

CULTURAL AND CONFLICTS IN SELECTED SHORT STORIES OF R.K. NARAYANAN

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ABSTRACT

R.K. Narayan is recognized as an accomplished artist. He offers us a fascinating study of his women characters. He has portrayed them in the manner of a creative artist rather than a photographer. A detailed study of his women characters becomes all the more important for the simple reason that little attention is paid to this aspect of the novelist, the author has made an objective portrayal of them. The most important thing about Narayan's treatment of women is that he has presented them in the background of traditional and conservative patriarchal social milieu.

Keywords: *cricket, reality, rustic back ground, naturalist, natural, malgudi rustic atmosphere, mirror of the society, reflection, envision, male chauvinism, female sufferings.*

INTRODUCTION:

He presents his women in relation to socio-economic context and its impact on them. He also shows the adverse impact of the male dominance on their lives in his novels and short stories. His novels reveal how all that has a serious repercussion on their family life. R.K. Narayan presents a rich fabric of the women world and filled it with a variety of colours drawn on his personal experience of life and society around him. His women are full of vigour and vitality. They are living beings. They think and feel.

They struggle throughout their lives howsoever they get defeat. They fight against the patriarchal forces of society for their meaningful existence so that they can live a meaningful and respectful life. In fact, they suffer from their identity crisis. Hence they fight for their self identity. In the following chapters an attempt has been made to determine real stature of Narayan's women characters and to ascertain how they embody author's vision of life. The present study is divided into six chapters followed by a list of bibliography. All the major novels of R.K. Narayan are selected for the study.

It introduces the novelists life and his works along with the history of the development of Indian novel and making of the R.K. Narayan's mind.

R.K. Narayan as a novelist is discussed which includes his range, techniques of narration, humour, irony, style and language etc.

Discussion:

A thematic study of Narayan's novels. In this chapter an attempt is made to discuss the thematic patterns in his women novels covering socio-economic, domestic and political aspects of contemporary middle class life and society highlighting human relationship.

The fourth chapter deals with R.K. Narayan's art of characterization. In this chapter, I have tried to deal with the artist's skill of portrayal of his characters, how he portrays a variety of characters covering the whole

span of life and also how he makes an objective analysis of them in his novels. R.K. Narayan's vision of life with regard to his men and women has been discussed in the fifth chapter. His vision of life is positive and realistic. Light has been thrown to show how Narayan's men and women determine and embody his vision of life as a whole.

CONCLUSION:

Swami's father tells his mother that the S.P. is a butcher, he ordered lathi charge, fifty persons are injured and one or two persons are killed. When he asks Swami what he did Swami finds an opportunity to tell him that a patriot, regarding his cap as foreign, tore: it to pieces.

When Swami reaches the school, he is mercilessly caned by the Head master for breaking the window pane of his room. He orders him to stand on the bench till he announces his dismissal. Swami jumps down from the desk, picks up his books and rushes out of the school premises, mumbling, "I couldn't care less for your grimy school."

Six weeks have passed since Swami was dismissed from Albert Mission School. Now Rajam comes to the house of Swami and talks about many things. He justifies the demolition of the Hindu temples by the muslims, regards Swami's participation in the protest procession as a sin. He hates politics because his father is a government servant. He discusses with Swami the formation of a cricket club. The two friends Swami and Mani sit in the room of Rajam, study the catalogue of Messrs Binns of Madras for the cricket material, write a letter to this firm and receive a letter from it. A letter is received from Sankar. The letter cannot be responded because Sankar has not written his address. The name given team is M.C.C., *Malgudi* Cricket Club. Sums up the findings of the previous chapters. It presents a summation of the distinctive characteristics of Malgudi's women and his place as a novelist.

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