

Literature: Replica of human life

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Abstract:

This paper aims at analysing the relationship between literature and human life. It is an infinite ongoing discussion about relation between the two and how their co-existence can be traced through ages. The written words are also miraculous for it allows unvoiced communication between separate individuals, even if their races and milieu varied. It is also in this manner that the shared current moments in the writing and reading of literature is coupled to its undying divine value.

Keywords:

Literature , human life, co-existence, underneath values

Literature is nothing but is an artistic imaginative reconstruction of social and human realities. All great fiction proves this fact. Literature is most clear record of the human spirit with a creative yet artistic expression. Human life is a multidimensional mystery that can be scrutinized through the medium of literature which provides faithful and realistic picture. It is a link between human past and present. We cannot imagine our culture or literature without *Mahabharata* or *Ramayana*. It is a link which connects us with our ancestors. At the same time, these ancient works reflect complexity of human life. A creative writer has the perception and the analytic mind of a sociologist who provides an exact record of human life, society and social systems.

Literature is a universal surveillance on the dilemmas of human existence. Literature is neither an establishment for certain power nor a socially fashionable item. It has its own value: its aesthetic eminence. Aesthetics based on human emotions does not turn out to be archaic even with the persistent changing of fashions in literature and in art. Literature transcends ideology, national boundaries and racial consciousness. Literature is a mirror which provides us a place where in the principal matters of apprehension are particulars of the human race, individual human time, human feeling and human response. Taine rightly points out that a literary work is:

a transcript of contemporary manners and from such monuments of literature we might recover a knowledge of the manner in which men thought and felt. (Taine, 309)

In a way literature becomes a tool to study the thought process of a human. Literature not only reveals the external milieu of the age in which it is written but it also retrospect the culture, psychology and other internal discourses like didactic values, cognition of that particular era. According to Milton Albrecht:

Literature reflects accepted patterns of thought, feeling and action, in chiding patterns of expressions and society's un-conscious assumptions. It innovates giving expression to emerging themes that may not yet be definable in literal terms. (Albrecht, 425)

Thus, literature is an exact record of human life, society and social system. The relation between literature and society is usually discussed with the phrase derived from De Bonald that "literature is an expression of society." The relation among a writer, society and social trend or tribulations is indisputable. A writer cannot turn away his face from contemporary social issues and as a result literature becomes a significant instrument to analyse a range of issues that are portrayed creatively and realistically in that work. Moreover literature is the vital crystallization of human society. It is complicated, insightful and tricky and yet it is all-encompassing, penetrates human perceptions and links men with its aesthetics. The written words are also miraculous for it allows unvoiced communication between separate individuals, even if their races and milieu varied. It is also in this manner that the shared current moments in the writing and reading of literature is coupled to its undying divine value.

Literature and human are deeply co-related with each other. Literature reflects the age in which it is written. Literature is nourished by the cultural soil of the place where it is born and bred. Literature is a picturesque depiction of reality in all its trivialities. Literature presents truth of a much elevated sort. The writer deals with reality, but with a reality which is shorn of the particular and the non-essential. In this way, literature is permanent and universal. The writer deals with the eternal and universal facts of nature, he idealizes reality. Through the search of reality and quest for utopia, literature has always become instrumental in accelerating social change. Histories of various nations are full of such records that revolutions were carried away successfully with the help of literature. Feminism is one of the best paradigms to support this argument. Even before the existence of this-ism, women initiated to express their feelings and search for unsuppressed identity through the medium of literature. And thus through various creative writings this silent fight for the self gained momentum. Joan Rockwell observes:

Fiction is not only a representation of social reality, but also necessary functional part of social control, and also, paradoxically, an important element in social change. It plays a large part in the conduct of politics and in general, give symbols and modes of life. (Rockwell ,4)

Literature is an important element to bring upon social transition which lies somewhere in the future. Vice versa upheavals going on in the society also transplants change in the literature. For an instance, contemporary political scenario plays an instrumental role in evolution of new literary themes. In the post dependence literature there is a conscious or unconscious effort to reflect the current trends going on in India. Novels like *Rich like Us* and *Mammaries of a Welfare State* portrays the mutilated idealism, poverty, unemployment, unhealthy corporate world and corruption prevailing in the country. Similarly novels like *Azadi*, *Train to Pakistan* provides histrographic narration of the partition tragedy. Thus literature mingles up past, present and future and gives opportunity to study various socio- cultural aspects. Creative writer implicitly depicts the socio-political conditions simultaneously reveal the inner unconsciousness of mind and feelings of a common mass. Therefore Philip Stevick correctly comments “The novel also more than any other genre, can give form to a set of attitudes regarding society, history, and the general culture of which the novel is a part.”(Philip,03)

Thus, literature is most effectual unifier of humanity. Literature is a true manifestation of fusion of people, religions, cultural and societal issues, nations and classes. At the end it is necessary to observe statement of Harvey Pearce which rightly indicates that how literature, language, culture and history are inter-related and co-exists. He observes:

Studying History, we study culture, studying a culture, we study its poetry studying its poetry, we study its language. The system is one and whole.(quoted in Smith, 12)

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