



SELF-REFLEXIVITY IN *THE FOREIGNER* AND *THE STRANGE CASE OF BILLY BISWAS*

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ABSTRACT

*Self-reflexivity is the way of looking on or indicating the relationship of oneself. The works of Arun Joshi is the reflection of his life and culture in India where no one forget the inheritance of his mother nation. All novels of Joshi are replete with the love and the attachments of once own country and its cultures. The characterisation of his works is purely indulged in the Indian ethos. Joshi has portrayed the real life of his own country in his works which we can see in the attitudes of characters and their actions in the different sphere of lives. Arun Joshi lived abroad but mentally he is here in the mother land and at the same time he has developed in his work and infused the same language in the characterisations of his novels. An Indian never forgets his/her mother land and he/she never loses attachment of culture and language. We can assess the situation in which the central character of *The Foreigner* namely Sindi Oberi and the Billy Biswas in *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas*. The self-reflection in the characters of Arun Joshi's novels give enough proof of social and cultural society of India. There are various things by which we can identify through their conditional recognition. Joshi has put everything that the life is possible only in peaceful and contented way, which we don't find in the congested society but in the prosperous and suitable society like India. Joshi has shown that India has rich cultural and social values in its ancient era that's why he has portrait the interest of primitiveness in the character of Billy Biswas. Joshi has also presented another view of prosperous and satisfied in his own society which is enough proof given in the characterisations of novels like *The Foreigner* and *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas*. The purpose of this research paper is to prove that Arun Joshi has depicted the civil society of his own country. This paper will give a new insight to the readers about the untouched parts of these novels.*

Keywords. Reflection, inheritance, portrayed, action, cultural, social, characterisation, country and untouched.

INTRODUCTION

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Arun Joshi has been concerned more with the dilemma of the human loneliness which has been various manifestations in the forms of powerlessness, meaninglessness, formlessness, cultural extravagance, social isolation and self-estrangement. The modern world is characterised by mechanisation, organisation, and growing vitality due to changing values of depersonalization, self-misgiving, delusion root less ness discontent and other maladjustment. All these have made alienation a part of our life first alienation from the society and second alienation from the self. In the fictional world of Arun Joshi the question of self and its existence are two points to be proved.

The Foreigner

Arun Joshi's novel *the foreigner* 1968 it explores in depth the problems of Sindi Oberi. It has been marked "A strange feeling of aloneness or aloofness... permeates the entire narrative and provide the necessary texture and structure to the novel" *The Foreigner* can be viewed as an attempt to plumb man's perennial dilemma. It is about things that Sindi wants the courage to be and the capacity to love. His alienation is of the soul as he confines his foreigner's lives within him and drive him from crisis to crisis rendering it difficult for him to leave himself behind wherever he goes. Right from the beginning he oppressed by a desire to find the meaning of life. He himself wants to do something meaningful in his eagerness to find out the meaning of life. Sindi lives in a strange world of intense pleasure and almost equally intense pain but he fail to make a satisfactory progress and he himself tell us his twenty five year are largely wasted in search of wrong things at wrong places. His soul become a battle field where the child and the adult worried unceasingly. Sindi's sufferings are manifestations of a spiritual crisis which all sensitive people have to face today. He tries to seek finally in detachment a solution to his problems. The life is always good when there is the spiritual peace, it faces mental traumas in unsuitable and uncongenial atmosphere and it arises spiritual crises in the individuality.

The Strange Case of Billy Biswas

Joshi's another novel *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas* 1971 also aimed at delineating the human predicament, Billy like Sindi is in search of a human world of emotional fullness, a world of meaningful relatedness. Billy is aware of the deep layers of his personality and feels totally alienated from the superficial reality of life. It is significant to note that Van Gogh's turbulent career held considerable fascinations for Billy at one time. Billy's expression itself is symptomatic of a mixture of nearly all those emotions that one tends to associates with a great predicament. Renouncing his past, his family and the everyday world the rich, sophisticate and USA educated billy goes in search of the meaning of life. Billy does not find meaning of life in America he never feels at home in America in the sophisticate life style. Billy is always in search of self-satisfaction which he can find only in the society like where once soul is inspired by it's around environmental conditions. Billy never fits himself in the



high elevated society, he feels insecure and isolated in American society which sophisticate and dual for mental peace and prosperity for the character like Billy.

Arun Joshi like Anita Desai has recorded modern man's traumas and agonies in his novels. His emphases is on the individual psyche of the protagonists throughout his novels. He catch the bewilderment of the individual psyche confronted with the overbearing socio cultural environment and the ever beckoning modern promise of self-gratification self-fulfilment in the face of this dual. English literature in India is a product of the colonial rule over us, English literature which cannot ignore the nature modals. Most of the indo English authors have been globally trotter or educated in the west. They have not been able to shake themselves off either from their oriental roots or from the occidental influence. Their fictional creations as well as forms out of their personality and summarising out of their predicament in what the east and the west do not seem to meet. It with reference to their duality that K.R.Srinivas has called them the indo English writer a confused wanderer between the two worlds. Arun Joshi has been concerned to prove with the dilemma of the human loneliness which has various manifestations in the form of meaninglessness, formlessness, cultural estrangement and social isolation. This age of alienation is also one of anxiety, it is a paradoxical that despite scientific and industrial achievements the contemporary man is doomed to find himself in a tragic predicament. Joshi's soul demonstrate that he has preoccupied with the problems of twenty first century man's dilemma and its repercussion. The impact of the western, the Indian culture has penetrated deep into the Indian. Joshi has fascination for reality with the theme of crises of identity affectively the lives and the fictional characterisations are involved in the plots of the different world of fictions.in India different critics and scholars have commented upon Joshi's modals in different articles, periodicals and in books.

Conclusion

In the conclusion we can say that in the rat race of life man is a strange not only from the outside world but also from his own self this seems to be the root cause of crises of identity and self-hood which is one of the factor of crises of the present world man has been plunged into uncertainty, perplexity, and unsettlement. There is confusion, root concern, frustration and disillusionment prevailing in human psyche. This is also true to the case of Indian ethos which is perplexed by a growing sense of human root maintaining itself as a crises of self-identity. The typically of modernity and that of the hoers of Arun Joshi's novels, with a specific viewpoint to identity the nature of the characters present in them. Joshi has fascination for dealing with the theme of identity crises affecting the lives of the fictional characters who are involved in the plots of the different works of fictions. The present study analysed the quests of heroes for something more valuable in their own environmental situation. Joshi has proved in all his works that the affiliation of once own nativity is natural and inborn in human being, that is his presentation of characters in the novels like *The*



Foreigner and *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas* has proved the inclination and ground situation of human being. Joshi recognises a reality beyond a more phenomenal world and a reality which the artists could imagine and capture by glory, a consistent form to the selfless facts of human existence.

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