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Realism And Symbolism In Munshi Premchand's Godan

vishnu shelke

Abstract:

In his novels ,munshi prem chand is concerned with the relationship on individual levels and collective form. Generally his novels show a couple of selected families engaged in a common comon concernand their action affects each other's point of view.through his characters premchand highlights the contemporary social, economic, religious and political problems.he makes the individual and the family a medium for the realistic portrayal of contemporary social problems. In Godan one finds the biggining of the process of disintegration of the joint family system in the villages.he gives a realistic description of family life in his novel Godan.in it,he involves the family life of mr.khanna-govindi, hori-dhanian, gobar-ghunia, miss malti and mr.mehta with a penetrating psychological insight.

KEYWORD:

Realism, Symbolism, Godan, Realistic, Novels, Characters, Writing.

INTRODUCTION

In Godan the portrayal of characters of miss malti and mr. mehtais realistic.their views on family life and love are objective and authentic.prem chand believes that a stable family life can give an individual the strength to face the hardship in life.premchand belives in sanctity and the power in indian family system.he presents his characters with their weaknesses and qualities.it is the humanitarian approach towards life that makes premchand's novels so appealing and they continue to retain their universal appeal and relevance.

Before the advent of munshi premchand on the literary scene,the majority of writers in india were virtually without any direction.their writings were full of improbablesituations and fantasy.fiction writing was done solelyfor self gratification and intertainment.it lacked the element of realism and commitment.premchand was the first novelist who infused the spirit of realism in novel by associating it with social problems. his themes and characters are more closer to life and reality.He gives a realistic portrayal of his characters which are drawn from his contemporary society.

In his writings premchand writes the social evils and outdated traditional values. as a progressive writer he belongs to the middle classand writes about common people.his progressive and humanitarian attitude towards life is clearly reflected in his novels.he declares that literature is not only a reflection of life in general but it has a social fungtion to perfprm.the function of literature is not only to intertain but also to guide the individuals and society in the right direction.his characters fit into the descriptions in his narratives and he describes about their environmental and mental make-up.premchands descriptions are not mere acts of reporting but they are also highly suggestive.

In Godan ,premchand presents two categories of characters-rural and urben.the rural characters are Hori,Hira,dhanian,jhunian,gobar,bhola,sona,rupa,mattadeen,dattadeen,nahari,selia,chuhia etc.the characters with the urben backgroundare mr.mehta,miss.malti,mr.khanna,govindi,rai sahib,rudra pratap,saroj,mirza khurshid etc.their names themselves tell about the position and status of these characters,and give a habitat and a local name to them.here premchands descriptions of their life style and

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beliefs is realistic and convincing.

Despite a vivid realistic portrayal of his characters, prem chand's characters lack the validity and dynamism. prem chand does not concentrate upon their inner conflicts and pains, because his main objective is to deal with some social problems and to project his vision of life. Through he allows his readers to have a peep into the minds of his characters, yet the characters seem to be preoccupied with the social concern and responsibility. this social concern restricts the readers from seeing the inner storms and conflicts in the minds of the characters.

In this novels on many occasions, crucial moment arrive in the lives of the characters, but the initiative on their part is restricted by the dominance of the social issues in the narrative. this the reason why the psychological analysis is lacking in the narrative. it is eclipsed by an increasing sense of social and collective responsibility. he does not halt for a moment to discuss the inner conflicts and he is too eager to initiate his characters in a new challenging situation. he shows that the middle class with its aspirations, defeats, notions of morality falls an easy prey to social evils like dowry system, bride, exploitation of the poor and prostitution.

The characters in prem chand's novels are so preoccupied with social problems that the moments of self-introspection are rare in their lives. the moments of self-contemplation and about individual aspirations are there in the relationship between miss malti and mr. mehta in detail, and the moments of self-introspection are found in the lives of other characters only as passing references. In Godan, Hori is a unique creation of premchand who always in his environment without showing any sign of opposition and resistance. Hori is a farmer whose life is a tale of untold misery and suffering.

In his writings, prem chand's aim is to suggest rather than to moralise directly. His characters are symbolic and representatives of their respective classes. Apart from symbols and representations, his characters show a rare blend of individuality and a common concern. This makes prem chand's writing more effective and powerful in their appeal.

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