

## POSTMODERNISM IN THE AGE OF DARKNESS: EXAMINING DHARAMVIR BHARATI'S ANDHAYUG

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Postmodernism has its various versions depending on which culture and literature it is being applied to, therefore, demanding a subjective approach. The dissolution of distinctions, the futility of war followed by disillusionment, scepticism towards generalized views, decentering of notions, and problematizing concepts like rationality are few norms associated with postmodernism. In the case of India, the catastrophic event of the 1947 partition left tremors that were felt in the subsequent years. Taking this into account, the paper explores the mythical play AndhaYugby Dharamvir Bharati (Translated by Alok Bhalla), written after the Partition of the Indian subcontinent, that uses postmodernist and war discourse lenses. The ancient characters of the Mahabharata are (re)created by the playwright to go with the predicament of contemporary times, which is examined to comment on the darkness and blindness of the era. The study applies the concept of metanarrative used in the discourse of postmodernism to deconstruct the narratives that were being promoted. This post-independence retelling of the play metaphorically uses the myth to question the dehumanisation and confusion taking the shape of normal and natural. The paper also discusses how gradually the Western (global) idea of postmodernism has been redefined to suit the (local) narratives, thereby incorporating the aspects integral to Indian culture, which is significant for the understanding of the play.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Postmodernism, War, Partition, Despair, Disillusionment, Blindness, Meta Narrative*