



Symbolism of Chromatism in *Life of Pi*

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to reveal the significance of colours which are utilized in literature as symbols to illustrate the emotions and implications further than what is uttered. Colours are extremely emotionally involved in every person's life. Language and literature are very close to the colours, in which authors use it as symbols to provide great meaning. Human beings always expect greater shades of their lifestyles. This paper tries to bring out the colours used as symbols in novel *The Life of Pi* by Yaan Martel.

Introduction

Colours play a momentous position in human life and an enormous function in literature. It has a remarkable ability to talk extra successfully. Many poets use colourations as their device to bring out their emotions and emotions and they may be used as symbols in literature for the readers to discover and get deeper into the text. A few authors even use shades inside the titles to represent the whole which means. *The Bluest Eye* (1970) by Toni Morrison and *The Purple Hibiscus* (2003) by Ngozi Adiche clearly show the authors' intention to represent colours as a tool to explore their emotions and make readers feel the novel. *Blue Highways* (1982), *The White Princess* (2013) and *The Virgin Blue* (1997) are examples of how colours are the tag for many literatures. Shades have the ability to make people experience certain emotions. Every kingdom has a flag to represent its very own, and it is full of colourings. So, hues constitute nature and reality, and it is a prime point of symbolism. In 1940s, the psychologist Max Luscher delivered colouration remedy in which he defined that he could determine the strain stage and mental makeup of a person by way of the colour selected by using the individual.

Colours are all around, they invent a milieu of individual's mood this is why some hospital rooms are painted in some particular colour which makes the patients feel better. Each consumer products' fulfilment specifically lies within the colourful packing, which broadly speaking draws consumers. Every people have their fave colouration that reflects his/her emotional or spatial attachment; each faith has a particular colouration that shows the religious attachment. A metamorphosis from 'black and white' to 'colours' is taken into consideration as the evolution in cinema, television and mobiles.

Colours have the attachment towards the English language proper from the early ages. Idioms and Phrases are the quality examples of it, 'Caught red Handed', 'Black Market', 'Feel Blue', 'Golden Opportunity' are few idioms which are associated with shades. In literature, colours have performed a dominant position. Right from the 12th century, French writers have used seven shades to represent emotions and feelings. White, Red, Yellow, Blue, Green, Black, and Brown are the seven colours used by them. In gothic literature, purple is taken into consideration because the dominant shade, wherein it's far used to represent warfare, fire, willpower and power. It is used to symbolize every tremendous and negative emotion.

Consistent with colouration psychology researchers say that shade has the ability to influence human behaviour, and it varies from man or woman to character. Researchers have proved that 62% to 90% of the judgment at the product is based totally on the colour, and the human psychology comes to a decision it within ninety seconds. Each and every person's intuit differs in line with age, gender and way of life. Each colour has a selected meaning and a symbolic illustration. This paper analyses the symbolic representation of colour in *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel published in 2001.

It is a fantasy adventure novel. Piscine Molitor Patel is the protagonist of the Novel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry. His circle of relatives has a zoo in Pondicherry. Due to Government problems, they plan to move to Canada. At some point of the adventure, shipwreck happens and Pi Patel is the most effective human survivor with a Hyena, Orang-utan, Zebra, Richard Parker (tiger) in a lifeboat. He survives 227 days in the sea. The novel portrays the lifestyles of Pi in the sea, his spirituality and the warfare. Whether or not he manages to come back is the remaining plot. *Life of Pi* is a replicate that suggests the part of India and its lifestyle.

The writer has used numerous colours in this novel as symbols to symbolize sturdy emotions and feelings. Even a simple pleasure and tough emotions are portrayed via colourings inside the novel. This paper attempts to expose the robust illustration of colours and its importance in the novel. Just a few incidents in association with colourings are taken and analysed. The colours taken to investigate are Orange, Gold, and Green due to their significance within the novel.

Shades in *Life of Pi*

The Symbol takes the form of the item, sound, visual snapshots to symbolize the ideas and ideals. *Life of Pi* is full of adventure wherein its miles packed with the essence, feelings and new studies of Pi. So, the author uses colours as an exceptional device to intimate the emotions which handled in the book. It facilitates the readers to get outright experience emotions and reviews.

Orange colour

Orange colour represents rewarding ambition. It is generally related to Hinduism and Buddhism. It's considered as a sacred colour and due to its better visibility; it's more often than not associated with safety purposes. In colour psychology, —it combines the strength of crimson and happiness of yellow, and it's far blended with enthusiasm, happiness, creativity and determination. It also has the capability to stimulate oxygen delivery to the brain and stimulates the mental activity. It is the colour of fall and harvest and additionally taken into consideration as the colour of uplifting. The orange colour offers emotional electricity in difficult instances.

Martel has used orange colour as the symbol of hope and spirituality. Pi, the protagonist is a spiritual person who follows Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. Whilst the own family starts off the journey, the ship sinks and pi turns into a castaway. He survives amidst of escaped animals. He has no hope, but the matters which he receives are in the main orange in colouration. “I noticed an orange whistle dangling from the life jacket”(105). The first factor which he receives is a whistle this is in orange colouration, that's the colouration of Hinduism and additionally represents creativity and determination. It gives him a ray of Hope.

It seems orange---such a nice Hindu colour---is the colour of survival because the whole inside of the boat and the tarpaulin and the life jackets and the lifebuoy and the oars and the most every significant object abroad was orange. Even the plastic, beadless whistles were orange. (138)

The above lines exhibit the writer's goal to apply the orange colour as a symbol of hope and resolution. The objects round him create the religious aura which makes him feel higher. He prays frequently which maintains his self-belief alive. The orange colour makes him spiritually bonded and offers desire and backbone to steer a brand new existence and furthermore it gives new breath whilst he begins his adventure in the sea.

Golden Colour

According to Hindu mythology, gold is the colour of knowledge, whereas in Islam it is the colour of paradise. Gold represents understanding, respect, virtue, majesty and generosity. It is considered as the colour of success, achievement and triumph. Golden colour reflects the positive energy and it has the strength to enlighten the people's thought in the spiritually heightened manner. Author without a doubt makes use of the colours as ideal symbols. Pi Patel, as a castaway starts his life in the sea. He is bodily going weak due to loss of ingesting water and meals. He sustains his existence within the boat for a few days however he cannot locate water because of the tiger which accompanies him. Eventually, he manages to open the boat and finds the water inside the golden colouration can. Hence gold symbolizes of victory, and it suggests his achievement.

Oh, the delight of the manufactured good, the man-made device, the created thing! That moment of material revelation brought an intensity of pleasure—a heady mix of hope, surprise, disbelief, thrill, gratitude, all crushed into one—unequaled in my life by any Christmas, birthday, wedding Diwali or other gift giving occasion... on this lifeboat, the wine of life is served in pale golden cans that fit nicely in the hand.(141)

Author certainly suggests the victory of Pi, it is the victory over the worry, poor thoughts and irrational and insecure feelings. The writer may want to have given any colour for the water however makes use of a golden shade to painting the victory.

Green Colour

Green is the shade of splendour, joy, fitness and desire. It is the loyalty in love. It portrays growth, fertility and harmony. It's far taken into consideration as peaceful colour for the human eyes. It is closely associated with Islam. It has notable power and offers desire than some other colours. Green is the symbol of Hope. The writer symbolizes Green to provide a brand new life and a new desire. Pi Patel, the non-secular character follows Hinduism and Christianity in the beginning of the novel but later he gives up and meets Islam. "I came to Mullah Street. I had a peek at the Jamia Masjid, the Great mosque.... The building, clean and white except for various edges painted green."(58) When he walks through the street, author symbolizes it through the green colour.

While he sees the mosque, Pi Patel sees numerous edges painted in green. Writer symbolizes the white for purity which refers to his heart and green as the symbol of Islam in that natural heart. There comes a ray of latest hope and he starts following Islam.

In another situation, Pi Patel is in a lifeboat and he unearths the survival manual and he begins analyzing it. In the 9th point, he finds "look for Green" (167). In his journey, he finds that green colour gives more hope. The following line asserts the idea. "Green sea turtles gave more meat..." (197).

In his depressing adventure, Pi reaches the floating island and sooner or later finds the green trees and it offers him a new wish to live on. He describes it as “Since the trees continued to stand, I continued to look. To take in green, after so much of blue, was like music to my eyes. Green is the colour of Islam. It is my favourite colour”.(257).

Conclusion

Symbolism is specially used to describe the means beyond what's expressed. Symbols in literature create a big space for the readers to explore and specific past the given factor. Symbolism has the potential to decorate emotions and feelings and to get the readers deep into it. Yann Martel has used hues as symbols to symbolize the revel in of a castaway. Colourings have the ability to mirror the emotions and feelings. In the novel, Pi Patel receives desire and energy from exclusive colours that he encounters on distinctive occasions. When he first sees the orange colour it gives him spiritual electricity, next golden shade indicates the victory and the last green colour suggests the brand new lifestyles. Lifestyles of Pi undoubtedly have produced a deeper meaning and knowledge through hues which might be used as symbols.

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