



CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN WOMEN WRITERS IN THE MAKING OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT:

Women are innately artistic. Women and literature have a very close relationship because to be good in literature one has to be artistic and creative and women work very well when it comes to artistic creativity. In the 19th century, many Indian women writers played their part in the Indian reform movement against British rule. Since then, the work of women writers began to be appreciated. She had been writing about the independence of the country since the British rule. During the 19th century, most Indian women became English writers and as time passed, women writers began to express their feelings, their problems and experiences in their creations. This greatly influenced Indian literature. Women writers developed new styles in Indian writing and today such novels are becoming very popular among Indian readers. In the 20th and 21st centuries, women writers in India are moving at the speed of the world. We see that they are fully promoting their literary fragrance. They are known for their originality, versatility, and taste of the indigenous soil they bring from their work. Anita Desai, Nayantara Sehgal, Shashi Deshpande, Arundhati Roy, Geeta Mehta are some of the Indian women writers who became famous in the 1980s and 1990s. Bharti Mukherjee and Jhumpa Lahiri are the third generations of women writers in India. People involved in literature have always been an important part of society and Indian women are no exception. The women of India have contributed significantly to English literature and all have appreciated her contribution in the field of literature. At a time when novels were not so popular in the literary world, women writers in India wrote songs for themselves, wrote short stories, and also wrote short plays. Scholars believe that Indian women writers retain the old tradition of imagination.

Indian women novelists are adding a new dimension to Indian English literature. Apparently, contemporary Indian English literature has evolved through the efforts of many prolific writers. The best part is that most of these writers are women. We can include common examples like Nayantara Sehgal, Sarojini Nado and Rama Mehta, etc. This Research paper highlights the contribution of Indian women writers in English literature.

KEYWORDS: Indian Women Writer, English Literature, Male Dominated Society, Discrimination

INTRODUCTION:

Writing of English literature did not begin suddenly and in a single day, it took many years for Indian English literature to attain its current status and special place among the world literature and many prominent personalities have played a role in this work. With the passage of time, there have been many changes in the writing pattern of Indian English literature. Literacy was spreading rapidly and women started using the power of the pen. But at first, it was a very difficult path because women had to go through many years of male prominence, taboos, and beliefs, which affected society badly. Women writers have interpreted recurring female experiences in their writing and this has influenced the language and cultural patterns of Indian literature. She has published the status of women with the quality of literature through writing in English. The work of Indian women writers was to make society aware of the demands and desires of women and provide a medium for self-expression and in this way woman writers have played an important role in rewriting the history of India.

The work of women writers has not been given due importance in the past due to male chauvinism. In the past, the original subject matter of women writers was the feelings of a woman, when she was confined within the walls of a house. But in the 19th century, many Indian women writers played their part against British rule by participating in the freedom movement of India and this was the point when the work of women writers started getting acclaim. This was because they were fighting British rule by writing on the subjects of the country's independence. We have fallen prey to discrimination against the sexes. That idea gave birth to the feminism movement.

In the 1960s, the feminist movement started gaining momentum. The campaign was primarily aimed at achieving equality with men in the overall spheres of life in terms of opportunities, freedom, and participation. Women writers began to describe the plight of women in their work. Freedom and emancipation of women became important. Mary Wollstonecraft, Elaine Showalter is a leading writer in the field who has produced admirable works. Today, the importance of work in the English literature of Indian women writers is known and remembered worldwide.

CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN WOMEN WRITERS IN THE MAKING OF ENGLISH LITERATURE:

In the last century, readers accepted the literary work of women writers as a strong means of spreading modernism and feminist statements. In the last few years, when we talk of feminist writing in Indian literature, it has made significant progress. Novels written by modern women writers focus on issues related to women. It talks about rape and other social issues like corruption and injustice against women. Most of the stories focus on the themes of the unknown psyche of women. These novels are highly appreciated by the readers and also increase the bank balance of publishers. The success of Indian writers has reached such an extent that Indian woman writers are also reaching prominently in this field and increasing the attention of India

with their amazing creations. So, let's discuss the contribution of some of the top women writers of India to English literature, who has been appreciated globally for their work.

Krupabai Santhinathan is a nineteenth-century novelist who wrote two English novels *Kamala, A Story of Hindu Life* (1894), and *Saguna, A Story of Native Christian*, published after her death in 1895. Both books highlight the importance of education for women through their protagonists.

Attia Hossain's reputation as a novelist rests on her only novel, *Sunlight on the Broken Column* (1961). It deals with the struggle of a girl named Laila. The heroine struggling in life eventually emerges as a mature and independent person.

Arundhati Roy is one of the contemporary women writers. She is one of the women writers who has written in her literature about the plight of Dalits and oppression of women in the male-dominated world and has clarified the impact of Marxism on the lives of Dalits. Arundhati Roy is one of India's best-known writers, best known for her novel 'The God of Small Things'. *The God of Small Things* (1997) this book made Arundhati Roy an international figure. This novel describes how the small things in life affect people. The novel won him the 1997 Booker Prize for Fiction and was one of the best books of the time. Arundhati Roy was also awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006 for her collection of essays from 'The Algebra of Infinite Justice', but refused to accept it. *The God of Small Things* (1997) this book raises some serious issues related to religion, gender, caste, and class. Older feminist writers such as Kamala Markandeya and Anita Desai also wrote about women and the world around them before the unprecedented success of Roy's novel.

Apart from writing, Arundhati Roy has also participated in other people's movements in India including Narmada Bachao Andolan. His translated books are *Mathematics of Justice*, *Hurt Country*, and *Democracy in the Watchtower*. Recently his book *The Doctor and the saint: The Ambedkar-Gandhi Debate* is in the discussion which has been translated by Professor Ratanlal. Apart from this, he also wrote scripts for several films. *In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones* (1989), *Electric Moon* (1992) gained considerable fame. Arundhati Roy has been raising her voice against many local and international issues ranging from American imperialism, nuclear weapons race, and dam construction on Narmada. But now he believes that at least in India, non-violent protests and civil disobedience movements are not being talked about. There is anarchy in the ideologies of the communists who have become part of the parliamentary system and the Maoists who believe in violent resistance. Arundhati admits that she is not a blind devotee of Gandhi. In the words of Arundhati - "After all Gandhi was a superstar. When he went on a hunger strike, he was a superstar sitting on hunger strike. But Arundhati does not believe in superstar politics. If a slum public hunger strikes so the government does not care that it is Arundhati believes. Arundhati believes that the voices of protest are being unheard of in the flow of marketism in India. Efforts to influence the judiciary and media against the anti-people system fail have been proved.

Jhumpa Lahiri has received international acclaim for her writing which mostly deals with NRI characters, immigrant issues, and problems faced by foreigners. Her pen touches the soul with her simple and metaphorical writing that focuses on the nuances and hidden plays of the day in every person's life. Jhumpa Lahiri was announced as the recipient of the 2017 PEN / Malamud Award. Lahiri's first short story collection, *Interpreter of Maladies* (1999), was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the novel in 2000 and a film of the same name was made based on his first novel, *The Namesake* (2003). Born by the name Neelanjana Sudeshna And according to them both of these are her "good names", but she is known only by her surname Jhumpa.

Lahiri's earlier short stories faced rejection from publishers for "years". His first short story collection, *Interpreter of Maladies*, was finally released in 1999. These stories address topics such as sensitive dilemmas in the lives of Indian or Indian immigrants such as marital difficulties, abortions, and disconnection between first and second-generation United States immigrants. The collection was well-received by American critics, but received mixed reviews in India, where critics were enthusiastic as well as distraught as the Lahiri did not cast Indians in a more positive role. Lahidike *Interpreter of Maladies* received the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. This was only the seventh time a story collection had won this award.

Jhumpa Lahiri's first novel, *The Namesake*, was published in 2003. This story has been woven over more than thirty years of the life of the Ganguly family. Calcutta-born parents settle in the United States as young adults, where their children, Gogol and Sonia, grow up with their parents experiencing constant generational and cultural differences. In March 2007, a film adaptation of *The Namesake* was released, directed by Meera Nair and starring Kaal Paine as Gogol and Bollywood star Tabu and Irrfan Khan as parents.

Lahiri also had a special relationship with *The New Yorker* magazine in which she published several short stories, most of which were fictional and some non-fiction, including *The Clove Way Home*; *Cooking Lessons*, this story was about the importance of food in the relationship between Lahiri and her mother. His book *For the Landlady* 'was nominated for the 2013 Man Booker Prize and the National Book Award for Narrative.

Lahiri's writing is characterized by his "simple" language and his characters, who are often Indian immigrants living in the US, who have to reconcile the cultural values of their birthplace and their adopted home. Lahiri's novels are autobiographical and often based on her own as well as the experiences of her parents, friends, acquaintances, and others from the Bengali community with whom she is familiar. Lahiri examines the struggles, concerns, and prejudices of her characters so that the immigrant can compose the details and details of psychology and behavior.

Anita Desai is one of the most eminent writers in India. He was nominated for the Booker Prize at least three times. For his contribution to Indian literature, he has been awarded the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978 for his novel *Fire on the Mountain* and in 2014

for Padma Bhushan. His stories have an exemplary implication that strikes the human heart in addition to being comical at the same time. The author has also won the British Guardian Award for his novel 'The Village by the Sea'.

Anita Desai is undeniably one of the Indo-English fiction writers. Reading Anita Desai is a new experience. Its subject is to study the mental or psychological activity of the protagonist. The first novel shows that human relationships are collapsing and there is a lack of vitality. Nanda Kaul, the characters in the story, wants to remain unstoppable and is reluctant to communicate with others. The second novel portrays Indian family life. His notable contributions to the literature are - More, Voice of the City, Fire on the Mountain, Clear Lights of the Day, In Custody, Fasting, Mountaineering, and The Village the Sea.

Nandini Sahu is an internationally acclaimed English-language poet as well as a prolific writer. Nandini Sahu is a writer, critic, and well-known Indian poetess. He has written dozens of books and known poems in the English language. Born in Orissa in 1973, Nandini is currently working as an associate professor at Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. Nandini has been awarded two Gold Medals and Shiksha Ratna Award for her contribution to English literature. Nandini Sahuki's famous books are "The Other Voices, a Collection of Poems" and "The Silence". His compositions are widely read in India, United States (U. S.), United Kingdom (U.K.), Africa, and Pakistan. He received three gold medals in English literature. He has also been awarded the Shiksha Ratna Award, the Buddha Creative Writer Award and the All India Poetry Competition and Poisys Award-2015, Buddhist Creative Writers Award, and Gold Medal by the Vice President of India for his outstanding contribution to English Studies in India. . His research topics include Indian literature, new literature, folklore and culture studies, American literature, children's literature, and important theories.

The works of Indian women writers in English literature it is a difficult task to show in a research paper due to the limitation of words. Therefore, we try to know the work done in English literature of some other Indian women writers very briefly.

Kiran Desai is known for her book 'The Inheritance of Loss', which talks about the pain of migration and living between two different nations. It touches readers' hearts through its writing, especially when it comes to 'Make in America'. It was the second Indian to win the Booker Prize in 2006. Kiran Desai, for her book "The Inheritance of Loss", and "Hulabalu in the Guava Richard" have received enthusiastic reviews. Kiran Desai is one of the most contemporary living female novelists. She is a successful international writer of fiction.

Anita Nair is an Indian English writer. Eleven of his novels have been published so far. Whose novels are woven very much on the thread of human nature and values; Her 'Mistress' with a female-oriented element was included in the 'Orange Broadband Prize' list for fiction. Through these novels, Anita Nair has indicated the arrival of a sensitive writer. Anita Nair chose Ladies Coupe and Mistress in her novels so that many readers came to know about the role of women in today's colonial India. The works composed by Anita Nair include Setir of

the Subway and eleven other stories - 1997, The Better Man - 2000, Ladies Kupe - 2001, Malabar Mind - 1997, Where the Rain Is Born - 2003, Puffin Book of World Myths and Legends - 2004, Mistress - 2005, Adventures of Nonu - 2006 and Living Next Door to Alice - 2007.

Shobha De is one of the leading literary writers of South Asia. Being a novelist and columnist, he has contributed to South Asian literature. Her first career choice was modeling which she pursued for some time and proved herself. In 1970, he changed his career in journalism. Shobha offered her editorial skills to well-known magazines such as Stardust, Celebrity, and Society. His column for the Times of India called 'Times of India' earned huge praise. In her column, she comments on various issues ranging from social, economic to political dynamics.

Shobha De's novels include Socialite Evenings, 1989, Starry Nights, 1989, Sisters, 1992, Salty Days, 1994, Shooting from the Hip, 1994, Small Betrayals, 1995, Second Thoughts, 1996, Selective Memory, 1998, Surviving Man, 1998, Speedpost, 1999, Spouse - The Truth About Marriage, Snapshots, Stranger Obsession, Superstar India, Sandhya's Secret, 2009, Shobha At Sixty, 2010, Shethji, 2012, Shobha: Never a Dal Day, 2013 and Small Betrayals, 2014.

Malti Rao is a noted English-language writer. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2007 for a novel Disorderly Woman composed by him. She rose to prominence in 2007 for her novel Disorderly Women (Disorganized Women). Disorganized women are the story of four Brahmin women (pre-independence) in India who struggle to break the barriers created by the society around them.

Rao's novel includes The Bridge (novel), Chanakya Prakashan (Delhi, India), 1990, Disorderly Women (novel), Dronquil Publishers (Bangalore, India), 2005, three collections of short stories, Incision.

Apart from the above mentioned Indian women writers, Shahnaz Habib, Nayantara Sehgal, Sarojini Naidu, Subhadra Sen Gupta, Rupa Bajwa, Kamala Surayya, Smita Agarwal, Meena Alexander, Sameena Ali, Anjum Hasan, Tamsula Aao, Kamala Markandey, Mamang Dai, Indira Goswami, Manju Indian women writers like Kapoor, Bharti Mukherjee, Geeta Mehta, Shama Foothli, Geeta Hariharan and Chitra Banerjee, etc. have also contributed significantly to the creation of English literature.

CONCLUSION:

In relation to Indian literature, it may be easy for these women novelists to reflect on the new challenges and changes due to the fact that this passage has its own vehicle of the global language. Feminist criticism has become an important aspect of literature in contemporary society and the female perspective, expressed through the writings of all types of women, is considered more than a valuable convener for the all-male view of the universe.

Indian English literature is now a fact that cannot be ignored. It has attracted widespread

interest both in India and abroad in the last few decades. The real potential of this type of literature in India can be gauged from the fact that the earliest novels of Indians can be included in novels falling in the same literary field. In the contemporary literary scene, however, Indian writing in English enjoys equal status with literature in other countries. Indian women writers have heard their voice in an Indian way, especially around the world. It is very artistically expressed. Apart from this, Indian women writers have also excelled in recent years in all fields of literature in English and gained global recognition.

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