

Colonisation and Indian Fiction **(A Postmodern Study on Fictions of Anita Desai, Kiran Desai,** **and Arundhati Roy)**

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ABSTRACT: Colonization brought India in contact with Anglican thoughts and ways. This era of foreign control brought about a revamp in all civilization facets, literature being one of them. New literary forms were begotten and fresh dimensions were added to the structure and the texture of the Indian literature. Colonization added English as a language into the array of Indian literary languages. The content of the writings also broadened its spectrum to entail new thoughts and learning. Writers used ideas of realism, morality and psychology to frame their work. Also, new forms such as novels and short stories carved their place in the essence of the native literature. The new found influences opened the gateway to all other western ideals and their import. Present research is a humble attempt to explore impact of colonisation on Indian literature and her mindset.

Key words: Colonisation, impact, mindset, psychology

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I. INTRODUCTION:

The beginning of Indian Literature in English is traced to the end of 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, by which English education was more or less firmly established in three major centers of British power in India. There were distinctive changes which took place in the Indian literature by the influence of various things. One of the most distinctive aspects of modernity in Indian literature during the past century and a half is the influence of the west, more especially which of English perhaps. Colonial literature drastically influenced Indian folk literature, drama, song, tales etc. There were also many transformations in Urdu, Persian as well as in other literature also. The most striking result was the introduction of vernacular prose on a major scale. The Indian writers began to take interest in realism, social questions and psychological descriptions also. In the category of Indian writing in English poetry, Rabindranath Tagore wrote Bengali and English, and was also responsible for the translations of his own work into English. His contemporaries in English poetry in India were Jayanta Mahapatra Gieve Patel etc.

The Europe colonial period begins from 15th Century to when Spain, Portugal, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Germany & several smaller European Countries established colonies outside Europe. The system practically ended nearly in 1945-1975 when nearly all colonies outside Europe became independent.

As a result of British Colonization, India has developed its own unique dialect of English which is Indian English. Indian English typically follows British Spelling and pronunciation as opposed to American, and books published in India reflect this phenomenon. Indian English literature however tends to utilize more internationally recognizable vocabulary than does colloquial English. Indian Writing in English is a product of historical encounter between two cultures i.e. Indian & Western for one about a ninety years. The English language provided the natives with a way to the western culture. Of course English education created a class of native bourgeoisie, the majority of which turn to their mother tongue while giving birth to a native literature, applying the western aesthetic norms. But a few among them thought it appropriate to give expressions to their feelings and experiences in English. Thus the peculiar body of Indo-Anglo literature was created. In the 1950's the writer's workshop college in Calcutta was founded by the poet and essayist P. Lal to advocate and publish Indian writing in English. The press was first to publish Pritish Nandy, Sasthi Brata and others. The first book written by Indian in English was by Sake Dean Mahomet.

Various newspapers, journals were also published after the period of colonization Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1838-1894) wrote *Raj Mohan's Wife* and published it in 1864. It is a first Indian novel written in English. Raja Rao (1908-2006), Indian philosopher and writer, authored *Kanthapura*, and *The Serpent and the Rope*. RK Narayan (1906-2001) contributed over many decades and contributed to write till his death. Among the later writers, the most prominent writers are Salman Rushdie, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Arundhati

Roy and Kushwant Singh. Present study is focused on the theme and influence of colonisation prevailing in the work of Anita Desai, Kiran Desai and Arundhati Roy.

Anita Desai is an Indian novelist and professor of humanities at the Massachusetts institute of technology, educated at Delhi University. Though born to a German mother and Indian father, she had fantastic notions of India and Tagore's visit to Berlin only added to her concept (Tagore, 109-140). Anita's mixed parentage gave her an unusual advantage. They "created for me a synthesis which is the base of work and [for which] I did not have to strive for.... I am sure this is what makes my writing whatever it is; I see India through the eyes of my mother, as an outsider, but my feelings for India are my father's, of someone born here." (Robinson, 2).

J.P. Tripathi Observes: "Anita Desai's aims in literary writing are neither didactic nor ethical ; they are purely aesthetic." (Tripathi, 08). Her notable novels include *Fire on the Mountain*(1977), and *Clear Light of the Day*. She is the one of the best known writers of Indian fiction. Desai published her first novel *Cry the Peacock* in 1963. She considers *Clear Light of the Day* her most autobiographical work as it is set during her coming of age and also in the same neighbourhood in which she grew. Various other fictions written by her are *The Artist of Dissappearance*, *Diamond Dust* and other stories.

Kiran Desai was born in New Delhi, India and educated in India, England and the USA. As might expected from the rich input of her cultural background, Kiran Desai, daughter of the author Anita Desai, is a born Story teller. Her first novel was *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* (1998). It's about a young man in provincial India who abandons an easy post office job and begins living in a guava tree, where he makes oracular pronouncements to locals, unaware that he knows of their lives from having read their mail, they hail him as a prophet. Her second novel was the *Inheritance of Loss*.

Arundhati Roy, born on 24 November 1961, is an Indian author, actress, and political activist, and best known for the award –winning novel *The God of Small Things* (1997), composed in a lyrical language about south Asian themes and characters in a narrative form that wandered through time. Roy's novel became the biggest –selling book won the 1998 Man Booker prize for fiction. Roy's subsequent literary output largely consisted of politically oriented nonfiction, much of it aimed at addressing the problems faced by her homeland in the age of global capitalism. Among her publications were *Power Politics* (2001), *The Algebra of Infinite Justice* (2002) etc.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH:

The main objectives of research are as under:-

1. To study the growth and development of literature in a melting pot culture i.e. how the foreign culture and literature affected the Indian literature. Also we would study the impact, which was lead by foreign culture and simultaneously what changes to place in the Indian literature mainly in the Indian fiction.
2. To analyze a positive and negative factors affecting the development of Indian literature. We will try to briefly discuss positive effects as well as negative due to the impact of western literature. simultaneously we will try to analyse the impact of colonisation on Indian fiction. .

III. REVIEW OF WORK ALREADY DONE ON THIS SUBJECT:

1. **Agrawal Malti** , provides a collection of thirty eight research papers on various fictionists, dramatists and poets of Indian origin. These papers study the major works of the pioneers as well as engineering Indian authors writing in English. The scholar writers and researchers include Kamla Markan Daya, Jhumpa Lahiri, Shashi Desphande, Nayantara Sahgal, Girish Karaned, Manju Kapur, Bharti Mukherjee, RK Narayan, Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Gita Mehta, Kamala Dass, Nissim Ezekiel, Ruthprwar, Jhabuala and many others. This book analyses how Indian writing in English have attempted all major literary genres and how fiction have dominated the Indian scenario. Malti Agrawal rightly supports in the editorial section of this book "the urge of the writers for writing in their mother tongue". The literary gamut of these veteran writers is the most impressive, outstanding and enduring. Their contribution in Indiannizing the English language is commendable. These writers have at times used native idioms and also words from their own vernacular to capture the true picture of the Indian society. These research papers touch the most sensitive issues such as social dichotomy, cultural hegemony clash between ethnic groups, and conflict between eastern and western ideologies.

2. **R D sharma** in his edited volume "Multiculturalism-Canada and India, presents essays on immigrant literature native writing and cross cultural studies various essays reveal rich diversity of Canada & India. The issue of multi Culturalism has acquired importance and urgency in the world where people of different ethnicities and religions live & work together.

3. **Sinah sunita** reveals that Atlantic publishers and distributors gives an anthology of scholarly articles which range from huberdization and subaltern voices to decolonization and multi culturalism .

4. **James jancy et.al** , reveals studies in comparative literature, theory, culture and space Das try to bring together a collection of useful critical essays related to literature & culture. There are articles on contemporary Indian Critics, Indian Literature, the novel as a genre in India of literary history and of post colonial studies.

Kothari Rita , 2006 In translating India gives an account of the specialized and the general sphere of English translations in India. In addition to the chapters like English translations in colonial India.

IV. CURRENT WORK AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS:

The phenomenon of colonialism revealed initially in the fictions of Anita Desai, Kiran Desai and Arundhati Roy, doesn't only show the impact of colonialism on India and its people but also on Indian fiction and her socio-cultural arena at large. Preliminary results pave the way for profound analysis of impact of colonialism and its present dominance on Indian writers' mindset.

V. WORK PLAN AND IMPLICATIONS:

It is a theoretical study and would involve a deep study on research done in the domain using factors such as social, religious, and political , and how it help in developing and shaping the literature of India. To comprehend our study properly we will take the help of various sources such as books, articles, references and works of previous scholars and internet also.

Lastly we will try to analyse the collected notes and survey of post modern fiction written by the writers under the guidance of the supervisor.

The Study would help us to comprehend in understanding of development of literature across the globe in counter culture situations.

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