

Post Colonial Indian Literature

Rahul P. Ghuge,

Dhabekar Arts College Khadki (cha), Akola.

Abstract:

Post colonial literature is a body of literary writings that react to the discourse of colonization. A large number of Indians use the English language as a medium of creative expression. Post colonial can be defined as literature written by colonized and formerly colonized peoples. R.K.Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao tried their best to give new identity to Indian writings in English. Writers like Salman Rushdie, Anita Desai, Kamala Markandaya had chalked out a plan to altar the map of post colonial Indian English literature. In this paper we discussed the writings of Kamala Markandaya, Khushwant Singh, Salman Rushdie, Bhabani Bhattacharya , Ruth Prawar Jhabvala Anita Desai and Arundhati Roy on the map of Post Colonial English Fiction.

Introduction:

The term Post Colonialism is a critical theory which focuses colonial experience from the colonized society's point of view. The term Post Colonial came after the term 'Colonial' which was based on the theory of the superiority of European culture or imperial culture and the rightness of the empire. Colonial literature means the literature written by the native people including the writings by creoles and indigenous writers during the colonial times. Post Colonial literature means the literature written after the withdrawal of the imperial power from the territory of the native people. Having got the freedom from the colonial rule, the postcolonial people thought of having their identity.

Post Colonial literature is a body of literary writings that reacts to the discourse of colonization. Post Colonial theory deals with a wide spectrum of issues like hybridity, otherness, globalization, homelessness etc. it is an essential condition that post colonial literature must be written in English. In closing decades of twentieth century the term 'Post Colonial' has gained currency and what is more it has eclipsed terms like postmodernism, post structuralism and so on.

Indian writing in English has acquired a great significance in recent years not only in India but all over the world. A large number of Indians use the English language as a medium of creative expression. Post colonial can be defined as literature written by colonized and formerly colonized peoples. In this paper we are going to discuss the writings of Kamala Markandaya, Khushwant Singh, Salman Rushdie, Bhabani Bhattacharya , Ruth Prawar Jhabvala

and Arundhati Roy on the map of Post Colonial English Fiction R.K.Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao tried their best to give new identity to Indian writings in English. A new group of writers have arrived on the Indian scenario for example Anita Desai, Kamala Markandaya, Arun Joshi, Salaman Rushdi, Shobha De, Shashi Deshpande and Arundhati Roy.

Indian English fiction succeeded to win almost every well known literary prize in the world. Actually speaking the most interesting aspect of the fiction at the turn of the present century from the Indian point of view is the emergence of new talent. The most sensational literary event in the recent past was probably the publication of Salman Rushdie's masterpiece 'Midnight Children' which become an international success instantly in its release. Salman Rushdie's novel 'Midnight Children' won the prestigious Booker McConnell prize for fiction in 1981. It has been recognized as a landmark novel and important turning point in post independence Indian fiction in English. His novel 'Midnight Children' is extremely complex context of post colonial Indian English literature. Post Colonialism in Indian English literature can be termed as the continual shaking off of the old skin of western thought and the emergence of new consciousness cognizance and celebration. Among many female writers Ruth Pravar Jhabvala is one who has explored the contexts of the real complex intercultural conflict. She has virtually reached her own conclusions regarding the interaction between eastern masculinity and western femininity in post independence era. Jhabvala's 'A Backward Place' shows a very fusion of the east and the west as her European sensibility mixes with Indian sensibility and presents the compare and contrast of two cultures.

The material of most of Jhabvala's novel is couched in post colonial Indian setting. Her creative world is full of refuges wanderness, westernness and those who have lost of sense of national identity. Her novels can legitimately be considered as powerful studies of the Post Colonial India because of her portrayal of social, cultural, economic and political life. Anita Desai is one of the best living authors of English today. Her novels are studies of her protagonist's psychological development. In all her major works like Cry The Peacock, By The Fireside, Bye Bye Black Bird, In Custody she lays equal emphasis on the feminine characters and takes special interest in projecting the essential features that dominate these characters. Her academi award winning novel, Where Shall We Go This Summer? deals with Sita's awareness of the basic dichotomy in the urban milieu, between compassion and the odour of death and destruction, and her resultant urge to free herself from the entire civilization and reach affirmation. Her other works Fire On The Mountain and Fasting Feasting also deals with similar existential questions tormenting the individuals.

Kamala Markandaya is another famous Indian writer. Her entire creative work of art devoted to India. She is the author of several books. The novel *Nectar in a Sieve* highlights the problem of women in colonial India. Her another novel *'Silence of Desire'* is a family drama. Her most ambitious novel is *'The Golden Honeycomb'* a historical and how coming of Indian independence affected the native place. Kamala Markandaya's another novel *'Silence of Desire'* is a family drama. The main character of the novel *Sarajini*, is a pious Hindu housewife, who sees life full of sufferings due to sever ailment, spends much of her time in day to day life in prayers and visiting temple where she listens the preaching of Swami. Shobha De is one of the most candid novelists in India. She is the most popular woman writer of India. *'Socialite Evenings'* the first novel of Shobha De describes the journey of Karuna, from the middleclass girl to a self sufficient Bombay socialite. In the novel *'Starry Nights'* which is a story of a film star Asha Rani deals with the theme of her exploitation, her survival, her fall and her rise. Khushwant Sing's *'Train to Pakistan'* indirectly appeals the need of complete harmony between man's inner and outer self. While dealing with contemporary theme he has touched upon a number of universal issues relating to man and his surrounding.

During late nineteen seventies a new breed of convent and elite class of novelist and writers emerged who forever had chalked out a plan to altar the map of post colonial Indian English literature.

The theme of east west encounter has been treated by number of Indian women writers including Bharati mukherjee, Gita Mehata, Nayantara Sahgal etc. Bharati Mukherjee too takes up for treatment the problem of adjustment that Indians living in the west have to face. In her novel *'Wife'* Amit and his wife Dimple face the problem in their own ways, as Amit devotes himself to moneymaking and Dimple for whom coming to America is a dream come true, finds it difficult to walk down the streets in pants and sweaters cannot forget Durgapuja when the month of October comes and feels her own body to be *'Curiously alien to her filled with hate, malice , an insane desire to hurt.* In some novels of Nayantara Sahgal expressed her opinion about the contemporary political issues and the political scenario of the country. Nayantara Sahgal's novel *'The time of Morning'* brings out the confusion and turmoil which the newly acquired Independence of India brought along with it. The partition of India, election campaigns, clashes between members of the ruling political party resulting in splits and agitations over issues like the official language of a state constitute the main part of the novel. *'A Situation In New Delhi '* is a novel about corruption, rampant in the country and the confusion prevailing everywhere after the death of Pandit Jawahalal Nehru, the first prime

minister of India. Being the novelist and activist Arundhati Roy has also written about the injustice in her non-fiction writing. She has touched the subject like social justice, human right, untouchability and international politics. In her novel 'The God Of Small Things' she performs the responsibility of writer and activist. She focuses on gender biasness and class and caste inequalities. Through this novel Roy clearly shows herself as a writer and a social activist. She challenges the traditional injustice done to women because of their gender and class discrimination. Thus Indian English writers have highlighted Post Colonial issues like darkness of ignorance, illiteracy, starvation, suffering and humiliation in more specific ways. This work is significant in making society aware of people's demands and providing a medium for self expression. Thus Post Colonial Indian literature reflect the experiences of native people in colonial period through various forms either novels, poems and other forms of literature.

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