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INDO- ANGLIAN FICTION - A SPECIAL STUDY

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Abstract:

The term 'Indo-Anglian Literature' is used to denote original literary creation in the English language by Indian authors. It is a part of truly Indian fiction. Indo-Anglian fiction has gained momentum and hence has been drawing much attention all over the world during all these years. It has very effective form of literature depicting the society in its true nature. Larger volumes of literary works involving various socio-cultural and political themes have been generated by the Indo-Anglian writers. This paper briefly introduces the readers to Indo-Anglian literature making them understand how Indian writing in English has a solid tradition behind it.

Keywords: *Indo-Anglian fiction, momentum, literary works, socio-cultural, political themes*

Introduction:

The term 'Indo-Anglian Literature' is used to denote original literary creation in the English language by Indian authors. It is a part of truly Indian fiction and not a tenuous extension of English fiction. Socio-cultural and political perspectives which become the very core and integral part of Indo-Anglian fiction writings produce very distinctive aspect of literature representing almost every dimension of life such as caste, class, gender, culture, values, morals, beliefs, customs, tradition, language, religion, art, music, etc. Indo-Anglian fiction writing in particular gives an incisive understanding into the intricacies of the above aspects in Indian society as reflected in the works of Indo-Anglian writers.

Indian writing in English has a solid tradition behind it, beginning with the great Bengali reformer and philosopher, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, founder of the Brahma Samaj Movement. Indo-Anglian literature continued to grow and flourish for attaining higher peaks of excellence through a significant number of eminent Indians like Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan, the three foremost Indian writers in English who contributed a lot to the growth of fiction in English. Writers like K. Nagarajan, Bhabani Bhattacharya, Manohar Malgonkar, Kushwant

Singh, Kamala Markandaya and Anita Desai followed suit by contributing to the rich thought and technique of the form so as to make Indian novel in English secure a place of prestige in Indo-Anglian literature.

The Indo-Anglian literature is different from the Anglo-Indian Literature. The former is the genre written and created by the Indians through the English Language; the latter is written by the Englishmen on themes and subjects related to India. The Indo-Anglian literature, therefore, is very much associated with Indian English, The evolution of a distinct standard the body of which is correct English usage, but whose soul is Indian in thought, colour and imagery, and now and then, even in the evolution of an idiom, which is expressive of English usage. Tagore cast a sweeping and transforming influence on it. His novels Gora, The Wreck, The Home and the World and short stories were originally written in Bengali. They were translated into English. The form of his novels is old fashioned. His works brought to Indo-Anglian fiction realism and social purpose. He gave emotional and psychological depth to character portrayed.

The Early Pioneers:

The early pioneering works of Indo-Anglian fiction were socials, historical, detective and romantic. They lacked depth and style and technique to leave any permanent imprint. Indo-Anglian fiction was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi. Mulk Raj Anand brought to Indian the new technique of the stream-of-consciousness. Raja Rao adopted the autobiographical form of narration. But the credit of bringing a name and reputation to Indo-Anglian fiction goes to a few contemporary writers such as Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao, R. K. Narayan, and Nirad Chaudhuri. They are the four wheels of contemporary Indo-Anglian fiction. Other luminaries who have enriched the Indo-Anglian fiction are Khwaja Ahmed, Bhabani Bhattacharya, Kamala Markandaya, Anita Desai, Mrs. R. Praver Jahabavala, Lumber Mascarenhas, Mrs.Vila Raina, Khushwant Singh and others.

The Indo-Anglian writers of fiction writers were with an eye and hope on the western readers. This influenced their choice of the subject-matter. That is why in Indo-Anglian novels there are Sadhus, Fakirs, Caves, Temples, Vedanta, Gandhi, Rajahs and Navabs, etc., that is to say. There are subjects that interest the western audience. The women writer, especially Kamala Markandaya, Santha Rama Rao and Anita Desai have a fine eye for the urban scene. Bhabhani Bhattacharya and Khushwant Singh, in very different ways, give us valuable insights into the pathos of economic impoverishment, misdistribution of wealth and human degradation caused by political upheavals.

The Technique of Narration:

The most prominent technique of narration in the Indo-Anglian fiction is the first person narrative. The central character of the hero is the narration of a novel. This technique is seen in many novels such as Raja Rao's *The Serpent and the Rope*, Manohar Malgonkar's *The Princess*, Nayantara Sahgal's *A Time to be happy*, K. Natarajan's *The Chronicles of Kedaram* etc.

The Indo-Anglian fiction has imported the technique of the creative use of myth. Radha Krishna legend is a recurrent myth in Raja Rao's *The Serpent and the Rope*. There is the use of myth in Narayan's *The Maneater of Malgudi*. In *The Old Women and The Cow*, Anand uses the myth of Sita's fire-ordeal as part of his technique. Raja Rao has created an Indian Sanskrit rhythm in the syntax of English.

Raja Rao says, we cannot write like English men and we should not. We cannot write only as Indians. We have grown to look at the large world as part us. Our method of expression therefore, has to be a dialect which will someday prove to be as distinctive and colorful as the Irish or the American. Time alone will justify it. Khushwant Singh himself follows Mulk Raj Anand in respect of Language.

The Themes of happiness and fulfillment through suffering and sanyas is also recurrent in the Indo-Anglian fiction. It is found in R.K. Narayan's *Guide*, B. Rajan's *Dark Dancer*, Raja Rao's *The Serpent and the Rope* and Bhawani Bhattacharya's *He Who Rides a Tiger*. Politics is also inseparably the subject matter of the Indo-Anglian fiction from 1920-1950. The mood of comedy, the sensitivity to atmosphere, the probing of psychological factors, the crisis in the individual soul and its resolution, and above all,

the detached observation, which constituted the stuff of fiction, were forced into the background.

The Theme:

The political theme as a matter of choice was very much influenced by Gandhi's role and philosophy. Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* and *The Cow of Barricades*, K.A. Abbas's *Inquilab*, R.K. Narayan's 'Waiting for the Mahatma', Mulk Raj Anand's 'Sword and the Sickle.' Some other novels related to politics, especially the post-independence politics are Nayantara Sehgal's *This Time of Morning*, Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*, Manohar Malgonkar's *Bend in the Ganges*, Attia Hossain's *Sunlight on a Broken Columns* etc.,

R.K. Narayan is one of the leading figures in Indo-Anglian fiction. He has written about a dozen novels and about 51 short stories. His novels can be classified under four categories:

1. *The school and college novel of his earlier period such as Swami and Friends, The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher.*
2. *Domestic novels such as 'The Dark Room'*
3. *Novels leading with money such as The Financial expert, Mr. Sampath, The Guide and 'The Man Easter of Malgudi'.*
4. *Political novel such as Waiting for the Mahatma.*

'The English Teacher' (1945) is his third novel dealing with school and college life of India. Krishnan, the English teacher, was a producer of system of education which makes us 'morns', 'cultural morns' and his repeating mugged up notes from year to year was a fraud practiced for a conservation of a hundred rupees. He believed in freedom of a soul and Independence of mind. He had studied out of his creativity. He found teaching synonyms with sitting in his chair and keeping his tongue active whether his students understood him as felt baffled by what he said.

R.K. Narayan is a novelist of common people. His plots are built of material and incidents that are neither extraordinary nor superheroes. The tone of his novels is quiet and subdued. He selects day to day incidents that happen to almost every one of us. His heroes are normal human beings and they do not possess any extraordinary capacities, but through some accidents attain greatness very soon to return to their original state. We find nothing extraordinary as Savitri, Ramani and others live, love and suffer in a mare of incidents which are just common place.

Conclusion:

The early Indo-Anglian fiction writings have brought into limelight certain aspects of the reality such as imperialism, casteism, religious fundamentalism, cultural hegemony, authoritarian political leadership and dominance of a particular political ideology which influenced the society for long time, starting with pre-independent era. Now much of Indo-Anglian literature speaks of larger volume of changes that the society is going through over last many years, the change from autocracy to democracy, from totalitarianism to liberalism, from socialism to individualism and from single dominant hegemony to society.

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On

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4th & 5th OCTOBER 2021

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EMERGING TRENDS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The recent trends such as the ebook technology, digital media, blogging and other forms of social networking play a significant role in English literature today. The primary aspect of English literature that the modern media affects is how modern scholars perceive literature and how they study literature. Recent trends are useful in promoting the exchange of ideas and access to vital information that assists the analysis of literary works. This paper aims to study and illustrate how recent trends such as the ebook technology, digital media, blogging and other forms of social networking play a significant role in English literature today.

Key words: Ebook Technology, Digital Media, Blogging, Literary Works.

INTRODUCTION

Multiple trends have emerged and are emerging in 21st century. Some are like adaptations of traditional movements and techniques while others are the outcome of science and technology. Hence, these ages depict modern literature through social, political or religious milieus with different genres of poetry, novel and drama. Digital or Cyber literature is the latest trend in which works of creation are exclusively on and for digital devices. In this trend of literature, the writer relies on cyber medium like website, blogs or social media pages.

These trends are useful in promoting the exchange of ideas and access to vital information that assists the analysis of literary works. Digital Media also proves to be important in improving the access and academic analysis of English literature. Literary works can be reviewed, and individuals may discuss various issues through social media. Studies that would previously take much time and work are simplified by increased access to literary works in the form of ebooks and audio versions of novels and stories.

E-booking and other digital forms of written literature are known to foster interests in reading alongside improvements in reading and writing skills. Some authors argue that modern trends such as social media have a rather positive impact on English language and literature. Other writers also agree that globalization implies that writing styles ought to change and that social media helps to effect the change in literary writings. However, other thinkers feel that social media, in particular, is inhibiting the development of art and

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literature. For instance, there are too many stories in social media such that twitter journalism is replacing the novel reading culture. The proposition is that art and literature should be separated from social media. Public events that expose literary and artistic works are a way of keeping social media and literature separated. Social media is also perceived to have typical values that do not support the spontaneity of literary products.

A blog can be defined as a forum on the internet in which the members share their ideas. Once a member, one can offer their profile to other members. Moreover, the posts appear in chronological order, and a visitor can read the latest discussion in progress. Blogs allow non-technical users to comment on particular topics and share ideas by just posting their thoughts. Moreover, some blogs enable the user to message other users of the same blog. Social media includes blogs, virtual worlds, social networks, micro-blogs and video sharing forums such as Youtube.com. Social media involves the computer generated tools, applications, and programs that allow the user to exchange information such as ideas, jokes, and advertisements with the public through the internet and comment on other people's posts that are availed on the user's computer screen. Some of the distinguishing characteristics of social media include the quality and accessibility. Social media is quite popular in modern culture and studies suggest that the average person spends more than 22% of their time visiting blogs and pages every day. Through mobile social media, exchange of ideas through pictures and videos is faster, inexpensive and accessible for many users. The various trends such as digital and social media are important in increasing the convenience in handling different forms of literature. The advantages of such trends include the ability to access quick information on literature for studying or literary works by others. However, various disadvantages are associated with modern technology regarding the decrease in quality of literary works.

The e-book technology should also be reviewed if we are to discuss extensively the role of modern technology in English literature. The e-book is an abbreviation for an electronic book or a digital publication of an actual book. The digital books can be accessed by use of particular e-book readers that are availed in computers and devices such as smart phones and tablets. Social media, digital media, and the e- book technology have a profound impact on culture and how we perceive literature. Digital media and e-book technology affect the way we study literature and increases access to written literature. Social media influences culture including how we read and write English literature and art.

Social media, for instance, plays a significant role in English literature as it provides a larger forum to expose one's ideas to the world. The significance of research to the world increases as social media progresses in popularity. Social media is important in enabling English literature to achieve its purpose. While social media is good for literature, it affects writing quite extensively; to the extent that famous poet William Shakespeare owns a twitter account. Moreover, there are many writers who have commanded the attention of readers through social media keep emerging. Social media has thus been a significant factor in the development of English literature and many writers are adapting to the social changes that are resulting from social media. Blogs have been a primary forum for discussion and analysis of various literary works. Older works and traditional forms of English literature have a role in modern literature as many digital forms are being availed through social networking. Scholars still investigate the benefits and disadvantages posed by the involvement of social media in literature. However, authors such as Noor and John assert

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that social media increases the connections between the writer and the readers, eventually creating better writers who have connections with their audience. There are various famous writers who produced some of their works through Instagram and Twitter. Examples of such writers include Nicholas Belardes, who wrote the novel *Small Places* using 900 tweets in 2008. Writers also keep in touch with their readers through blog posts. Blogs have also been an active forum for the discussion of various topics in the study of literature. Twitter accounts of historical authors and writers play a significant role in evoking interest in English literature. Social media has promoted a reading culture and increased access to English literature to a considerable extent.

In as much as social media is hailed for its role in the development of social media in the digital age, there are concerns about the possible adverse effects on literature. The nature of social media and digital media is commercial and consumer-based. Internet articles, for example, have adopted the culture of twisting the information and even using exaggerations to achieve the interest of the reader. Fictional writing is thus thriving through the influence of social media. However, some literature and art require high levels of contemplation and reflection. Social media does not allow for literary works that need ample time for reflection and deep thought, unlike the traditional libraries. Social media and its viral nature make it extroverted while many creators of English literature are not. Computerized social networking involves algorithms based on items with which the user may be interested. Artists with works that require longer periods to understand and judge are at a disadvantage when using social media alone as their means of communicating their literary products. The recommendation suggested is that literature and art should be separated from social media such that literature and literary products may be accessed only through public events.

Digital media plays a vital role in the modern literature regarding influencing the way that people perceive literature. Digital media fosters increased access to already existing literary works and provides the tools to review and study English literature. Digital media is instrumental in assisting the review of large amounts of data thus making it easier for scholars of literature to access information that supports the study of literature. On that note, digital tools have the potential to deliver knowledge on literature in simpler forms that are accessible to the student or teacher for review. Electronic texts through the e-book technology make it possible to analyze older literature. From available electronic books, one notices that much of the early modern English literature is based on the much earlier works. Instead of piling up collections of books, one can study many books and store them through the use of e-books. Digital media and the “Electronic Revolution” are factors that have played a role in the study of literature. Teaching and learning of literature are also increasingly comfortable with the introduction of ebooks and digital media. For instance, Web-based learning has facilitated the growth of English literature scholars.

CONCLUSION

The recent trends play a significant role in modern English literature. Trends such as the use of social media have led to the emergence of new writers. Social media is a forum that has encouraged the growth of writers who use social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to expose their literary works. Older writers are also adopting the culture of social media to promote their writings and to increase their readership. Social media also provides an opportunity for writers and readers to connect and communicate.

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Moreover, literary works can be reviewed, and individuals may discuss various issues through social media. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are also instrumental in mobilizing people against social vices. Moreover, Facebook and other social networking forums are useful tools for discussion and analysis among scholars of English literature. Digital Media also proves to be important in improving the access and academic analysis of English literature. Studies that would previously take much time and work are simplified by increased access to literary works in the form of ebooks and audio versions of novels and stories. Moreover, research articles and reviews are availed in various blogs that a scholar may access.

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