

## BOOK REVIEW

**Book Title:** *THE WORLD OF PORTMANTEAU WORDS*

**ISBN:** 978-81-8209-248-8

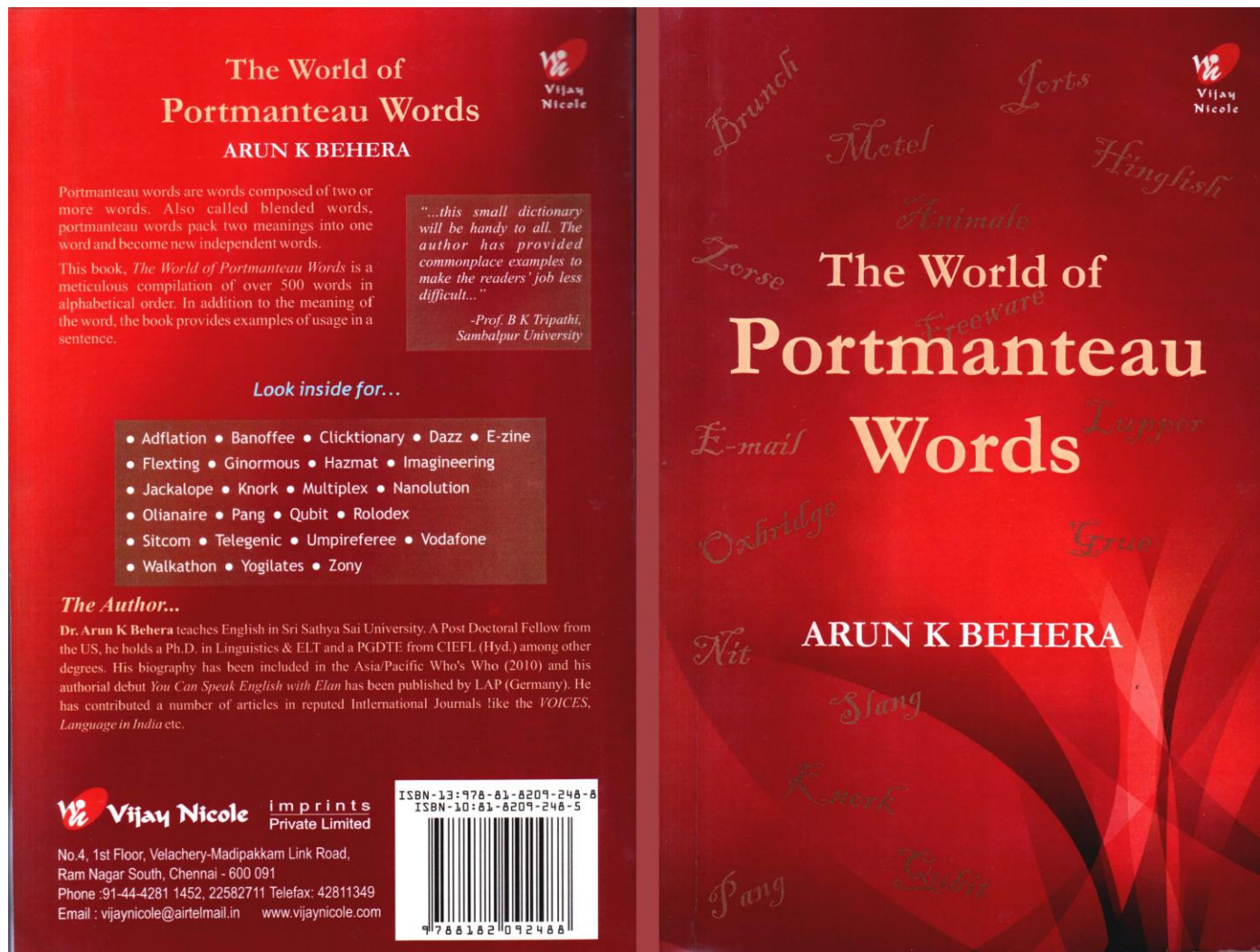
**Author:** Dr Arun Behera

**Publisher:** Vijay Nicole Imprints Pvt Ltd., Chennai. 2011. 145pp. MRP: NA

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English has been a very flexible and tangible language over time; it has made parallel paths with the present generation lately. Also, well-famed as the second official language for nearly every country, English has extracted its roots from different languages and yet stands firm in making the most prominent identity. National/Regional languages inevitably stand at the highest pedestal but the fact that the second language that strikes our head when we are to establish a formal conversation with anyone in any part of the world is 'English'.

Having said this let me state that there are a few people who make this language more accessible and easier to understand and comprehend. Dr. Arun Behera is one such scholar who has contributed generously to make this language uncomplicated and effortless with his fabulous work *A World of Portmanteau Words*. This book makes the English Language of the pop era explicable and comprehensible.

“Portmanteau Words” are those words that derive their meaning from the blend-ing of parts of two or more words. For example: Information+ commercial = infomercial. The Portmanteau trend had been in existence for ages but what was missing was the apt definition, elaborate explanation, appropriate examples, and illustrations. This gap is seamlessly bridged in Dr. Behera’s work.

Dr. Behera has painstakingly referred to a myriad of resources and has compiled them in an extensive, inclusive and proficient manner to make this book as easy and informative as possible. We can see the incessant chain of ease in which he has illustrated the beauty of English Language and the definition and elucidation of the portmanteau words. Every single line is clear, crisp and easy to comprehend, followed by a list of illuminating examples. While reading this book, you will get a lot of insight on the language, the words and also the combinations of words and that makes this book an ultimate aid for students, scholars and for people who are interested in learning English. I have, however, one suggestion to offer to the learned author who has seven books and over a hundred research articles to his credit: please go in for the next edition/version of the book so that newer words in the last 8-9 years would find its place and make this book more relevant. Also, the MRP is missing; the author could request the publisher to mention the price of the book at the earliest opportunity.

This book serves the purpose of being an illustrative encyclopedia that has everything you would ever like to know about the language in general or about the words in particular. After reading this book, I was enlightened and the arc of my view for the language and the play of words widened on all sides. Despite being a teacher myself, little did I know that there is so much to explore in just this one part of the language itself and that an entire book can be written on the topic so efficiently. This book has helped me a lot in knowing my subject better and deeper and I would be grateful to Dr. Arun Behera for his generosity in making this subject so effortless and uncomplicated.

I would rate this book a 9.5/10 for all the precise facts and data it serves. It will, in my belief, make a useful and handy read for students and the larger public as well.