

Regional Touch in the Novels of R. K. Narayan

A. P. Kala¹, P. Bhanulakshmi²

¹M.Phil. Scholar, Dept. of English, Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Inst. of Science and Tech., Thanjavur, India

²Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Inst. of Science and Tech., Thanjavur, India

Abstract: R. K. Narayan is one of the great regional novelists. He has imparted global interest to a particular region. Narayan's novels generally called as the malgudi Novels. R. K. Narayan's novels that reflect region to elaborate on the representations of regionality.

Keywords: R. K. Narayan, novel, regional

1. Introduction

The regional novel is a derivative of the social novel that focuses on specific features- including characters, dialects, customs, history and topography of a particular region. Literally, the term region means 'a fairly large area of a country, usually without exact limit, a part of a country that is away from the capital city', and regional refers to 'that which is connected to a particular region'.

Further, the regional novel is essentially democratic. It expresses a belief that the ordinary man and the ordinary woman are interesting and worth depicting. It details with the ordinary men and women living in a particular locality, and shows them going about the business of living very much like average humanity. They are shown carrying on the professions and occupations, as well as following the customs and traditions, that are peculiar to that region. In this means, the particular region is immortalised in the regional novel. Moreover, concentration among a restricted region leads to intensity of feeling and fervour. In this chapter, we concentrate on R. K. Narayan's novels that reflect region to elaborate on the representations of regionality.

A. Features of the Regional Novel

- The regional novel is a genre of fiction that is set in a perceptible region.
- It illustrates the features of life, social relations, customs, language, the culture of that area and its people.
- Fiction creates the sense of geography; landscape or topography is also covered by the region.
- Regional culture illustrates an aspect of life in general or the effects of the environment on the people living in it.

B. Characteristics of a regional novel

- Detailed portraits of a place, region, generally rural, bear an appraisal to a real place.
- They generally characterized the middle-class origin.
- Over the years his perception and illustration of nature

and also the landscape modified. Regional writers are generally associated with rural regions.

C. Malgudi

Malgudi is the fictional setting of R.K. Narayan's novels and stories. This place has comparable standard to the other writers of English Literature. It is compared to 'boarder countries' of Sir Walter Scott, 'Lake District' of William Wordsworth, 'The Wessex' of Thomas Hardy, or 'five Towns' of Arnold Bennet.

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Malgudi is associate notional South Indian city spherical that Narayan has plain-woven the advanced pattern of the lives of his characters. The readers are taken to this imaginary land to laugh, sympathize, and share the vicissitudes of its inhabitants. Malgudi is the comic projection of Narayan.

It is associate notional city within which nationalists and nationalism area unit treated with identical comic irony. This comic irony is deployed against cheats, bohemians, bossy wives and indulgent grandparents. This clearly indicates the maturity and artistic visions of the novelist.

D. Regionalism

The evolution of Malgudi parallels the progress on India's social and cultural scene and crystallizes the contemporary social and cultural scene and crystallizes the contemporary social and cultural climate of the country.

This city of Narayan's imagination is both a concrete individual place and a miniature India. Representing all that is God's plenty its multi-coloured complexion makes one feel that life is almost the same everywhere. the regional novel, in its strict sense, cannot be applied to Narayan's Malgudi novels, for the district of Malgudi of his writing is not shown strikingly distinct from other regions and the people inhabiting it are not greatly influenced by the local ways of life. Some may show the impact of the place at times, but most of the major characters like Margayya, Raju, Rosie, Marco, Balu and others defy the traditional norms of life prevalent in Malgudi. Obviously, we agree with Eudora Welty who, in her well-written research paper entitled "Place in Fiction," asserts that the common term "regional" used for the novel with a particular location is "the term, like most terms used to pin down a novel," which certainly

means little. Therefore, in the recent fiction criticism, the traditional, well-known nomenclatures like the “Local colour” and “regional” are no more very current and easily and acceptable.

2. Conclusion

R. K. Narayan’s is a great writer. His style is the microcosm of his talent exhibiting all his merits and demerits in their most characteristic form. The basic theme of his novels is the place of man in this universe and his predicament. He revealed the beauty and charm of malgudi to the reader’s eye and immortalized it. It must not be supposed that he inhabited a region with which none could compare in beauty, or that such

spots exist nowhere else. The physical feature like hill and dales, rivers, pastures and meadows, woodlands and heaths-appear and reappear in all his works. This imparts to his works a kind of scenic continuity and a touch of realism difficult to match in any fiction. Every event in his novels takes place which this locality. It is seldom that he stays out of it. It is for this reason that he’s additionally referred to as a regional writer.

References

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