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R.K. Narayan is a Pure Artist-An Analysis

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Abstract

There is a difference between language and subject used by the writers of the Indo-Anglian literature and Anglo-Indian literature. The former is the genre written and created by the Indians through the English language, and the later is written by the Englishmen on themes and subjects related to Indian soil. As Prof. C.D. Narasimhaiah quoted the Indian novel in English has reflected a considerable capacity to provide a platform to the readers in the novels of R.K. Narayan. It has been accepted by the vast readers that R.K. Narayan chose Journalism as career. Later, his concentration turned towards writing novels on the life of common people and their common situations. When he started to write novels he had already acquainted more knowledge of the reality of the common people. Though he created a few political novels; his concern was more to accommodate a wide range of concerns about the themes and subjects on social and domestic issues of the common people and common situations. As a novelist of middle class his novels present the reality of the life of the common people and even the plots of his novels are not constructed or created on any a standardized formula. Narayan is not only a pure artist but also is a realistic writer. His art of using Humour and Irony are a blended mixture of human experiences. Naraya's reputation has already been recognized by the vast number of readers as he was a man of simplicity, purity and elegance in his writing style. His main interest was to free from prejudice, bias, propaganda and didacticism.

Keywords: Simplicity, purity, elegancy, symbol, common situation

Introduction

A Brief Analysis

As he is a novelist of middle class; the characters of his novels also are from the background of middle class. Further, it can be stated that Narayan's novels are basically the novels of characters and those characters stand in the lines of the characters of the great personalities like Shakespeare and Charles Dickens wherein the readers can observe the artistic note of the novelist. Both the minor and major characters are from the world of Malgudi, especially the women characters are presented either wedded partners or seductive creatures. This type of characters like Ramani's Shanti in The Dark Room, Shanti Bai in Mr Sampath and Raju's beloved Rosie in The Guide. Narayan is not only a pure artist but also is a realistic writer. His art of using Humour and Irony are a blended mixture of human experiences. Naraya's reputation has already been recognized by the vast number of readers as he was a man of simplicity, purity and elegance in his writing style. His main interest was to free from prejudice, bias, propaganda and didacticism. Hence, his novels are the concept of Domestic harmony and peaceful relations which is very necessary of all ages. As for his deep concern of common people Narayan is regarded a "Father of Regional Novel".

Indeed, he is a keen observer of men and matters. He himself has proved that wit and wisdom are necessary components to create an effective short story or novel, even he recommends

this intellectual capacity. As he was a hard worker in focusing on the realistic situations; it was possible form to create interesting novels like Swami and Friends, The Financial Expert and the like. His Indianness came to be recognized in India after he returned from the west with the observations of the West and the East. His characters are typically Indian. Swamy, Chandran, Krishnan, Sampath, Margayya and Mali are Indian not only in name but also in character and spirit. These characters are portrayed as of their notions, feelings, taboos, and morals of Indianness. Wherever the novelist has used symbols, which represent typical Indian culture or temperament, it is because of India's culture is very elusive and complex. Narayan is neither a spiritualist nor a social reformer, yet he is a keen observer of the life of common life and common situations. His novels are a pure record as in itself it really is. As an artist he has focused at the essence of commonness with a blend of sins and virtues. For example this artistic note is found in the character of Raju in the Guide. We see Raju a tourist guide falls in love with Rosie, later he turns a thief in court and out of the court he turns as a pseudo saint fasting for rain during draught in Mangala and surrounding villages. Sense of pathos is limited in his novels. Some extent fate also plays a major role in ups and downs of the characters of Narayan's novels. Here it is to be noted that Malgudi is considered a symbol of the Traditional India through shedding the age-old traditions and accepting the Modern Western civilization. His references to Mempi Hills,

New Extensions, Roads and Streets are notable to acknowledge Narayan a pure artist. He does not highlight any extraordinary situations and characters, but he concentrates only on ordinary and simple things and situations as far as the nature of the characters is concerned.

As a keen observer Narayan has sustained the lively characters in his novels with a combination of religion, mythology, culture and philosophy. In Narayan's novels, we don't have pure villains and pure saints. We can find an array of good and bad in his major characters. Mr.Sampath and Margayya and Raju and Rosie all have their weaknesses as well as virtues. In fact, they are more sinned against than sinning. This is another proof of his realistic characterization, for in life we have neither purely good nor entirely bad people. His minor characters play an important role in the novel. For example, without Velan of Mangala village, it could have been impossible to develop the action of the novel in an existing manner. Narayan brings out some merits of a joint family. Soon after coming out of a joint-family, Srinivas found domestic duties an extra-burden. Since there is a division of labour in the joint family system, no particular person can feel more burdens. Casteism is one of the worst evils of society. Sriram detected the feeling of casteism and untouchability because it divides human beings into compartments. He, therefore bursts into anger when his wife hesitates to take food-stuff brought from a nearby hotel for the fear of pollution of touch by a lower caste: 'What foolish nonsense is this?' Srinivas cried. He stood looking at her for a moment as if she were an embodiment of knotty problems. He knew what it was rigorous upbringing, fear of pollution of touch by another caste, orthodox idiocies – all the rigorous compartments of human beings. In the words of Narayan life is illogical and man is always trying to translate his fantasies into reality, so he completes the story of man's rise and fall or ups and downs and thus presents a total view of life. R. K. Narayan is a man of moral consciousness. He points out that commercial instinct ruins the morals of man. But On the whole,

Conclusion

Narayan remains a pure artist. He is for the social integration and order. As an artist he has dissected the social motives successfully with the help of realistic characterization. So he does it with help of his characters. Narayan's novels are the expression of various problems of middle class society in which he has been all involved. The balance between his characters and society is well maintained. In all the respect it is noted that Narayan's artistic excellence is very remarkable and incomparable. His style of storytelling, his capacity in understanding the psychological insight and behavior of the characters in particular and human beings in general is noteworthy. As a writer of reality he has made a remarkable distinction between reality and illusion. His art of presentation is pure, simple and lucid. Almost all characters in his novels and short stories are lively and they can delight the heart of the readers. The characters observed by him are the incarnation or reflection of the common life and common situations irrespective of age.

Thus, R.K. Narayan has portrayed the condition, situation and characters artistically with a sense of aesthetic note which has brought him a name pure artist and writer of Indianness.

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