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कला एवं वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय,
येवला

विशेषांक संपादक :

डॉ. रघुनाथ वाकळे
प्रा. कैलास बच्छाव

मुख्य संपादक : डॉ. धनराज धनगर





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Portrait of India Emerges from the Indian English Poems

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Introduction :

The period of modern Indian English poetry began from 1950. The modern poets have come out of the earlier poets like Kashi Prasad Ghosh , Toru Datt , Sarojini Naidu , Rabindranath Tagore , Arbindo Ghosh . maximum pre-independent poets wrote romantic kind of poetry. Many of them wrote about the freedom struggle. Their poems have universal ideas. There was no specification in their poems. They wrote poems for their self-identity. But modern poets are realistic and individualistic. The subject of their poetry is regarding day to day life of Indians. They present fresh imagery .their imagery is new , powerful and bold. Their poetry contains lucid language which is full of simplicity and clarity. Like English poetry it doesn't contain difficult words. By the later 60's Indian poetry in English had classic volumes including Nissim Ezekiel , A.K.Ramanjun , Kamala Das , Jayant Mahapatra , Keki Daruwalla , Arun Kolatkar, Vikram Seth , Imtiaz Dharker etc

The poets of India today are changing because of the various inventions of science and technology, commerce , Urban Industrialization . Today the poets see among the Indians poverty , unemployment, diseases , crimes and among women dowry deaths , rape , violence at home and outside , malnutrition. So the poets have to present these problems in their poetry to make aware people regarding these problems. Women poet such as Kamala Das, Gauri Deshpande , Vimala Rao , Sunita Jain etc. are well aware of poetic technique , structure , theme , imagery , feminine outlook and sensibility and feminine touch of sex, love and man and woman relationship. Their poetry is confessional and based upon personal experience. Indian English poets are bold and confessional. Contemporary Indian English poetry also handles religious themes, pilgrims going to places of pilgrimages like Jejuri. The modern poets do believe in religion and God but they don't believe in rites and rituals connected with God and religion. Arun kolatkar is also a sceptic and rationalistic in matters of religion and God. The modern Indian English poetry is free from romantic tradition and culture of the western world. They choose themes regarding Indian culture, Indian Society . Indian poetry is clean and healthy and it contains the sense , feeling and thoughts of Indianness. The Indian poets choose themes , outlook , attitude , problems and tragedies of day to day life of city or village and Indian culture. So Indian poetry is fresh, new and full of vitality.their poems emerges the ' portrait of India'.

'The Way It Went' by Nissim Ezekiel :

The way it went is a typical Indian poem of Nissim Ezekiel, who is considered as a modern Indian poet. It is a poem about how Indians use their life. The subject of this poem is marriage. In India and their life after marriage. In India marriage is compulsory. It is universal. Indian society gives preference to arrange marriage rather than love marriage. So their love begins after their marriage. Man and woman have sexual relationship only after marriage, when they become husband and wife. Till the end of their life they live together and share each and every happy or sad moment . in Indian society there are different names for different relationships. Like mummy,papa,grandpapa, grandma, Mama- Mami , Kka - Kaku etc. husband

right. She doesn't have any choice. She has no freedom, no voice. 'Dowry' is one of the violent problem in India. The woman in this poem is facing the same problems which many Indian women have to face. Her husband and mother-in-law give her very rude treatment . she has no right, no choice and no freedom. Her mother-in-law and her husband are two powerful members of home. Everyday of her life is like death. All these torments are routine of her life as she is born for it. People turn their faces , when there are such kind of complexities in society. The whole poem is a kind of appeal against the suppression of womanhood belongs to every layer of society. The poem makes alert to all the women to fight against this torment. The poem also appeals them to fight for their rights for their liberation. And also they should come out of the image of typical woman which will give new birth to another woman. It will be another torch blazing in the dark on 'Another Woman'.

'The Priest' is a poem by Arun Kolatkar in which India's religion and culture is depicted. Indian society is religious which believes in religion and God. Many Indians have accepted different Gods as their family or clan God. It is their belief that by offering goats or fowls or some sweet dishes to God , he can be pleased. They perform their worship with the help of the priest. Priest is the person who is the head of the temple. To perform puja, ceremonies , marriages, festivals etc. for all these occasions Indian people need the priest to conduct it. For these devotees, Priest is the intermediary between them and the deity to which they offer their worship. At Jejuri , there is a holy shrine of Khandoba, who is accepted as a protector God. It is believed that Khandoba can bestow wealth, health and prosperity on his devotees. The vegetarian devotees offer puranpoli to Khandoba. Puranpoli is a very famous sweet dish of Maharashtra. Priest consume it as a Prasad, for which he is very curious. It shows greedy nature of the priest. He exploits people for his material wealth. People are so religious that they follow all the instructions given to them by the priest. The priest play the role of an agent and gobbles their money by playing with their emotions with emotional blackmailing. but till people invites the priest for each and every religious programme as it is their belief that without the priest, the performance of worship is incomplete.

Conclusion :

In this way , the Indian culture, their mentality and way of thinking and human problems are presented in today's poetry.. The modern Indian English poetry is free from romantic tradition and culture of the western world. They choose themes regarding Indian culture, Indian Society . Indian poetry is clean and healthy and it contains the sense , feeling and thoughts of Indianness. The Indian poets choose themes , outlook , attitude , problems and tragedies of day to day life of city or village and Indian culture. So Indian poetry is fresh, new and full of vitality .their poems emerges the ' portrait of India'. Thus , modern Indian poetry in English after 1950 is fresh , realistic and individual. The Indian culture, human problems are presented in today's poetry. The study of these Indian poems is a journey of Indian society, culture and religion, which is a real portrait of India.

Refernces :

- 1) 'My Story' by Kamala Das (1976)
- 2) 'The old playhouse and the other poems' by kmala Das (1973)
- 3) A collection of Indian English Poetry – Edited by Radha Mohan Singh (Publisher Orient Blackswung)

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- 1) 'My Story' by Kamala Das (1976)
- 2) 'The old playhouse and the other poems' by kmala Das (1973)
- 3) A collection of Indian English Poetry - Edited by Radha Mohan Singh (Publisher Orient Blackswung)



- 4) Contemporary Indian Poetry (1990) by Kaiser Haq (published by Ohio State University Press, United States)
- 5) Anthology Of Contemporary Indian Poetry (2004) ed. By Menka Shivdasani (published by Michael Rothenberg, Berg Bridge United States)

