

Short Stories of Jainendra Kumar and Bhabendra Nath Saikia in Special Reference to Psychology

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ABSTRACT

The short story holds a prominent place in literature. Literature is a mirror to society and human life. Jainendra Kumar is a significant psychological writer of the post Premchand era in Hindi literature. Jainendra Kumar gives extensive treatment to every aspect of human living. The adverse situations in life faced by the individual human mind at its different stages and conflicts are narrated in a moving way. Jainendra Kumar has a sure touch in delineating the conflicts of the human mind.

In like manner, Bhabendra Nath Saikia is also a prominent story writer, novelist, writer of children's literature, playwright and film-maker of Assamese literature and culture. The subtle aspects and the dramatic ways of all his characters are very ably presented by Bhabendra Nath Saikia. The woes and miseries of the common man, the loneliness of the elderly and a superstition ridden life and the conflicts of men and women centrally figure in his stories.

These two contemporary writers addressed the different psychological problems in society of individuals of different dispensations and age.

Keywords

Short story, Psychology, Jainendra Kumar, Bhabendra Nath Saikia

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Introduction

Among the varied genres of literature, the short story holds a prominent place. Many outstanding creations from world literature prove that literature is a mirror to society and human life. With gradual changes that come about in society, the themes, techniques and diction of literature change as well. The short story is no exception to this. With changes in society, the consequent changes, thoughts and problems that came about in human life began to be the subject matter for stories. The story writer internalizes all events, happy and sad, in society and human life in the creation of stories and of literature. The short story as a genre has continuously reflected the various problems in society and its impress upon human life such as inner turmoil, happiness and sorrow.

The story writer through the medium of the short story expresses his ideas and vision of life. While some imaginatively encounter and internalize things in the outside world, some try to look within and recreate the psychological universe of their own. These writers in their sensitive way express the individual in conflict with society. Jainendra Kumar is a significant psychological writer of the post Premchand era in Hindi literature. Jainendra Kumar gives extensive treatment to every aspect of human living. The adverse situations in life faced by the individual human mind at its different stages and conflicts are narrated in a moving way. Jainendra Kumar has a sure touch in delineating the conflicts of the human mind.

In like manner, Bhabendra Nath Saikia is like a pole star in the firmament of Assamese literature. Story writer, novelist, writer of children's literature, playwright and film-maker, he has recreated the world of men at every stage and level of society. The subtle aspects and the dramatic ways of all his

characters are very ably presented by Bhabendra Nath Saikia. Besides, his narrative style and the use of common idiom had helped him in the realistic presentation of his characters. These two contemporary writers addressed the different psychological problems in society of individuals of different dispensations and age. One notices a similarity in their psychological approach despite being from two different regions geographically. Because the story writers reflect their times and society in the structures of their creation, we get to see a varied picture of contemporary society and therein lies the importance and significance of comparative studies.

Methodology :

The method of Comparative Analysis will be adopted for the research work. Affinities and dissimilarities in their stories while studying the different psychological aspects will be highlighted. Analytical and investigative methods will also be exploited and the MLA 7 guidelines will be followed.

Discussion :

3.1. Psychology :

The term psychology is derived from two Greek words Psyche meaning 'soul' and logos meaning 'science' or study of a subject. Generally Psychology was defined as 'science of mind'. Later a new definition was derived for Psychology in which the science of mind was replaced by science of soul and psychology came to be known as the science through which the subject of soul can be studied or criticized.

In the initial period all the criticism related to Psychology was done from philosophical point of view. Later, on the basis of some Psychological studies and research, psychology was redefined. Those people considered psychology to be 'science of consciousness'. Even these definition of psychology is not unanimous to all psychologists. The eminent psychologist Freud has placed more importance on the study of the subconscious mind for human behavior. But this definition is also disputed. The tradition of discipline and systematic thought is the soul of the science. Psychology is also biased towards systematic and disciplined use of the brain. In simple language, psychology is the medium to measure the mind. Psychology is the analysis of emotions, thoughts and fickleness of the mind. Psychology presents an explanation of emotions. To understand every action of human being, it is necessary to understand its mental nature. Psychology is a science that systematically studies mental process.

Man is a social animal. For its diverse needs, human establish interactive relation with other people. There is a deep connection between the behavior of the person and the society. Mutual relationships between members depend on their mutual behavior. Man's thoughts, behaviors and actions have an effect on each other. A person's behavior is not always the same. The same person is found to be behaving in many ways. The same person treats different people differently at the same time and situation. His thoughts, feelings and behavior are also effected under various circumstances. In this way we get to know the human mind. As the literature is the reflection of society, writers try to internalize all events, happy and sad in society and human life in their creation.

3.2. Stories of Jainendra :

Jainendra Kumar started writing stories in 1927-28. With his arrival a new uplift in the Hindi story begins. There is an exploration of a special type of life philosophy in the stories of Jainendra. The deep duality of the mind is also depicted in Jai Shankar Prasad's stories. But that duality is not like that of Jainendra. Jainendra tries to find truth by palpating the mind. According to Jainendra the story is a hunger that constantly tries to find a solution. Although a psychological stream had started with Premchand's story, but instead of psychology Premchand gave more emphasis on reality and ideology. Jainendra gave special shape to the psychological stream. The principle of psychology has given rise to individualism, which has also given woman the status of an individual. Jainendra made the first attempt in this field. Elachandra Joshi, Agyeya, Ashka, Rajendra Yadav, Kamleswar etc. are also some notable writers in this area. After Premchand, Jainendra is the main figure in the Hindi story. In spite of his close contact with Premchand, he did not follow him but discovered a new direction for himself. He tried to raise the story from the level of 'incident' to 'character' and 'psychological truth'. According to Dr. Nagendra-

Another great features of Jainendra's writings was that, he incorporated the narrative from the social platform and distinguished it on a personal and psychological role. A glimpse of these trends can be seen in his story titled 'Hatya' (1927). (Nagendra: 583)

Jainendra has presented compositions as a storyteller. He had the talent of story writing from the earliest time. The total number of his short stories is more than 120 and all the stories have been published in ten separate parts 'Stories of Jainendra'. In these stories, Jainendra has included all aspects of human life. 'Ek Raat', 'Spardha', 'Jaysandhi', 'Nilam desh ki rajakanya', 'Do Chidiyan', 'Vatayan', 'Phansi', 'Kathamala', 'Pajeb' etc are his story collections. The main subjects of Jainendra's stories are often female. In these stories, Jainendra has marked the doubts, questions and complexities of human-mind. He is a master in depicting the duality of the human mind. Philosophical thinking is the characteristic of his personality. Jainendra's literature is full of goodwill and sensations of mind. The subtle description of the human mind is not found other than in the work of Jainendra. Freud's theories have influenced Jainendra. The stories of Jainendra are characterized by the selection of poignant scenes, subtle psychoanalysis of humans in extraordinary circumstances, ideology and the ambiguous vague language.

3.3 Stories of Bhabendra Nath Saikia :

In Assamese literature, the period from 1889-1939 is considered as the modern era. It can be said that the modern era or romantic era has started in Assamese literature along with the popularity of Jonaki magazine published from Kolkata in 1889. But it is also necessary to mention here that the Assamese literature was rich even before 1889 Assamese story was developed during this romantic era. The first name in this field is Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbaruwa. The Assamese story has reached this stage crossing various stages applying various theories. It can be said that the Assamese story took its first step with the help of the grandmother tales based on Mahabharata, Ramayana etc. Assamese story gave birth to a new era by 'Avahana Patrika' published from Kolkata in 1929. In the Avahana era, the story was composed on the basis of Freudian psychology, but its activity is seen more in the Ramdhenu era, The main theme of the stories of the Avahana era was the analysis of the interaction between male and female. Tralokyanath Goswami, Lakshmidhar Sharma, Rama Das, Veena Barua, Umakanta Sharma etc are notable story writers of this time.

In Umakanta Sharma's story compilation 'Ghuraniya prithvir Beka Pathat' (On The Crooked Path of the Round World), he tried to portray the character from psychological perspective. When the story of 'Ghuraniya prithivir beka pathat' was published in 'baahi magazine' in editorial it was written that-

Psychology was the new approach used in Assamese literature. The ways of human mind of this round world are like the crooked paths on the land. (Borgohain 2017:105)

Various events that took place in 1940s had agitated everyone. On one side was the war and on the other side was deterioration of human values due to the consequences of war or many other reasons. Due to various political philosophies, especially the communist ideals, people envisaged a golden society which resulted to the birth of a mental world of doubt and anticipation in the mind of the anxious people and story writers. Often, the storyteller of that time wrote a lot of meaningful stories about

psychoanalysis, taking a tour of the person's personality. It also started expanding at a rapid pace in the coming decade. Saurabh kumar Chaliha, Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, Jogesh Das, Homain Borgohain, Bhabendra Nath Saikia, Lakshminandan Bora, Sneha Devi etc are notable story tellers of this section.

It may be mentioned here that the western economic philosophy of Marx and philosophy of Freud had simultaneous effect in Assamese literature. As a result, Assamese Literature has been in conflict between progressive literature and modern literature, which is not there in western literature. When we look carefully at the Assamese story, we find that the story writer is influenced by Freud and theories like Oedipus complex living in unhealthy mind, psychology of criminal proficiency as well as sexual desires are reflected in the literary work. It is due to the stories of Bhabendra Nath Saikia that he occupies a prominent position in Assamese Literature. He was one of the popular writers of the Ramdhenu era. "Prahari" is his first story compilation published in 1963 followed by 'Brindavan' (1965), 'Gahbar' (1969), 'Sendur', 'Shrinkhal' (1975), 'Tarang' (1970), 'Ai bandara abeli' (1988). The specialty of the stories of Bhabendra Nath Saikia is that curiosity remains in the readers even at the end of the story.

Results :

4.1. If we take a closer look at Assamese and Hindi fiction literature, it can be perceived that short story of both the languages flourished during the modern period. However, the listening and narrating of stories in these regions can be traced back to earlier period they existed for centuries in one form or other. Jonaki magazine has a notable contribution in the development of story in Assamese literature, as well as Lakshminath Bezbarua is called the father of Assamese story. In like manner, the short story in Hindi literature had developed in the Premchand era and reached its apotheosis. With his arrival, the story turned to idealism.

4.2. Until the era of Premchand, there was no stream called psychology in the Hindi stories. But some of his stories like 'pus ki raat' and 'kafan', composed in his later years, reflect psychology. In Hindi story, the stream of psychology was started by Jainendra. Similarly, there wasn't any mention of psychology prior to Ramdhenu era.

4.3. If psychology is related to the real world, then literature gives artistry to the real life in the form of literature

4.4. The specialty of the stories of Bhabendra Nath Saikia is that curiosity remain in the readers even at the end of the story

Conclusion :

It is quite natural to discover affinities in the writings of Jainendra Kumar and Bhabendra Nath Saikia as both the contemporary writers had written stories based on psychology, addressing and giving a centrality to the social life of India. The dissimilarities are primarily due to the different geographical locales that they belong to. Both of them exploit the psychological aspects of the characters with equal importance. They have presented a mirror of their contemporary times through their stories. Besides getting to know the history of the times we can learn about the

different techniques and narratological aspects from a study of the stories.

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