

HISTORICAL IMPACT IN THOMAS HARDY AND R.K. NARAYAN NOVELS

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Abstract

Thomas Hardy and R.K Narayan are one of the most famous regional novelists in English literature. They have imparted global interest to a particular region. Hardy illustrates the physical features of his Wessex with great precision and realism. Hardy's novels generally called as the Wessex Novels, of which Far from the Madding Crowd, The Return of the Native, The Mayor of Caster bridge, Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure are the most celebrated ones. These Wessex novels have recognized Hardy as a regional novelist. Simultaneously, R.K Narayan is as realistic writer. His novels are realistic without a tanga of romanticism or a touch of mysticism. The basic theme of the novels is the place of man in this universe and his predicament.

Keywords: Thomas Hardy, R.K. Narayan, novel, regional.

INTRODUCTION

Thomas Hardy and R.K Narayan are one of the most famous regional novelists in English literature. From the Hardy's novels, Love is prolonged theme [1]. The general scenes of all his novels are positioned in one particular region. He signified the imaginative world of Wessex – it's geography, landscape, agricultural pursuits, folkways, of his main characters. As a novelist, his greatest strength lays in his peculiar depiction of Wessex- a fictitious region of England. He established the landscape by beautifully depicting the nature and environment of the particular land and the people therein, particularly highlighting the conflict between man and nature. The same physical features- hills and dales, rivers, pastures, meadows, woodland, and heaths etc. of this native land appear and reappear so prominently and vividly in Hardy's novels that they are called the Wessex Novels, of which Far from the Madding Crowd, The Return of the Native, The Mayor of Caster bridge, Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure are the most celebrated ones. These Wessex novels have established Hardy at the height as a regional novelist [2].

Malgudi is the comic projection of R.K. Narayan. It is associate notional city within which nationalists and nationalism area unit treated with identical comic irony. This comic irony is deployed against cheats, bohemians, bossy wives and indulgent grandparents. This clearly indicates the maturity and artistic visions of the novelist [3]. The proposed work, illustrates the regional touch present in Thomas Hardy and R.K Narayan novels, and thereby to reassess his greatness as a regional novelist.

a. Features

- The regional novel is a variety of fiction that is set in a distinct region.
- It illustrates the features of life, social relations, customs, language, culture of that area and its people.
- Fiction creates the sense of geography, landscape or topography is also covered by the region.
- In general, regional culture exemplifies an aspect of life, or the effects of the environment on the people living in it.

b. Characteristics

- Detailed portraits of a place, region, particularly rural, bear an appraisal to a real place.
- They generally characterized the middle-class origin.
- In general, regional writers are related with rural regions.

c. Hardy's Wessex:

Hardy is a distinct regional novelist, and Wessex is the region which forms the every scene of action of all Hardy's works. Hardy's Wessex has been geographically identified with South- western England. He portrays the interaction of his characters with the natural, since it might be sentient. He had great acquired knowledge over the region. He has demonstrates the physical characters of his Wessex with great realistic in nature. He has expressed very soulful in his works. He has memorialized the land of Wessex which is a living,

breathing reality in his novel. He illustrates the human emotions in relation to nature and great love and concern for nature. Also, he concentrates on passions and emotions which are global. They are the real themes of his novels. Characters in the Wessex novels are not created from the upper state of society, rather it creates from the lowest and humblest rank of a human's life. This is so because he has succeeded in globalizing the regional and the typical.

Of the Wessex novels, the Woodlanders elucidate the most balanced and satisfying work. It may not have the catastrophic finality of Tess of the D'urbervilles, not the Lear-like poignancy of The Mayor of Casterbridge, but it is even more artistically complete than many of its companion novels. The events unfold naturally and there are few glimpses of the mechanism from which the gods are suspended, a weakness which Hardy's insistence on the use of coincidence often creates. There is no violent or outstanding character, no Henchard or Tess or Jude. The persons in the story pair off naturally with their counterparts. There is even a balance of emotion, and the tragedy is not unrelieved by comedy-the wistful, humorous touches which are used to describe Giles' Christmas party are unrivalled by Hardy elsewhere.

In The Mayor of Casterbridge, is so realistic novel, because it reflects the town, Dorset. Hardy's philosophy tries to find out, how the man lead a life in pessimistical manner. In Hardy's point of view, "Spotch of the laws that may affect lower middle class people". Thus, discoloration of the laws tends to the power that caused or created this sorry scheme of things. He cannot merge the fact of universal, underserved suffering with the omnipotence and He rejects the orthodox law benevolence of God or the First cause. He uses 'it' and not "He" for this power. This power has no sense of right or wrong, loves or hate. In its blind, unconscious, impersonal working, it does not, and cannot, take into account human wishes and aspirations. Hence, it's working often causes men and women much pain and suffering.

This power manifests itself in a number of ways. Occasionally, it indicates itself through some force of Nature. Generally Nature of Hardy residue is indifferent to, and insensible of, the suffering of Hardy's characters. For example, Tess' suffering goes unheeded in Nature. She is breached in the lap of Nature, but all Nature endures unconcerned. Bad weather had been predicted and on that basis he made hasty purchases. But, the weather cleared and he had to sell at far lower pieces. Then quite unaccountably the weather changed again. There was rain and hail and Henchard was a financial smash.

Nature, thus, seems to be the instrument of some confrontational power working against Henchard. It is in this sense that Nature is the dame fortune in Hardy's novels. Hardy's early struggle with religious problems was an impact of shaping his fatalistic nature.

As a childhood, Hardy's dream to become a parson. He had several spiritual relatives who encouraged him in his goal. His total family members had been musicians in various churches. As a young man, he frequently read bible and became curious of the different religions of Christianity. Hardy is great in virtue of his penetrating and flexible interpretation of his native earth.

d. R.K Narayan's Malgudi:

Malgudi is the fictional setting of R.K. Narayan's novels and stories. Malgudi is associate degree unreal South Indian city spherical that Narayan has woven the advanced pattern of the lives of his characters. The readers are taken to this imaginary land to laugh, sympathize, and share the vicissitudes of its inhabitants. Narayan's Malgudi represents India in microcosm. He has productively altered a particular limited region into a symbol of India and Indian life. Narayan's treatment is so convincing and vivid that we begin to feel that whatever is taking place in Malgudi, happens everywhere.

The evolution of Malgudi parallels the progress on India's social and cultural scene and crystallizes the contemporary and cultural climate of the country. His novels transcend the regional barriers and are intrinsically universal. This city of Narayan's imagination is both a concrete individual place and a miniature India. Representing all that is God's plenty its multi-coloured complexion makes one feel that life is almost the same everywhere.

The regional novel, in its strict sense, cannot be applied to Narayan's Malgudi novels, for the district of Malgudi of his writing is not shown strikingly distinct from other regions and the people inhabiting it are not greatly influenced by the local ways of life. Some may show the impact of the place at times, but most of the major characters like Margayya, Raju, Rosie, Marco, Balu and others defy the traditional norms of life prevalent in Malgudi.

Every novelist gives in his novels his own personal idiosyncratic vision of the world. The mind of man is a complex phenomenon. It is always the process of change that acts and reacts to the events and the situation around him. It all depends how one develops his mind right from the childhood. The vision of life is certainly enlarged and broadened in case of those who came out of their surroundings and develop rapport with eminent personalities of diverse faiths rooted to different soils. R. K. Narayan is the foremost Indo- English novelist of today. His vision of the society as it is noticed in Malgudi is the outcome of his intimate familiarity and involvement only with the people of his community.

CONCLUSION

Thomas Hardy is a great writer. His style is the microcosm of his talent exhibiting all his merits and demerits in their most characteristic form. He revealed the beauty and charm of Wessex to the reader's eye and immortalized it. It must not be supposed that he inhabited a region with which none could compare in splendour, or that such spots exist nowhere else. R.K. Narayan's is a great writer. The generic theme of his novels is the place of man in this world and his dilemma. Narayan was a protean figure who could justly have claimed a substantial part of the credit for creating

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