

ART AND CRAFT IN SUDHAMURTHY'S SELECT NOVELS

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Abstract

Literally, one is aware that novel is a lengthy prose work that is filled with a certain form of characterization, themes, and plot etc. to depict the reality of society. In fact, the novelist considers it as a rule to follow the elements of fiction and hence various writers experimented different elements of techniques in their work. Further brought out the varieties of styles and stood as an individualistic writer. In this way how Sudhamurthy's creative art of tempestuous style and technique has added more flavors to the story and made interest among the readers is the main focus of this paper.

Keywords: *art, craft, literary elements, imaginative, style, reader*

When I pen down the last sentence of my writing, I feel very relaxed and calm. It works like meditation or therapy for me.

As stated by Sudha Murthy, writing is a process of art. Early literary writers weaved their pens to sharpen their novel by a variety of artistic structures and introduced different kinds of novels such as Psychological novel, Regional, Picaresque, Auto-biographical etc. Some literary writers like Dickens, Walter Scott, were so complex in style, whereas some like R.K.Narayan was simple. Ultimately many novelists started making or creating innovative styles and techniques in their work. Following the legendary writers, many contemporary writers like Shobhaa De, Namitha Gokhale, Anitha Desai, Chetan Bhagat, Sudha Murthy have also decorated their works with a variety of species in a new style.

Padma Shri Sudha Murthy one amongst the notable writer in Indian writing in English is a multi-talented personality. Her dozens of awards emboss her caliber and stature both as a writer and humanist. Murthy brings out a thought-provoking story and emphasizes the reality of the ongoing society. Her excellent presentation in crafting her novels, make every common reader pick her work. Her novel is quite readable as she does not only deals with women's issue but also men's too. She brings out the role of both men and women, their struggle, place etc in today's globalized world.

The novelist portrays different aspects of the theme in her works. Generally, the novelist writes with a certain intention in focusing or portraying their society, in such a way Murthy also handles the contemporary societal themes in her novel. She depicted the eroding effects of liberalization, damaging effects of domestic life, field of Information Technology, new competitive world, suffering of middle class, impact of money, childless suffering, loveless life, sophisticated life, loneliness, destructive effect of marriage, love cum arranged marriage, crush

in personal relations, self-empowerment, human psychology, running behind the clock (24x7), conflict between good and bad, old and new, traditional and modernity, in short the advance of globalization. Chandru in *Dollar Bahu*, Anand in *Mahashweta*, Sanjay in *House of Cards* and Shrikant in *Gently falls the Bakula* are the examples who take advantage of liberalization in this globalized world and suffer. Even the women characters equally suffered because of their husband's decision. Anupama, Shrimathi, Mirdula etc also lost their life by shedding into loneliness and loveless life.

As the story is important, so is the plot, as both are complementary to each other. So the novelist uses the characters according to the story either directly or analytically nor indirectly or dramatically. By creating the characters, the novelist fuses their imaginative and reality. Sometimes the novelist analyzes the characters emotions, thoughts, feelings, motives and so on, directly or she allows their characters to reveal about themselves through their deeds and actions indirectly.

The novelist art of characterization brings out various colors of the characters in her work. She creates her characters as impressive and an example of the modern globalized society. Just like Shakespeare, so is Murthy in making her character speak of their emotions, attitudes, actions, and reactions to it. Characters meet the success in materialistic needs and failure in personal relations. In short, the whole personality of an individual is vividly presented in her novels. Her characters come from the simple rural background of the middle class who through advanced happenings in the community reach the field of IT and Medicine and economically to a good position of high class. She also chooses young men and women and their journey of tackling life. As evidence, one can find through the characters of Shrikant, Anand, Chandru, and Sanjay. In short, Murthy has presented the real living characters she has encountered and dramatized the situations that they have experienced. The novelist also portrays different aspects of women's lives in slices who are traditional, modern and liberated. At the same time, the women characters also bring out how in different ways they are subjected to male hegemony and inform and warn the other women.

Murthy narrates her story in a traditional Indian style. Her story is so moving and easy to read, as her narrative is so simple. Her novel is structured in three ways like the beginning, middle and an end. However, the action of the story is kept moving forward. Even the recollection of memory is narrated in a simple way that is impressive. In short, her usage of straightforward narrative technique made the readers enjoyable and easy to read. To this context, Wayne Booth defined narration as, "Narration is an art, not a science, but this does not mean that we are necessarily doomed to fail when we attempt to formulate principle about it. There are systematic elements in every art and criticism of fiction can never avoid the responsibility of trying to explain technical successes and failures, by reference to general principles. (164)

The most obvious challenge for an Indian writer in English is the use of the English language because language reveals the mind of the author as well as her artistic excellence. However, there are Indian writers who have translated the vernacular language into Indian English, whereas Murthy feels comfort in writing her works in English rather than her vernacular language. Some of her novels are also translated by others in their own vernacular language. However Murthy's English language in her novels is so plain, simple, appealing, thought-

provoking, pleasing positive words etc. Like R.K.Narayan, Murthy depicts the language of very common man where she uses friendly language, short, witty, metaphors, symbols, anecdotes, allusions and in short realistic informal language.

Location plays an important role to bring alive the characters. As the characters are from Indian soil, so is the setting of her novels. She clearly sets the rural parts of Karnataka state, such as Jayanagar, Bhadiwad, Aladhalli etc. Murthy also used metropolitan cities like Bombay for the development of the characters. She used the actual existing locations in India and created the liveliness to the readers.

Technically a novel, like Drama follow various structures such as plot, settings, narration, characterization, language, and theme. Every story is written for a purpose. Some writers write to entertain; others may be committed to sensitizing the people with social issues through their works. Some other writers fill their works with historical aspects. So based on their purpose and theme, the settings are located and used by the writers.

To sum up, the aspects of technique and theme in Murthy's works are not isolated elements. They go hand in hand to make the novel more effective as the writing style fits her themes and lends more power to the novels. Thus it is clearly found that as an enduring writer, Murthy has employed powerful live characters, situations, settings, themes, and language in her novels and proved one of the forceful, impressive and individualistic writers.

Work Cited

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