

The Idea of 'Self' in Autobiographical Viewpoint

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Abstract: *The autobiographical writing has not only brought out the historic backdrop of the social setting but also the trauma undergone by those who have written the works in highly subjective manner. Despite coming from various countries, continents, and ages, the autobiographers are steadfast sociopolitical thinkers who are influencing unusual epoch-making figures. The choice of events, truth, subjectivity, and objectivity are the distinctive characteristics of autobiography. Self as the focal point and objective view of "self." It is exceedingly challenging to follow these guidelines when writing an autobiography. However, the correct autobiography is the most important method of self-revelation. It is a challenging for the autobiographer to show how his character develops by looking back on a particular aspect of his life in an introspective manner. Because of this, his true self—complete with all of its positive and negative traits—emerges, unhindered by any self-justification or self-glorification. The modern environment also occurs as a necessary component because it is the author's social environment. Thus, self-revelation and present recording are crucial components of an autobiography in its appropriate form*

Keywords: self, autobiography, subjective, societal issues, independence

I. INTRODUCTION

Autobiography is generally defined as a biography written by the author, meaning it is a work of literature in which the author gives a detailed account of their life. In other words, autobiography appears to portray the "I" journey while defining a person's identity and personality. But it's vital to keep in mind that when recounting a person's life journey, a writer also considers all the social, political, and cultural variables that shaped that person's life, personality, and sense of identity. As a result, zeitgeist plays a significant role in the process of life writing. In light of the fact that both the individual and the context play a significant role in the act of writing the "bios" of "I," one can say that when writing an autobiography, the author is not only concerned with the individual while recounting their own journey but also with the context, which is society. The study of autobiography is a good place to look at a variety of concepts, the most important of which is what this dynamic interaction of the individual/self and context/society stands for.

It is clear that society and the person are interdependent and inseparable because they are both integral components of the composition of life-writing. An individual is always a part of the community and is dependent on it. Both become an essential and inseparable component of one another to the point that they can influence one another; the self that is being formed and moulded by society is also seen to be influencing the form of society. Both are able to reflect each other as a result of their mutually beneficial relationship, and this ability to do so is crucial in autobiography. It is so because it enables one to perceive their own and society's worlds. To put it another way, one could argue that in autobiography, one is able to see the idea of the evolving self as well as that of society, giving one the chance to delve deeply into the subject in order to grasp the difficulties of social existence.

Studying the autobiographies of Nirad C. Chaudhuri, Nayantara Sahgal, R. K. Narayan, and Kamala Das has been quite gratifying in light of the aforementioned discussion. These four writers of Indian English literature from the 20th century each provided a vivid portrait of the zeitgeist in the memoirs they wrote about their lives. One may observe the development of their cultures as well as their own particular personalities. It should be mentioned that reading their autobiographies revealed a distinct and individualised perspective on the issues with social life. The autobiographies written by Chaudhuri seem to cover a wide range of topics covering practically every element of society. He does appear to offer a critique of a variety of contemporary social issues. His massive work of writing, *Life-214*, covers a wide range of topics, including politics, religion, sociology, anthropology, gender studies, the Indian freedom struggle,

and a host of other subjects. Indeed, it begs the question of whether Chaudhuri's reality was "the world of the multitude."

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The self isn't absolutely defined by means of who you are, information moreover what you think you are (the belief of self), and moreover expertise others perceive you. This self is constantly converting, now not most effective physical additionally mentally, intellectually and psychologically. All this makes the question of identification a complicated issue. In addition, the "I" of an autobiography isn't a fixed entity that adjustments in response to changing existential instances. due to the ones complexities, autobiography is a tough style to classify each thematically and formally (Singh 2009). If it's far defined as a Being's life tale, it can't be seemed as fiction. As a end result, it is now and again known as literary or progressive non-fiction thru critics. Others, extra sceptical, argue that autobiographies are often works of fiction due to the fact they constantly "create a excessive photograph of the self" (Wagner-Egelhaaf 2000). as an example, consider Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography, which was written in Yeravda jail in Pune. The autobiography, which changed into initially written in Gujarati and translated into English by using the use of his secretary Mahadev Desai, emerge as published in 1927 and covers his lifestyles as a good deal as 1920. The story of My Experiments with reality (1927) became Mahatma Gandhi's splendid try to make his autobiography sound honest by way of emphasising the word "reality" and the medical nature of his "experiments." Gandhi expands on his aspect within the arrival: "I desire to genuinely acquaint the reader with all of my shortcomings and errors." My cause is to report on Satyagraha technological experiments, now not to gloat about understanding high-highexcellenti'm. even as evaluating myself, i am capable of attempt to be as harsh due to the truth the reality, as I want others to be (2008: xiv).

That is some component that every writer of an autobiography ought to say. There also are one-of-a-kind troubles in the style. it's far difficult to transport to and fro in time and vicinity. Many poets, philosophers, painters, and linguists have lengthy been interested in the enigma of time. it could additionally be understood in terms of the patience and breakdown of the reminiscence reservoir. In Salvador Dali's conventional portray *The staying power of reminiscence (1931)*, moreover referred to as Melting Clocks or easy Watches, time is proven as a smooth factor.

However the inherent paradoxes and issues established by way of Augustine and Grass, the autobiographical genre has not simplest survived know-how is flourishing in easy put up-cutting-edge-day literary scene international. numerous recent research inside the humanities and social sciences element to a memory explosion, even a memory mania, that is largely defined with the useful useful resource of a hurry of recollections from international war II and the Holocaust in the 20th century.

Even university professors who train or have taught literature, which incorporates Terry Eagleton and Edward stated, have authored memoirs, reworking themselves from critics to novelists. those intellectuals, who use the literary topos of "exile," have satirically won popularity, or as an alternative huge call reputation, in the present day worldwide (Singh 2009: 70–seventy eight). Celebrities collectively with actors, singers, athletes, and politicians have furthermore started to position up memoirs, a variety of which can be ghostwritten. blogs are a drastically new addition to this genre. Regardless of the fact that every autobiographical discourse is tremendous, most authors begin by using way of explaining and justifying their selection to write down down about themselves. As formerly stated, the motives for this fashion's clearstraightahead popularity are not most effective historic, expertise additionally intellectual.

Disseminating the highs and lows of one's non-public and/or professional lifestyles isn't confined to men of letters; it now has a big goal marketplace. In Europe, autobiographies in the shape of diaries, memoirs, and chronicles have protracted information. in addition to this "natural" form, autobiographical strands are frequently spread, either deliberately or by way of accident, in a ramification of works which encompass essays, letters, novels, journey journals, philosophy, paintings, pictures, and movies. despite the fact that they'll be veiled, first-rate dedications and acknowledgements at the beginning. Artists regularly depict themselves as individuals of the organization in their artwork. Pablo Picasso disguised himself as a harlequin in his circus series. There are various examples to pick from. To realize and understand the ones veiled autobiographical narratives, one need to be an eager observer.

In such times, the critic assumes the position of an archaeologist excavating a domain, sorting thru materials, accumulating fragments, and piecing them collectively. Picasso as compared painting to preserving a diary.in line with Federico Fellini, a Italian filmmaker, all artwork is autobiographical due to the reality the pearl represents the

autobiography of the oyster. The time period "autobiographical writing" is extra suitable for such works of fiction. Madame Bovary, as Flaubert is quoted as announcing, is me. In assessment, Goethe felt positive that Werther modified into not him (Heckmann 1984: 22). Whilst Flaubert emphasized the importance of autobiographical research in literature, Goethe attempted to downplay their significance. Every perspectives are suitable due to the reality a novel is often a complex mixture of right and imaginary components.

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Sahgal is up next. She covers the Indian movement, Gandhianism, Partition, and the emerging and independent new India in great detail in both of her autobiographies. It makes sense that the text covers several significant details regarding one of the most significant periods in Indian history. It is also clear that there is discussion regarding the importance of truth and non-violence in a nation's life. Gandhi's doctrine is a whirlwind, and its effects on people's lives are very obvious. The narrative of the end of the British Raj, which culminated in the creation of a newly independent India, is included in the text of her autobiographies, which invites one to perceive Sahgal as fascinated with "the realm of the national."

Additionally, it is an extraordinary work of writing based on R. K. Narayan's everyday experiences. A close study of his autobiographical texts highlights the idea that, with the right focus, "ordinary" existence might become epic. Indeed, the themes of his memoirs introduce us to a wide range of concepts pertaining to commonplace happenings in life. His autobiographies are filled with experiences like unpleasant school life, complicated community life, advantages of joint families, marriage and man-woman relationships, unemployment, the struggle of an individual, and the contrast between American and Indian ways of life, among many others. His interest in the most basic and lowly aspects of life does make him fall under the category of "the orbit of the mundane."

Last but not least, a significant number of issues and incidents pertaining to women and society are presented in Das' autobiography. The text of her life story is filled with themes that deal with the oppression and subjugation of women, whether it be the unguided and neglected childhood, discrimination and hypocrisy in society, the status of women, marriage, love and lust, or 215 infidelity. It is clear that the text tends to stress the fact that Das's focus has been with that of "the arena of the feminine" while chronicling the journey of a girl from a very young age to that of womanhood. This analytical examination of the autobiographies of these four authors reveals that each of them is concerned with a variety of preoccupations in their autobiographies, giving birth to a pattern of the multitude, the national, the everyday, and the feminine. This pattern, which emerged as a result of the writers' varying subjective opinions, ideologies, and persuasions, speaks volumes about each writer's particular standpoint and point of view. It's noteworthy to observe that these authors appear to have taken the same attitude in both their fiction and poetry as they do in their autobiographies. This resemblance, or continuum, of ideas leads one to assert that each of these authors has a distinct purpose and sense of truth, and the similarity in their fictional and nonfictional works supports this assertion.

III. CONCLUSION

A writer's goal is to convey their own, personal perspective on the world. It is arbitrary since a writer's identity and personality are shaped by the environment they live in. Numerous social, political, economic, and cultural aspects have an impact on the writer's personality. Their beliefs, points of view, and positions are all the outcome of their engagement with society. What then does a writer do with all of this acquired wisdom and life experience? S/he could want to include it in writings. One further thing that comes to mind is that the author may use a selection process to

establish their main, or so to speak preferred subjects while expressing their opinions about life. Now, this is where things become problematic since one's mind seems to be constantly debating between fact and fiction.

As a result, one can get sidetracked into an entirely different universe and become lost in the conversation. Autobiography, however, seems to save one from falling prey to the unknowable and unavoidable force of fact and fiction in a writer's work in this situation. If one notices the consistent pattern that appears after reading a writer's fiction and non-fiction works, this is what will happen. For instance, we already discussed the shared themes between these authors. What does it represent? Well, it saves our lives in a figurative sense. Because of this trend and these writers' own topics, it is reasonable to assume that the autobiographies of these authors and other literary works share a close relationship.

Because we are dealing with literary authors whose literary works have established them as realists addressing a wide range of social issues of their period, this relationship is quite valuable. However, only their fictitious work has given them this status up to this point. The analysis of their autobiographies for social life issues has not received much attention. This is the reason the current researcher chose to investigate the social sphere of these writers' autobiographies, and it's fascinating to note that one can observe the same pattern of thoughts and ideas in these writers' autobiographies. This discovery appears to give one the chance to express how the study of social life's problems in these literary writers' autobiographies not only re-establishes them as realists but also affirms their individual attitude by developing their credo.

This is the case because reading their autobiographies serves a variety of purposes, including relating the life of an individual in which self and society are both seen as important factors; allowing one to observe both the development and growth of the individual as well as the society; allowing one to see both the individual as well as the society's overall picture; and finally, if one pays close attention to the interplay between self and society. This observation enables one to draw the safe conclusion that studying the social life problems in these four literary writers' autobiographies not only greatly aids in understanding a writer and his or her work, but also highlights the fact that studying a writer's work would be incomplete without taking into account their autobiographies. One may claim that their autobiographies are where their artistic talent began. It served as their starting point. If this is the case, then it can be said that a writer's autobiography should be read and examined in the same way as all of his or her other works. As a result, it is also intended that individuals will engage in the discourse of the self and society through autobiography, in which the analysis of social life's problems will seem particularly pertinent given its unique attraction.

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