

FOREIGN FORMS AND THOUGHTS IN THE NOVELS OF SATINATH BHADURI: A STUDY

Shilpee Roy

Assistant Professor, Department of Bengali
Pramathesh Barua College, Gauripur
Dist. Dhurbi, Assam, India

Abstract:

The heart of the novel lies in delineation of characters. Characters are the soul of a novel. They give existence and meaning to every event occurred in a novel. They give voice to the thought of an age which they represent. The novels of Bengali literature always glued with the colonial gaze. The colonial age always tries to reduce our own legacy. It moulds our culture and form of literature too. Satinath Bhaduri (1906-1965) has been a remarkable name in the galaxy of Bengali novelists who gave new forms and life to his characters. He has carried with him the influence of foreign and European writers across the world. He was tremendously influenced by Foreign writers and novelist. He was an avid reader of British, Russia, Germany, and France novels. But he was extremely influenced by the novels of French writers. But he never had left his Indian and Sanatan philosophy of life and his way of looking at life despite being influenced by foreign writers. He had an peer eye to political and social discourse. He had a profound sense about Indian society and its people. He was fastened with the past and ancient history. But he was aware of scientific development. He was very rational to life. Therefore, his characters are genuine. They carry a sense of completeness themselves. While looking back, Satinath never had to fall down, rather his historical sense helped him how to attach and detach with the novels others. His novels are the epitome of fresh characters. His novels show the inner crisis of the characters. Their crisis and conflicts are as identical as shown in the novels of Proust and Kafka. It is obvious that Satinath Bhaduri's characters and thematic approach have been akin to the novels of Proust and Kafka. It is not untrue that Bhaduri's novels are different in tone and deliberation. Charles Baudelaire, Albert Camus, Paul de Satre, Marcel Proust etc have left huge impact on Bhaduri, but Bhaduri remains always original. His novels are different in tone. While delineating characters, Bhaduri remains unbiased. His characters are modern. They appear very close to their own soil. Bhaduri's novels become the novels of an age. His characters speak for the people, live for the countrymen, and take breath into its own space and air. The paper tries to evaluate Satinath Bhaduri's journey as a novelist. The paper tries to throw light on various aspects of Bhaduri's novels foregrounding influences of foreign writers.

Keywords: Upsurge of Bengali Novel, Novels of Satinath Bhaduri, French Novelist, Forms and Technique, Uniqueness.

Satinath Bhaduri wrote in his diary that contemporary age is the age of novel. Western writers came up with new discourse in the form of novel. They created new forms and technique in novels. They talked about new liberalism in a fresh form. The western society especially England emerged with new form of novels. They discarded old aristocrat setting of novels. They kept aside high-class society and successful businessmen from their novels. The form of novels sprouted in eight century England. Scott, Jane Austen, Dickens, Thackeray, Meredith and Thomas Hardy gave wings to the techniques of telling stories in the form of novel. Of late, Henry James came up with stream of consciousness technique in novel. The stream of consciousness technique had changed the whole mode of expression. It gave undoubtedly a new orientation to human sensibilities. Dickens in his novels dealt with contemporary education system of his time. He delineated the real picture of the then society of England. He sketched the picture of economical disparity prevailed in the then society of his time. The ethical degradation and height of corruption in every place had been beautifully portrayed by him in his novels. Thomas Hardy, on the other hand, has given melancholic tone in his novels. Eliot in his writing has deepened the urban loneliness and barrenness of people. E.M.Foster, Graham Green and Somerset Maugham were socialist in contents. Besides, H.G.Wells, John Goldsworthy, D.H. Lawrence etc. were the product of post First World War (1913). Their novels talked about human relation and showed various layers of relational crisis. Human psyche has got a new extension in their novels. The novels of Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka, Puskin, Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy etc have primarily taken up the social issues of their time in their novels. The French novelists dealt the perspective of existentialism in their novels with view to address the doubts which got upsurge in human minds. Bengali

Literature was influenced with foreign trends. The European renaissance had given a tremendous jerk to the world literature. The writers of the then Bengal remained unsafe from the influence foreign authors. The thinkers and writers of Bengali Language came up with fresh ideologies and literary forms. Time and society started to emerge into new form. The villages turned into township. The middle class peoples of Bengal started to flourish, and thus they became the conscience of Bengal. They started to hanker after pomp and power that stand as success. They became desirous to amass more wealth for themselves. In order to earn more, they started to bifurcate from their family. They invested time to earn more in order to have more comfort, power and position. Thus, market started to play a big role. Eventually, they started to cut off from their own society, family, friends, and kin and kith. At length, they achieved what they wished for. But with pomp and success, they also amassed boredom and loneliness for themselves. In this critical juncture of Bengali society, Novels evolved.

Satinath Bhaduri was not the sole descendent of Bengali novelists. He was an inspired soul. He knew different trends of novels as he read foreign writers. The political unrest of Bengal shook him completely during 40s to 60s. But he never felt uprooted from his land. He distinctly felt helplessness of common people. He could understand the crisis of middle class people. He had felt the utter helplessness, self denial, confusion and dichotomy of people of his time. He understood the nerve of his time. Therefore, his novels got free from the influence of Bibhuti Bhushan, Tara Shankar, Manik Bandopadhyaya, Balaichand, Subdoh Ghosh, Ananda Shankar Roy etc. The political and social scenario of Bengal were started to change in the end of 1940. Satinath Bhaduri's novels are the account of his time. His novels helped readers to understand the inner reality of people. The World War II had left devastating effect onto human minds and relations. After World War II, people started to feel insecure, alienated and divided. They started to face conflicts and crisis in social, economical and political sphere. Satinath's novels tried to keep the version of his time. Satinath knew the ancient past. He knew that some problems have solutions in the past. His characters therefore often looked back to past. Satinath Bhaduri studied foreign literature and tried to understand human minds. His novels peep into the hurdles that people faced in their day today life. His novels tried to find out a solution for the common people. He remained aware of social structure, social dogmas and taboos to understand the human psyche. He accepted in his personal account that he had immense fascination to French literature. He added that he had no inclination to meet famous people. He rather wished to meet simple men who are from humble background. Their company would give him mental peace. They would extend their helping hand to understand society and surrounding. He even accepted that the French literature is the voice of the contemporary time (Bhaduri 2018: 294) The reason for his abundant love for French Literature was that he knew that there have been a lot to learn from French literature. He was immensely influenced by Guy De Maupassant, Alphonse Daudet, Marcel Proust, Albert Camus, Jean Paul Satre and Franz Kafka. He said in his *Paduar Note Thekey* that he wished to learn the French language while staying in Paris. He wished to read the original text of French writers with a view to feel the original vive and crisis of toilers and farmers delineated in French novels.

Satinath Bhaduri went to Paris in 1949. He learnt how to write and speak French language in a school. He wrote that Albert Camus was known to everyone. He has been read across the world. But he felt sorry to learn that he was not being translated into Bengali language till then. Albert Camus wrote two novels. His novel 'L' Estranger' (The Stanger, 1942) had been considered as one of the best novels of world literature. The novel consists of 175 pages only. But the content of the novel is universal. Hence, the novel shakes the mind of people. Bhaduri urged that this novel should have been translated into Bengali because Camus is always modern. He is the descendent of Franz Kafka.

Camus novels 'The Outsider' and 'The Myth of Sisyphus' speak of people's loneliness and hopelessness. They speak of people's meaningless existence on this earth. Satinath Bhaduri's '*Chitragupter File*' is very close to "Myth of Sisyphus". The conflict between owner and toiler was poignantly portrayed in *Chitragupter File*. But the novel is not about to start political discourse. The main motto is to delineate the crisis of an individual and his tragedy of being human. It has left life's many questions unanswered. There are two deaths in the novel. Both of them are the consequence of their existence. Camus has rightly said about suicide in his novel "The Myth of Sisyphus". He said that men do not die aspiring emancipation. They die because they do not have enough reason to live. Their lives become absurd. They started to feel that their life on earth has no significance at all. They lose the link between life and the phenomenon of the world (Bhadra 2014:10). A sense of boredom and acute loneliness start to engulf them. They are not in total disillusionment and loneliness which reflect in Abhimanyun, but also they show total breakdown. They show wickedness of political world and failure in love. They delineate the sense of meaningless in everything.

Abhimanyun and Sivchadrika stay side by side. Sivchandrika stands selfishness and Abhimanyun stands for simplicity and transparency. Camus characters stand for precision. His characters are the spoke person of life and its meaning which do not exist in real sense. His characters show concern for sacred matters, though they are absurd in tone. Satinath was hugely influenced by an eminent French novelist Marcel Proust (1871-1922). Satinath even mentioned about the acceptability of the novels of Proust in his diary. Even in an article, he wrote that reading Proust is always contemporary as because he is the only one who wrote about subtle ups and downs of life with utmost insightfulness. He said that there is nothing in life which is trivial. He believed that life should be taken care of. He said that there is nothing in life which would be wear off. Proust is always conscious about life and he looks at life through different angle. His novels have different layers (Bhaduri 2018:514). So, one has to be very careful while reading his novels. His 'A La Recherche du Temps Perdu' searches the way to past which has been lost long ago. It is also a psychological, political and social novel. Proust has given stressed upon subconscious minds. His novels are very close to surrealism. Satinath Bhaduri said that when one looks at a photo or film, he grips it completely. He goes deep into. But it is always a doubt whether he can be able to perceive the photo or film completely or not. But while reading a novel, a reader unfolds the layer one by one applying his cognition. A reader can gulp the beauty part by part, bit by bit. Therefore a reader must have more patience than a spectator. Like Satinath, if anyone has to unfold Proust, then he must have to read his novels carefully. Satinath too demands close reading for peeling off the subtle layers underneath of his novels. Proust's 'A La Recherche Du Temps' gives the identical essence and magical aroma as Satinath's novel does. They are capable of taking the readers to the world of slumber where one's mind be yielded with ethereal magic.

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