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Exploring the Psychology in Mulk Raj Anand's Short Stories

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ABSTRACT: Mulk Raj Anand Indian English writer was one of the prominent writers of 20th century progressive writer's movement. Mulk Raj Anand through his stories or novels he focused on highlighting the real social responsibilities of a society. The present paper aims to focus on understanding the psychoanalytical aspects in his short stories and also analyzing the hidden perspectives of writing short stories. Anand has shown India in all its variety and richness through his short stories. This research work will explore and understand the psychological aspects in Anand's short story and also will attempt to focus on analyzing the characters how they are portrayed in his stories and understand the psychology of the character through understanding the background of the story and also the circumstances which influences the writer's imagination to create the story and also analyzing the themes of the story. Anand through his consciousness narrative technique in his short stories will help in understanding the hidden psychology and also tries to reflect the socio-cultural background of the society.

KEYWORDS: Prominent, Responsibility, Analyzing, Character, Socio-Cultural Background, Theme

I.INTRODUCTION

All Anand's short stories are motivated attempts to expose the agony and misery of the lower caste and classes of India. In his short stories he talks about the rich poor drift problems of those who are in economic depravity and psychological suffering. Anand has highlighted the concerns of all human beings living in the society his approach is not like that of Renaissance humanism who just talks about the human life but he is very realistic in his visionary about the betterment of human beings. Through his writings he focused on highlighting the issues of society and majorly the oppressed class of society. He maintained the equilibrium between the theme and great varieties of moods and tone because where the space is limited, short stories contain more varied experimentation. As a result, there is no overstatement and moralizing.

There are various influences which have contributed Anand's art of short story writing and have brought major influences in his articles. It had been inspired in influence by the Indian folktales and fairy stories since his childhood when he used to listen to his mother's accounting of those fairy tales or those Indian folktales, he was in friends by listening to those stories in more scratch Anand writing there is a synthesis of traditional Indian style of the short story and western psychological approach in his short story writing. Anand had accepted the Indian folktale and also try to understand the group psychology of the European short story and recombine this to styles into his new kind of fable which extends the old Indian story form into a new age understanding the psychological aspects of the contemporary period. Does it is not worthy that Anand's art of story writing is a complete synthesis of eastern style as well as the western and the old and the new approach. There is no doubt that is art of the short story is entirely his own with a vivid combination of traditional framework of the folktale having deep concentration on characters and also on the social situations of contemporary life.



Displaying various shades and colors of social surrounding these stories expressed the reformative zeal of the writer. He wrote short story collections like *The Lost Child* and other stories (1934), *The Barber's Trade Union* and other stories (1944), *The Tractor and the corn Goddess* and other stories (1947), *Reflections on the Golden Bed* and other stories (1944), *The Power of Darkness* and other stories (1959), *Lajvanti* and other stories (1966), *Between Tears and Laughter* (1973), and *Folktales of Punjab* (1974). His depiction of social problems with a touch of humour makes these stories more alluring. His characters in these stories have mainly found in a rural atmosphere. These characters are often the downtrodden who try to free themselves from the shackles of orthodox social values. Anand through his writing always tries his best to reflect the socio-cultural background of the society and reflects the true colour of the India before and after independence.

The stories are categorized under different assumptions like lyrical awareness and social awareness. Anand was greatly influenced by folk and fairy tales and his main aim of writing the short stories was to combine the framework of folktales with concentration on characters and situations of contemporary life, If we talk about Mulk Raj Anand short story *The Lost Child* we could see that the author has depicted two types of psyche the first part is about the happiest state of child where he is obsessed with all the beautiful things happening around him and the second part deals with the depressed psyche of a child when he was attached from its parents in the fair. The second story of the collection is *The Eternal Why* that deals with the curiosity of a child here Anand has talked about the questioning psychology of the child where a child wants to know everything what's happening around him and all the new things which he is seeing.

Similarly, Anand's one of the best stories *The Barbers Trade Union* deals with the emotions of a barber boy of the village who belongs to lower caste and his friend who was from upper caste. Chandu the protagonist of the story had an enthusiasm of being socially recognized and was also good in reciting poems. He used to assist his father after his school but his life changed after the sudden demise of his father when he had to work as a full -fledge barber discarding his studies. everything was fine until one day he dressed up as a rich upper caste man and from where the characters life changed bearing all the discriminations from the upper caste society, he somehow manages to raise voice against the inhumanism and cleverly transformed him to be union leader of barbers. Through this story Anand had raised voice for such workers who were under the belt and were suffering the exploitations.

In *Lullaby* the Mulk Raj Anand highlighted the son and the mother relationship where mother sing a lullaby to her dying 1 year old child as she feeds jute to the machine but fate has already destined to die and with it the human song too and remains the sound of the machine goes on. Anand has the depicted how harsh the reality of life is which is far unpredictable to accept. Writer had highlighted the Mother Child relationship and also the psychological perspective of a mother who was emotionally broken seeing his dying child.

In his short story *The Power of Darkness and other stories* collections, Anand may have explored the theme of mortality. In *Old Bapu*; Anand has depicted the plight on the life of landless laborers and their exploitation by the rich farmers. Old Bapu, who looks so old that no one wants to hire him, is not the only character on the road. In "Birth," a heavily pregnant woman walks behind her father-in-law as they both head to work – to break stones to build roads. Anand highlighted the theme of mortality, struggle, depression, Reliance, fear and hope in this story.

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In *A Cock and Bull Story* from the collection *The Reflections on the Golden Bed and Other Stories* takes advantages of his designation, Amru, the protagonist of the story, considers himself superior as he regards himself the descendant of the holy bull of which horns rests this world and He offers rituals to people and asks for money in return.

In *Silver Bangles* by Mulk Raj Anand highlighted the issues of jealousy, patriarchy, connection, insecurity and anger. Taken from his *Lajvanti and other stories* collection the story is narrated in the third person by unknown named narrator and from the beginning of the story the reader realizes that Anand may be exploring the theme of Women suffering and also the chauvinistic attitude of male. Lajvanti is a helpless woman who had to face harassment at the hands of her brother-in-law Jaswant. Her husband was not staying in the house as he was doing his BA in a college. In spite of her strong opposition, she cannot protect herself from the lustful eyes of Jasvant. Anand depicted the helplessness of a woman through a symbol of a caged bird in the title story Lajvanti.

In *A pair of Mustachios* Mulk Raj Anand, we have the theme of pride class, conformity, acceptance, tradition and freedom. Anand has highlighted how an individual is not allowed to style their mustache as this cannot fit due to the class system that is in privilege. Through his short stories Anand has highlighted that the real problem in all societies is the apparent significance that and individual may give themselves based solely on their perception of class.

In *the Gold Watch* by Mulk Raj Anand we could see the theme of control, innocence, anxiety, acceptance, disappointment, change and connection. Anand may be suggesting that many people due to their position in life have no choice but to follow the path that is dictated to them by their employer and also Anand has exploded colonialism and effect of it on the average Indian person.

In *Fear of Fear*, we have the theme of determination, fear, resentment, independent and cruelty. Here the story is narrated in the third person by an unnamed narrator where the character Dev is determined not to eat or to do as his parents asked him to do being stubborn, he was not likely to follow any of the command. This research work is all about understanding the short stories of Mulk Raj Anand and understanding their hidden psychology of the characters portrayed by him. Anand has beautifully portrayed the sense of realism and also the socialism and the human and moral values of the Indian society of that era.

II.CONCLUSION

On analyzing the above short stories of Mulk Raj Anand this people tried to focus on exploring the hidden psychology of the characters portrayed by Anand in his short stories. There is a sense of realism, social responsibility, exploitation against women and the suppressed society, social and cultural background of the post-colonial Indian society and also the economic stability of that era. Through his narrative techniques he explored theme of consciousness which hello readers to listen in on character thoughts which probably helps in exploring the psychology of the writer as well as the characters portrait in different stories. Anand in his short stories no doubt vividly expressed his consciousness from child psychology to adult psychology which was inspired from the real-life stories of the people of India during the independence. Different characters evolve different psychology like the psychology of a child psychology of exploited women, psychology of exploited barber and also the agony of a helpless mother. Anand has truly explored the psychology of humanism through his short stories.

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