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Renaissance Literature, Elizabethan Poetry, English Novel of the Victorian Period, Indian English Poetry, Poetry of the Romantics, Literary Theory, Marxism.

Ph. D. Title: Shakespeare Criticism in Bengal since Sri Aurobindo: A study in Critical Ideology

Ph. D. Abstract:

Owing to the tectonic shift brought about in literary studies by the recent theory-revolution, criticism is no longer viewed as an activity subservient to and parasitic on the creative functions of literature, but rather it has come to be regarded as a social practice, an intellectual exercise conditioned by the ideological affiliations of the critic and inextricably enmeshed in the socio-cultural milieu within which it is produced. In the light of this radically altered perspective an attempt can be made to scrutinize the responses of the Indian scholars, teachers and critics to Shakespeare, the cultural icon of the British empire, who seems to have colonized the minds of the educated elites of Pre and Post-Independence India far more effectively than all the exploitative administrative policies and insidious political strategies implemented by the British colonialists. In this thesis I have made an effort to give an outline of the evolution of the critical reception of Shakespeare in Bengal with reference to some of the

eminent critics like Aurobindo Ghosh, Taraknath Sen, S.C.Sengupta, Sukanta Chaudhuri and Utpal Dutta, each of whom ventured to read Shakespeare from their own perspective determined by his social, cultural and political positions.

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