CHAPTER – V

Conclusion

The Partition of the Indian Sub-continent was the single most traumatic event experienced in the history. India and Pakistan both suffered. The violence partition created was barbaric and unexpected. The people who co-existed together for generations due to partition turned enemies. It is said to have brought an end to humanity. Partition is the saga of pain told by the innocent people of those times who suffered for no fault on their part. Their only fault was they belonged to various communities such as Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus. Partition came as a shock to the common man which left them in the State of bewilderment. The human tragedies have been the major theme with the fiction writers. Partition had done a great harm to the ‘Indian Psyche’ and it is difficult to understand what have we achieved? The division was done for no reason. What purpose did it serve? They would live united in one country as they did for years together. The partition led to wide spread massacre, rape, terror, rioting, hostility distrust, religious enmity attacks and counter attacks. All this became the subject matter of the literature relating to partition.
The novels which are studied i.e. Khushwant Singh’s Train to Pakistan, Bhisma Sahani’s Tamas and Chaman Nahal’s Azadi deal with atrocities done to various characters who were massacred, became homeless, raped, women were the one who were humiliated in such a way that never in the history of the world such thing is mentioned nor it will be written or will take place in future. The study of these three novels have various experiences mentioned about the friendly relations of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. Love affairs were also secular, caste was no hurdle and the characters died for one another irrespective of their castes.

Most of the writers were unable to explain the gravity of the violence, the trauma and the pain these communities had to face because of partition. The deepest anguish amongst the writers we find is of these writers from Punjab and Bengal who were either witness or close relatives of the people who suffered or were directly affected by the partition. The trauma of partition also remained the major theme in partition fiction. It is very true that the facts of history are to be handled by historians carefully and honestly and it is also very true, the history has always offered a context for novels. Another major theme of partition novels was restoration of humanism. Many of them find no words to express their disillusionment. The writers were very careful to avoid blaming any one community instead they blamed both the communities.
equally. After independence writing about independence or partition was
difficult as everything was scattered. It was in 1956 that an English Novel
on partition was written by Khuswant Singh i.e. ‘Train to Pakistan’. After
that many writers took interest in putting forth. The most painful
experience of partition inform of fiction, short stories in all languages.
Khusawant Singh, Bhisma Sahni and Chaman Nahal directly wrote these
incidences of partition. The trauma of partition has forced many writers to
deal with such an historical event like Manohar Malgaonkar, Raj Gill,
Gurcharan Das and many more.

During partition it was automatically understood where the
Muslim’s had to migrate where the Hindus had to move, it was not a
matter of their choice. Partition also helped these Hindus and Muslims
defined their individual and communal identities. It was true that with
many migrants the question of choice was not left. Partition uprooted the
people from their origin and when they migrated they were unhappy and
could not grow properly either economical, politically, religiously and
even emotionally, Many Muslim’s who left India and many Hindus who
left Pakistan regretted for having done so. The characters of these novels
speak of the pain and grief of the millions who were forced to leave their
homes. The characters like Lala Kanshi Ram in ‘Azadi’ and the Muslims
of ‘Train to Pakistan’ moved to a country, they knew nothing about.
Among both communities, the Hindu and Muslim, there were many who accepted conversion only to save their lives. Tension ran high in the three communities. There are large number of writers men and women who were the witnesses of this age of genocide. Many of them highlighted the inhuman aspect of the partition, but uphold human goodness. Chaman Nahal ‘Azadi’ offers most comprehensive account of partition. It deals with the actual event and its aftermath. It represents the pain and suffering of a whole nation. It was millions who were forced to leave their homes for them ‘Azadi’ was only an uncertain future and misery. H.S.Gill’s ‘Ashes and Petals’ written in 1975 records various tragic aspects and trauma of partition. Kartar Singh Duggal’s novels “Twice born Twice Dead” highlight there patho’s of partition. “A Fine Family” written in 1990 by Gurucharan Das is another partition novel which describes the fortune and misfortune of a family from 1942 to the Post-Independence era right till the 1970’s. The novel “Ice-Candy Man” written in 1988 by Bapsi Sidhwa is a Saga of Pain due to partition. Sulman Rushdie’s Novel “Midnights Children” Written in 1982, the ‘Shadowlines asks questions prevailing ethics which are inherited blindly. The holocaust of the partition has been an often recurring theme of many Indian Writers. Khuswant Singh’s “Train to Pakistan” is the first novel where partition is the central theme and it is the most powerful novel on partition and also most realistically presented. Khusawant Singh depicted
in his novel the horrors of partition and also the ray of hope for human
kind. This unforgettable historical moment has been captured as
horrifying by the novelists like Amritav Ghosh, Attia Hosain’s and many
other as named before. After going through the detailed study of the
novel “Train to Pakistan” it can be said that the partition of the Indian
sub-continent was the single most traumatic experience and saga of pain
in our recent history. Khusawant Singh makes us understand the human
actions and he blames everyone for this partition. He thinks whatever
happened during that period is definitely not worth telling or mentioning
but one should be aware of how human beings behaved, how the
massacred, raped, looted, left their homes, etc. Reality should be brought
forth so that people learn from their mistakes. In “Train to Pakistan”
Singh does not describe the politics of the partition in depth. Partition
happened because of the major political change i.e. Britian dividing India
into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. Partition disturbed the life of
people both the social and individual. In all these partition novels we find
Hindu-Muslim unity and the peaceful life they led before partition. The
life of Hindus in Pakistan and the life of Muslims in India became
miserable. Both the communities were forced to undergo these painful
experience of displacement and migration. Independence brought more
killings and violence.
Even after so many years of partition. The people of these communities i.e. Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus are still trying to heal the wounds. Even today they are in search of identity. The atrocities of rape, looting, massacre etc. definitely made people suffer but after going to the new homeland it was very difficult to settle down in land unknown to them. They had to start a fresh life with odd situations and lot of compromises. The sufferers of partition have witnessed many happy and unhappy natural events taking place around them. These novels highlight these most disturbing thing which is the impact of violence on the human beings. Bhisma Sahni explicated that to communal violence is used by a few individuals to climb the ladders of political importance. The communal violence in ‘Tamas’ is the outcome of his political ambitions. These writers have written not to blame one particular community for violence, rather these novels were written to awaken the people of India regarding communalism. Religion is the most sensitive issue for the human beings, while analyzing these novels on partition it is revealed that it was an unprecedented political event in the history of India. It records human life and the tragedy of partition. Studying the history of partition we come to conclude that Muslim league wanted to follow two-nation theory and so they forced and the Britishers wanted to follow them policy of ‘divide and rule’ as a result this theory and policy were responsible for partition which turn as story of pain and suffering. Most of the partition
novelist belong to the north and who have experienced the pain and tragedy of that time.

It is always true that the novelist are attracted towards the great events of their times and partition was such a event that was recorded in the form of partition literature. These writers admit that all communities are equally responsible for the tragedy they faced. They all expose the selfish leaders, corruption the government and even military officers who made people helpless during the times of crisis. Partition had deteriorated the human values. ‘Train to Pakistan’ is very symbolic. Train is used to carry passengers from one place to another but in this novel the ‘ghost train’ carries dead bodies of human beings. Train plays a vital role in the historic migration. As the novel ‘Train to Pakistan’ is the first partition novel, it certainly acquires a very high place in the history of India Fiction Bhishan Sahni’s ‘Tamas’ describes the aftermath of partition in detail. At the end of the novel we find the refugees voicing their agonies and sufferings. Bhisma Sahni who has been a witness-turned-writer must have also suffered at the hands of the other communities. ‘Tamas’ reflects group experience. Chaman Nahal’s ‘Azadi’ deals with the ‘great betrayal’ and because of this millions had to suffers irrespective of any religion.

To sum up, the reason behind the partition are very and many religions, command, political, economical and psychological. All
partition novels are no doubt full of pain and suffering, thus partition is “Saga of Pain.”