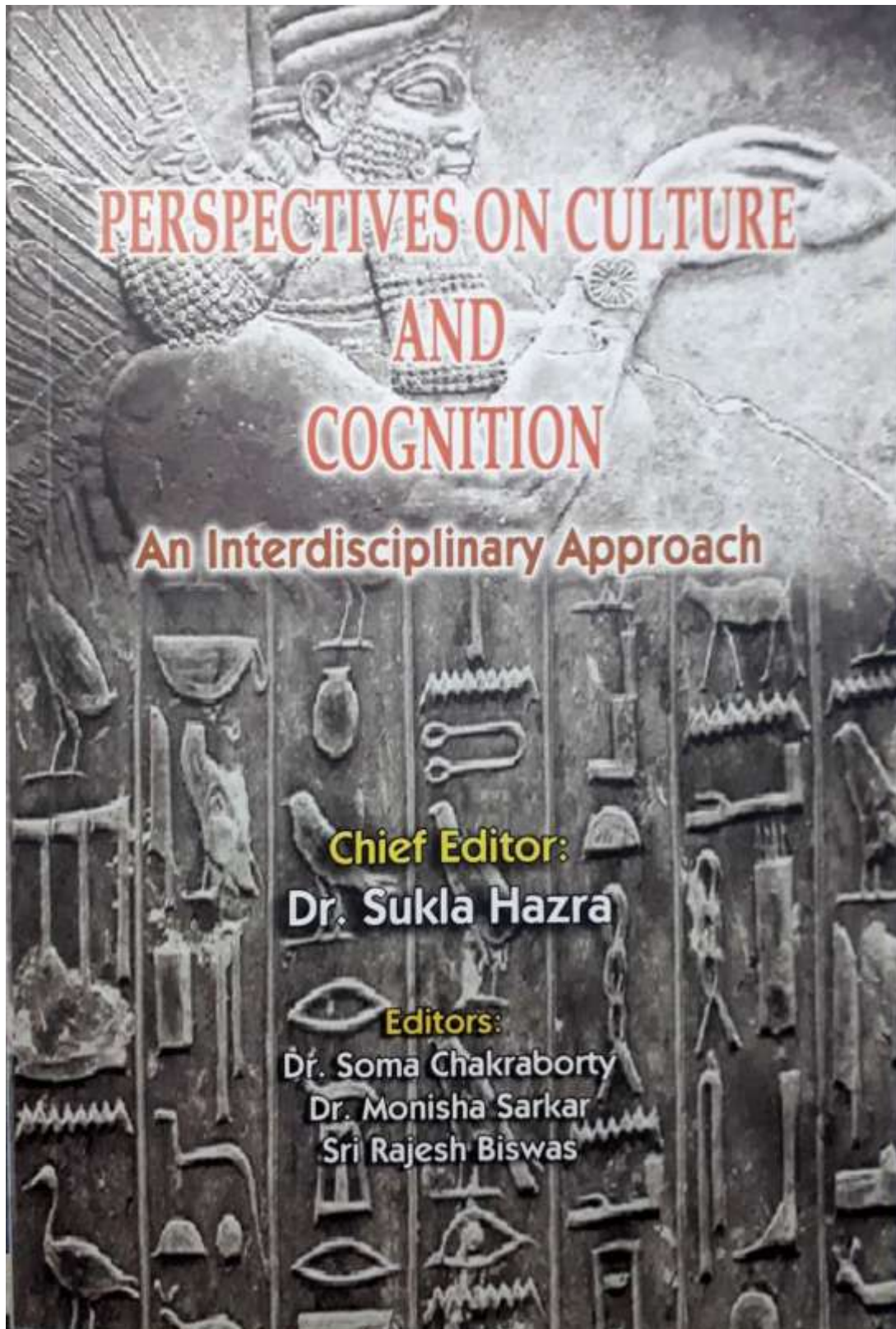


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Title of Paper: Religious Fundamentalism and Culture of Gender Violence in Contemporary Indian English Plays



Perspectives on Culture and Cognition

An Interdisciplinary Approach

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Religious Fundamentalism and Culture of Gender Violence in Contemporary Indian English Plays

Asoke Howlader¹ & Dr. Aridam Modak²

Introduction

It is natural for human being to be linked with certain beliefs to live in a society. It may result either from individual's personal choices or from socialization and learning processes that are beyond the control of the person. As a consequence, adults become supporters of certain cultural beliefs in the form of "ism". In today's world, religious fundamentalism is no exception to it as the phenomenon has frequently become related to conflict and violence. Samuel P. Huntington (1993) in his famous "clash of civilizations" thesis claimed that culture divides the world and that religion fuels the conflict in a special way by inspiring intolerance among competing civilizations. However, religious fundamentalism has become a serious source of national and international conflicts. In general, religious fundamentalism undermines public rights across the world. Gender justice is manipulated by the tactics of religious fundamentalism. Fundamentalism uses woman's body as the site of conflict and contest to show supremacy of male power. It opposes women's independence, and curbs the rights of women and sexual non-conforming persons. Fundamentalists normalize the inequalities that they perpetuate in society by giving their patriarchal policies divine justification. It is a universal phenomena that religious fundamentalism rules in a culture where women are subjected to inequality and violence. Women are victimized through the acts of foeticide, infanticide, sexual harassment, rape, marital rape, domestic violence, dowry harassment, child marriages, sexual slavery, denial of education, refutation of property, exploitation of labor in India. *Communal fundamentalism assists women subjugation and male supremacy under the mask of culture. Women are considered morally fit for their husbands if they are totally under their supervision. Women are supposed to undergo any atrocity to protect the family prestige.* It disallows women to be educated or to be economically independent. It expects to see women as subordinates.

Literature Review

Existing literature on Indian English Theater mainly deals with the communal

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