



EMERGING TRENDS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

English literature in India has undergone a great change after Independence. The advent of modernism is felt in English writing. Dalit literature, Biographical literature, Diaspora literature have become the subjects of interest in English literature in India. The Indian writing in English has largely changed in its content, characterization and language.

Keywords: Modernism, Dalit literature, Diaspora Literature, shorter fiction forms, Realism

Literature in India has not remained same since its first stages of development long time ago. Indian Literature has increased value, variety and maturity. The growth of Indian writing in English follows certain specific patterns. It progressed from the imitative stage to the realistic to the psychological to the experimental stage. The 1980's occupy a unique position in Indian writing in English. During this period, some distinguished women writers published their first works.

The Twenty first Century has proved to the world that English literature is no longer sole province of the imperial England. Indian fiction in English has always been responsive to modern trends. Indian fiction in the early stages concentrated on the depiction of social reality of the times. The multiplicity of languages enriched Indian English writing.

The most outstanding trend of Indian writing in English is that the background is Indian and the Language though foreign adopted itself to the needs of Indian's. The new English fiction exhibits confidence in tackling new themes and experiments with new techniques and approaches to handle these themes.

Anita Desai is a renowned Contemporary Indian women writer. She has written about urban society, contemporary issues and Indian, European and American sensibilities. Amitav Gosh is finest creative novelist. He is the best example of multi – faceted brilliance that contemporary India has produced. Ghosh has presented social and human drama of psychological intensity in a fine idiom and imagery.

Post colonial perspectives have impacted the critical and creative aspects of Indian English fiction. Industrialization, urbanization, globalization and modernization constitute minor trends treated in The post Independence Indian English writing. Another major trend is multiplicity, heterogeneity, and plurality in socio-cultural reality and the world of ideas relates to Bakhtin's insights about dialogic nature of discourse and significance of interactive voices.

A vast change happened in the post colonial literature in India. The writers of pre-independence laid emphasis on subjects of nationalism and patriotism, economic and political development of the country. Post independence writers laid emphasis on the challengers of handling

the new found freedom. Problems like poverty, illiteracy, naxalism, women empowerment freedom in all its forms have occupied the minds of Indians. This was reflected in Indian writing also. To name some of the new writers, Salmon Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Shashi Deshpande, Manju Kajoor, Arvind Adiga, Chetan Bhagat et al. In the novel 'Hungry Tide' Amitabh Ghosh, described the atrocities of tribal people under new rulers who are Indian. In Manju Kapoor's 'A Married Woman' we can observe the freedom is enjoyed by different members differently within a family. A kind of a social freedom struggle is going on in the Indian Society. Arundhati Roy mainly dealt with the abuse of power by the state against its own people. Writers like Bharati Mukherjee, Chitra Divakaruni Banerjee, Jhumpa Lahri, Kiran Desai explored different problems in Indian Society. Kiran Desai's 'The inheritance of loss' is a sorrowful account of an Indian struggle for survival after left out at different phases of life.

Translation as a New Trend in Literature:

In 21st Century Translation Literature acquired a huge phenomenon. In India translations of regional literature into English became the new trend. Entire works of Premchand, Rabindranath Tagore, Vijay Tendulkar, Subramanya Bharathi are available in Translation. Another important trend is the emergence of women writers Mahesweta Devi of West Bengal is an activist and writer who championed the cause of marginalized tribal people in West Bengal Girish Karnad's work into Translation is another milestone.

Emergence of Dalit and Biographical Literature:

Dalit Literature is another major trend in post independence period. Ompuri Valmiki's Jootham and Bamas "Karukku" . These writes erased the gap between fact and fiction. They have presented their autobiographies into great literature. Mahesh Dattani and Manjula Padmanabham produced fiction where the characters are portrayed far from the mainstream of literature. Biographical literature become the trend that everyone followed.

Realism has been a major trend in post independence writing in English. There are five broad types of realism – social realism, psychological realism, historical realism, mythical realism and magical realism. Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sehgal and Shashi Deshpande lay emphasis on

social realism and family relationship. Nayantara Sehgal writes about political situation in the country, and politics become a metaphor for her fiction. Anita Desai on the other hand dives deep into human psyche and writes about psychological realism. Mythic realism we find in the fiction of Shashi Tharoor's the Great Indian Novel and Kiran Nagarkar's cuckold. Vikram Seth has proved that Indian novelist do not write about India only, they also write about other countries and the world. Indian English novelists have experimental with magic realism following Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's children* (1980).

Feminist criticism and gender studies have emboldered women writers to write freely about love and sex and above all about a woman's right to consummate love the way she likes. This gave rise to the description of lesbian relationship in fiction as Manju Kapur has done in *A married woman*.

In conclusion, the trends in Indian English writing are a reflection of the emerging trends all over the world. Along with these trends, Indian writers have pursued their own individual styles, specific to Indian realities.

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