ABSTRACT

“COMPARATIVE STUDY OF REVELATION OF MAN AND DESTINY IN THE SELECTED NOVELS OF THOMAS HARDY AND VYANKATESH MADGULKAR”

The Proposed research is a comparative study of two regional novelists Thomas Hardy, a famous English regional novelist and the other, Vyankatesh Madgulkar, a famous Maharashtrian regional novelist. Both of them have written novels and presented ineffable beauty and charm of selected regions. Regional literature is supposed somewhat neglected area in any literature. Regionalism in literature proves a barrier in exploring the writer’s true literary qualities and his contribution to literature. Thomas Hardy and Vyankatesh Madgulkar - these two writers fall in this category. Both of them, by presenting particular regions tried to reveal concept of Man and Destiny through their novels. Destiny makes man face many difficulties and adopt new way of life. Sometimes, lust overcomes intellect. They presented wildness in man and his cultural ideas. Both presented problems generated due to illiteracy, superstitions, vagaries of nature etc. Migration, Dissettlement due to frequent migration is common. Fate, directly, or indirectly plays crucial a role in shaping the lives of people of the Wessex and the Maandesh. It is also common.

Thomas Hardy and Vyankatesh Madgulkar presented a typical socio-cultural aspect of the Wessex and the Maandesh respectively through – geography, landscapes, ways of living life, professions, customs, habits, languages, codes of conduct, agricultural pursuits etc.. Through their novels, they presented that Fate by employing a human instrument brings about tragedy. Both of them confined to the relatively small setting of the regions- the Wessex and the Maandesh respectively. A Brief survey of the major theories of comparison is an integral part of a comparative study. Matthew Arnold used the coinage ‘Comparative Literature’ first in 1848. It was used in the field of sociology in the 19th century. Then, in France, in second and third decade of the 19th century, it entered the literary circle and by the end of 19th century, comparative theory established in Europe. In the course of time, it spread all over the world. It shows that comparative literature was not used as a tool of literary studies up to the 20th century.

The First criterion which is used for the selection of the representative novels is that both novelists are regional novelists and to glorify them at global level is the main objective
of this research work. Secondly, these novels represent typical socio-cultural rural scene of Hardy’s Wessex and Madgulkar’s Maandesh with utmost details. It is common aspect. Thirdly, most characters in all selected novels highlight concept of man and destiny in the East and the West. This study proposes to deal with the following novels of Thomas Hardy.

1. Far from the Madding Crowd, 1874.
2. The Return of the Native, 1878.
3. The Mayor of the Casterbridge, 1886.
5. Jude the Obscure, 1895.

This study proposes to deal with the following novels of Vyankatesh Madgulkar.
1. Bangarwadi, (The Village had no walls) 1954.
2. Vavatal (Whirlwind), 1964.
5. Sattantar (Change in Rule), 1981.

Following are the objectives:
1. To make a comparative study of an English writer, Thomas Hardy from the west and a Maharashtrian writer; Vyankatesh Madgulkar from the East.
2. To compare regional aspects of these two writers and to pinpoint most unexplored similarities that can be found in the novels of both novelists. and to explore common areas in the selected novels of these two novelists to reveal the role of destiny in human life.
3. To make an attempt to show how both of them through their novels presented drama of life in selected regions, how men and women are disciplined by facts, nature, necessities of life and how they are puppets in the hands of Destiny.
4. To present both regional novelists on world literary map:-
   a) To glorify Hardy’s Wessex and Madgulkar’s Maandesh at global level.
   b) To focus on usefulness of their writing for present and next generations.
5. To present and to discuss about plight of man living in Wessex and Maandesh and to study struggle of man against force- neutral and indifferent as presented through selected novels of both novelists and to make an attempt to form new literary link between the East and the West.
6. To consider characters, themes, different forms of Destiny such as –chance, love, neutral forces like illiteracy, superstitions…etc. presented by both novelists to reveal concept of ‘Man and Destiny’.

We can perceive various facts of life – known and unknown by doing literary studies. Enlargement of perception of human life in all directions is the main function of literature. It is said that destiny governs man and it appears in different forms- chance, love and nature. Also, it works in the form of peoples own faults, their illiteracy, superstitions etc.

Power, money and new ideas of glory are new moral values today. To beget them, people are adopting different means. Service, sacrifice, nobility, character, truthfulness- all values are in melting pot. Both the selected novelists present such socio cultural context. Their vision about revelation of concept of Man and Destiny might be different at some places and similar at some. So, at first, this research aims to present the concept of Man and Destiny depicted by Thomas Hardy. Then, it aims to present the concept of Man and Destiny as depicted by Vyankatesh Madgulkar and then, it will compare presentation of this concept of these two writers. This research will make thematic study of the novels of these two novelists are same. Both presented struggle of man against the force- neutral and indifferent. The force rules the human world and it is the main cause of human suffering. By using this supposition, this research will enlarge the perception that destiny governs human life.

Brief idea about the research methodology: Preamble will be used to touch the issue of revelation of concept of Man and Destiny. For better understanding of this concept, a brief survey of works of both novelists is necessary. Along with this, a brief survey of major theories of comparison will be undertaken. Some basic considerations like significance of the study, hypothesis, objectives, scope and limitations of the study will be defined and discussed clearly. An attempt will be made to compare revelation of concept of Man and Destiny by these two novelists. Further, on the basis of comparative study certain conclusions will be drawn. As and when needed, some other approaches, aspects of studying novel will be considered and used. Primary data for this research work will be collected by using original novels of these two novelists and by making use of different literary, critical references. Secondary data will be collected by making use of information through some other agencies like internet and will be used for further study. Journals, Magazines will be referred for this. Research work done earlier related to these novelists will be used as secondary data. By
visiting different libraries, institutions, places, and people and by searching different websites on internet, data will be collected for this research.

A brief historical survey should be done and brief critical review about the two novelists and their works will be done. This research will define certain key concepts used in the study such as concept of regional novel both in English and Marathi, concept of Man and Destiny, Wessex, Maandesh etc.... For brief critical review, a brief survey of the critical opinions already expressed on the novels of Hardy and Madgulkar is necessary. To form critical and theoretical framework, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of the selected novels of Thomas Hardy will be done. By using the same criterion, the critical and theoretical framework analysis, interpretation and evaluation of the selected novels of Vyankatesh Madgulkar will be done. This analysis, interpretation and evaluation will provide necessary scope and basis for comparative study of the concept of ‘Man and Destiny’ used by the selected novelists. From this comparative study certain conclusions can be drawn.

The chapter scheme of the proposed research is as follows.

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Brief Historical Survey and Brief critical Review.
Chapter 3: Analysis of selected novels of Thomas Hardy.
Chapter 4: Analysis of selected novels of Vyankatesh Madgulkar.
Chapter 5: Comparative perspective.
Chapter 6: Conclusion.

References: Bibliography:

A) Primary Sources       B) Secondary Sources
Webliography.