



SOCIAL ELEMENTS IN THE WORKS OF R.K. NARAYAN AND MULKRAJ ANAND

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ABSTRACT

The most significant event in the history of Indian English Fiction in the nine-teen thirties was the appearance on the scene, of it's major trio. Mulk Raj Anand, R. K. Narayan and Raja Rao. Whose first novels were published in 1935, 1938 & 1938 R. K. Narayan writing we saw the picture of Indian middle class society and their problem's, Narayan is able to transform a particular limited region into a microcosm of Indian and Indian Life, Malgudi is the only character in his work's which changes and grows.

Mulk Raj Anand is famous chiefly as a writer of Sociological novels. He deals with some of the most glairing social evils which include untouchablity and the exploitation of labour. Another bright star in the literary. Firmampnt of India is Raja Rao. His first novel Kanthpura published in 1938. This novel describes the impact of the ideas and the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

INTRODUCTION

R. K. Narayan is a from South India. Whose mother tongue is Tamil. R. K. Narayan has mastered the English language. His first novel called Swami and Friends appeved in 1935 the same year in which Anand's novel Untouchable was published. R. K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand these two novelists carried the Indo Anglian novel to great heights. Mulk Raj Anand is a pioneer in the field of what is known as a sociological novel.

After the battle of Plassey (1757) which made the company virtually master of Bengal, the British, who had come to India to sell, decided also to rule. Robert clive famous reply to his detractors after the sack of murshidabad in 1757. I stand astonished to my own moderation. The sees of modernisation process in eightieth century. Indian Waste Land - Seeds which started burgeoning in the ninetieth century. The rise of Indian English Literature was an aspect of this Indian renaissance.

SHEHJAD SIDIQUI

1P a g e



The term “Indo-Anglian” refers to Indians using the medium of the English Language to write their literary work. Thus Anglo - Indian fiction means novels written by Indians in the English language.

The beginning of Indo Anglian Fiction may be traced to the work of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838-94) who wrote a novel a Rajmohan’s *wife*, in English, Bankim Chandra’s Novel also translated into English, among most important is *Anandamath* and Devi Chaudhurani. In 1876. Raj Laxmi Devi’s novel. “*The Hindu Wife*” was published.

In English Raja Rammohan Roy’s essay on “A Defence of Hindu theism” may be regarded as the first original publication of significant in the history of Indian literature Raj Rammohan Roy a partly described by Rabindranath Tagore as the inaugurator of the modern age in India.

Krishna Mohan Benerji also wrote strong articles exposing errors inconsistencies of Hinduism.

The first name that comes to mind when one turns from Bengal to Bombay is that of Bal Shastri Jambhekar, he is remembered as the founder of English cum Marathi Journal in Maharashtra the *Darpan*. Rabindranath Tagore, better known for his *Gitanjali* a great philosophical poem original written in Bengali and later translated into English. Almost all the novel Tagore were written in Bengali and then translated in English.

It was in the 1930’s however that the Indians began what has now turns out to be substantial contribution in English Novel. They are R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao, Mulk Raj Anand.

Raj Rao’s First novel was *Kanthapura* published in 1938. This novel describes the impact of the ideas and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Bhabani Bhattachary’s first novel was *So Many Hungers* (1947) Manohar Malgaonkar also published few novels.

These novelists and their novels paved the way for the great trinity: Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan whose emergence was the most remarkable event in the realm of Indian English fiction. They were the harbingers of the true Indo-English novel. These novelists began writing around the mid 1930s. Bhabani Bhattacharya was also a contemporary of these novelists by birth, but he started writing fiction just after Indian independence.

The writing of these novelists moved the Indian English novel in the right direction. They discovered a whole new world in Indo-English fiction, and the Indian novel owes much to their efforts for gaining solid ground and achieving an identity of its own. They defined the area in which the Indian novel was to operate, and brought the Indo-Anglian novel within

hailing distance of the latest novels of the West. They established the suppositions, the manner, the concept of character, and the nature of the themes which were to give the Indian novel its particular distinctiveness.

“laid the foundation for the genuine Indo-Anglian novel, each imparting to the Indian experience a dimension of individuality based of their particular approach to content and form.” (Rao, K.R. P. 127)

One of the most remarkable features of Indo-Anglian literature is the large number of women. Who contributed bulk and also to its quality. The name of Kamla Markanday is a famous. Her first novel was *“Nectar is a Sieve”* which appeared in 1954. Then another woman write is Nayantara Sahgal. She is author of a *“A Time to be Happy.”* R. K. Narayan, M. R. Anand a pioneer the Indo Anglian novels emerged in it’s glory, with Mulk Raj Anand and R. K. Narayan carried the Indo Anglian novel to great heights.

Indian English Novels:

The most significant event in the history of Indian English Fiction in the nineteen thirties was the appearance on the scene, of it’s major trio. Mulk Raj Anand, R. K. Narayan and Raja Rao. Whose first novels were published in 1935, 1938 & 1938 R. K. Narayan writing we saw the picture of Indian middle class society and their problem's, Narayan is able to transform a particular limited region into a microcosm of Indian and Indian Life, Malgudi is the only character in his work's which changes and grows.

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Novels of R. K. Narayan



R.K. Narayan published his first novel. *Swami and Friends* in 1935, the same year Anand published his *Untouchable*. Thereafter, Narayan published a number of novels such as *The Bachelor of Arts* (1937). *The English Teacher* (1945). *Mr. Sampath* (1949). *The Financial Expert* (1952). *Waiting for Mahatma* (1955), *The Guide* (1958), *The Man Eater of Magudi* (1962), *The Vender of Sweets* (1967), *The Painter of Signs* (1977). *The Tiger and Malgudi* (1983), *Talkative Man* (1983), *The World of Nagaraj* (1990) and *Grandmother's Tale* (1992).

Narayan created history by creating an imaginary town. Malgudi (somewhere near the boundary of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka) the locale of his fictional world. If Anand concentrates on contemporary Indian reality, Narayan dives deep into Indian tradition and his characters are rooted in that tradition. William Walsh makes a pertinent comment on this aspect:

Again, one must say that there is deeply in Narayan the profound Hindu conviction, or instinct for, the fundamental oneness of existence..... The tension between the one and the many, a sustaining theme of Hinduism, operates quietly and unpretentiously throughout Narayan's fiction. (Walsh William)

R. K. Narayan's first attempt at fiction was called *Swami and Friend's* (1935) British contemporary "Graham Greene called it. "A book in ten thousand" and "Compton Mackenzie" Said, I have never read any other book about India in the least like it." (Dr. Tilak Raghukul, 2003 R.K. Narayan, *Swami and Friends*, New Delhi: Rama Brothers India Pvt. Ltd.) *The Bachelor of Arts* (1937) This novels, show Narayan's power as a comic ironist deftly blending in the elements of Chandra's disillusionment. With gracious acceptance of life.

Waiting for the Mahatma (1935) in this novel Narayan's pint which becomes clear at the end of the novel that the Gandhian non-violent programme resistance, despite all the ironly of it's performance and the weakness of its human agents.

The guide (1958) perhaps the most remarkable example of the difficult genre the serious comedy.

Novels of R. K. Narayan

Right from his childhood. Anand was a rebel. He was against the injustice done to the inferior and socially low placed people. In course of an article he wrote:

Sensing the contempt of the superior whites for the inferior browns, hearing the big officers abuse the recruits. The literates ignoring the literates, my learned father turning away from the villager brothers of my mother and from the

SHEHJAD SIDIQUI

4P a g e

soiled clothes copper-smiths of our home town Amritsar, I became a rebel against the heavy voices, the heavy hands and the cocked head. (Kohli, Suresh)

Mulk Raj Anand (1905-2004) has been the most prolific. His contribution to India English fiction of social realism is incontrovertibly great. His *Untouchable* (1935) depicts the story of the low caste boy, Bakha. It is basically a tragic drama of the individual caught in the net of the age-old caste system. In *Coolie* (1936) he presents a poverty-stricken protagonist, Munoo. Both novels are: “a plea for downtrodden, the poor and the outcast, who face economic hardship and emotional humiliation in a rigid social structure.” (Sing, Ram and Singh, Charu P.127)

His *Two Leaves and a Bud* (1937) depicts the story of a middle-aged peasant, Ganger, from a village in Punjab.

Among Anand’s other novels are *The Village* (1939) *Across the Black Waters* (1941). *The Sword and the Sickle* (1942). *The Big Heart* (1945). *Seven Summers* (1951). *The Private Life of Indian Prince* (1953), *The Old Woman and the Cow* (1960). *The Death of the Herd* (1964). *Mourning Face* (1970). *Confession of a Lover* (1976). *The Bubble* (1984), *Little Plays of Mahatma Gandhi* (1998) and *Nine Moods of Bharata, Novel of a Pilgrimage* (1998).

Anand’s novels portray vividly the wretched condition of Indian rural society. He is one who “believes that literature must serve society, solve their problems and guide them” (Behera Smruti Ranjan, P.11) Through his novels he says that poverty, class, caste system and other widespread evils of society are like a poison that inflicts society and makes it sordid and inhuman. He is considered the Indian version of Charles Dickens as far as the treatment of social themes is concerned.

Conclusion

R. K. Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand both are having the a different type of speciality in their own writing. R. K. Narayan narrate the picture of middle class society, relation, affairs in his novel. Mulk Raj Anand is sociological writer. He describes the problem of the society in his novel.

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