

ABSTRACT

Exploring the Colonial in the Postcolonial Travel Writings of V. S. Naipaul and Mark Tully on India

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This study explores contemporary English, Caribbean and Indian postcolonial literary travel writing through a study of V.S. Naipaul's travel writings on India, namely, *India: An Area of Darkness* (1964), *India: A Wounded Civilization* (1977) and *India: A Million Mutinies Now* (1990), and Mark Tully's travel writings on India, namely, *No Full Stops in India* (1991), *India in Slow Motion* (jointly with Gillian Wright) (2002), *India's Unending Journey* (2007), and *India: The Road Ahead* (2011). I foreground myself as the third triad of the axis, because my travel and temporary residence in Trinidad influences my reading of the two travel writers. The travel patterns of the three, the two writers alongside mine, shift focus from an armchair traveller to a 'travelling reader'. This allows me to focus on the different timelines of two writers, 1962 to 2007 for Naipaul, 1991 to 2011 for Tully, and two different viewing positions for myself, one in India from 1990 to 2007 and another in Trinidad from 2007 to 2017. The analyses reveal several differences between the late nineteenth century Victorian English travel writing and the late twentieth century postcolonial travel writing in English, namely, that the postcolonial traveller cannot and does not travel as a representative of any state, is not on a civilizing mission, does not report back exclusively to an English armchair traveller, and writes more discursively about people and social institutions in his extensive travels, building his travelling persona on the bases of his English education through his readings, writings and travels.

Keywords: Twentieth-century, postcolonial travel writing, India, Trinidad, colonial, caste, Hinduism, Brahmin, Mark Tully, V. S. Naipaul, Nivedita Misra