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Abstract:

South Asian Literature manifests the literary imagination, distinct thematic concerns and linguistic inventiveness of Asian writers as they negotiate their varied cultural identities. The loss of self identity is one of the most disturbing aspects of South Asian contemporary life. Identity is vital as they carve the conduct of an individual. Jayanta Mahapatra is a universally acclaimed Indian English poet who has imparted significantly to the development of Indian English poetry and has been an authentic voice for social-realism and common stigmas of this part of the globe. Jayanta Mahapatra was born in a Christian family in Odisha who lived in a Hindu society which sings the praises of Lord Jagannath. Despite these factors, Mahapatra’s poetry reflects a deep awareness of the Indian background. His poetry explores his unbreakable relationship with the religion, culture, rituals, traditions and myths of Odisha, a state of India. The poet, being firmly rooted in Odishan soil, the legends, history and the myth associated with Odisha, makes them an integral part of his poetry. The search for roots is a common trend in modern South Asian poetry. Mahapatra, as a poet, looks at broad issues of national history through the experience of personal life. The poet is intensely aware of his environment and with sharp sensitivity and striking details he has vividly depicted, in his poems, the landscape, history, myths, culture, social life, poverty, religious rites and rituals, superstitions and beliefs prevalent in the local life of Odisha. This paper will portray the poet’s search for self with special reference to the selected poems composed by Jayanta Mahapatra as his poems deal with the question of self, search for roots and identity with great precision.

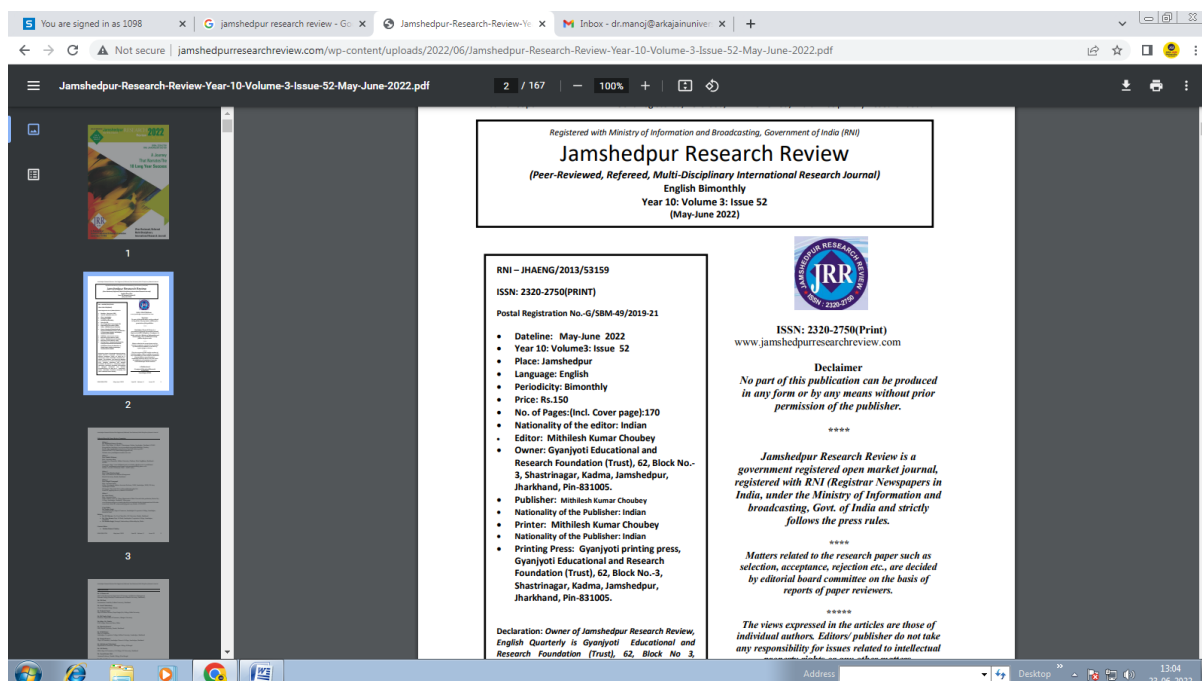
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