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## Documentary on Some English Poets: An Analysis

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**Abstract:** Now a days, documentary has become very famous to know and feel the poets. The most important components of documentary are poems of the poet, prose, evaluation of the poet by the other poets and so on. In making scene in the light of the poet's life symbols, detailing, cinematic presentation make documentary artistic. Although the inspiration of documentary is the life of poet but it is actually the director's own realization.

**Keywords:** documentary, life, literature, poet.

It was 1959. The birth centenary of Rabindranath was ahead. Different associations were busy in the preparation of it. The Indian government also formed a centenary celebration committee on the poet. The committee decided that a documentary would be made on the life of Rabindranath. But on whom would this task be given? Some were eager to give this task to Tagore-specialist Satyajit Ray and some were to any renowned historian. One of the members of the committee was Pandit Jawharlal Neheru. Although he was in favor of any artist. After many dilly-dally, the responsibility was assigned to Satyajit Ray.

This historical documentary was made in two ways. One was big, it had six parts and the language was English. The voice was of Satyajit Ray. The smaller one was divided into two parts and was made in different languages because it was the best way to send Tagore to everyone in this multilingual country. But the bigger one has been the topic of discussion among the audience.

The documentary begins with the death and funeral of Tagore. The life story of the poet begins with the last point of extinguishing of the funeral flame. This seeing of life by removing the veil of death reminds us the technique of French film director Jean-Luc Godard.

The period between the childhood and death of Tagore has been depicted in the documentary. Which music instruments and background music are applicable for a visual -----Ray has combined in proper ratio. He has not depended not only on the information for making it believable and enjoyable. Beside description, by doing performance he has presented the life of Rabindranath, his creation and contemporary context before the spectator. Like Raja Rammohan Roy is going on a horse car. As if this scene of one minute has become a symbolic one. This adventure for curing the leprosy of the society is not to be stopped.

Its a small village of Warwickshire on the bank of Avon. Around this village there are Arden's forest, ruins of old palaces, Roman army camps and tracks used by the soldiers. This inventory of nature and history used to flow child Shakespeare to the fairy world. The memories of this place come again and again in his poetry and plays. The documentary 'Shakespeare Legacy' on his 4<sup>th</sup> death centenary begins with this moving scene of nature and history. Contemporary political and social history, stories of Shakespeare's personal and literary life can be found in this documentary through the description and explanation of the discussants. How Shakespeare looked like----that research has been endeavored through technology. At the end of the documentary the motion of the Avon is pictured with instrumental music. This scene not only gives ease to the eyes and thought, but like the eternal stream of the river, the Shakespearean literature will live in the mind of the readers----the director wants to give that indication.

The year 1798 is memorable in the history of English literature. William Wordsworth and S.T. Coleridge published *Lyrical Ballads* collaboratively. With the publication of it there begins a new age. Victor Hugo describes this age as 'Liberalism of Literature'. Even after the three centuries the readers are mesmerized to this age. Velerick Dalton's documentary on William Blake, Malcolm Hossick's documentary on William Wordsworth and P.B. Shelley, documentary on Keats -----all are the manifestation of that fascination. Not only individually, but Michael Mandell has made documentary on the whole Romantic age. In BBC documentaries we can see different documentaries on the different traits of the Romantic period.

The documentary 'John Keats: His Life and Death' begins with the warbling of the birds. The camera moves towards the grave of Keats. "Here lies One Whose Name was writ in Water". Then lying down of a patient in operation theatre and blood everywhere. Keats is also present with the doctors. We know that Keats was sent to a surgeon at Edmanton for apprenticeship after his matriculation level study. In that scene some different faces are condemning Keats from the two sides of the screen and they are actually representing the critics of his poetry. Shelley and others thinks that harsh criticism is responsible for the death of Keats.

In the next scene we can see that Keats is engrossed in writing poetry and the description of the commentator. Through the fall of the horseman the death of the father of Keats is suggested. The shock for his mother's remarriage is shown through the scene of the crushing of mirror in the hands of Keats. The standing scene of the poet before the mirror after the scene of satire

and criticism of the critics. The scene of love life with Fanny Brown has been shown. The pathetic scene of sudden coming out of blood with cough and becoming certain of his own death has also been displayed. This play of love and death is very painful. A candle is almost extinguishing and another one is flaming up--- this scene symbolizes that although the mortal body of the poet will be perished one day but his poetry will remain in the heart of the readers forever.

The focal point of the documentary 'The Passion of the William Butler Yeats' lies its title. Yeats is said to be the Celtic twilight poet. His multifaceted life influences his poetry too. Besides lyrical poems, he also writes political poems. Women and nature are mixed together in his poetry. The documentary opens with the context of Maud Gonne. The poet's love is symbolized with the fired-coloured sky. In the background someone reads: "Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths / Enwrought with golden and silver light..." . On one hand, in the documentary the history of Ireland, Yeats' personal and literary life can be found in the description of the commentators. On the other hand, we can see the reading of his poetry. With the reading of poems there are moving scenes. The scene of Innisfree isle is seen with the reading of the poem "The Lake Isle of Innisfree". Or the scene of war-torn Europe is seen with the poem "The Second Coming".

In the post-World War II world there happened different literary movements like Beat Generation movement in America and Angry Young Man movement in England. The very feature of these movements was to throw away the orthodox system and live like oneself. The word 'Beat' was actually a slang of the Jazz musicians and prostitutes which means to be defeated in life. William Burroughs found it in the writing of Herbert Hank and told about it to Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac many times. But the phrase 'Beat Generation' was coined in 1948. Kerouac told John Lennon: "So, I guess you might say were a beat generation...". Then the golden age of its impact and reaction began with the publication of "Jazz of the Beat Generation" by Kerouac in 1955. There are many documentaries on the Beat poets like "The Beat Generation", "The Source", "The Philosophy of the Beat Generation" and so on.

In describing the Beat Generation the documentary "The Beat Generation" also describes the pop music of the taverns of the 1930s and 1940s . The Beat poets assimilated the customs and rituals of different religions. Anarchism, Marxism and internationalism were also the part of their thinking. They also took different narcotics to know about the different possibilities of optical illusion. Collage, surrealism, application of autobiographical elements, use of jazz music are the characteristics of their poems. This information is described in the documentary through pictures and commentary. There also come the names of the Beat poets like Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. The recitation of the poems like 'On the Road' and 'Howl' are also present in it. We are also informed the impact of this movement upon the next generation. The documentaries on the individual poets like "Jack Kerouac, King of the Beats", "An Elegy for Allen Ginsberg", "William Carlos" are also very interesting.

Documentaries are being made on the poets in different languages in the different parts of the world. In 1997, Amalia Schiava makes a documentary on Pablo Neruda--- "Poet of His People Pablo Neruda". The documentary is descriptive. The director presents the reading of the poems with acting. In the beginning and the end of the documentary sea is present as the symbol of emotion, wideness and restlessness. In the beginning of the documentary the flapping of a bird in the purple sky though the roaring of the sea indicates the imaginative power of the poet and with that it also indicates the limitless appeal of art. As his country, its tradition and public life are very important parts in his life and poetry, all these are captured in camera.

Nigerian poet and dramatist Wole Soyinka was awarded Noble Prize in Literature in 1986. In most of his writings the folk traditions of Yoruba has been used as protest. That protest and satire is against the misrule of the government, decadence of the values of the people and illusion towards the Western consumerist society. The documentary begins with the reading of "Excerpt from a forest of a thousand Demons: A Hunter's Saga" which was written by D.O. Fagunwa and translated by Soyinka. The use of folk elements makes the documentary very aesthetic. With the appreciation of many important persons about the poet, the poet's own words and his journey also find place in this documentary. The use of folk instruments makes the documentary very enjoyable.

In Satyajit Ray's documentary "Rabindranath" where the last phrase of the poet's life is described, there Satyajit Ray draws the contemporary crisis. Rabindranath's "Sabhyatar Sankat" was also written at that time. The sound of siren, to save the life of the frightened people in Madrid and the death of the people by bullets--- all these are parallelly presented with the reading of "Sabhyatar Sankat".

It was 4<sup>th</sup> March of 1961. Prime Minister Neheru was very sad. His friend had died. With devastated heart he sat in the Rastrapati Bhawan to watch the film by Satyajit Ray. The film ends with the humanitarian confidence. The director shows that optimism through the reading of Rabindranath in parallel with the sunrise. The cocktail of this sound and scene creates a unique atmosphere. Through the watching of the movie Neheru backs his strength. Two months later while he was giving the award in the hand of Satyajit Ray, he remembered that day and the very documentary.

So, in the hands of a talented director, the life of a poet, his creation and his philosophy can be eternal. The endeavour of the poet's whole life can be transfused into the heart of the people. Where poetry is bound by the boundary of language, a camera can give it the wings.

## REFERENCES

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