

Post Colonial Indian Writers in English –Socio Cultural Features In Their Writings

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Abstract

The word ‘literature as defined by the 19th century critic Walter Pater referred to “the matter of imaginative or artistic literature” as a “transcript, not of mere fact, but of fact in its infinitely varied forms.” We know that imagination coined with artistic sensibility and style depict the society in both theme and spirit. The writers from any part of the world justify their thoughts through words in many languages, culture, regions. communities as well as caste dealing with socio-cultural, political- economic’, agricultural, industrialisation, and modernisation aspects of the society in general. Indian English Fiction has its admirers in the country and also abroad. Indian Writing in English since 1800 till date has greater influence both in and outside world. This paper includes the introduction of Indian Writer in English focusing on major issues discussed covered in the works of writers from the beginning till the modern time. The aim of this paper is to introduce readers about the socio-cultural point of view of the writers and their contribution in Indian English Fiction. The socio-cultural perspectives of the country and the world has changed but the major issues that have been covered by major writers are the same all over the world.

Introduction:-

Indian Writing in English begins its journey from 1800-1830. The major writers or the contributors in English writings were Raja Ram Mohan Roy’, Kashi Prasad Ghose, K.M. Banerji they contributed in poetry. During this time the poetry had themes of god, worshipping of dieties myth and mythology revolving around faith and hope culminating customs and traditions which

our country has enliven over the century and strengthen its root and soul. The themes and spirit of the writing is purely Indian in its pattern and literary genre.

Over the centuries the English literature has taken new shape and colour as other countries. During 1920-1940, the major writers in Indian English writings contributed in literary fields were R.N.Tagore , R.K. Narayan , Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao, kamala Markandaya ‘,Nayantara Sahgal R.P. Jhabvala, Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh their work is admired and quoted with respect ..

They have inspired readers to think and develop vision to uplift the literature of Indian Writers in the world. Most of them belong to the period when India was colonised by the Britishers than decolonisation took place, post colonialism and then entered post modernism.

The major themes in their writing touch the heart of the readers. They write the exact state with a fictional interpretation, truly leaves an impression in the mind and heart of the readers all over the world. The three major writers Rajo Rao, Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan depicted the society in a realstic and sympathetic portrait of a poor in India, ‘The Untouchable (1935),, Coolie’ (1936)

‘Two Leaves and a Bud’ (1937). Some of **M.R.** Anand works which speaks for the masses. We can correlate ourself with these characters as many evils and corrupt practices are portrayed truthfully eg., Superstitions and untouchability, potitical upheavals and ethenic disturbances; merciless persecution of women. On the other hand R.K.Narayan (one who belongs to the priestly caste) by birth touches our heart with sensitive issues. His fiction accepts the socio political situation as it stands and the stories are all the more affecting for that. The stories are not affected by the potential and post imperial contradictions. Through his writing he brought out the humour and energy of ordinary life, and displayed compassionate humanism in his writing. He believes in the aesthetics or creative pattern of art rather than its suggestive and moral appeal. During the Indian Freedom struggle most of the writers were very much influenced by Gandhian thoughts. They also wrote for the masses during the Indian freedom struggle. Some of them were Sarojni Naidu, Bhabani, Bhattacharya, Manohar Malgonkar and Khushwant Singh.

There was a connection between the political consciousness at the grassroots level. The fiction writers could co- relate their writing to the mainstream Bhabani Bhattacharya is very critical of the British administration and their apathetic attitude to the common people. He who 'Rides a Tiger' 1955 which tells us about debased unsound and degrading political economic and social system of the time Gandhiji also referred to the notion of superiority and inferiority based just on the accident of birth. The writer seeks to do through this novel is to expose the hollowness of caste distinctions and to assert the essential unity of oneness of humanity. We come across the theme of integration in the present novel

The woman novelist presented fiction in Indian English literature as juxtaposition of the two apposite cultural systems and value systems of the East and the West.. In the Post Independence India a number of novels have appeared in which the confrontation between the two cultures is not on the social but on the personal level and the theme in them is an individual's search and psychological exploration for identity in a rapidly changing Indian situation Kamala Markandaya perfect understanding and knowledge of the two different ways of life of the East and the West enable her to look at their contrasting social political and cultured values from different perspectives. According to the writer the East and the West confrontation in novels perceived that colonial repression, cultural arrogance, political conflict and racial animosity sow the seeds of confrontation. She hates colonialism and imperialism is clearly revealed in her novels like Possession, The coffer Dams. In the works of Anita Desai a post colonial writer the themes of alienation, identity crises, rootlessness, hybridity etc.

In the words of Ania Loomba , "the migration of peoples is perhaps the definitive characteristic of the twentieth century and in crucial ways diasporic identities have come to represent much of the experience of "post coloniality" (loomba 180).

In the writings of Upamanyu Chatterjee, Amitav Ghosh we could find these characteristics prominently. The feeling of diaspora, the constant struggle with displacement, where by the colonised nations are independent to call themselves as original inhabitant, yet were unable to get connected to the roots due to in-depth influences of the colonisers..

Amitav Ghosh offers a very different angle to already established views about post colonial writings in Indian novel in English. The feeling of loneliness identity crises rootlessness is very clearly mentioned through the characters in the writing of Anita Desai, Vikram Seth, Arundati Roy, Amitav Ghosh , Shashi Tharoor, Upamanyu Chatterjee.

In the works of Upamanyu Chatterjee the influence of the post-colonialism is distinctly evident. In English August; An Indian Story. the development and growth of an Indian amongst the difficult political arrangement. The Last Burden the future of an individual depends on the socio –political responsibility of being a part of family responsibilities.

The effect of America is seen in The Mammaries of the Welfare State, the reader's feels the development in the writing of Upamanyu Chatterjee, for keeping pace with the changing trends of Indian culture and ideological practices.

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