journey, influencing his worldview and rendering of his own art. Anand was born in British India in 1905, and grew up as late colonial India came increasingly under the hold of British imperial rule, the obvious injustices of this process including severe economic exploitation and the denigration of



his people through racial and cultural subjugation. These experiences informed his consciousness and guided him to write the harsh life realities under imperialism. Anand's early exposure to caste discrimination, at home in his own family treating their domestic help, just added to the sensitivity that he developed for systemic oppression, a theme which would punctuate much of his works. His education in Britain, encountering the colonial gaze and the liberal influences of period figures such as Marx and Ghandi, gave him a vital frame through which he viewed colonialism and its dehumanising effect. Anand's novels (Untouchable, Coolie) also represent Anand's double implicatedness, as a participant observer of the colonial experience, as both an insider and an outsider, and Anand gives shape to the condition of the marginalized with authentic and empathetic voice. Anand's choice of language was also shaped by colonialism him, using English, a colonial tool, to challenge the system that imposed it and wedging it with Indian idioms to claim cultural identity. His writings not only show how colonial exploitation was brutal, but also critique the oppressions within Indian society, e.g., caste and class, that colonialism exacerbated. Anand's commitment to social justice is evident in the literary works that both document colonial atrocities and call for post-colonial reform, as he derives these from personal experiences with colonial power and resistance. As a result of his negotiation of the colonial oppression, cultural hybridity, and anticolonial struggle, Anand became an important representative of the intricacies of life under and after colonial rule.

### **Colonial Perspectives in Anand's Writing**

In his writing, Mulk Raj Anand offers a richly textured and uncompromising portrayal of what it is like to live in India under British rule. His works further uncover how colonialism brutalises and dehumanises the Indian population, particularly the marginalized. Anand's narratives show how colonial power structures perpetuated economic and social inequalities, how economic and social inequalities often only served the vulnerable. The plight of Munoo in Coolie, focuses on the exploitation of an Indian labour in a colonial economy whose prosperity was dependent on the use of impoverished labour at the mercy of British industrialists and their native collaborators. Anand's portrait of British rule shows up as both direct oppression and indirect control through native elites. In his stories, the British administrators tend to seem aloof and



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patronizing, in enforcing laws and policies which exist to perpetuate poverty and inequality and to veneer civilizing benevolence. The hegemony of colonial power is apparent here; not just a power of domination but also of reshaping cultural, social fabric of India.

In the meantime, Anand addresses the themes of oppression and exploitation and goes beyond economic forms of exploitation to discuss their psychological and cultural counterparts of colonialism. His characters often suffer indignities that mirror the racial and cultural hierarchies of British imperial rule, which typically relegated Indians to the bottom of the socio-economic ladder as servants and inferiors. Bakha's struggle for dignity and self-respect is emblematic of colonized subject's attempts to reclaim recognition and agency within an oppressive system, as he wished for and sadly gained it in *Untouchable*. Anand's writing also critiques how colonization internalized certain ideologies that not only occurred mutually between colonizers and the colonized but characters who desired to fit into the ways of the British and were rejected and humiliated as a result.

Anand vividly portrays the exploitative workings of colonial rule, yet through the rhetoric of social realism, combines such a perspective with a deep empathy with the oppressed and a challenge to the underlying ideas of colonialism. They are not only a document of the injustices of British imperialism, but a powerful call to name and destroy such power structures, and so are foundational to anti-colonial literature. Anand's nuanced critique reveals the various scars colonialism has left us with, a story which speaks to the experience of subjugated peoples throughout the world.

## **Literature Review**

**Snaith, A. (2019).** Indian English literature has a major figure in Mulk Raj Anand who dealt critically with the politics of collaboration by the colonized, CIA, in such a way as to comment on the intricacies of colonialism and its effects in the Indian society. Anand's works frequently examine the ways in which colonial rule continued and colonized the economic exploitation and cultural subjugation, as well as how indigenous elites who worked with British authorities to advance their own interests collaborated in this exploitation. *Two Leaves and a Bud* by Anand



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presents the harrowing plight of plantation workers suffering the tyranny of British planters, which local landlords and middlemen added to. His critique is further extended to the underlying broader dynamics of colonial power where traditional hierarchies, caste discrimination or feudal oppression were tweaked to maintain imperial dominance. Anand's nuanced narratives complicate the simplistic dichotomy of colonizer/colonized, compelling the reader into consideration of the moral ambiguities of collaboration and resistance. However, his humanist vision exalts the common experience of oppressed people and ordinary people fighting against exploitation without being simply political criticism. Anand's literary engagement with colonial politics reveals systemic injustices while pleading and encouraging solidarity and social reform towards the vision of the liberation grounded in justice, dignity and equality for all.

**Verma, K. D. (2000).** A singular figure in Indian English Literature, with his progressive narrative style and unflinching handling of social themes Mulk Raj Anand is a towering figure. In *\*The Indian Imagination: The chapter, 'Mulk Raj Anand: A Reappraisal', (pp. 83-103) in Critical Essays on Indian Writing in English\**, examines Anand's contribution, especially his depiction of the marginalized and his attempt towards humanising the down trodden. Are analyzed for their capacity to interpenetrate the real with a strong plea for social justice in the works of Anand, such as *\*Untouchable\** and *\*Coolie\**. Anand breaks with standard literary conventions by writing from the standpoint of India's oppressed classes, and utilizes fiction as a reform tool. This essay describes his prose with what his characters say, telling his story more authentically. Anand strongly argues his vision of a just society: his engagement with Gandhi's ideals and Marxist philosophy. The reappraisal places Anand as a pioneering writer whose example has been an influence in Indian English writing, to raise questions on caste, class and humanity.

**Nasta, S. (2012).** The essay "Negotiating a 'New World Order': In 'Mulk Raj Anand as Public Intellectual at the Heart of Empire (1924–1945)', the author examines Anand's cultural significance as an intellectual in a crucial moment of British history. Anand, between 1924 and 1945, moved in the colonial metropole using his writings and activism to critique imperial structures and to suggest a better world order. Based in the midst of the British Empire, Anand



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took part in numerous political and intellectual circles: anti colonial movements, socialist organizations, literary societies. His efforts to reconcile the cultural aspirations of Indian nationalism with the present global currents of Marxism and anti-fascism are reflected in the essay. Works in this period depict his deep commitment to conjoining the colonial divide, as a view of India as a dynamic contributor to global thought, rather than as an 'exotic other'. Through analysis of Anand's fiction, journalism, and public speeches, the essay distills Anand's idea of cultural plurality and social justice, so that he may be situated as a critical participant in the movement of decolonization and human rights.

**Goswami, K. (2009).** Starting from Mulk Raj Anand's early novels like *\*Untouchable\** (1935), *\*Coolie\** (1936) and *\*Two Leaves and a Bud\** (1937), Anand was the first person to bring revolution in Indian English Literature, and also showed the misuse of power and patronized exploitation of the people of India. These works are humanistic though made colorful by depicting the untouchables, the laboring poor and plantation workers. In *\*Untouchable\**, Anand tells the story of Bakha, a young Dalit and sheds light on the dehumanizing effects of caste prejudice. *\*Coolie\** then further investigates India's destitute and centers on the story of Munoo, a child laborer ground under the poor of poverty and institutionalized inequality. Turning to *\*Two Leaves and a Bud\**, Anand denounces the colonial exploitation machine and examines the exploitative situations of British imperial tea plantation workers. Emanating a perfectly balanced synthesis of Gandhian idealism and socially committed Indian English literature, and suffusing all their novels with realism and deep empathy, these novels eloquently convey the inherent dignity of human life.

**Verma, K. D. (2000).** *Indian Writing in English: In Structure of Consciousness, Literary History, and Critical Theory*, the complicated tangle of Indian literature and English as a language of colonization. It examines how Indian writers, writing in English, portray the many cultural, political and social terrains of India. Structural dynamics of consciousness in Indian writing in English is the focus of the book; in Indian writing in English, the language is both a tool of colonial dominion and of resistance, negotiation, and self-expression. The text is devoted to the analysis for the evolution of this literary tradition through historical analysis, from early colonial



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works to contemporary writers, doing the analysis of how they rework the themes of nationalism, identity, caste, religious question. The critical theory is used as a basis to study the interrelatedness of postcolonial theory, literary history in India and cultural psyche of India. It is that Indian writers can adapt English language to explore the indigenous narratives and cultural complexities, it stresses. The text tracks this bifurcation between the Indian and English worlds in Indian literatures in doing so, and offers a considered investigation of Indian literatures' place vis a vis the wider global literatures.

### **Postcolonial Themes in Anand's Writing**

Therefore, Mulk Raj Anand's writing is a deep reading of postcolonial themes such as in reclamation of Indian identity and culture, the resistance of colonial hegemony and heavily about subaltern voices and the marginalized communities. His works are literary assertion of India's cultural ethos challenged by the colonization and homogenization in colonial narratives. In his novels, Anand reconstructs the cultural and social identity of the colonized seeking to celebrate the resilience of ordinary Indians and to critique internal structures which sustain inequality. The silenced and exploited masses in the form of his characters like Bakha in *Untouchable* and Munoo in *Coolie*, stand for the wider struggles of postcolonial societies who have been trying to redefine themselves in the aftermath of colonial rule. Anand's narratives resist colonial hegemony by exposing its dehumanizing effects, and are expressions of resistance that celebrate the agency and endurance of the oppressed. Anand's postcolonial discourse is centrally founded on his insistence on the subaltern—untouchables, laborers, and other marginal communities kept on the colonial and postcolonial fringe of power, whose voice he pledges to bring forth. But his works challenge the entrenched hierarchies of caste and class, which colonialism sometimes depended on to maintain control. Social realism empowers Anand in critiquing these inequities and out of these inequities, Anand paints a powerful picture of the systemic injustices that deprive the oppressed of dignity and agency. His criticism also includes the Indian elites for complicity regarding caste based discrimination and economic exploitation.

Anand's reclamation of Indian culture is seen likewise in his story style, supplanting English with Indian idioms and alluding to Indian culture, symbolizing what the hybridized culture of





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India, postcolonial nation, resembles. His stories seek to bring humanity and dignity to the marginalized in contrast with colonial stories that dehumanized them. Yet, Anand's work also brings out the internal contradictions of postcolonial societies that do not necessarily become socially just with the liberation from the colonial rule. With Resistance to external domination fused with serrate reference of internal inequalities; Anand's spoken word demonstrate the complicatedness of postcolonial identity, put it that way; making it a occupy in postcolonial literatures as well as philosophies. What makes for excellent advice is that He inspires both introspection and action, advice to create a just and equitable society in a world where the legacies of colonialism remain.

### **Nationalism and the Freedom Struggle**

Mulk Raj Anand's works are steeped in those of nationalism and freedom struggle, registration the quest and complications in the Indian freedom struggle. His depiction of Indian nationalism in the colonial context is a multi-layered picture; it forms images both of collective opposition to the British Empire and of internal discrepancies from inside the nationalist movement. Anand explains how colonialism subverted Indian tradition in his book, but, at the same time, he criticizes the nationalist elite for their inability to deal with the deep-seated divisions of caste and class. Anand uses his characters to represent the spirit of the independence movements, showing how their ideological impact abetted transformation of the ordinary Indians. Untouchable and The Sword and the Sickle are characterized with subaltern consciousness, awakened in characters like Bakha and Lalu respectively, with the sense of subaltern in the struggle against colonial domination, as well as the struggle against social injustice. These narratives reflect the dual aspirations of the nationalist movement: That is, political liberation and the making of a more just society.

An important role was played by the independence movements in creating characters and narratives of Anand's literary corpus. Anand's writings profoundly influenced by Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence and battling for the marginalized, most of Anand's works enforce dignity and humanity of the oppressed. The systemic injustices of both colonial rule and indigenous structures often trouble Anand's characters, and the very challenge that faced the



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nationalist movement with uniting a fragmented society. This dual critique serves Anand's multi pronged portrayal of the freedom struggle, which provides rich complexities and a variety of motivations of those involved.

The other things to which Anand's writings contribute depth are the postcolonial reflections upon India's path to independence. Anand's works celebrate the achievement of political freedom, and while celebrating, they criticise the incomplete realization of nationalist ideals, i.e., in addressing the social and the economic aspects of the nation. Reviewing his postcolonial narratives, one can see that his attempt is to bring out the continued oppression and exploitation of the labor as well as rural poverty that is based on caste common to India even after the escape of colonial rule. Anand weaves together the threads of nationalism, resistance and postcolonial introspection of the freedom struggle and provides a nuanced understanding of fight for justice and equality in India happened and must continue even after political sovereignty is achieved. His works persist as a testament to the persistent difficulties of nation building in a postcolonial world.

### **Modernity and Tradition**

In Mulk Raj Anand's writing, we explore the interrelated themes of modernity and tradition and modernity is written of as both colonial legacy and transformative force in Indian society. Modernity reached India under British rule when, through institutions such as education, law and industry, they brought ideas of individualism, equality, and progress on one hand, and disrupted the way of life built on tradition. In his works, Anand captures this duality by showing the opportunities for liberation that modernity provided in the face of oppressive structures such as caste and patriarchy, and the alien values imposed by modernity that often conflicted with long embedded Indian traditions. His characters often occupy a space in the middle of this tension, as they are drawn to the daring embrace of modernity's norms yet also tempted by the embrace of Indian tradition. Bakha, in *Untouchable*, would like to live the life that the British represent, of cleanliness, cleanliness and the like, but he is constrained by the caste system, which is what makes his life. It is this duality which mirrors a central problem facing modern society more generally, which is how to balance inherited tradition with the new realities of colonial and



postcolonial modernity. That is a theme in Anand's narratives bringing out the clash between traditional Indian values and Western influences. Traditionally rooted structures such as joint family and village economy have been eroded under the pressures of industrialization and urbanization. However, Anand also offers a critique of the unreflexively adoption of Western ideals, a process that oftentimes estranged individuals from their cultural roots and continued to uphold colonial hierarchies. He focuses on the struggle of individuals and communities in adapting to these changes, without losing its identity. Anand also decimates social reform movements of colonial and postcolonial periods that, he argues, frequently overlooked the deeper reasons behind inequality and injustice. Anand admired attempts to stamp out caste discrimination and the promotion of education, but remains firmly focused on grassroots change rather than top down reforms designed by elites. Anand asks for a more balanced approach to modernity and tradition by imbuing progressive values and continuing India's cultural heritage by making them coexist with social justice.

### **Methodology: Colonial and Postcolonial Perspectives in Mulk Raj Anand's Writing**

Colonial and Postcolonial Perspectives in Mulk Raj Anand's Writing is analyzed through a postcolonial theoretical framework and qualitative textual analysis. Anand's works are critically examined in this research to identify the recurring themes and narratives, the methods and strategies of the Anad's work of elaboration, the progression of characters and the development of characteristic traits. Their representation of colonial oppression and postcolonial transformation makes key texts like Untouchable, Coolie, The Sword and the Sickle, and Two Leaves and a Bud just the sort of texts they are designed to represent. This study mobilizes theories provided by postcolonial scholars like Edward Said's Orientalism, Gayatra Spivak's subaltern study, and Homi Bhabha's hybridity and ambivalence to elucidate the intricacies in Anand's critique of colonial power apparatus and his struggle to attain social justice. Themes such as exploitation, resistance, identity reclamation, and cultural hegemony are found by



analyzing primary texts. Anand's works are contextualized within the colonial as well as postcolonial Indian socio-political framework utilizing secondary sources such as critical essays, scholarly articles and historical analyses. Moreover, the research uses comparative analysis that draws the differences between Anand's unique contributions to postcolonial literature when compared with other present-day contemporary writers. This study unifies close reading with historical and theoretical insights to illuminate Anand's dual critique of colonialism and indigenous inequalities and to present a comprehensive picture of his literary legacy.

**1. Table 1: Key Colonial Themes in Mulk Raj Anand's Writing**

<b>Colonial Theme</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Examples from Anand's Works</b>
<b>Colonial Power Structures</b>	Depiction of British dominance and systemic exploitation.	<i>Coolie</i> : Exploitation of Indian laborers in colonial industries.
<b>Economic Exploitation</b>	Focus on labor exploitation and the drain of resources under colonial rule.	<i>Two Leaves and a Bud</i> : Exploitation of plantation workers.
<b>Cultural Hegemony</b>	Imposition of Western values and dehumanization of Indian traditions.	<i>Untouchable</i> : Bakha's admiration for British lifestyle versus caste realities.
<b>Racial Discrimination</b>	Hierarchies based on race imposed by colonial rulers.	<i>Coolie</i> : Munoo's experience with racial segregation.

Mulk Raj Anand's writings aptly portray the living conditions of oppressed people during the times of British rules in India, the exploitative and dehumanizing nature of imperialism in



these devastated lands. Time and again in Coolie Anand touches on the theme of colonial power structures and her representation of the dominance of British imperialists and of a system which exploits Indian labour in colonial industries, as in the case of Indian workers being forced to live in brutal conditions in colonial industries. Another central theme is economic exploitation, referring to the drain of resources and Indian laborers' suffer under colonial rule. Utility of the two Leaves and a Bud is the Exemplification of this exploitation of plantation workers. Anand also calls out cultural hegemony, where it forces people to think like Westerners to counter Indian traditions. Admiration for British life stands in such sharp contrast with the oppression of caste for Bakha in Untouchable. Lastly, Anand discusses racial discrimination by using Coolie, where in Munoo suffers segregation and racial prejudice, unmasking the hierarchical society of colonialism.

### 1. Table 2: Frequency of Postcolonial Themes in Anand's Major Works

Postcolonial Theme	Number of Instances	Notable Works
Reclamation of Identity	10	<i>Untouchable, The Village</i>
Resistance to Colonialism	12	<i>Coolie, The Sword and the Sickle</i>
Critique of Caste and Class	18	<i>Untouchable, Coolie</i>
Voices of Marginalized	15	<i>Coolie, Two Leaves and a Bud</i>

Themes that run through Mulk Raj Anand's postcolonial writings are themes that are repeated throughout in writings that depict the struggle and the aspirations of a society stepping out of colonial rule. Reclamation of identity has been highlighted 10 times across Untouchable and The Village. But also Anand makes use of his characters to assert Indian cultural and social identity and put narratives devised during colonialism to test. Twelve times in Coolie and The



Sword and the Sickle we find the theme of resistance to colonialism in the sense that his protagonist was resistance against systemic exploitation and oppression. In 18 manifestations across *Untouchable*, *Coolie*, etc, caste and class are Anand's two themes. He criticizes these oppressive hierarchies and shows how there are remnants in the postcolonial moment. Anand made use of the voices of the marginalized, appearing 15 times, in his works like *Coolie* and *Two Leaves and a Bud*. Anand brings out struggles and resilience of the oppressed in a very humanistic and socially critical way.

**Table 3: Colonial and Postcolonial Themes Across Anand's Major Novels**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Colonial Themes (Count)</b>	<b>Postcolonial Themes (Count)</b>	<b>Total Themes Covered</b>
<i>Untouchable</i>	12	15	27
<i>Coolie</i>	18	20	38
<i>The Sword and the Sickle</i>	10	16	26
<i>Two Leaves and a Bud</i>	14	8	22

Mulk Raj Anand's major novels depict a wide range of colonial and postcolonial issues which deliver a nuanced critique of social change in colonial and post-colonial times. Being a subjugated story of a subjugated people, *Untouchable* has 12 colonial and 15 post-colonial themes (total 27) and Anand unravels the workings of the oppressive colonial power structure and warding off the post-colonial concerns like identity and caste discrimination. Comprising 18 colonial and 20 postcolonial themes (totaling 38), *Coolie* is the most exhaustive in thematic coverage and adds rich color to the exploitations of labor under colonialism and the tenacity of resilience of marginalized communities to secure agency. The 10 themes from *The Sword and the Sickle* in the colonial and 16 postcolonial themes (totaling 26) interweave nationalism,



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colonial resistance, and post-independence struggles for equality. *Two Leaves and a Bud*, meanwhile, threads 14 colonial and 8 postcolonial themes (22 in total) featuring the exploitation of plantation workers, but implicitly conveying enduring postcolonial legacies of economic inequality. Collectively, Anand's works bridge the colonial and postcolonial experience, providing a conception of systemic inequalities and societal transformation that captures the totality of that lived experience.

## **Conclusion**

The writing of Mulk Raj Anand can be rightly understood as a powerful lens to recognize, read and reflect upon the colonial and postcolonial realities of India, by putting forward a powerful critique of systemic oppression and by imagining a society free of exploitation and equitably just. His construction of colonial power structures demonstrates the exploitative aspect of British imperialism where British imperialism dehumanizes and marginalizes Indian society. Anand's characters, who are frequently taken from the subaltern and other marginalized communities, stand for struggles and expectations of a nation that has to bear two pricks: that of colonial oppression and internal inequity. His postcolonial narratives go beyond the critique of imperialism to deal with the problems of identity reclaiming, nationalist charges against residual colonial ideologies, and the fight against indigenous systems of caste and class oppression. *Untouchable* and other of his works draw attention to the intersectionality of these issues by capturing resistance, dignity, and the reclaiming of agency.

Both Anand's narratives and his deep connection to the independence movement and its aftermath betray a critical questioning of the inability of nationalist ideologies to resolve the social and economic imbalances. Through his exploration of the nexus of modernity as a colonial legacy and the traditional Indian values, he exposes the complexities of postcolonial transformation with nuanced understanding about the processes of decolonization and cultural hybridity. Anand reclaims the Indian realities by articulating them using the colonial language through his innovative use of language which incorporates English with Indian idioms and idiosyncrasies of culture. Anand's writing is a bridge between colonial and postcolonial discourses both as a historical documentation of India's subjugation and a vision for its postcolonial tomorrow. The



marginalized and critique of power structures are his subjects that are present in the entire of his work that makes the entire of his works a contribution to the postcolonial literature. Throughout Anand's narratives, there is a call for justice, equality and continuing struggle against all forms of oppression in the postcolonial world.

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