

EVOLUTION OF SCIENCE FICTION IN INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

India has widely accepted the foreign influences and is incorporating it at its daily life and also it is nativising it to make it own. The upmost example to prove the phenomena is English language acceptance though it is a foreign language. English Literature in India has grown with leaps as well as still it bounds. Indian writers writing novels and books in English have written on variety of the issues which caters the infinite interest areas of readers.

The Indian English writings proved the mark globally at literary scenario in manner to the writers who captured interest & imagination of readers by poignant portrayals with various themes like East-West conflict, social realism, multi-culturalism, gender issues, human nature comic aspect, magic realism, ecological concerns, Diasporic writings & the like. Some of the dominant themes which captured imagination of readers & managed at creating the everlasting niche towards Indian English writers are :- Historical, Social realism, Political & Nationalist themes, Indian Diaspora & Immigration, Feminism, Individual Experiences, Women's Empowerment, Science fiction and the Modern themes. The new English writings exhibits confidence in tackling new themes and experiments with new techniques and approaches to handle these themes. The current Indian English writers are rapidly expanding the India's literary horizons through novels & short stories as well as have accomplished to produce the phenomenal quantity work along with magnificent theme diversity.

KEY WORDS: English, Science Fiction, Novel, Writing

INTRODUCTION

The “Indian English literature (IEL)”, also known as “Indian Writing in English (IWE)”, is the type of literature written by Indian writers in English language or the authors whose native / co-native language is among the numerous Indian languages. The early history of Indian writers in English language began with works done by Henry Louis Vivian Derozio & Michael Madhusudan Dutt, which was followed by Shri Rabindranath Tagore & Shri Aurobindo.

Later the contribution of Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan & Raja Rao provided the popularity to the Indian English fiction in 1930s. It is frequently referred to the Indo-Anglian literature. Although some Indo-Anglian works may be classified under the genre of postcolonial literature, the repertoire of Indian English literature encompasses a wide variety of themes and ideologies, from the late eighteenth-century to the present day, and thereby eludes easy categorization.

HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION

The literary genre of science fiction is diverse, as well as its exact definition is contested question among scholars & devotees. The consensus lacking is clearly reflected at such debates about genre's history, and that to particularly at determining its exact origins. There are two broad camps of thought, one that identifies the genre's roots in early fantastical works such as the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh (earliest Sumerian text versions c. 2150–2000 BCE). A second approach argues that science fiction only became possible sometime between the 17th and early 19th centuries, following the scientific revolution and major discoveries in astronomy, physics, and mathematics.

In India, Science Fiction is generally accepted as a study of the impact of Science and Technology on humanity. It is a literature of change brought out by the advent of new Science gadgets or technological developments. Often, Indian SF is associated with a number of mythical elements. They are mainly, space, time, travel to the far of lands, and the attempts made for the longevity of human beings. Chaturshar Paryantham in Sanskrit means that the Space concept of the Earth was extended primarily to the four seas which were supposed to have surrounded the Earth.

According to the ancient mythology there existed mainly three worlds namely, Athala, Suthala and Pathala. They are also described as Swarga (Paradise), Naraka (Hell), Bhoomi (Earth), Pathaala (Under World), Jalagola (water world), Mathsyia loka (the world of fishes), Akasha (the Sky), Yaksha, Kinnara, (world of Angels) Naga loka (world of snakes) and others. From the very beginning the Chandra Loka (The world of Moon) and the Nakshathra loka (The Starry world) were known to Indians. It is believed that sage Vishwamithra had created a world called Thrishanku (a Pandemonium).

The space concept is also conceived in the form of a shloka (hymn): Bharathavarsho, bharathakande, jambudweepe, dhandakaranya, godhavariya, dakshinapashwe, thereby locating oneself in the continent of Bharath (India) where the subcontinent is named as Jambudweepa. Dhandakaranya stands for the present day Vindyan Mountains. The river Godhavari thus bifurcates north and south India. In which dhakshinapashwe means the people who live in the south of Vindhayans. Similarly, the concepts of Time, Science, Travel and Lands beyond the seven oceans and seven mountains are also described at length in earlier works. The origin of Science Fiction in India dates back to the times of the great Hindu Epics. The description in the Ramayan refers to Pushpaka Vimana which could transport

people to any loka (world) in a fraction of a second.

However, it is acknowledged that the first Indian science fiction in Hindi was a serial written during 1884-88 by Ambika Dutt Vyas entitled "Aaschary Vrittant" ("The Strange Tale") which was published in Peeyush Pravah, a magazine published from Madhya Pradesh. Influenced perhaps by the adventure stories of Jules Verne, "Aaschary Vrittant" presented a very interesting, captivating saga of one Mr. Gopinath, the protagonist who took the breath taking adventurous journey underneath the Earth. Though influenced by western stuff the story is an original effort of science fiction writing in Hindi. However, as a literary form, Science Fiction emerged as a result of the impact of the industrial revolution. In this regard, as has been reported in many books and magazines, science fiction was born in India in 1897 with the publication of Bengali science fiction story "Agosh"/ Palatak Toofan" ("Absconded Tempest") in 1896, by Jagadish Chandra Bose.

It is a thrilling story of how a turbulent sea was calmed down by an ordinary drop of oil. The story might have created an impetus for propounding the 'chaos theory' later. Around the same date the publication of the Marathi science fiction stories, "Tareche Hasya" (The Laughter of a Cable) of SB Ranade, and "Srinivasa Rao" by Madhav Nath have been published. Question of deeper origins aside, science fiction developed and boomed in the 20th century, as the deep integration of science and inventions into daily life encouraged a greater interest in literature that explores the relationship between technology, society, and the individual. Scholar Robert Scholes calls the history of science fiction "the history of humanity's changing attitudes toward space and time ... the history of our growing understanding of the universe and the position of our species in that universe." In recent decades, the genre has diversified and become firmly established as a major influence on global culture and thought. The prominent SF writers in English are Anupam Bhattacharya, Arvind Risbud, Arya Madan Mohan, Ashok Banker, Bharathi Ramachandran, Bhushan Kapoor, Dilip M. Salwe, G.P. Phondke, Harshita Verma, Jayanth V. Narlikar, Kenneth Doyle, KRK Mohan, Laxman Londhe, Meyhna Sugata Mitra, Mukul Sharma, Niranjana Gagte, R.N. Sharma, Radha Ganguli, Rajashekhara Bhoosanoor Mutt, Ramesh Deshpande, Salil Chowdhary, Sanjay Havanor, Sathyajit Ray, Shalini Tuli, Sourabh Bhattacharya, Srinarahari, Subodh Jawadekar, Surekha Nagar, Surekha, Vandana Singh and others.

CURRENT SENERIO

Today there are many authors like Leila by Prayaag Akbar, Turbulence, The Simoqin prophecies, Resistance, The Manticore's Secret by Samit Basu, Star Daughter by Sweta Thakrar, Empire of Sand by Tasa Suri, Clone, Generation 14 by Priya Sarukkai Chabria, It Happened Tomorrow by Bal Phondke, The Culcutta Chromosome by Amitav Ghosh, Yanna by S. L. Bhyrappa, The Incredible Adventures of Professor Shonku, The Diary of Space Travellers and Other Stories by Satyajit Ray, The Devourers by Indra Das, The Wildings, The Hundred Names of Darkness by Nilanjana Roy, etc. creating and

presenting their science fiction literature in India as well as world.

CONCLUSION

Most of the Indian SF works will be categorized beneath the head "robotic memories" or "alien encounters". But in those memories homosepians overcome the Extra Terrestrials. The Gadenken test is done in the regions of Ecology, Biotechnology and Physics. Certain memories are approximately humanoid and supercomputers. However, the memories moralistically have a tendency to suggest the features of an ideal human being. As maximum readers do now no longer recognize the SF style in depth, the factors of language needs to be centered to the bottom level. The efforts of the media in highlighting the SF activities are to be appreciated. In this regard, it suggests a tremendous sign within side the reaction of youngsters to the style. Jnanavahini, an academic channel radio at the FM band has launched the speech of Dr. Srinarahari several times. He spoke in particular approximately the concept, history, forms, actions and brand new tendencies in international and Indian technological know-how fiction. The nation's main newspaper "The Hindu", covers the main activities of technological know-how fiction in India, and a few magazines have a tendency to encompass articles and memories of technological know-how fiction. Likewise "The Times of India", The "Deccan Herald", "Bangalore Mirror", "Tehelka", and others, have highlighted the SF activities so far. Young humans with revolutionary thoughts are presently operating on this region. We also are thankful for the seminar, workshop, convention organizers, publishers, advertisers, and different establishments which might be sponsoring packages of technological know-how fiction. As Bal Phondke has cautioned the manner wherein Indian SF can progress, "What is needed, is cross-fertilization of the Indian services with the fare global at huge has to offer. For that to occur, an introspective study the complete spectrum of Indian technological know-how fiction should be resorted to, in order that the strengths are diagnosed and the weaknesses identified."

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