

Analysis of the Development of Social and Political Consciousness in the Indian Writing in English

Manoj Bhagat

Sundarrao More Arts, Commerce & Science College, Poladpur, Raigad, Maharashtra, India
manojpralhadbhagat@gmail.com

Abstract: *The growth and development of Indian writing in English is not just an extension of British Literature but a unique and unprecedented phenomenon in the Sphere of English literature. Indian writing in English is also considered as Indian English Literature. It may also be referred as an Indo-Anglian literature. It is the organisation of writers who writes in English but whose mother tongue is one of the numerous languages of India. The Sake Dean Mahomed wrote first book in English in the form of The Travels of Dean Mahomed in 1793. The Henri Louis Vivian Derozio, Rabindranath Tagore and Sri Aurobindo were considered as the pioneers in the field of Indian writing in English. The other notable writers include R K Narayan, A K Ramanujan Nissim Ezekiel Kamla Das and Mulkraj Anand. The purpose of the present research paper is to analyse the development of the social and political consciousness in Indian writing in English*

Keywords: native language, Indo-anglian, Indian writing, culture, social, political, consciousness

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian English writers have got recognition in the world after the the 1947. They were writing in Indian setting and about native themes. But they succeed in gaining universal appeal. The younger generation got quality education from the European and American universities. They were all fluent speakers of the English language. They have treated comparatively all subjects including the freedom struggle, plight of the Indian farmers, social issues like untouchability , partition and corruption. The writers like Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Shashi Tharoor, Anita Desai and Dr Narendra Jadhav have become very popular in foreign countries like England, America Korea and Japan. They are facing various difficulties in finding out the renowned publishers. Some of the writers even now consider English as a foreign language.

Analysis

The early writers in Indian writing in English focused on the themes such as superstitions, alienation and follies and a deficiencies of the Indians. The poem Night of the Scorpion enumerated the experience of the Indian psyche after the bite of the Scorpion. The poem explores themes of suffering, superstition, and the collective human experience in the face of adversity. A K Ramanujan is one of the significant Indo Anglian writers. He had delineated the Hindu heritage in his poetry. There is a lot of tension between the claims of western culture and those of hindu heritage. His famous poem Small Scale Reflection on a Great House he says, " Sometimes I think that nothing that ever comes into this house goes out. He means to say that things come every day to lost themselves among other things. The contribution of Nissim Ezekiel and A K Ramanujan in the development of Indian writing in English is noteworthy and outstanding. Kamla Das is also one of the prominent poets in Indian writing in English. She had expressed her anguish regarding her relationship with her husband. She has given expression to the disappointed life and frustration. Her poetry is considered as a confessional. Her work may be compared with the work of Sylvia Plath. She has composed innumerable poems such as The Old Play House, My Grandmother's house and The Sunshine Cat. She has composed autobiography named named My Story. It provides a candid account of her life. It relates the societal norms, love and identity crisis. In the last phase of her life she adopted Islam and settled in Pune city of Maharashtra state.

The quit India movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi greatly influenced the authors like R K Narayan, Mulkraj Anand and Raja Rao. They have reflected the social and political reality of the time. The various movements

during the freedom struggle like salt agitation, non cooperation, farmers agitation and harijan upliftment deeply influenced the writing of the Mulk Raj Anand. He has given expression to the political and social consciousness in his novel. His career may be divided into two phases. The first phase covers the period of his stay in England. In his second phase he has given importance to the social realism instead of romanticism. His novels such as Coolie, Untouchable and Two Leaves and Bud described the oppression of the low caste people, plight of the workers and peasants. Untouchable delineated the harsh realities of the caste system in India. The character of Bakha an outcaste from Northern region of India suffers due to the caste exploitation. His other two significant novels Coolie and Two Leaves and a Bud focused on the lot of another underprivileged section of Indian society. He exposed the greed and selfishness in industrialism and capitalism. The exploitation of the individual is paramount under the British rule. Mulk Raj Anand has used ironical point of view in his novel Two Leaves and a Bud. The hardships of the tea plantation labour and their exploitation by British capitalist is described in this novel. He has successfully used the language of the villagers from north India.

R K Narayan was another significant writer along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. His notable works include Malgudi Days (1942) a collection of short stories. His notable novels include Swami and Friends (1935), The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher. He has used the simple and the straight forward language. He has portrayed the small South Indian village in Malgudi Days. R K Narayan is famous for delineating the traditions, culture and social dynamics.

Through his storytelling, readers gain a deeper understanding of the societal norms prevalent in his time.

Raja Rao is also impressed by the Indian freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi. He has nicely covered the freedom movement. His famous novel Kanthapura covered the story of a small village which actively participated in the freedom struggle. The village Kanthapura is influenced by the Gandhian values and ideas. There was a complete disorder in the village during the freedom movement. His second novel The Serpent and the Rope wins the Sahitya Academy Awards in 1960. It is a spiritual autobiography of the author. The implications of the two minds which drift apart. The conflict of ideology between the east and west underscored in The Serpent and the Rope. It is a highly complicated novel.

II. CONCLUSION

The Indo-Anglian authors have embraced the social realism and the political events of the time in their works. The harsh realities of the underprivileged find place in their writings. They have given voice to the workers who were groaning under the exploitation of the British Rule. The novel like Kanthapura deals with the village impressed by the Gandhian values and movement. The most popular novels Untouchable and Coolie by Mulk Raj Anand described the caste oppression and the economic exploitation. They have used their work to give vent to the social and political unrest of the people of India.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Naik M K, A History of Indian English Literature. Sahitya Academy Delhi.
- [2]. Debt G N, Indian Literary Criticism, Orient Longman, 2004
- [3]. Abrams M H, A Glossary of Literary Terms, Thomson Heinley on.
- [4]. Indian poetry in English by Mulk Raj Anand and Paranjape
- [5]. www.wikipedia.com
- [6]. Online Articles