Abstract
Abstract

The introductory chapter is a review on Satire as a distinct literary form, its origin, its natural tendency to censure with a touch of humour, its applicability to various forms of writing, its efficacious handling by writers of the past, and the present in the Indo-Anglian scenario. As the focus of the research is on Khushwant Singh, an attempt is made to draw out in detail the biographical features of the novelist with more emphasis on the social background that has found a place in his novels taken up for study.

The second chapter, Train to Pakistan, traces the fortunes of the Muslim and Sikh inhabitants of Mano Majra whose traditionally harmonious relations are disrupted by the political forces clamouring for Independence, thus forcing them to choose between Muslim Pakistan and secular India. With these thematic issues in view, the researcher intends to analyse them in a satirical manner so as to clearly bring into focus the inner motives of the novelist. Moreover Khushwant Singh's personal experiences and a sense of empathy towards the suffering masses of pre-independent India has resulted in presenting life-like portraits of avaricious self-seeking politicians, fanatic religious leaders and their cohorts, power-wielding corrupt bureaucrats, anti-social elements looking out for opportunities to exploit any situation, love, sex, and varied atrocities prevalent at that time.

The third chapter, I Shall Not Hear the Nightingale, deals with the fortunes of a Sikh family (1942-1943), offers insight into the life, customs and mores of the Sikhs against the background of a politically resurgent India. The satirical elements like self-interest, hypocrisy, sexual inadequacy, initiation of youngsters to sex, bogus religion, etc. are discussed in the chapter. The chapter also explores moral questions of family ties,
faith, loyalty and betrayal within the context of the relationship between the British colonizers and their independence seeking subjects. It gives the typical products of the modern world. It also represents its culture-sophistication, divided loyalties, self-centredness, opportunism, servility and sex hunger.

The fourth chapter Delhi: A Novel, satirizes the human frailties and weakness and many other aspect of human. It highlights the sorry aspects of history rather than the glorious, the sordidness of monarchy and not its romance. In this chapter also the autobiographical elements of the writer are discussed and compared. A detailed analysis of the novel is done and the issues and matters that is satirized is clearly brought to light, to comprehend the novelist’s idea.

The fifth chapter The Company of Women, deals with an uninhibited, erotic and endlessly entertaining celebration of love, sex and passion. The novel relates the life-history of Mohan Kumar and his sexual exploits. Through this novel the writer brings out the life of man who disregards social norms and correctness and pursues the philosophy of eat, drink and be merry but never get tied down by the bonds of marriage. The novelist is conscious of the best things that life offers but he restricts himself to the realistic portrayal of an earthly man who does not want any aesthetic or artistic things in life.

The sixth chapter Burial at Sea, concentrates on the main subjects like Indian history, bogus religion, sexuality, greed, lust for wealth and power, a craze for western culture, inhumanity and so on. A detailed analysis is made on the novel taken for study. Khushwant Singh’s view on each of the above mentioned aspects of man is discussed and the type of satire made use of by the author is given. Khushwant Singh as a columnist and social commentator through this novel makes a sturdy sarcasm on the predominating social evils that exist in India.
The last chapter sums up the satirical elements present in all the novels and focuses on the author’s intention to portray them. It also details on how and why the writer satirizes such aspects. It comes out with the findings of the researcher giving the intention of the researcher to make an indepth study on the same writer in future.