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:: Editor ::

Mr. Atish Akade

Assit. Prof. & Head, Department of English
Mahatma Phule Mahavidyalaya, Ahmedpur.

Address for Correspondence

Mrs. Pallavi Laxman Shete

Principal, Sanskriti Public School, Nanded.(MH. India)

Website: www.wiidrj.com

House No.624 - Belanagar, Near Maruti Temple, Taroda (KH), Nanded – 431605 (India -
Maharashtra) **Email:** Shrishprakashan2009@gmil.com umbarkar.rajesh@yahoo.com

Dr. Rajesh G. Umbarkar Mob. No: +91-9623979067

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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SHORT STORIES WRITTEN BY MULK RAJ ANAND AND SHRIPAD MATE

Mrs. Mahesh Krishna Mali

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Bharati Vidyapeeth's Matoshri Bayabai Shripatrao Kadam Kanya Mahavidyalaya Kadegaon, Dist.-Sangli. State- Maharashtra

ABSTRACT:

Comparative study of literature has recently become a favorite area of research in the Indian Universities. Comparative literature leads rediscovery and revaluation of great literary figures of other culture. The question of forms leads to one important question of the relation between literature and society. Certain forms things in particular social condition, social morals, social ethics or social problems, philosophy, conviction etc. comparative literature takes note of all such aspects because social and political problems undoubtedly influences literature. The short stories written by Mulk Raj Anand and Shripad Mate display surprisingly striking similarities in their selection of themes, the portrayal of contemporary social miseries, their compassion for the down trodden people, rural Indian society, concern for women ,philanthropic attitude towards poor people. The purpose of the present paper is to compare and contrast the short stories of Mulk Raj Anand and Shripad Mahadev Mate. This study focuses the themes selected by them and the art of characterization keeping in view the society of their time. By studying the short stories of Mulk Raj Anand and Shripad Mate, it become apparent that they were writers with a purpose and the chief objective of their work was to reform and reshape the degrading and debasing society of their times.

RESEARCH PAPER

Mulk Raj Anand belongs to North West frontier province of undivided India while Shripad Mahadev Mate belongs to Maharashtra. In their education, experience and outlook on life, these two writers differ widely from one another. Their aim and purpose of writing their novels and short stories are also not the same. Yet these two such different hearts and their minds who present many contrast are grouped together for study because they are contemporary and their reaction to the same condition and the problems of our country are found recovered in their novels and short stories in their own different way.

Mulk Raj Anand championed the cause of the underdog of Indian society with all vehemence and skill at his command. He raised his strong voice against the exploitation of the poor and the week by any class. The writer's sympathy for the poor and the oppressed is so acute that we sometimes find the author cry with anguish against the injustice, which was so common in those days. Anand suspects all institutions, temples, government offices and even religion.

The social miseries and exploitation of poor on economic, moral and racial level are vividly pointed out by Mulk Raj Anand in his stories. Exploitation based on caste consideration is presented in his many short stories. It is called social exploitation, exploitation carried on by the entire society on the castles people known as untouchables. Barber, Chamber, Sweeper, Cobblers are regarded outside the Hindu caste, though they firmly believe in the cannons of Hindu religion. Washer man, Leather workers are regarded untouchables even the very touch of sweeper is regarded polluting.

Mulk Raj Anand believes in the dictum of 'Art for the sake of Humanity'. Writing short stories with his definite purpose was a form of patriotic activity. His purpose of writing was to focus

the attention of reading public on the miseries and hardship of the poor underdog of Indian society. The purposive characters of Anand's short stories can be seen from the titles that he has given to his short stories for e.g. *The Barber's Trade Union and Other Stories* etc. these titles are self-evident and clearly manifest how Mulk Raj Anand's hearts bleeds for the miseries of these poor victims of social, political and economic order of the day. He was an angry young man who cannot forgive those who are the instruments of this undeserved wrong to which these unfortunate and miserable are subjected.

Anand introduces characters from the various strata of the society. His characters fall in two groups. In the first group we may place the humble, kind and generous people. These are on the side of the right. Other group belongs to the hypocrites, the misers' selfish people. Most of the former characters are drawn from the lower classes. These low outcastes have obsessed Anand in the way in which certain human beings obsess who seeks to interpret the truth from realities of life. Between these two groups of characters good but weak and bad but powerful, who stand pitted against each other.

Most of the Mulk Raj Anand's short stories have sprung from his early impressions of his youthful life that he spent in the army barracks of the Punjab and then Frontier Province. All the vital part his work is about it and all his living characters are the members of the same family. In his own words,

"All these heroes as the other man and women who had emerged in the novels and short stories were dear to me because they were the reflections of the people, I had known during my childhood and youth."

The technique adopted by Mulk Raj Anand in his short stories suits his purpose. His method of storytelling is dramatic. He picks up a character and then incident builds up a background. Slowly and gradually the characters becomes alive and begins to live and breathe under his expert handling. Details are given one after one. Minutes touches and suggestions are fully made use of, to throw the character in proper relief. Anand combines the method of the omniscient author's narration with the scenic description, through the dialogues of the characters. He engages our attention with his first sentences and holds on to the end. He creates on a grand scale and covers a huge range of characters and incidents.

An examination and analysis of Anand's major short stories will reveal that he is really a conscious social writer. He is concerned with social problems and the eradication of the evils in modern society. His short stories voice the feelings of the peasants, workers in factories and other suppressed members of the society growing in despair and apathy. For Anand art is always the communication of certain social and political ideas. From the interpretation of his stories and on the basis of above mentioned details, it can be said that there is synchronization in the themes, characters selected by Anand and the style used for presentation of his ideology through the medium of short stories.

ShripadMahadev Mate has published "*UpeslitacheAntrang*" in 1941 which is the important milestone in the history of Marathi literature. It started a new way of depicting the rural people in Marathi short story. It focuses the miseries and poverty of the rural people and deep rooted casts system in society. The rustic people become the center of his short stories. Apart from the urban people it attracts the attention of rural people in short story writing.

Shripad Mate has made first attempt to depict the miseries of downtrodden and oppressed people this one of the short stories *Bansidhar! TuKuthe re Jashilis* remarkable which introduce us the different strata of society. Though his characters are poor and living with miseries they have

humanity. The major concern of Mate is to show sympathy for these people. He had not only concerned on rural people but also deals with the different tribes, wanders, beggars, porters, Dalit people etc. he also depicted the social custom tradition belief in his stories. His language was also suitable to these characters. His stories started a new tradition of story writing which become popular in Marathi literature

UpekshitancheAntarang, Anaamik, ManuskichaGahivar, BhavnanchePazar are his famous short story collections in which he has expressed the grief and agony of the downtrodden people belonging to tribal communities and other socially neglected castes like *Katkari and Ramoshi*. The lives of these people were never presented so authentically and effectively in Marathi literature before Mate. As a consequence, not only critics and experts of literature but also common readers gave an overwhelming response to them. His stories such as '*KrushnakathchaRamvanshi*', '*TaarKhoryatilPirya*' and '*MangvadyatilSayajibowa*', written in aesthetically pleasing, felicitous yet clear and bold language, have captured the hearts even of readers of today's generation.

Mate did a good deal of thought-provoking writing. His basic ways of thinking and independent intellectual approach was reflected in his short stories. Abolishing the evil of untouchability from society was a topic close to his heart. As he had closely observed sorrows in the lives of the deprived classes, his short stories reflected them

The position of women in tradition Hindu society is recurring theme in Mate's short story. Women especially poor woman as a class suffer at the hands of the man. In the first place they are treated as beasts of labors and secondly they are used as victims of the passion men.

Mate has used regional words in the story so we understand the Region and also living style of these people and poor plight. Their dialogues in regional dialect create effect and enhance the action of the story. The name of the characters Bemtya, Tavalya, Dhalaya, Chimya also belongs to *Katkari* tribe. Mate depicts the cottages of these tribal people which creates picture in front of our eyes. His story has seeds of improvement of Dalit. In the story *TaralkhoryatilPirya* the character of Satya is portrayed as honest, brave, religious minded and helping hand of poor people.

Mate has presented the hard life of porter and their work through the story *PurandharchNama* He shows the living style of Urban and Rural people and difference in thought.

An interpretation and analysis of mate's major short stories will reveal that he is really a conscious social writer. He is concerned with social problems and the eradication of the evils in modern society. His short stories voice the feelings of the peasants, workers in factories and other suppressed members of the society growing in despair and apathy.

Mulk Raj Anand and ShripadMahadev Mate are humanitarian wrier as it apparent from the comparative study of their short stories. But they were not born humanists rather the views and attitudes which condition their works are the result of a number of influences that operated upon them from childhood. Their heredity, social milieu, education, cultural and regional background, and the books they read, and the people they met have all conditioned their art and gone into the making of Anand and Shripad Mate spokesman for the low and underdog of the society. The society of their times made Anand and Shripad Mate humanitarian writers.

The basic stream that runs through their short stories is social, economic and cultural upliftment which is central to the theme of humanism. Both the writers were deeply affected by the evils prevalent in their respective societies. The artist in them irresistibly was prompted to create a social order where such evils do not exist. They highlighted some of the evils which were dwarfing the even development of man and which went against the principles of humanity. The major themes

taken up by Anand in his short stories are untouchability, exploitation of poor, prostitution, religious hypocrisy, illiteracy, plight of the widow, inequality of sexes and various other social constraints that stand in the way of man's progress.

Mulk Raj Anand and Shripad Mate are humanitarian in all respects even in selection of characters. Character is mouthpiece through which the novelist gives shape to his ideology. The characters in the short stories of Anand and Mate are delineated humanistically so that the readers can identify with them, feel for them and proclaim that there should be an end to exploitation.

It has been observed in the study that both the writers worked on the theme of humanism but style used by them for presentation of their theme is divergent. After comparing and contrasting the short stories of Mulk Raj Anand and Shripad Mate it has concluded in the present paper that they were important writers among the humanitarians, the champions of the underdogs. Both the writers were humanitarian in selection of their themes, choice of characters and use of appropriate style. Their contribution to literature and society can never be neglected.

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