

A Short Study on the History of Indian and Iranian English Literature -

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ABSTRACT

Indian literature from the early times to till now have been known and recognized just as one of the oldest literature. India possesses 22 officially languages with large diversity of literature that is produced and reproduced in all these languages. History of Indian literature understood with the variety of stories and its facts from the old to the modern times. History of Indian literature near about the Hindu epic like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata treatises such as Vaastu Shastra and Arthashastra by Kautilya and Chanakya for his political science and devotional Hindu poetry, play and songs. The period of the ancient Indian literature can be described by the valuable guru-shishya mode revived in the Vedic Period. The Bhakti Movement was the responsible for a break with the ancient Golden Moments. Historical movement and different inventions considered as concerning Indian literature. The phase had come for literature to observe its change from contemporary Indian literature.

Keywords : History, literature, Indian, Iranian, fiction,

1. Introduction

Among the best works in the history of Indian literature are Kalidasa and Tulsidas in the ancient and medieval times. Medieval period, during Muslim rule, Indian Muslim literature was in Persian and Urdu poetry. The history of Indian literature is the enhancement of writing skills and its intension to provide education, entertainment guidance to the readers. Indian literature is actually one and a half centuries old. History of Indian English literature guides readers. The first book in English was written by an Indian named Sake Dean Mahomet, titled Travels of Dean Mahomet; Mahomet's travel treatise was published in 1793 in England. The main historical intension of English Indian literature is an attempt to raise the growth and rise of this generation from its start to its present-day. This is because India had served as a colony to the then British, for near to 200 years, thus calling for a very clear and exact solid reason for history of Indian English literature. Broadness of English language along with the territory in India was not a bolt from the blue, but a much desired feature. English replaced Persian as the court language in the 19th century, taking to English proved a question of survival for the urban. History of Indian English literature related to Rabindranath Tagore, Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Rishi Aurobindo Ghosh, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu who contributed profoundly to the historical English literature in India and serving as the pre-Independent voice to these hapless men. That needed the life blood to English literature with their crisp. The history of Indian English language and literature starts with the arrival of the East India Company in India. The East India Company was formed in 1599. Indians started to read, speak and to understand English, so they soon started to write also. Indian writing in English had to range from the prose to the most verse-epics. On the other hand, Indian writing in English was the original support in India

2. History of Indian Literature

The study of English literature inspired literary formation in many Indian languages like: Bengali, Marathi, Telegu, Gujrati etc. In India Indo-Anglian literature had the similar start as the other modern literature. To know clearly the nature of the growth of Indo-Anglian literature and it is necessary to

understand the growth of English education in India. It was at a time when many persons in India believed that English language was introduced as a media of indication to create a class of clerks and toadies but it may not have created English-knowing clerks rather encouraged the mastery of English language. It resulted in the gain of great thinkers, politicians, and later on poets, novelists and dramatists in English.

Charles Grant, the Directors of the East India Company, pleaded for English language, “a vehicle for imparting Western ideas.” In 1813, the East India Company agreed to spend one hundred thousand rupees each year for the renewal growth of literature and to encourage the masters of India. All were filled up with hopes that this sum would be laid out on employing European gentlemen of talent and education to instruct the natives of India in many other branches of knowledge. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Prince Dwarkanath Tagore and his friend Brahmo, were agreed that system of education in English as the media of teaching was a good way for the re-birth of new India.

English became the official language of India and also the language for schools and colleges. This started a new era in the history of Indian culture. Every person of every field like professors and lawyers, doctors and judges and other administrators imbibed the philosophy, culture, science and literature of Europe through these different mediums. Now the Western thoughts were equally open to the Indians also. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshub Chandra Sen and many other reformists have greeted the enrich of the mental uplift and arise and horizon ahead on the new way of progress.

English in India started on March 7, 1735, with the announcement of Lord William Bentinck’s decision to favour, “English Education alone” and “a knowledge of English literature and science through the medium of the English language.” Western learning brought a new thought in an existence in the life of the people of India that began to take a new context from that date.

The next step taken by Christian missionaries to spread the gospel of Christ throughout the length and breadth of India, so they did extensive pioneering work in the field of education. They started Serampore College in 1818 and other missionary schools and college to establish Western education through the medium of English. Missionary schools started printing presses to publish books and they also studied and published Indian books of languages and literature.

3. History of Iranian English literature

Iranians love poetry and it is said that all Iranians try their hand at writing poetry at least once in their lives.

In Iran, it is not unusual to hear verses from poets living 600 to 900 years ago. They pop up in daily interactions, on TV and radio, and even during political speeches. Unfortunately, this widespread enthusiasm for poetry doesn't result in a strong reading culture. The public's reception of modern works of literature depends on different political, social, and economic factors, with numerous ups and downs in recent history.

What distinguished writers of this era was their deep social and political commitment. In addition, familiarity with modern literary techniques and innovations comes through in their reading of works by authors like Faulkner, Hemingway, and Steinbeck. Al-e-Ahmad and Chubak went head to head in their works about patriarchal authority and religious superstitions, and tried to depict the lives of workers and the lower strata of society. Bozorg Alavi, high among the ranks of Iran's communist Tudeh Party, published the first prison writings and portrayed personal and emotional aspects of political prisoners' experience in his stories. Antagonism between the modernising zeal of young students returning from abroad and underdevelopment, superstition and political oppression at home, is another recurring theme in the works of Alavi and other writers of this period

4. Conclusion

The above study shows that women writers have gone up from difficult to tribal and rural areas too, but all of them have expressed their concern for women and their problems. The variety of subjects, they have touched upon is a great contribution in creating awareness for the modern women all over the globe. The variety of subjects handled by them considering Indian environment needs an appreciation. Some of the writers have not claimed that they

belong to feminist's movement yet their writings suggest that their inner spirit and feelings are for the welfare of the women only.

The Indian and the Iranian Socio-cultural aspects are quite different from each other, in terms of religion, Social conventions and cultural practices. Yet, so far as the life of women is concerned, both the societies are basically patriarchal. There are, of course, differences between the female protagonists in Anita Desai's fiction and those in the fiction of the Iranian novelists selected here.

The themes in the fiction of Iranian writers also illustrate Incompatibility between relations, Marginalization that women feel, Alienation as well as male dominance, Marital Dissonance, Unfulfilled-self and Emancipation. Shahnush Parsipur uses surrealist technique to illustrate her themes, especially in her *Women Without Men*. It is interesting to see that in spite of social taboos and constraints Iranian female protagonists try to assert their individuality. But the female protagonists, in Desai's fiction though rebellious, finally succumb to the social milieu created by the patriarchal world around them.

Iranian women writers like Shahnush Parsipur very boldly portray their female protagonists trying to assert their individuality while in Anita Desai's fiction the female protagonists do rebel but the social circumstances weigh against them, as they have to surrender, or make compromises with the system.

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