

Language of Emotions – An Affect of Power in Society

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ABSTRACT This paper investigates the (re)actions of individual behavior expressed through the language of emotions within the re-imagined domain of art and creative space as an affect of power relations in society. Defining affect as a touch of power, the paper studies the affective ability (affect) of societal politics (power) over the lives of individuals (their emotions) in a society. With a focus on emotion as socio-culturally constructed and on society as emotionally determined entities, this paper intends to analyze the power of emotions in forming and conserving the authoritative socio-political power. Further examining the affective element of emotional system, the paper interrogates and interprets the possibility of rational emotional approach towards a myriad of conflicting collective encounters. In addition, critical engagement with the literary text ‘Rich Like Us’ by Nayantara Sahgal proposes an anthropologically engaged ethnographic reflection of relived emotions like pain, fear, anxiety, disgust and hate, as the emotive energy behind the existence of power relations. Exploring the unconscious dimensions of affective and felt emotional experience, rediscovers the immanence of emotions over the intellect.