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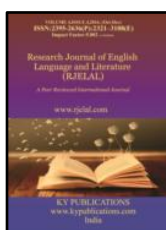
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THE STRUGGLE FOR IDENTITY IN 'THE CITY AND THE RIVER' BY ARUN JOSHI

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ABSTRACT

Arun Joshi (1939-1993) was an Indian Writer. He was raised by a family of scholars in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He received B.S.C Degree from Kansas University and M.S Degree from M.I.T. His novels The foreigner 1968, The Strange Case of Billy Biswas 1971, The Apprentice 1974, The Last Labyrinth 1981, *The City and the River* (1990)

Arun Joshi Protagonists struggle for the self identity in the life. His Characters Psychologically disturbed and complete lack of the hope in this novel. The Chief concern in this Paper is Struggle for the Self identity. Man suffers from inner problem because of isolation. Social system is oppressive so the individual find difficult to maintain Self-identity. Man suffer from inner problem because of isolation. In this story social system is oppressive so the individual find difficult to maintain Self –Identity.

It illustrate political scenario of 1970. Arun Joshi fifth and the last one is the City and the River. This story narrated by a Guru is depicted Great Yogeshwara and the disciple is nameless one. There is a struggle between the two classes. One is powerful another one is powerless. Boatman consider River is the divine mother to them. There is the struggle between the Grand Master and the Boatman to get the identity in the life. Grand Master and the Boatman to get the Grand Master makes the Boatman in a oppressive way. Joshi portray importance of the human value in this novel. Grand Master worried about his dream, he had about the Boatman, menacingly advancing towards his throne. Grand Master find the rebellion nature of the Boatman. The Astrologer did not receive royal support of the Boatman. Whoever oppose him are sent to the Gold Mine and subjected to the personal afflictions. The characters in Arun Joshi's novels realistic portrait of modern man focus the identity crisis. His novel focused the inner struggle of the man. The study is an attempt to bring into focus innovative approach to the problem of struggle for identity.

Key words: Suppression, Struggle for Identity, Oppression. Rebellion nature.

Introduction

The City and the River is the fifth and the last novel of Arun Joshi. He is the winner of the most prestigious award Sahitya Academy. His novels are strongly influenced by the existential philosophy of

satire. The researcher's attempt is to explore the elements such as frustration, disintegration, rootless a sense of alienation and existential predicament in *The City and the River*.

Discussion

This novel explains the conflict between the Grand Master and the Boatman. The Grand Master depicted as unchallenged king. The boatman thinks the river as a symbol of the divine mother. Grand Master thinks it as a stream of water. Boatman believes in superstition. This novel draws attention to the contrast between the Grand Master and Boatman belief towards the life.

The story is here referred her identity crisis. The poor in this story line according to the tradition. Bhumiputra find the life with action. Bhumiputra a teacher of mathematics he felt alone. In reality every individual on earth has to suffer in a multi-facted way. In reality identity crisis was important one for human being. Here river symbol of mother and they regard themselves as children of the great river. The city built up with steel and glass without oxygen.

The Master of Rallies, a child Boatman for example an unhappy man. And real cause of his unhappiness is rootlessness described in the words. There is a conflict between modernity and tradition. He suffers crisis of trust and grow suspicious his own advisers. Human psychology is bound to get destroyed and ultimately what seagull are the meaninglessness, helplessness and rootless. There could be everything in life and nothing in hand.

Dharma police officer also feels conflict in the identity crisis. How the Grand Trade is in league with powerful person, with whom he share profits. Characters in this novel suffer from alienation, weariness, boredom, rootless and meaninglessness in their lives.

In the Emergency period Grand Master desire to make his son ruler of the Country. In the Emergency period strict control of Media, compulsory family planning and many such issues in the novel are reminiscent of the Emergency period.

The seat of power is seven hills. The Grand Master lives in a highest hill where the Minister occupy other hill. The astrologer make to believe boats man Grand Master as their Master but the boats man says river as their mother. Grand Master introduced family planning in order to control boats man increasing, he says there should be one child to a mother. The boatman rebel against the Grand

Master regulation to reduce population and under leadership of the head Boatman. The politics in this novel as a allegory. Professor in the death bed, he considers there will be new world born without any Grand Master. The novelist seems to satirize the efforts of the Astrologer as if he forces power on the king and the pretensions of the king accepting it, though unwillingly as an obligation to the country to make his son the next king. Two hundred sleeping boatman are brutally killed and thrown into the river. This obviously heads to open clashes between the boatman and Grand Master's forces.

The narrative framework of the novel in mythical and story is told by an old wise teacher, a Guru to his disciple preparing him to enter a new world after the completion of the city.

The life sketch of Arun Joshi is itself complex and complicated on various grounds. This search of the identity is the central pillar of Arun Joshi's novel.

The City and the River is the one which can best be described as a fictional experiment. The novel records the gloomy story that the Great Yogeshwara recounts to a disciple the nameless one, in order to explain who he is to find the self's identity. *The City and the River* tries to exhume the legends of ancient Indian epic chiefly the Upanishads which seemingly is the mean to find the identity in the state of the nonidentity because one suffers from the identity conflict and incorporate them within a postmodern structure and significance.

The Master of Rallies, a child of boatman. The enlightenment of the Buddha was not the result of the comforts of life rather it was a by-product of the identity crisis. For realization, identity, the identity crisis was inevitable. The prominent characters alienation, loneliness and pessimism because of the identity crisis.

In this novel search of identity a meaning of life. The objective contemporary society of modern times and thus make issues of the identity and identity conflict more prominent in today world than it would have been during the period of Arun Joshi.

The City and the River interwoven with the conflict of the identity and the identity quest. Joshi is obsessively occupied with the individuals' quest

for meaning and value, freedom and truth that provide spiritual nourishment to the estranged self in a seemingly chaotic and meaningless world. It is in turn best depicted as the quest for identity – formation where there is understanding of cause of the conflict and factors behind such crises of identity.

In the City and the River Joshi is successful in presenting a picture of humanity surrounded by natural elements and primitive forces over which man has no control. In it Human Continuity is also communicated through various archetypal symbols.

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