

THEMATIC CONCERNS IN THE PROSE WORKS OF NIRAD C. CHAUDHURI: AN ARCHITECT OF INDIAN ENGLISH PROSE

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Abstract

The basic objective of this paper is to unfold various themes in the process writing of Nirad C. Chaudhuri, an Indian English Prose writer. Nirad C. Chaudhuri in full Nirad Chandra Chanuguri, born November 23rd, 1897, Kishoreganj, East Bengal, British India (now in Bangladesh) – died August, 1999, Oxford, Oxford shire, England. Bengali author and scholar who was opposed to the withdrawal of British colonial rule from the Indian subcontinent and the subsequent rejection of western culture in independent India. Nirad C. Chaudhuri is an Indian Bengali- English writer and honoured him as man of letters. This article clearly explains/ describes the various themes given in the books of Nirad C. Chaudhuri's The Autobiography of unknown Indian, A Passage to England, To live or not to live, Scholarly Extraordinary, The Continent of Circe, The Intellectual in India, Culture in the vanity Bag and Clive of India.

Keywords: contemporary, civilization, hostile, environment, testimony, intellectual, apocalypse, auto biography, dedicated.

Introduction

Indian writing in English began at the end of the 18th century and developed more strongly and characteristically during the 19th century. Three masters of prose are identified in India by K.R Srinivasa Iyengar and write in his book "Indian writing in English". They are Professor S. Radhakrishnan, Raghunathan, and Nirad C. Chaudhuri. Prof. S.Radhakrishnan is a philosopher, states man with an international reputation, a scholar with a phenomenal memory, a resourceful and eloquent and effective speaker. Raghunathan, better known by his nomde –plumevighneswara, is a deep student of English and Sanskrit Literature, and was for many years the leader – writer of the Hindu. Nirad C Chaudhuri, an "Unknown Indian "till 1951 when his Autobiography made him famous, is a master of prose style. Srinivasa Iyengar says," Indian writing in English have attempted all the diverse forms of literature. Chaudhuri has emerged as writer of the nonfiction genre.

About Nirade C. Chowdhri

Nirad C. Chaudhuri is one of the great modern prose writers of Indian English. He was a moderately educated Bengali who represented the type of Bengali Babu. He migrated to England after his retirement from the All India Radio and went to England to settle down. He wrote his autobiography *The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian* (1951). He is the author of other controversial books *the continent of Circe* (1966), *The Intellectual in India* (1967), *To live or Not to Live* (1972), *Culture in the Varsity Bag* (1976), *The scholar Extraordinary: The Life of Friedrich Max Muller* (1974), *The Clive of India* (1975), *Hinduism* (1979), *A Passage to England* (1959) and his supplementary autobiographical books. They hand, the great Anarch. Chaudhuri lived up to 100 years and published nearly 10 books on India. He was a shrewd critic of Indian history, culture and civilization.

Thematic concerns of the following Books**1. The Auto Biography of Unknown Indian: (1951)**

It is a thoughtful analysis of contemporary society and politics. It describes feelings of Nationalism and Hinduism and also covers the deep observation of how British colonies and how a new renaissance started in the country. A description of his early childhood and education in the rural heartland of Bengal is seen in the book. It is very deftly covering the varied geographies of the map as well as human thought. The main aim of the book is to highlight the culture and history of India. The book reveals that how a boy grew up to a man in the early decades of the 20th century, The book describes contemporary religious, moral, and political conditions. A major theme of *The Autobiography* is the origin and death of the Indian effort to create a modern culture on the basis of East-West cultural synthesis. It is an essay on the course of Indian History. He remarks that human personality is indeed contradictory every Where". A sense of Hindu Solidarity which is and uncontrollable tendency towards disunity within the Hindu order, collective megalomanias with self abasement, extreme individualism, violence with non- violence with fascism, possessiveness with carelessness about the property owned courage with forwardness, cleverness with stupidity.

2. A Passage to England (1959): It compares the Indian society with the English to the disadvantage of the Indian way of life. The Indian attachment to money is commented upon by Nirad C Chaudhuri. He also speaks of the fact that love making in India biological.

3. To live or not to live (1971) :- This essay is also about the criticism of life in modern India. The book is divided into two parts. The First part deals with social life and the second part with family life. The essay describes the view of the Hindu world, social and family norms man- woman relationship and marital fidelity.

4. Scholar Extraordinary (1974): This is about the biography of Friedrich Max Muller. It is an account of the life of a man who was scholar and thinker and also interested in presenting the rediscovered ancient India and not Germany, to modern Indians. He writes Max Muller's

Position and reputation were not that of a specialized scholar. He was an intellectual playing part in the mental history of times by making people aware of new ideas extending their view to new Horizons.

5. The continent of circle (1965) It contains the analyses of Indian society in the early 20th century from historical, sociological and cultural perspective. It is submitted an essay on the people of India is a describe against the Hindu ethos. It describes the human situation in India after the dependence. It is an expression of chaudhuri 's rancor and bitterness, personal prejudices and hated against the Hindus. This book won the Alfred Duff cooper Memorial prize.

6. The intellectual in India (1967) Chauduri is primarily concerned with the contemporary situation in India. He condemns the gross discouragement of intellectual ambitions and attitudes in India. It is in the toils of authoritarianism in India. It is in the toils of authoritarianism in politics and social life, hostility to intellectual pursuits and precarious economic situation.

7. Culture in the Vanity Bag (1976): It is an essay on clothing and adornment in passing and abiding India. It is a study of Indian culture in terms of clothing. It describes the evolution of clothes in the country It has three parts. The first part is about the orders and taxonomy of clothing. The second part is about conflicts in Indian dressing. The third part is regarding the fashion scenario in the India of the 1970's and Chowdhuri shows its decline and rootlessness. It talks about the lack of originality in Indian dressing.

8 Clive of India(1975)- It is a political and psychological essay. This is about the history of Robert Clive. The main title "Clive of India "is confusing because Clive was not of India but of England. Infact ,he was an Englishman who defeated an Indian Nawab in the decisive Battle of Plassey. One weird feature of the biography is the way it defends Lord Clive against charges of corruption .Clive had been accused of corruption by other English men and taken to court. While the courts acquitted Clive due to lack of evidence, Chaudhuri defends him by a mere technicality .He writes acceptance of gifts was not contrary to the regulations then in force.

9) Hinduism :(A Religion to live by) 1979;-This is a book about a religion to live by is a wholly original exposition of Hindu and behaviour. Rejecting familiar assumptions about early Hinduism,chaudhuri examines temple and image worships as well as three major cults of Shiva Krishnan and the mother Goddess .Hinduism is a body of a belief and practice. The book constitutes a reading of Hindu as a rich and sensible philosophy of Hindu as rich and sensible philosophy of life in this world.

10) The Horsemen of the New Apocalypse (1997);-It was written at the age of ninety-eight. In his words,"I have never read or heard of any author, however great or productive in his heyday doing that".(Three Horsemen Preface).

Conclusion:

Nirad C Chaudhuri's view was towards the development of the society. He believed that the main motto of the citizen should be to think of the global development and for that every individual should make efforts because it is not a one man work but everyone should be united together. The author V.S.Naipul who considered Nirad C Chaudhuri never to be good with any of his writings but still Chaudhuri made his existence in the society and in the field of writing and every one appreciate him for his honesty and his daring nature of facing every odds keeping in mind that one day people certainly accept him with what he is.

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