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Sociological dimensions of existence: Analysis of Arvind Adiga's fiction

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Abstract

Arvind Adiga is a versatile writer of post-colonial Indian English Literature and the winner of Man Booker Prize in 2008. As a journalist Adiga observed Indian society and existence in the society at close quarters. He has been praised worldwide for his depiction of Indian novels. The White Tiger (2008), Between the Assassinations (2008), Last Man in Tower (2011), and Selection Day (2016). The writings of Adiga are heart touching to his readers. The study of his novels reflect the life of middle class in India with contrast to the Indian economy that is increasing day by day. Millions of Indians live in deteriorating condition and they are living below poverty line. His works reflect that middle class Indians work with the system and take poverty and inequality without being sentimental. Adiga also talks of servants enveloped in darkness and injustice, social evils, customs and illiteracy.

Keywords: Family, identity, morality, globalization, socialism, corruption

Introduction

It's rising trend among the writers who belong to the post-colonial era to highlight the social and cultural effects for their existence. Adiga presents the themes of discrimination, injustice, corruption, system in India, poverty and exploitation. Quest for freedom in The White Tiger and concept of old memories in the Last Man in Tower, politics and cricket- beautiful blend in Between the Assassinations and Selection Day. Adiga presents the protagonist, Balram Halwai as a servant from Bihar and his quest for freedom.

The struggle for the real estate in the metropolitan cities, especially in the Mumbai. It describes the struggle of Vishram Housing Society and Shangai Tower and presents Roman Catholics, Hindus, Muslim-Bohra all are in a co-operative society. Globalization, urbanization, liberalization and open economy in 1991 in India.

The role of aristocratic and authoritative persons and the triumph of the predators in the metropolitan cities. The condition of slums, perpetual problems of visionless politicians and destroying the sense of community in India. How Yogesh Murthy (Masterji) clings to the memories of his deceased wife and daughter the pervade the building, Vishram Housing Society. Adiga represents a wonderful key to find the specificity of post-colonial Indian society and culture, and how all the persons are working hard for their existence. His novels present the myriad shades of life.

Socio-cultural dimensions are seen in all the characters and events of his works. Adiga's novels present different types of aspects of native and homeland. The setting of the Adiga's works illustrate the concept of Indian society, culture, religion, circumstances for existence and how all these are adopted by the main protagonists of the novels. The setting of the novels present the male dominated society for the livelihood, gender roles in the region of society in India. It's amazing that all the novels of Arvind Adiga are correlated with the Indian culture and subjectivities. This work is an attempt to trace the sociological dimensions of existence in the novels of Arvind Adiga. Adiga's novels are centered on the concepts of Identity, Morality, Socialism, Corruption in India and Globalization and dark realities of Indian society.

Adiga exposes the corruption in India prevalent in all the government bodies, educational institutions, industries, medical departments, police, civil-services and in the election. Bribery and corruption have become the major problem in all the institutions in India. Adiga defines the character Balram Halwai who tries to escape from dark realities of life to catch

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the radiance of the future. Balram recognizes the identity and possibilities to go ahead in this changed social system of India. Social mobility is one of the biggest issues in this discrimination and caste system in India, and it exposes two concepts: the rich and the poor, aristocrats and middle class persons in India.

The protagonist of *The White Tiger* Balram Halwai compromises with his moral and individuality, and becomes a murderer and betrayer. It shows the dark realities of the society and culture. Economy defines an increasing India but the condition of the society defines it a decreasing India. *The White Tiger* presents the journey to the end of the will and Balram was inspired from his hero "Vijay". The word Vijay defines itself in the form of victory and Balram achieved a great victory in forming his identity. Morality can be seen in the form of either protest or flexibility. Dramatic irony can be seen here. Adiga raises a question through his protagonists. The question that he poses is: is he a criminal for his decisions or is it a reaction to the oppressive system. Adiga suggests that the morality is an unfold concept.

Balram presents his character in two dualities: the "Darkness" and "Light" of the life. The problem of darkness in the society raise a question about the circumstances of the middle class that how they get stuck in a loop to survive themselves in the oppressive society. In order to live in the atmosphere of freedom with the identity of a successful entrepreneur in Bangalore, a city representing different India, Balram must take risk of his family. The protagonist succeeds to form his identity as a self-respect, establishes the unique characteristics, affiliations and social responsibilities. Adiga presents a journey from the darkness to the light with the socio-cultural impacts.

A study of Arvind Adiga's novel *Last Man in Tower* presents the concept of old memories. The novel revolves around the theme of greed infused with bad desires, which shows a view of Mumbai real estate. The protagonist is portrayed as a retired school teacher named Yogesh Murthy (Masterji). The novel presents the concept of powerful and powerless persons in the metropolitan cities especially in the Mumbai and in the period of globalization. The word globalization describes the increasing interdependence of the countries economics, policies, population, trade, investigations and new discoveries, inventions and information.

The post-colonial novelists emphasized on the social, cultural and political issues with personal problems, globalization, modern world and industrialization. It exposes the concept of greed in urban area with the traces of western culture in the contemporary society. Pre independence novels were related to the theme of Gandhiji, constitution, home rule, non-violence and revolutions etc. The novels of Arvind Adiga comprise the characteristics of the writers of the post-colonial Indian Literature. Adiga presents the themes of discrimination, injustice, corruption, system in India, poverty and exploitation, recollection of childhood etc. Many similarities and dissimilarities are found in the works of Arvind Adiga with the other post-colonial Indian writers. Adiga's fiction *Between the Assassinations* presents the period of the former prime minister of the India Indira Gandhi in 1984 and her son Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. *Between the Assassinations* is the collection of short stories. It reveals the beauty of the rural coastal south where it is set. Its subject is the injustice and ironies of Indian life. It presents

the beauty of fictional town Kittur in Southern India. There are fourteen short stories which are related to the Haunt train station, illegally photo copied books, mixed caste, shirt factory owner, assistant headmaster, bus conductor, newspaper, beggars and cycle-cart pullars etc.

Adiga presents the Bankers as upper-caste and Rikshaw pullars as lower-caste, varieties of occupations in India, installment plan of troubles and horrors, strike and blow against the world and culture of Southern India. Arvind Adiga presents all types of globalization in his novels as: Social globalization, Economic globalization, political, Cultural, Ecological, Financial and Technological globalization through *The White Tiger*, *Between the Assassinations* and *Last Man in Tower*. Commercial capital of India is described in the *Last Man in Tower*.

The fiction of Arvind Adiga is correlated with the other fiction on globalization as- *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* by John Maynard Keynes, globalization and its discontents by Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Why Globalization Works* by Martin Wolf and *The Great Convergence* by Richard Baldwin etc. The theories of Globalization are defined as- Theory of Liberalism, Political Realism, Eclecticism, Theory of Feminism, Theory of Transformationalism, Theory of Postmodernism, Theory of Constructivism and Marxism etc.

Between the Assassinations presents the six years of socialist India, *Between the Assassinations* of two former prime ministers of India: Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. This period shows the mismanagement at economy, a very low growth in India and painfully decreasing condition of Indian society and culture.

Between the Assassinations involves fourteen short stories with the theme of terrorism, corruption, poverty and attitudes towards law and order, caste – system, Ambitions, crime, journalism, family and addiction, economic instability, consciousness, and politics with the impact on society and culture.

Conclusion

India is a developing country and its economy is increasing day by day. The society undergoes many changes regularly. Through the novels of Arvind Adiga we find a concept of emerging India in the society and culture. Post-colonial India can be seen in the form of darkness to the light, and *The White Tiger* also presents the journey of Balram Halwai from darkness to the light of the life. Will power is more important than the physical power is seen in the *Last Man in Tower*. The Characters of Adiga's fiction succeed to form their own identities for the existence in this society. Darkness is never forever and success is never ending and failure is never final.

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