ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study of “A comparative study of themes and techniques in the poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel” are as follows:

1. To know the themes and techniques of the poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel.

2. To know the Indian philosophy and psychology through the poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel.

3. To know the Indian religious situations, superstitions and visual pictures of society.

4. To know the similarities and differences between Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel.

In the thesis entitled “A comparative study of themes and techniques in the poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel”, comparison is the main intention of the study. Both Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel are modern poets in Indian writing in English; they covered whole Maharashtrian landscape, society and religious places. They created main stream of writing in English language. Though they are Indian, they selected foreign language to write poetry, they made civilization in Indian English literature.

There is a tremendous scope of the further study, because there are many unsolved problems of society. The Indian poets only highlighted the scenes of the society and landscape of the country. So, we have an opportunity to find out the solution to know the reality of the Indian society. Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel wrote suggestive and imaginative poems. A collection of Indian English poems can not help to solve the problem of society. The significance of the study of Indian English poetry is to direct the society to solve the problems which are visible everywhere.

So, I have chosen Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel to study Indian English poetry. Arun Kolatkar is a bilingual poet. He has written poetry in his native language as well as in English. Arun Kolatkar has written a collection of poems, entitled Jejuri. Jejuri is the best work of Arun Kolatkar. It is most figurative poem written by Arun Kolatkar. Jejuri is the best pilgrimage which many Maharashtrians, and even people
from other parts of the country, make to a small town called Jejuri. In that town there is a temple dedicated to god Khandoba and ensuring several images of the god, some carved in stone and other cost in bronze. The Maharashtrians, and the other who go to Jejuri as pilgrims, strongly and firmly believe that Khandoba did exist and that he was an incarnation of god Shiva. They also believe by worshipping the images of this god and by making offerings of money, ornaments and eatables to him, they can win his favours and achieve the fulfilment of their desires. The poem *Jejuri* helps to scholar to understand the social and religious situation of pilgrim places in not only Maharashtra but also whole India.

Another poet, Nissim Ezekiel occupies a very high rank as a writer of Indo-English poetry and is very substantial, weighty and valuable. In fact, we can regard him as one of the towering figures among the Indo-English poets though we find it difficult to accept him as an Indian poet, because he is essentially and basically a foreigner who was born in India and who has lived in India. His poetry has many facts, and it has certainly enriched Indo-English poetry and given a new dimension to it by extending its scope and its range. He has made a tangible contribution to the philosophical poetry. He has shown a certain profundity in his nature and his profundity has found an expression in several poems written by him. He has expressed philosophy of life, so it is chance to know the philosophy of human life. He is a poet of mind. He shows a marked tendency to probe the human mind, and his poems reveal not only the conscious but also the subconscious thought of human beings. Ezekiel has made an equally substantial Indo-English poetry by having written poems depicting Indian life more particularly city life, vividly and realistically. We can understand the situation of Indian society and daily life of Indian through poems. Ezekiel has drawn his readers’ attention to the problems of poverty, the ill-treatment meted out to women, and the life in this country, and has shown that in the cities of this country poor people are living in terrible misery as many of them are without jobs and have to earn their bread by begging. The poor people do not have any proper housing facilities so that they have to sleep on the pavements or to live in hutments and slums. So, Ezekiel’s poetry helps us to know worst condition of Indian society. He also has heighted major causes of particular situation.
A comparative study of the poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel helps to understand the styles and techniques of Indian poetry. The Indian English poetry consist imagery, metaphor, symbol, irony, diction, lucidity, brevity and colloquial etc. The Indian English poets purposefully used figures of speech to write poetry to arise beautiful meaning and rhythm of the poetry.

So, the present study highlights the investigation of the work of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel, which plays a significant role in suffering the hidden agenda of the interlocutors and values suggested by the poets. The study focuses mainly on the subject matter of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel. The major themes of the poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel are religious, mythical or legendary, socio-graphical, cultural, traditional, superstitious, Indianness, philosophical, and psychological, etc. The study will be beneficial for readers and scholars at the time of investigation of the work of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel.

**Research Methodology**

The proposed research work is depend upon the textual analysis of primary and secondary sources having references to the poets’ works, documents reviews in journals, essays and magazines, reports, memoranda, letters, interviews and websites. The study also would depend on the original texts of poets and critical books, journals, essays and articles on the poets and their works.

The present study is divided into major four chapters which are as follows:

**CHAPTER - I**

**Introduction**

Introduction is divided into four points, which are as follows:

1. The background of Indian English poetry

   It includes the base of Indian English poetry. Indian English poets are influenced by British and American poets; they also followed English models from them.

2. Modernity of Indian English poetry

   Nissim Ezekiel is the father of modernity in Indian English poetry. Modernity includes new themes and techniques of writing.
3. Indianness of Indian English poetry

Indianness is the heart of Indian English poetry. Indian English poets use Indian atmosphere in their poetry.

4. Language and special themes of Indian English poetry

Indian English poets are bilingual and trilingual. They write simultaneously in English and their native language. They also subjected special themes to poetry.

CHAPTER - II

The Poetry of Arun Kolatkar

This chapter includes biography, themes, styles and techniques of Arun Kolatkar.

Themes of Poetry

Arun Kolatkar uses following themes in his poetry. This chapter is also divided into four points:

1. Kolatkar’s attitude to scepticism and disbelief

Arun Kolatkar is fully sceptic about Jejuri. He writes poetry on Jejuri not for religious concern, he cannot believe in god worship.

2. Quests, investigations and inquiries about Jejuri

Arun Kolatkar’s quest is to know Jejuri culture. He scrutinized every point and event by writing poems.

3. Power of legend and myth

Arun Kolatkar describes legends and myths of Jejuri in the form of poems.

4. The study of pilgrimage place

Jejuri is faithful centre of God Khandoba. He observed Jejuri as a tourist, pilgrim and traveller. Arun Kolatkar is Maharashtrian poet. Arun Kolatkar focuses on Jejuri to describe the position of pilgrim place. Jejuri is the representative place of pilgrimage places in whole India. Arun Kolatkar observed the blind faith of pilgrimage about gods and guts of gods.
Styles and Techniques of Poetry

It is also divided into following points:

1. Imagery

Arun Kolatkar’s imagery is perfectly concrete. Most of the poems in Jejuri contain vivid imagery.

2. Irony

Every poem in Jejuri illustrates Kolatkar’s gift of irony.

3. Diction

Arun Kolatkar uses excellent diction in his poetry.

4. Lucidity, brevity and colloquial style

He uses lucidity, brevity and colloquial style and figures in his poetry.

CHAPTER - III

The Poetry of Nissim Ezekiel

The third chapter includes biography, themes, styles and techniques of Nissim Ezekiel.

Themes of Poetry

The theme of the poetry includes the following points:

1. The study of philosophy, psychology and modernity

Nissim Ezekiel writes poems on philosophy, psychology and modernity. He is modern poet in Indian English poetry.

2. A poet of the metropolis

It is said that Nissim Ezekiel is the poet of city, Bombay. He writes most of the poems on Bombay.

3. The theme of Alienation

Nissim Ezekiel is not only alienated from his Indian environment but also his own minority ethos.
4. The study of love, sensuality and man-woman relationship

Nissim Ezekiel is known as love poet. His love poems are mostly concerned with physical and sexual relationship between men and women.

**Styles and Techniques in the Poetry of Nissim Ezekiel**

It is divided into following points:

1. Rhymes and rhythms

Nissim Ezekiel uses beautiful stanza pattern in his poetry.

2. Imaginative and suggestive style

He also uses Imaginative and suggestive style in his poetry.

3. Language and diction

Nissim Ezekiel neatly structured diction and language in his poetry.

4. A sophisticated style

He uses complex and subtle language style in his poetry.

5. Allegory

Nissim Ezekiel has used allegorical style in his poetry. He uses allegory in ‘Enterprise’.

6. Irony

Nissim Ezekiel also uses irony in his poetry.

7. Imagery

He uses imagery: time, space, sound, light, the human body, dream and movement.

8. Economy and spoken language

He is more economical in using language.

9. Lucidity and colloquial style

10. Symbol

A few of the poems of Nissim Ezekiel shows symbolical elements. Symbol indicates poems’ deepest meaning.
CHAPTER - IV

A Comparative Study of Themes and Techniques in the
Poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel

The fourth chapter includes comparison of themes, styles and techniques of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel.

Themes of the Poetry

The theme of the poetry is divided into following points:

1. The study of socio-graphical and cultural

It is common theme of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel, also quite different. They describe society and their culture.

2. The study of tradition and superstition

Indian tradition is superstitious in nature and belief. So, Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel analyzed tradition and superstition.

3. The study of religious and mythical

Arun Kolatkar’s god is visible and in the form of stone, but Nissim Ezekiel’s god is invisible in the form of power.

4. Indianness

Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel are Indian English poets, so they use Indianness in their poetry. Nissim Ezekiel is regarded about Indian way of life he portrays in his poetry Indian politics, social life of Indian people, social community, from Indian, civil problem vividly from the poem.

Techniques and Styles of poetry

Styles and techniques are ornaments of poetry, so they use style and technique in their poetry. Style is the speciality of Indian poets. This sub-topic is divided into following points:
1. Irony

Many poems of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel are examples of using irony. Nissim Ezekiel also used Irony in his poems. The use of Irony is one of the most outstanding features of the poetry of Nissim Ezekiel.

2. Imagery

They use vivid and realistic imagery in their poetry

3. The symbol

The symbols indicate reality of the society. Most of the poems which are written by Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel show symbolism. Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel use living and non-living or human and non-human symbols in their poetry.

4. Diction

Diction is the body of poetry and syntax is the soul of poetry. Arun Kolatkar uses few punctuation marks in his poetry. In Ezekiel’s case, most of his sentences are simple but he embellishes his language with certain kinds of devices. He wrote longer sentences by the time he composed poems.

5. The study of humour and satire

It is the last point of this chapter. Humour, wit, and satire are the qualities of Indian English poetry. Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel use humour, wit and satire in their poetry to catch attention of readers and scholars.

**CHAPTER - V

Conclusion**

The conclusion is based on the observations and interpretations in regard to a comparative study of the poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Nissim Ezekiel with the thematic and stylistic approach. They are Maharashtrian poets, so they highlighted social, cultural, traditional, superstitious, religious, mythical attitudes of the society. They also highlighted various techniques and styles of writing poetry in Indian English literature