ABSTRACT

Chronicles of Time Present and Time Past: Fictional Narrative and History-Fiction in Post-Independence India

Chapter I  Chronicling History and History-Fiction: A Theoretical Framework of History and Fiction Interface

The first Chapter provides a detailed and comprehensive background information and analysis of the various concepts of history drawing upon the variant views of historians and philosophers. It gives an over-view of the theoretical perspectives that involve in shaping/changing/manifesting the interrelatedness and the rendering of history-fiction/historical fiction in contemporary society.

Chapter II  Literature and History: Towards History-Fiction

Literature and History introduces literature, history, and their interrelatedness simultaneously defining the relevance of history-fiction in contemporary world. The novelists’ use of literary techniques and their impact on the reader has been dealt with. The researcher has thrown light on the fact that the study of literature itself is interdisciplinary in nature. He also attempts to bring out the significance of interdisciplinary studies.

Chapter III  Sense of Place: History, Place and Location in the Select Novels

Chapter III begins by explaining the sense of place and the vital role of history in shaping place in the contemporary context. Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh have raised issues of minorities who suffer from displacement, sense of “no home”, point of departure, and point of arrival. The characters’ movement and travel redefine their sense of place, boundary, and border in human history. The novelists’ focus on the local draws our attention to the voiceless histories of locality.
Chapter IV  Acting in Time and Out of Time: Sense of Time and Temporality

It deals with period and temporality where action shifts from present to past and vice versa. Tharoor, Vikram Chandra and Ashwin Sanghi have asserted that the sense of the past is connected with the sense of time. The time of actions reiterate the actions of the past whether in the storytelling tradition or with the repetitive nature of history. The events of the novels draw parallels with contemporary events. History is looked through a different set of glasses and interpreted according to contemporary cultural contexts.

Chapter V  Knowing the Nation: Characterization, Language, and Identity

It takes up those three aspects significant for the novelist on which characterization becomes relevant today. The uses of history promote the characters to formulate ideological shifts in the minds of the readers. The novelists reveal how history has created human beings: the place of minority, religious position, and cultural difference. History also creates nation, culture, identity, language. The novelists expose the historical making of violence and nation at the same time redefining Indian Fiction in English where themes like self, subjectivity, memory and loss, language and land, and environment are prime factors, which are problematized.

Chapter VI  History-Fiction: Conclusion

The concluding chapter recasts a succinct summary of the study and presents the findings of the earlier chapters. It reiterates the research project, recapping the novelists’ involvement in fiction and engagement with history, the representation or chronicling of time present and time past through their narrativization, characterization, uses of critical theories and the imaginative power and the choice of diction. The chapter sums up all the arguments. Guidelines are also given for future researchers.