



'SOCIAL REALISM' ECHOED IN HENRY GREEN'S NOVEL 'LIVING'

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ABSTRACT

Realism in European countries is a multifaceted having touch of different socio-economic characteristics. The purpose behind experimenting realism in literature is focusing on reality and morality which is usually realistic and intrinsic for society and people as well. Realism, on the other hand, is being practiced on the matters of real life, which represents things, actions and social circumstances in point of fact without any artistic touches or feelings. Realism could be considered or defined as a reaction against romanticism. Daniel Defoe and Henry Fielding were prominent authors who dealt with realism in literature. The realism in writing is a kind of reflection of daily happenings in an individual as well as social life. Realism could be read as a reflection of the real happenings in the space of life which brought into the light of the people of the society with stylistic.

Key Terms: Realism, Social Realism, Class System, Class Conflict, working-class life, Psychology.

INTRODUCTION

'Literature' is always defined as a mirror of the society that reflects all of the aspects of society either in the form of imagination, fantasy or realism through various genres of writing such as novel, prose, poetry, drama, short stories, web series, etc. An author, while creating his work, deals with innumerable thoughts that provoke good creations. Sometimes thoughts may appear in the forms of fictitious, imaginary, romantic or realistic nature. Most of the creations in old literature seemed to be imaginary, whereas the literature developed in the



modern and post-modern era seemed to have a platform of realism which made its readers examine, judge, evaluate his or her (reader) own life with that piece of writing. Especially, realism impacted for long-lasting on the mind of readers. As a result, most of the modern authors turned to a realistic approach and realism became a prominent feature of literary writing besides romanticism and other themes in modern literature.

'Realism' is nothing but the description of life or an attempt to describe life, reducing romanticism and idealized subjectivity. In the literary world, realism is considered as one of the literary movement in 19th century France. But on the other hand, it influenced the modernist authors a lot. The actual resource of realism is none other but Balzac and Flaubert. The real credit goes to George Eliot who introduced realism in the literature to England. The realism generally deals with the life of middle and lower classes. Characters found in the literature are either the victims of social stratification or customs and traditions which were followed in the concern societies. There are certain types of realism generally found in literature such as magical realism that deals with truthful aspects by adding magical elements in writing. 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1967) is the finest example of magical realism. The second type of realism is social realism which focuses on the living status of the working class and poor class people in society. Victor Hugo wrote the novel 'Les Miserable's' in 1862 about working-class life and political pictures of France. The third type of realism is kitchen-sink realism that talks of the lives of young working-class men who are party goers and always spend their time drinking in pubs. John Brain in 1957 wrote a novel showing the kitchen sink realism as major theme of the novel. Naturalism is another type of realism an extreme form of realism, developed and influenced by Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. The next type of realism is psychological realism focusing on the motivating aspects and components to make character certain decisions and why to take. 'Crime and Punishment' by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1866) is an example of it.

Most of the authors in the 19th century experimented with social and psychological realism in their writing. The popular name in the world of drama is Henrik Ibsen who always attempted to put down the social plays through which the audience or the reader found their reflection of their real life. His 'Peer Gynt', 'A Doll's House' and 'Hedda Gabler' are the social plays worldwide read by the readers. We have many more names in literature as an author of realism. Amongst them, few are Anton Chekov, G.B. Shaw, Henry James, Henry Green, etc. Generally, realism is nothing but the depiction of the socio-cultural and historical development of a particular society through various social practices. Modern and post-modern life is having different characteristics in which identity crises is one of them.

Henry Green a pseudonym of Henry Vincent Yorke, born in 1905. Henry Yorke, a son of wealthy industrialist became a well-known literary author who considered daily issues in life



and experimented by using writing skills and gave birth to nine novels and one memoir 'Pack My Bag, later came to know his autobiography. Despite, being a son of a wealthy industrialist, Green lived life of a common man as a working-class man and experienced the struggle and trouble in the lives of working-class people and society. He never supposed himself a unique and indifferent than the others in society. Apart from working-class life, he focused on other themes such as love, relationship, social class, romanticism, class-conflicts, psychological realism, social realism, class struggle, etc. Being a novelist, he was much predicting the changing class structure of the society during the world- war I and II.

The grown-up in Gloucestershire studied at Eaton College, he wrote his first novel 'Blindness'. Leaving education incomplete entered the family business of iron foundry and worked with ordinary workers as one of the workers. Down to earth, Green experienced the common life which made him write down the life of common in England. Living, Loving, Party Going, Nothing, Doting, Concluding, Back, Caught and Pack My Bag- an autobiography are such creations of Green. While working in the Birmingham factory, he collected the material to write his famous novel 'Living'. During the world war second, he worked as a fireman in the Auxiliary Fire Service. His other novel 'Caught' is the reflection of his wartime experiments, which are echoed in the novel.

Henry Green by many critics described a gracious, tall and handsome personality. His writing style seemed to be different than that of other writers. He was more concern with prose. His point of view of prose was as follows that he stated in his Paris Review Interview:

'Prose is not to be read aloud but to oneself alone at night, and it is not quick as poetry but rather a gathering web of insinuations which go further than names however shared can ever go. Prose should be a long intimacy between strangers with no direct appeal to what both may have known. It should slowly appeal to feelings unexpressed, it should, in the end, draw tears of the stone'.

Green was famously known as writer's writers' writer by literary critics. Jeremy Treglown commented that Green's novels are in a close connection with his personal as well as social life. His work is full of sympathy for servants. Green was admired by different authors and critics such as W.H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Eudora Welty, Anthony Burgess, Evelyn Waugh, and Rebecca West, etc. Green was criticized as the truly original author in literature. W.H. Auden wrote that Green was the best English novelist alive. After his death, his work was little read. Green's experiment on realism made him different through his writing. He made it a special feature of his novel writing. Wartime experiences and social structure after the post-war society made him capable to collect the material for his writing. Frank Kermode in his famous book 'The Geneses of Secrecy' wrote that Green's novel 'Party Going' is a



complex network of mythical allusion behind its realistic surface. Every author has his or her remarkable aspects of writing, likewise Green has delineated modernism. He tried to capture the attention of his readers by using social, societal, and psychological realism in his writing. In modernist literary work generally, we find different characteristics such as realism, symbolism, individualism, experimentation, absurdity, formalism, etc. The same is found in the writing of Henry Green. But realism remained a remarkable characteristic in his writing and picked up by his readers. Hence, Green must be called an experimentalist, modernist, socialist, realistic and psychoanalytic author of the modern period.

Review of Literature:

As a modernist proletariat author, Green created his separate identity amongst the readers and critics. His try to present the modernist social realism turned into a masterpiece named 'Living'. The only thing he did is he presented experiences as one of the workers in the Birmingham factory which was his father's factory. Different critics have given the remarks in different angles. His writing is consisting of multiple thematic aspects such as social realism, psychological realism, class-conflict, romantic relationships, etc.

'Living' is one of the best creations at the early age of his life, which explores the class distinction through the medium of love. In most of the novels, Green has shown class struggle through the medium of love and dysfunctional relationships of the characters. It is a contrast in the life of the workers and owners that he has majorly focused on.

'Living' (1929) is a story about people in a Birmingham iron foundry, most of them poor manual workers without much life beyond the factory.

(The Guardian, Caught in the Web; Sebastian Faulks, 23 Sep.2005)

'Living is the best proletariat novel by Green, portrays British domestic life in terms of class struggle. (www.enotes.com)

Most of the critics of Green reviewed that the class conflict in Green's novels is rarely presented in terms of actual battles, strikes, or violence rather he tried to show it through psychological dimensions. Apart from a novel, it is more kind of conversation between workers and the bosses of the factory.

By considering the style of Green's writing, he was praised and his work was reviewed by so many readers and critics. In the book *The Novelist of Human Unknowabilty*, Leo Robson wrote:



Henry Green's Greatness as a writer came from his conviction that we can never really know what anyone is thinking or feeling.

'Living' is also can be criticized on the aspect of the use of metaphorical language throughout the plot development which brought a literary sense and importance to the novel.

Andrew Gibson in his article entitled *Henry Green As Experimental Novelist* wrote that the originality of Henry Green's experimental fiction has seldom been given its due. He has been deemed a modernist with little understanding of what his 'modernism' actually involves, or what makes it peculiar to him.

It is not the Green's work made him famous, rather the reviews of the different literary authors and critics made him famous as one of the literary enigmas of 20th-century modern British literature.

Theory:

'Living' is the best proletarian novel ever written by Green in the year 1929. The novel represents the life of the factory workers at Birdesley, Birmingham. The works manager at the factory keeps himself as a parent of all the workers in the factory. It could be an oppressive or hegemonic approach of the works manager towards the workers. He addressed his workers in the following manner at the beginning of the novel.

'I' m always at them but they know me. They know I'm a father and mother to them. If they're in trouble they've but to come to me. (p-207)

Working-class life, which is depicted by Green doesn't have any gender discrepancies or no gender biases at all do find in the novel. Along with men, some girls also contribute labor for production in the Dupret factory. The social realism always has the aspects of the social, political, economic and working or proletariat class and bourgeois class and others to be considered. The person who always keeps himself in greater importance keeps dominating others sardonically. They feel the pleasure in doing such things with the working-class people.

'Yer knows I couldn't take that nose off, I was kinder paralyzed. And it was just the same when I see old Tupe fall at me feet this morning, I was that glad I couldn't move one way or t'other to pick'm up' (p-207)



The above lines of works manager depict the true picture of the capitalist and the proletariat in its circumference. The workers at the Birmingham factory are always humiliated in a bad manner. They don't receive affectionate conduct by the superiors. Old age humiliation hurts the morale of the workers. The sick mentality of the capitalist class is reflected in the novel. A son of Mr. Dupret says:

'But I'd like to see that Tupe dead and I don't mind who knows it. (p-208)

It tells that old age workers do not contribute good labor for better productions. Generally in social realism, we find that the working class is always controlled by the capitalists or in other terms slaves are controlled by the masters. They keep the rights reserved to themselves what lower classes have to do such type of approach is also depicted by Green skillfully in the novel. The works manager and the son of Mr. Dupret go on a visit to the factory workshop.

Sparrows flew by belts that ran from lathes on floor up to shafting above by skylights. The men had thrown crumbs for them on floor. Works manager said they were in the way, it made him mad, he said, to see them about, the men watch Mr. Dupret while god knows what may be up with the job on the lathe. I say to them –don't throw crumbs to sparrow on the floor, one of these days you'll get hurt from watching your job. (p-208)

The interpersonal conflicting deal reflected in the said paragraph. It's a kind of threat to the workers to get off from the job. Doing a good job in front of the capitalist is a kind of crime by the workers. Two different approaches to life are reflected here. Workers are always humiliated, insulted, threatened by the dominating power which leads the workers to be conscious of their class in society. Their social position makes them aware to give labor against survival.

Mr. Gates goes on his duty by laughing, cracking jokes against the storekeeper. This is typical example of social reality that Green has created skillfully. An artistic phenomenon is also taken into account in social realism.

It's all beautiful work we do Mr. Dupret, beautiful work. And we turn it out' he said. (p- 211)

The workers in the factory gossip on some social issues or the issues related to the working culture of the factory. Old age becomes an issue for the old age workers. They fear to lose work at the factory. The works manager, sitting with his wife, discusses his service for the



Dupret factory for forty years and as a manager for fifteen years. But nothing was gained as the right to order or direct the workers. He feels nothing achieved. Traditionally the rights go to the next generation of the factory owners. Workers are only to produce the material and to give profit to the owner. The works manager reveals his thought over his job before his wife.

It wasn't that he did not mean well young Mr. Dupret, 'but they live different to you and me' he said. 'I've worked over forty years. 'I've been fifteen years manager for Mr. Dupret. Then 'e sends his son down presumably. I say to myself "where am I?" (p- 213)

After all, it was an impact of the general strike over the structure of the society which was jerked due to different social activities in between the First and Second World War. Class consciousness was developed in society. In an actual way, direct or indirect competition does take place between the ruling class and ruled (working) class acquire the power. But the capitalists, with economic power, do not allow the working class to move further. The ruling class always looks for profit by continuous labor by the proletariat. Capitalists don't think about the method of work that the workers put rather they think of an output they need.

Work with the men, do what they have to do or you'll never be a salesman, I look at it that way. All he wanted was to let our men know the profit. (p- 213)

The above sentence, which is uttered by the works manager, exhibits an approach of his owner Mr. Dupret. If we look at this approach, it feels kind of social satire like 'In Keep the Aspidistra Flying, by George Orwell, which is the ugly insanity of the money world. The same point of view is found in the writing of 'Living'.

Mr. Herbert Tomson, talks to Bert Jones about leaving own country and to get settled in Ostrylia. They feel that their own country is giving nothing, then exploitation at the workplace. Mr. Bert Jones and Mr. Herbert Tomson discuss on the employability in other countries. But everywhere in European countries, the picture of the general strike was the same. Their worry about the work makes them conscious of their status. Every person from the working-class background was jerked. Their discussion manifests the societal reality that Green has borrowed as his theme of writing.

The social structure is pervaded in different aspects, such as class, caste, language, community, traditions, customs, laws, self-defined laws, etc. By considering which an individual lives life, sometimes on the self -orders. In the case of working-class life that may ensue in the factories and at the other workplaces. Such a view of freedom of thoughts could be evaluated as true social realism. Here in the novel Lily Gates and Jim Dale, young workers



in the Iron Foundry go to the cinema to theatre. They experience physical as well as mental freedom. It's a kind of characteristic of working-class people that after working hours some of them especially young use to spend time in pubs, bars, and in the cinema, picnic, etc.

When the siren of the office sounds, all of the workers go to the factory on time without getting late. If they become late for work, their wages would have been deducted in total. That fear or the consciousness of the work encourages them to get on work in time. This intrapersonal cognition or the internal psychological chaos was engendering them to work for wages. The working-class people or young workers especially used to spare time for individual enjoyment, amusement, etc., by visiting theatres, pubs public houses, etc. The same picture do we find in the 'Living'.

Every Monday night Mr. Craigan and he went together public house but this was Friday so he went further up Coventry road to house he did not often visit. (p- 218)

Besides the talkative presentation of the social, societal and psychological realism is experimented by Green along with the Kitchen Sink realism. Astonishing writing skills are shown here by Green. The young generation is disillusioned with modern society and the new approach to living life. Whatever they earn, most of the time they spend in drinking in the pubs and spend the earnings on lavish like lifestyle. The modernist approach makes them change themselves.

Then Tupe shouted across saying was no use in saying nothing and what would he have and Mr. gates said another half of mild and he was obliged he said. Soon they were sitting 'next each other and Gates laughed and drank and got a little drunk. (p- 220)

Mr. Milligan, a storekeeper Dupret factory used to come on duty despite being sick, due to the fear of losing the job as well as the wages that he gets. His futile fear makes him work unconditioned in the iron foundry. The condition of Milligan is self-sustained exploitation due to unnecessary fear of losing wages besides giving labor. On the other hand, the situation and the perspective of working-class seem different. Being a working-class people, they always try to snatch the power of the ruling class by contributing the labor in the process of production. They try to create their place in the factory work life. They try to be out of the exploitation by the higher class people.

In the Dupret factory, the workers were ill-treated by snatching their privacy. The workers were coerced to work only. It is in every factory that all types of works are susceptible to



labor exploitation. If they don't follow the rules, they have to face vulnerability. In Dupret factory man had now been put on guard over the lavatory door. He had to clock men in and out.

'Seen' we're animals 'e's got to treat us like animals 'Mr. Bently cried very much excited. 'Put a man on at the lavatory door, it ain't decent, seven minutes every day ain't long enough for a man to do what nature demands of 'is time, stop' im a quarter' our of 'is pay if 'e' minute over why 'e ain't allowed to do it by law, I'm a quarter' our of 'is pay if 'e's a minute over why 'e ain't allowed to do it by law, I'm raisin' the question in the Club tonight, and it was out o' work for three years I wouldn't take on a job of that description.(p-225)

The workers in the Dupret factory are treated badly. The owner of the factory only looks for the profit, not the labor contributed by the workers. Especially their continuous work is nothing but the rules which are governed by the administration. The consistency is the rotten hand situation occurred due to the autonomous laws of the factory.

Mr. Craigan's face was striped with black dust which had stuck to his face and which the sweat, in running down his face, had made in stripes. (p- 229)

Apart from factory life, young workers use to spend some time for enjoyment, entertainment, etc. Despite consciousness of the responsibilities, they try to live a social life, breaking the boundaries of the economic crises that they face at every stage. Green has given the reference of industrialization, which affected the human as well as natural lives. On the other hand, the common people from the bourgeois and proletariat have to contribute labor power to produce the desired profit. But for the good production, the requirement is consistent labor of the workers to set the target. Their conflict to survive produces an object which is looked like a value-added object or production for capitalists.

Mr. Craigan, Dale, and Mr. Jones are the workers of Dupret who are depicted as candid in behavior and very honest in their work. Green's approach to show social realism must be to discuss the internal and interpersonal conflict in life. Their class doesn't allow them to take a break at work. Their work is to fulfill the dreams of the owner, not their dreams. The lower classes are always the victims of the needs of the capitalist society. The features of capitalist life are different from those of the lower class or working-class life. Being a lean or weaker section they can fulfill the basic requirements also. Their stern exploitation is reflected through Green's thoughts. The following paragraph shows it clearly.



'Another thing I can't understand about the lower classes' he said' is this business by which they pay 1d per week for all their lives and get a whopping £60 funeral at their end. 'Well, they tell me because they don't like their families to pay for it. You see as its hard on them after they're dead! (p- 240)

By looking at the above situation, 'Living' has a pessimistic tone in its plot construction. It is a narrative voice of Green's generation during the general strike. But the pessimistic approach came to an end by the Wall Street crash of 1929. The worker's approach towards the machine was a tender like a human, as the source of productivity to establish the commodities and wages.

It is observed that before any kind of external conflict, intrapersonal conflict outburst and them it results into various interpersonal, intergroup, and other social and political class disputes and squabbles in the society, either to see something positive or negative as a result of it. Such intrapersonal conflict arises in the mind of Mr. Dupret.

'Intrigue he cried in his mind, still sitting in private room in London office, intrigue and how horrible people are. Of course, Archer was working against old Bridges for Bridges ignores Mr. Archer and only death with him through old Walters. Both these were old, old. How terrible they all were and everyone too for that matter, loathsome the people in buses, worse in trams of course. (p- 246-47)

Mr. Dupret's negative approach towards the people is a pessimistic tone of the novel. It is an indirect conflict between worker and owner. Mr. Bridges, Mr. Tarvar and Mr. Walters talk of their job as an engineer in the Dupret factory. Their tone of discussion seems unsatisfied. Mr. Bridges admits that he has given too many things in the development of the firm proposes:

And I've given all I know to this firm. You know it, we all know it, I've worked my heart out. (p- 253)

The above utterance of Mr. Bridges creates feelings of disappointment. It's an expression against the dissatisfaction on account of wages given by the owner. Economic exploitation of a worker or person affects productivity. Green's generation used fragmentation, montage, discontinuity as a part of artistic accuracy. Which were characterized as voices and got the recognition? Green not only depicted the conflict between two classes but he also focused on intrapersonal class conflict, that appears in the mind of Jim Dale, who doesn't like a song is sung by Arthur Jones, a Welsh worker who sings in the Welsh language as entertainment at the workplace. Lily gates an important character of Green who struggled a lot at a young age



to get settle down and earn good money. It is Green's intentional experiment to show the modernist class conflict.

Stream of men was coming through gate. They put in their cheeks. Tupe was very angered him to drink water. No one would lend him money. (p- 273)

Mr. Tupe's struggle for getting money is an exploitation of the new workers despite giving extravagant labor. Lenin, another socialist like Marx proposes bourgeois from a capital point of view. He wrote that work is to cope up with inflation. Marx's labor theory led him to say that

“Although gold and silver are not by nature money, money is by nature gold and silver.”

(MISES DAILY ARTICLES; Lenin and Marx: Sound Money Advocates?, 7 Sept.2015)

This Marxist theory of commodity is reflected in the above extract of Novel. Green has also used metaphorical language to describe the actual working-class life of Mr. Bert Jones and Lily Gates who attempts to elope with each other. This elopement shows Bert Jones as an unsatisfactory worker. He is not able to make life successful. In actual the character of Bert Jones represents the working-class life metaphorically. It is a disappointment in the life of working-class people.

Workers of the Dupret factory always put their best to gain wages. Their class-consciousness makes them work. The cognitive approach of Marxian theory is reflected as a reality in 'Living.'

Here factories were and more there in clumps, she saw in her feeling, she saw men working there, all the men, and girls and the two were divided; men from women. Rocketing noise burst on her. They worked there with speed. (p- 277)

In Green's factory workers are devoted to the materialistic world, so to some extent that they can't live the life they wish. The nature of the conflict in the proletarian's life is different than that of the conflict in bourgeois classes. The working class always strives to gain the survivals whereas the bourgeois capitalists always squabble to gain the power of authority in all the domains such as social, economic, and political domain as well. They believe in only the power and to be a ruling class in society, considering that the domineering approach gives more through the labor given by the working class. Green's approach of gaining the power of authority is delineated by himself in 'Living.'



Hannah Glossop Green's other most important characters who experienced a General strike by contributing in the same. She had experienced the social changes and upheavals of working-class society. The theme of the novel is not confining as itself with social realism rather some of the aspects of kitchen sink realism also obtained by Green in the novel. Mr. Tupe Mr. Gates is the characters who represent the kitchen sink realism, who are disillusioned with modern society, always use to spend time in pubs in drinking.

Getting more drunk Gates forgot seriousness and said what good thing that Dale went to pub, which he did not do before, it would anger Mr. Craigan. (p- 285)

As far as the kitchen sink realism is concerned, Green has shown his characters, the Dupret factory workers as angry young men of modernist society. When Hannah Glossop and Mr. Dupret have dinner together at the party, Hannah comes across on boy, who seemed her as a victim of starvation. The scene at dinner takes her in a nostalgic state of mind. The boy who seems Hannah a victim of starvation is a representation of the lower class society. The tone of the discussion between Hannah and Mr. Dupret has a pessimistic tone. She expresses her grief over the death of the driver.

Poor man, he was dead at once and its so awful to think that it can happen to anyone. Of course its different for old people because they're old, but young people like us, we might go and die any time. (p- 286)

Cognitive conflict takes place in mind about the class, and exploitation of working as well as lower classes. The typical example of social realism is the old generation depicted in the novel, such as Mr. Craigans, a works manager, fears of job and exploitation by the capitalists

'And so will I,' Mr. Bridges said, abating, 'but you see what's coming to us, 'e's gone out of 'is way to make me a fool before my own men, you'll see,'(rising again) 'he'll bide ' is time till can get us off without a pension, forcing us out of a living. And that's what comes to a man that' as worked all' is life for another. (p- 290)

Being responsible, Mr. Dick Dupret, owner of the factory, after coming from London party house, he talks of the work to Mr. Tarver:

'I don't want any intrigue Tarver,' Mr. Dupret said in a tired voice, 'we've all got to pull together or we'll be nowhere in no time.' You mustn't take what I



say wrong, sir, we all work for the good of the firm, we all pull together, though we're all sorts and different sizes.'(p- 298)

The above extract highlights the environment of the workers in the Dupret factory. Old age workers are ill-treated by the young workers as well as the factory owners. It is a representation of the conflict between the traditional approach and modern approach. Intergroup class conflict takes place between the younger and the older.

'Ah, 'e did, and I don't reckon they've any right to treat an old man the way they're doin.' (p- 305)

Mr. Craigan, an old age working in the factory, is shown as a threat to Green's generation by critics. His tone of presenting himself in the novel is unsatisfactory. He admits that he is passing through invisible conflicts in his life.

'Its hard enough to be a moulder and' ave the worry of the job forty-seven hours in the week but to be on the staff, or foreman even, with the man above you doggin' at you and them under you never satisfied, like the young chaps never am nowadays, it aint like living at all.'(p-306)

The proletarians are always caught in typical conflicting predicaments. They couldn't reach up to their wishes they could. The working-class men and women are representing the modernist optimism in between world war first and second. Aunt Eille feels guilty over not educating her son. Lily Gates and Bert Jones lower-class characters, passing through the conflicts in life-related to earning, working and getting settled in life. Bert Jones is a representation of social unrest during the General Strike. He is a representative of modernist Green's generation who dreams to be a reputed not only deputed. When he thoughts to leave for Canada to search job and get good wages. Lily Gates opposes to not to go there, as jobs are scarce. The situation will be like a frying pan on the fire. This attitude to change the self is shown here. His attempt to get a job and earn wages is fighting with pessimism to become an optimist modernist youth of Green's time. Both Lily and Jones discuss the job, working hours in the job of the tea plantation. The most worrying issue in-front of them is working hours and the wages against the labor. Especially the most common thought of the working class people has been delineated by Green skillfully.

Lily's utterance is a remarkable opinion of the generation during the period regarding factory life. It does mean that the generation was too conscious of the predicaments while working at the factory. It is nothing but the class consciousness which decides the good thing and bad things of working-class life. Engaging in different conflicts, they can't distinguish between



good and bad. Green's writing of working-class culture denotes the Marxist ideology, where all of the workers always tend to be different than others to get developed individually as well as the development of the firm. All of the working-class characters of Green in 'Living' try to develop a kind of passionate sense of social injustice like Margaret in the novel 'North and South' by Elizabeth Gaskell. Green, like Elizabeth Gaskell, inserted an individual feeling with social concern.

Conflict in the life of working-class people shown by Green is not only in terms of direct disputes, strikes or the squabbles over performances, but it is also shown in term of cognitive domain or in terms of the psychological state of conflict which Lily Gates and Bert Jones face in getting the job and earning the wages.

'But us workin' people we got to work for our living, yes we have,' she cried out mind, quoting Mr. Jones and go out to find the work.' (p- 328)

Green's generation shown by him is always in attempts to find euphoria in life despite having different conflicting upheavals in life. The life of the proletarian was stirred due to the devastating ruling of the local governance and factory administration. Workers become desperate even though they had given good physical as well as mental labor. The General Strike created un-employability in huge amount amongst the young generation. The social predicament compelled the quarrels in the families at the workplace and also in the domains of society. Bert Jones, a victim of un-employability during the General Strike, joins the iron foundry to evacuate himself from the miserable condition of life. Through the character of Mr. Dupret, Green talks of self as a worker. After the death of his father, he takes the responsibility of the factory that is what he wanted earlier. His lack of experiencing creates a fear of loss in his mind and works there as one of the workers in the factory.

The workers of the Dupret factory always earn wages but spend them in the public houses and the pubs on drinking. The money-making approach is only to tackle the daily problem of livelihoods. They are shown as the angry young men of the modernist period. Further Green has shown the hatred attitude of Miss Lily Gates, who represents the attitude of the young generation of the modernist class system. The fate of Lily Gates and Bert Jones doesn't allow them to gain wages. Green's use of native dialect as a language of his writing and the language of working-class people remained a specific feature in his writing. Of course, the working class is not determined as a sophisticated class in society. So the ways of expressions convey a lot more about their struggle in their life.

They were now in working-class streets. Doors stood open. Miss Gates heard voices talking dialect strange to her. (p- 359)



The struggle of Bert Jones is permanent at every stage of his life. He gets the jobs but doesn't give good performance on the lathe machine. Again the more possibilities of losing jobs occur in-front of him. On the other hand, Mr. Dupret keeps himself engage in sacking the old-age workers and to depute the younger in lesser wages. The self-condemned exploitation was also the part of the General Strike because it was the need of the young generation to find the survivals. Green's observation of working-class life remained his strength of writing in which Marxian perspective is highlighted to find the answer to the question of what do the wages mean? If we find the answer to this question and the answer will be wage is an amount which fulfills the basic needs of humans such as food, clothing, shelter, etc., and fulfill those working-class puts its labor against some amount of wages.

A man can't live on the old-age pension, 10/- a week won't feed you and keep a roof over you. If you don't sleep under a roof they put you in prison. (p- 370)

If we look at the concept of class conflict, the Marxian perspective of class conflict, we get various edges of tendencies and understandings. Internal clashes amongst the people of the same class can be considered for further understanding of class struggle. Mr. Craigan, an old age worker who laid on bed rest gained nothing in his fifty-seven years of service. He was the victim of internal clashes as well the victim of the monopoly of the capitalist class, who crushed under exploitation by the capitalist class. At the end of the novel, Green has shown Craigan an old who laid in bed rest. In an actual way, he represents the declining of old thoughts and traditions of living. It is the beginning of the voices of the young generation who tend to adapt modernist thoughts and approaches. Their method of dealing with conflict is also different than the traditional approaches. The young generation always takes stand against the monopoly of the capitalist classes. Green has given a nice message at the end of the novel:

'You're too young, that's too old for you' she said.

CONCLUSION:

Social realism in modern literature remained a crucial thematic part in the writing of most of the novelists and playwrights. In 20th-century literature authors like Henry Green attempted to focus on the social dichotomy in concern with the thoughts, customs, and ways of treatment to the working-class people and other social upheavals in the modernist society. The use of ironical and metaphorical language with allusions remained a special feature of the writing the novels and other literary works.



Green's depiction of the working-class life in 'Living' is an understanding of the modernist class conflict and the relationship between the workers and the factory owners. The social scenario of the working-class culture is highlighted by Green in the present novel which is the so-called autobiography cum fiction of proletariat life. The 'Living' has the aspects of social realism which are the real reflections of the thoughts of Green being as a worker in the foundry, not as an author. Apart from social realism, the other themes such as kitchen sink realism, psychological realism and societal realism are reflected in the novel. Green, being an industrialist, but not as an author, gave a true sense and understanding of reality by delineating the true characters with native dialect. His experience in the factory made him to write on social realism.

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