

EXPLORATION OF NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES OF MULK RAJ ANAND'S *COOLIE* AND ARAVIND ADIGA'S *THE WHITE TIGER*- A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

This paper tries to compare the narrative techniques of Mulk Raj Anand and Aravind Adiga by focusing on their writing style. Narrative technique means the analysis of the various elements of the story such as setting, character, mood or atmosphere, symbolism, style, and theme. In other words, it is the logical sequence of events presented to the readers in a way that enables the author to convey the themes, with the help of literary devices and elements. It refers to the way of conveying things from the author's point of view to the readers. The narrative style of an author differs from other authors because it becomes an identity of an author.

These two writers belong to a different generation and chronologically they are placed in a different era. In addition, they have differences in portraying India by representing many social and moral issues concentrating on social criticism of people's behavior. These two writers have differences in their writing but their similarities are seen by their way of depicting the realities of Indian society. This paper attempts to analyze the writer's way of describing India by emphasizing the conflicts between the caste and class system, and the economic crisis that was prevailing in Indian society.

Keywords: *narrative technique, novel, writing style.*

The true nature of Indian society is seen from the writings of 1930's novelists. The initial stage of Indian English novels has captured the real condition of Indian society without any imitations. The novels of 1930s are seen as the old photographs which have old memories, past socio-economic status, richness and the harsh reality of Indian society. The 1930s has seen the rise of the heroes of Indian English fiction and the major Indian English novelists Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao, and R. K. Narayan. They showed to the world that they could master the English language and develop their own literary style. The novels which the three writers have

written during the pre-independence period reflect the social, economic and political condition of that time. Their novels as a chance to peep into the historical and social background of the colonial period.

The modern Indian English novelists are seen as a mediator or a reflector on the history of modern India. The modern writers are involved in the creative process of transforming the historical facts, the emergence, the rise and fall of the British Raj into art form, novel. The novels of introspection, personal and confessional in nature, re-writing of history and restatements of the past, and reflection of the social and political conditions of the nation.

The charm of the novel lies in its narrative technique. Narrative technique means the analysis of the various elements of the story such as setting, character, mood or atmosphere, symbolism, style, and theme. Many writers have used this technique for the factual rendering in a historical setting and to portray the modern post-independent India. The writers like Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy, and Rohinton Mistry and many writers seek the historical colonial background as the setting of the novel. This paper tries to compare the narrative techniques of two authors Mulk Raj Anand's *Coolie* and Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*. In addition, this paper attempts to analyze the writer's way of describing India by emphasizing the conflicts between the caste and class system, and the economic crisis that was prevailing in Indian society.

Coolie is the most famous novels of Mulk Raj Anand, was first published in 1936, as one of the foremost Anglophone Indian writers of his day. This novel is highlighted with the consequences of British Rule in India and with the rigid caste system that structured Indian society. Through this novel, Mr. Anand has focused on social tragedy caused by human cruelty, greed, selfishness, poverty, and exploitation. Munoo, the protagonist of the novel is the representation of poor people's miseries and struggles to survive in this world. Munoo is neglected and discriminated wherever he approaches his masters in search of work. Due to his poverty and negligence, he switches over to the various job in many places. In addition, Munro also understood that whatever the job he takes up or whenever he goes, there is a discrimination and the domination of power as master and slave.

Munoo lives with his aunt Gujri in a village. He forced to live an independent livelihood, so he leaves his native and moves to various places. Munoo has worked under different masters and trapped by hellish moments and due to clutches of cruel people he died at the age of 16.

Coolie is a harsh realistic novel, it presents a picture of the poor people as their sadness and cruelty, happiness and hopelessness, protest and revolt, exploitation and hunger. His writing style connects the novel to political criticism. "At a time when most Indian nationalists thought that

Independence would usher in the Golden Age, Anand saw deeper and asserted that political freedom, without a change of heart, was meaningless” (Gayatri 32).

Language reveals man’s identity. It embodies and expresses the culture, the very world of our minds and society. Aravind Adiga uses the postmodernist narrative technique. The novel *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga is written in 2008 and won the Man Booker Prize award. Aravind Adiga is an Indo- Australian writer and journalist. In this novel, Adiga’s narration is framed as several letters written by BalramHalwai to Wen Jiabao, the Prime Minister of China. Balwan the protagonist of the novel describes himself as “self-entrepreneur “ to explain the way in which a poor man in India can achieve success in the city, Bangalore. The plot of the novel conveys about a poor boy in modern-day India who uses crime and his wit to transform himself into a successful entrepreneur. “ whikestye is a tool for writing, a literary work is. A style is the essence of the work, the very soul. The writer weaves magic through his narrative and imparts flavors and spirit to his work of art” (Sharma 100).

Adiga uses flashback method, while the protagonist writes a letter to Chinese premier when he is already established as an entrepreneur in Bangalore. The plot structure of this novel is told in simple style yet filled with Panache, metaphor and dark humor. Adiga’s use of irony on Indian society, in his writing, adds flavors to his narrative art. Balram uses powerful metaphors when he writes about his poverty. The conflict between the master and the workers and the domination of power enrages Balram to kill his master.

Adiga through his writing satirizes the political and social systems in India by contrasting the Darkness and Light, with big bellies and those with small bullies, foreign liquor and Indian liquor etc. The difference between the rich and the poor is revealed in a better way by using metaphor and binary opposition.

Adiga describes the rich and the poor as, "A rich man's body is like a premium cotton pillow, white and soft and blank. Ours is different... The story of a poor man's life is written on his body, in a sharp pen" (*The White Tiger* 26-27). The writing style is always closely connected to the language. Adiga uses his best in order to create a new identity of new India.

These two writers belong to a different generation and chronologically they are placed in a different era. In addition, they have differences in portraying India by representing many social and moral issues concentrating on social criticism of people's behavior. These two writers have differences in their writing but their similarities are seen by their way of depicting the realities of Indian society.

The narrative techniques of two authors are different Mulk Raj Anand's naturalistic way and Adiga's postmodernistic technique show the development of literary tradition and the emergence of new trends in English literature.

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