



DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR'S NARRATIVE STYLE IN *THE BUDDHA AND HIS DHAMMA* : A BRIEF SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

Undoubtedly Dr. Ambedkar has mesmerized the world with his illuminary intellect. The probe into his writing investigating his style and technique surprises us the more .The Buddha and His Dhamma is the magnum opus of Dr. Ambedkar . The book tempts scholars of literature to have a close look at his style , technique and language . The moment we study literary devices employed by him ,it becomes crystal clear that he is the master of style, language and style in his own ways. Here in this novel we experience a different Ambedkar than earlier. His language becomes juicy and lucid unmatched to his nature . Readers never find him such romantic in his earlier any of the writings as in The Buddha and His Dhamma. The book is the product of his last phase of life .He is at the culmination of knowledge ,wisdom ,experiences ,style, logic and thought. These all facts are well imbibed in this novel an make it real treasure of literature .

Keywords : style ,logic , facts

Preface :

Dr. Ambedkar is the writer and thinker of international repute .He has proved his metal in the filed of literature through his vast writing . He has also proved that he is the master of style , language and technique . Throughout *Buddha And His Dhamma* one sees a very different Ambedkar as writer .He use various literary devices . The words are at his command .Oxford University press has appreciated Dr. Ambedkar as one of the Indian Writers in whose writing you will not find any grammatical mistake. His language has become juicy and lucid particularly in this novel. Readers never find Dr.Ambedkar in such a romantic mood in his earlier writings. As he wrote of the work in the preface, 'How good it is I must

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leave it to readers to judge. As for myself, I claim no originality. I am only a compiler. All I hope is that the reader will like the presentation. I have made it simple and clear.’

STYLE :

Dr. Ambedkar has proved that he is the master of style and technique in his own way. It will be injustice to find resemblance of his style. He not only uses literary devices but also shows his mastery in using them. His writing makes it clear that he has tremendous command on English and treasure of words is at his command. It is already asserted that this book is the culmination of Dr. Ambedkar's genius. And therefore, this is of technically most accomplished piece of writing. This is also a linguistic experiments of Dr. Ambedkar. It is a new experience for readers and literary world to read different angle of his personality. It can be easily identified by any Ambedkar's follower or reader that it's a different Ambedkar in *Buddha and His Dhamma*. There are many occasions in the book where Dr. Ambedkar molds himself to serve the requirement of literary writing. He uses few supernatural elements, fantastic literary language, beautiful descriptions of nature and feminine beauty against his nature. It shows that he has taken all efforts to produce a quality literary document. There are numbers of instances which easily can prove that he can surpass any contemporary literary figure.

Dr. Ambedkar writes in a very different style. He writes not only for brain but also for heart and soul. If we probe into the writing of other contemporary writers, their writing is acceptable by heart but not by brain. Whatever in their writing appeals to the heart, does not appeal the brain. Their writing falls flat on face when analyzed on the basis of logic. On the contrary Dr. Ambedkar's way of writing is laced with superb logic. It is well supported with circumstantial evidences. We easily can say that it is the writing of a well trained barrister. He writes with grammatical perfection. He plays with words and uses sentences with an ease. His voracious study at Cambridge, Columbia already exposed his to Western writing and American literature.

Due to two parallel narrative style we often have a feeling that the story get shifted and breaks the readers link. The original story of Buddha is followed by Dr. Ambedkar's logical interpretations. So readers fall from emotions into logical interpretations. Whenever Dr. Ambedkar felt necessity he added stories related to Buddha's life. His effort of poetic expression is also visible in various paragraphs. It is important to note here that Dr. Ambedkar suitable language at suitable occasion.

Style of Ambedkar is also the essence of *The Buddha And His Dhamma* through which he communicates effectively with his readers. Millions of copies of this novel have been

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printed and distributed . This makes it clear that Dr.Ambedkar has succeeded in communicating with readers. It is the humility of Dr. Ambedkar when he says , “...As for myself, I claim no originality. I am only a compiler. All I hope is that the reader will like the presentation. I have made it simple and clear.” He does not claim any originality but presentation is his own. This is the style of his presentation laced with superb logic and his awesome intellect that compel readers to read this novel. His experiments with the styles have opened up a new vista of how style is the essence of everything. A mere content cannot stand without its expression and that is why style matters and matters a lot. The story of Buddha is attempted by several writers . But none could draw such attention as *The Buddha And His Dhamma* . Content is important . But mere content is not sufficient .The style and presentation by writers also matters. We can point out Dr.Ambdkar’s two different styles in this novel. When he narrates Buddha’s story , it is a different style . When he enters into interpretations and intellectual discussions , it is entirely a different style.

The devices that Dr.Ambedkar uses , the language that he uses , the selected stories he tell , the emotions he invokes , and logic and knowledge that he displays are an intricate display of his oratory and mastery of English. In very few words he catches attention of his audience by shocking audience by telling them that the traditional stories are not true . He presents new logical interpretations contrasting conventional one.

The form and structure of novel is entirely different than his earlier writings. It is a new experience for the readers to travel through a world that combines beautifully fact , fiction and intellectual discussions.

Many prose lines in the novel are as powerful as the mighty lines used in verse by great English poets and dramatists as Marlowe. Sentences in Dr. Ambedkar’s writings are loaded lines with meaning. These lines take forms of doctrines ,proverbs and turn inspiration for many in India who aspire for better human life. These sentences reveal the genius ,intellect , emphatic command over English language , and the quality of Dr. Ambedkar’s prose style.

The question answer method makes his writing more acute , logical and well disciplined. Brevity , clarity and exactness are the characteristics of his writing. He provides footnotes at every proper and required place to strengthen his point . He invents as well as criticizes with the help of his systematic , logical analysis. So the chapter will be related to the writer’s trait of employing diction, language and style.

Logic and Facts :



Logic and Facts are an integral part of Dr. Ambedkar's writing. Every one of his statement is based on certain facts and well supported with superb logic . He argues and produces evidences in his writing as a professional lawyer. He is the man who introduced the "Age of Reason" in India in a real sense of the term.

His logical writing deserves a place of repute in Indian Literary world. He states, "Fortunately for me ,it is not necessary for me to rely on logic alone thought I contend that logic is on my side . For there is ample evidence both circumstantial as well a direct."

Logical interpretation of the actual reason of exile- or Gruhatyaga of Buddha is one the best and the finest evidence of Dr. Ambedkar's superb logic. He does not accept everything as traditionally depicted .He always analyses the facts and when he finds it logically sound and proved , he accepts. By giving actual reasons of Buddha's exile , he has rejected all the age old fairy tales about Buddha's exile and put forward the actual logical reason with historical proofs of ancient Buddhists Literature. He follows the only way that his Guru Buddha told him," Do not go by heresay nor by handed down by others; nor by what is stated on the authority of your traditional teaching. Do not go by reason , nor by inference, nor by argument as to method, nor by reflection on and approval of an opinion, nor out of respect thinking a recluse must be deferred to when these teaching followed out and put into practice continues to loss and suffering then reject them or see if they work ,accept them."¹

Dr. Ambedkar as a professional lawyer and jurist made enquiry and raised many questions against the traditional problems in Buddha's life . and tried to answer them with perfect logic. He raised the first problem of Parivrajya of Gautam Buddha .Why did the Buddha take Parivrajaya? The traditional answers is that he saw a dead person , a sick person and an old person. Dr. Ambedkar says that his answer is absurd on face of it. He answers the question logically . The Buddha took Parivrajya at the age of 29. If he took parivrajya as a result of these three sights , how it is true that he did not see these three sights earlier ? This Shows that Dr. Ambedkar is such writer who does not accept anything easily without its scrutiny .² There are ample examples of use of logic in 'Buddha and His Dhamma' scattered everywhere .

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar waited for no path to be followed and went on writing and that became his own style. He did not imitate but created literature .His writing has penetration, sharpness, urge, Philosophical depth, and logical accuracy, revolutionary and rebellious attitude.

¹ Dr. Phadke Bhalchandra : Dr. Ambedkar Aani Dalit Sahitya – p170 .

² Ambedkar B.R.-Buddha and His Dhamma.



The scholars or any reader whoever have gone through Dr. Ambedkar's writings will definitely find a deference in prose style, selection of words, similes, metaphors, Change in temperament, and many other literary devices used by Dr. Ambedkar in 'Buddha and His Dhamma' and his rest of the writings. It is a very different Ambedkar in 'Buddha and His Dhamma'. In most of the places in 'Buddha and His Dhamma' prose appears to be poetry.

Book -III is the shift from the main story of Buddha. It is purely Dr. Ambedkar's logical interpretation of Buddha's teaching. It is laced with powerful arguments of trained Barrister like Dr. Ambedkar. Here we find the real motive of Dr. Ambedkar's literary work. The logical arguments in this books makes the life story of the Buddha more relevant. This book also helps to clear the ambiguity regarding Buddha's teachings. Here is gives series of evidences from Christian, Hindu as well as from Muslim mythologies. The way he put the fact, can easily outwit anybody. It shows his deep knowledge of various religions and habit of producing arguments with the support of relevant references and evidence. This is the typical style of Dr. Ambedkar being a Barrister.

CONCLUSION :

It exhilarating to probe style and technique of Dr. Ambedkar. But reading and understanding is not that much difficult as investigating his style and technique. It is equally challenging for any scholar to deal with the eminent writer and profound thinker like Dr. Ambedkar. This brief survey is a humble effort to open gate way for further investigation.

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