



CREATIVE WRITING; NATURE AND SCOPE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ARNOLD'S POETRY

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ABSTRACT

The word “Creative writing” stands for “writing that expresses ideas and thoughts in an imaginative way”. It is the “art of making things up” or putting a creative splash on history, as in creative nonfiction. In another words, creative writing is any form of writing which is written with creativity of mind; fiction writing, poetry writing, creative nonfiction writing and more. The purpose is to express something, whether it is optimism, pessimism, expectations or any sort of concept or view. rather than only giving information or inciting the reader to make an action beneficial to the writer, creative writing is written to entertain or educate someone, to spread awareness about something or someone, or to express one’s thoughts. As Matthew Arnold says – As a creative writing a poem is not meant to delight, it is meant to provide food to soul. He defines poetry “as a criticism of life under the condition fixed for such a criticism by the laws of poetic truth and poetic beauty”. For Arnold, poetry has a great role to play. In fact, he makes the moral purpose of poetry as the integral function. He says – “a poetry of revolt against moral ideas is a poetry of revolt against life, a poetry of indifference towards moral ideas in a poetry of indifference towards life”.

Keywords: Creative writing, Criticism of life, Mathew Arnold.

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is the first and foremost important form of creative writing. A poem or a song tends to be more elusive, or mysterious because it has limited space. because of its spatial limitations, however, it can make leaps in subject and time, and it doesn't have to rely on narrative structures.

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1P a g e



The foremost important of British poets and spirited critic of the great Victorian era – Matthew Arnold says that – Poetry is a criticism of life. Poetry in other words, it must concern with life and its ups and down.

Arnold's first book of poetry, the strayed Reviler and other poems, was published anonymously in 1849. This was followed by Empedocles on Etna (1852) and poems (1853), which published his Reputation as a poet. In 1857, Arnold was appointed as "Professor of poetry" at Oxford and served this position for two consecutive terms of five years. He was the first professor to deliver lectures in English instead of Latin.

Arnold's career as a literary critic began in the late sixties. The purpose of literary criticism, in his view, was "to know the best that is known and thought in the world and by in its turn making his known, to create a current of true and fresh ideas" and he has influenced a whole school of critics such as T.S Eliot, F.R Leavis, and Allen Tate. He was the founder of the sociological school of criticism and through. His touchstone method introduced scientific objectivity to critical evolution by providing compression and analysis as the two primary tools of criticism.

According to Arnold, as a criticism of life, poetry has a high destiny. He claims that poetry is superior to philosophy, science and religion. Philosophy relies on reason, which is false show of knowledge. Science is soullessness, artificial and is incomplete poetry., Religion attaches its emotion to supposed facts, and the supposed facts are falling is it, but poetry attaches its emotion to ideas and ideas are infallible. It provides a sound representation of logic and ideas without attempting to falsify the facts. Arnold is of the view that poetry can be our sustenance. The best poetry has a power of forming, sustaining and delighting us as nothing else can. With the passing of time mankind will discover that they have to turn to poetry in order to interpret life, and console and sustain themselves as science, religion and philosophy will eventually prove to be fragile and unstable.

Subject Matter:

Arnold defined poetry as a criticism of life. Poetry in other words, it must concern itself with life and its problems. The idea, the subject matter, the theme of poetry should be relevant to the lives of people. It should not be far – fetched in a way that has no direct connection to our lives. The phrase "criticism of life" is further elaborated by Arnold with the phrase "Noble and profound application of ideas to life under the condition fixed by the law of poetic truth and poetic beauty" Noble and profound application of ideas to life is what Arnold means by the criticism of life. The greatness of a poet lies in his powerful and beautiful application of ideas to life. The more powerful application of ideas, the greater will be the resulting poetry. However, the application must be under conditions fixed by the laws of poetic truth and poetic beauty.

Homer, Dante, and John Milton are the poets whose application of ideas is noble and profound in poetry while the Metaphor poetry of poet like John Donne is not.

Mathew Arnold's own poetry fulfils the condition of criticism of life" to a large extent. His poem Dover Beach appears as filling example of it. The poem presents two major themes. First, it expresses the poet's hopelessness and despair in the face of both his own spiritual crisis and that of his society. It then proposes true love as a relief to support this loss of faith. In the same way, in his other poems such as "to Marguerite" "Resignation," "A southern Night", and "the scholar gipsy" Arnold is passing judgement of the life of his age, the life of his country, the lives of individual men. they all represent criticism of life because they address issues that are essential to the human being.

According to Arnold, poetry is criticism of life under the conditions fixed by "The laws poetic truth and poeting beauty". By "Poetic truth" Arnold means representation of life in a true way, and by the "Poetic Beauty", he means the manner and style of poetry. The matter of the best poetry is characterized by truth, and seriousness to an eminent degree, and the manner is characterized by superiority of diction and of movement. So, the matter and style must have accent of high beauty, worth and power. But Arnold does not define what this mark of accent is. He says we would ourselves feel it, for it is the mark of accent of all high poetry. Arnold asserts that characterizes of truth and seriousness, which makes poetry superior, is inseparable from the superiority of diction and movement making its style and manner. if the matter of a poet has truth and high seriousness, the manner and diction also acquire the accent of superiority.

The laws of the poetic truth and poetic beauty insist on the condition of "high seriousness" in poetry. This is the quality that gives poetry its power. It comes from absolute seniority that poet fills for his subject. A poet's sincerity consist in his speaking form is very inmost soul, from his very depths. The quality of high seriousness found in poetry of Dante, Homer, Shakespeare and Milton.

It is the power of sincerity that gives their criticism of life the power that they have. For instance, Hamlets request to Horatio: - "If thou didst even hold me in my heart"

Absent three form felicity awhile, And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain to tell my story....."

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CONCLUSION:

Creative writing is a subjective creation of a picture of the world. According to Arnold – It is a criticism of life, an expression of the realization of the joys and sorrows, as well a way to let one’s imagination run wild. Creativity is multidimensional. It can be a trait, skill, ability, or an approach, or all of these.

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