ABSTRACT

Chapter One titled, ‘Introduction’ attempts to analyse the evolution of Novel with special emphasis on the emergence of psychological novel with the arrival of various theories propounded of Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler and Carl Gustav Jung. The analysis highlights the techniques invented by writers of psychological fiction like Henry James, Dorothy Richardson, Virginia Woolf, William Faulkner and James Joyce. This chapter traces the metamorphosis of Malayalam fiction, focusing on the advent of Novel and attempts to consolidate the position of M.T Vasudevan Nair as a writer of psychological realism.

Chapter Two of the study entitled ‘The Single Consciousness Technique–The Seeing Eye’ analyses how M.T handles the Single Consciousness technique which was propounded and perfected by Henry James. M.T has acknowledged his indebtedness to Henry James and considered him his acharya. For analysis three of M.T’s popular fiction, Naalukettu, Iruttinde Atmavu and Vanaprastham are taken. The chapter explores M.T’s effective use of the Single Point of View technique.

Chapter Three titled ‘The Stream of Consciousness Technique’ studies the need behind the invention of this tool to fathom the process of human thought. M.T’s Manju is analysed in detail and the correctness of the choice of this technique in the novella is brought to focus. As Direct Interior Monologue and Indirect Interior Monologue are extensively used in this work, the theories propounded by William James are also examined with their impact on M.T. A parallel study of Manju with the selective works of Virginia Woolf is made to assess M.T’s effective use of the Stream of Consciousness technique.
Chapter Four, ‘The Multiple Points of View Technique’ assesses the use of this technique popularised by William Faulkner, in M.T’s novel Vilapayatra. Faulkner’s use of this technique has had an impact on M.T who uses it to explore the inner self of his various characters. This chapter studies how M.T offers a panorama of human response to certain very crucial instances in life both as individuals and members of a family or group.

Chapter Five titled ‘Treatment of Myth’ is devoted to the analysis of use of Myth as a technique. Carl Gustav Jung propounded the theory of Collective Unconscious highlighting the scope for use of mythology as a technique. M.T’s Randamoozham projects the views of Bhima, the second born of the Pandavas. M.T acknowledges Bhima as an Archetype and psychological criticism approves and appreciates use of Archetypes as symbols of the Collective Unconscious. M.T uses the Stream of Consciousness technique, copiously employing the various attributes of this technique of narration. This chapter spotlights the reasons behind the choice of the technique made by M.T to fathom the psyche of an Archetype.

The Sixth Chapter sums up the study by highlighting the western impact on the techniques of M.T Vasudevan Nair in his fiction and highlights the way he has made extensive use of the western techniques in identifying the psychological problems experienced by individuals throughout the world irrespective of cultural, racial and linguistic differences. The chapter identifies scope for future study in similar areas.