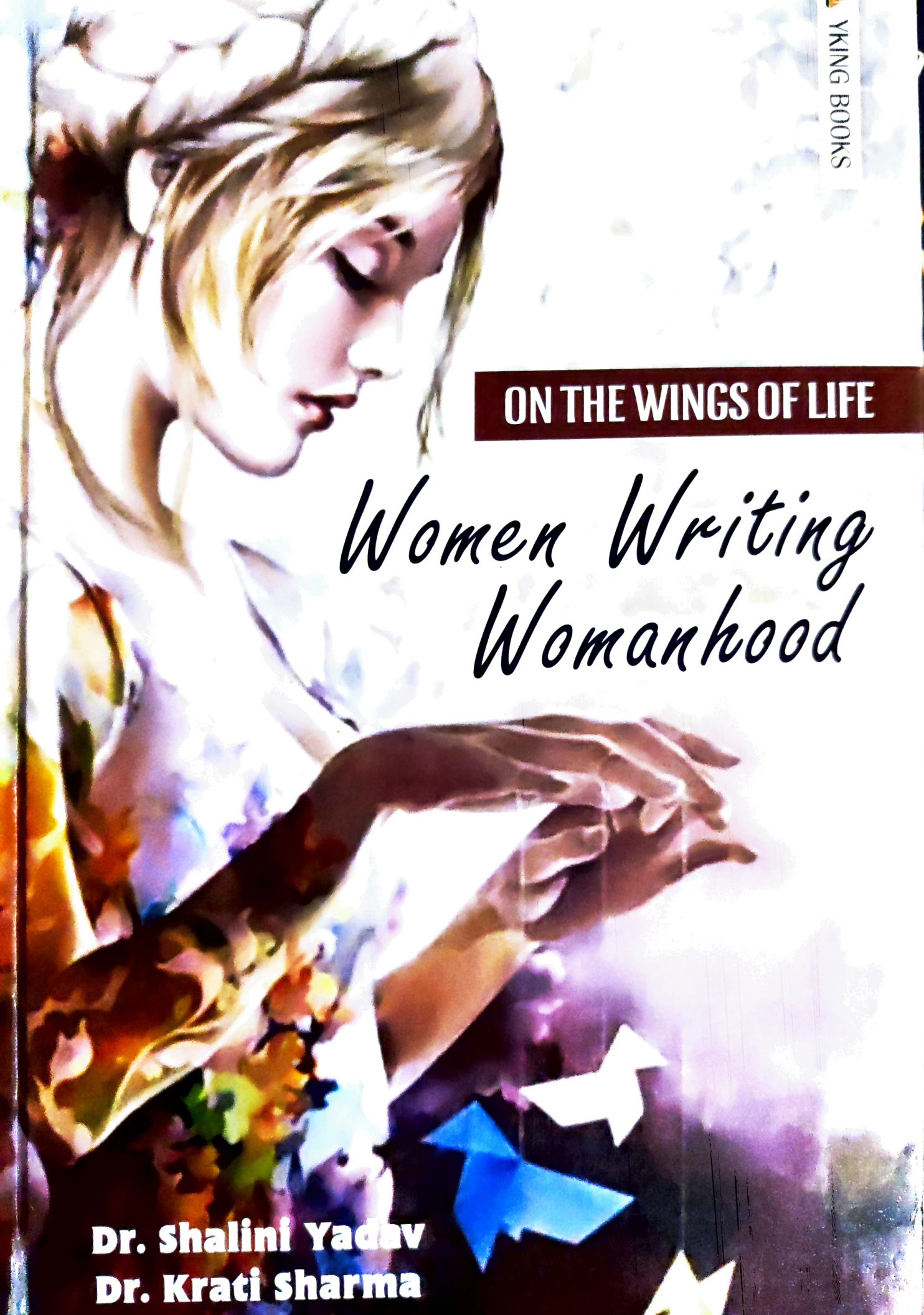




YKING BOOKS

ON THE WINGS OF LIFE

Women Writing Womanhood

Dr. Shalini Yadav
Dr. Krati Sharma

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Revisiting the Memories from a Fractured Childhood: Temsula Ao's *Once Upon A Life*

P. Padma Priya

Temsula Ao is a writer par excellence from Nagaland. Her works mainly deal with the 'Naga Way of Life'. She has eloquently translated the essence of Ao Naga life with all its nuances through her literary production. The writers from northeast states tried to explore the history, ethnicity, culture, tradition, conflicts and the social concerns related to the specific geographical locations through their linguistic distinctiveness. Most of the writers of the northeast recreated the song and soul of their native dialects in English, the *lingua franca*. Temsula considers the memoir *Once Upon A Life* as a testimony of God's mercy on their disturbed and devastated family, a recount of the traumatic experiences she had undergone, the depiction of her inner strength which made her overcome the obstacles at every phase of life, an account of her siblings' successful establishment in the society and above all the saga of her successful journey of life despite all the physical struggles fought and the psychological battles won. This article focuses on the memoir *Once Upon A Life* by Temsula Ao, a journey from ignorance to self-discovery and from ordinariness to evolution as an accomplished writer.

Temsula Ao was born in 1945 in the Assamese town of Jorhat. Temsula Ao's indomitable spirit established her as a dean of the school of humanities and education at the North-Eastern