ABSTRACT

The Theme of Attachment-Detachment as the list motif of Indian Fiction in English - with special reference to R.K. Narayan.

The period of 1800-1910 was of variety Rangalal Banerjee who wrote Padmini Upakhyan (1858) took part in this great experience. He was a Bengali poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt his contemporary and the inventor of blank verse in Bengal Novel is a product of nineteenth century. The novel form has been in existence later half of the nineteenth century. It was developed in West. It was influenced by the western impact. First of all in Bengal this flourished and after it rapidly spread to other parts of the country.

In the 18th century there were only oral and religious texts of India as Miracle tales, animal allegories and narratives of magical realism such as Betal Pachisi, Tilism-i-Hoshbruba, Daastan-e-Ameer Hamza and Kissa Tota Maina.

Indian novels came in the wake of colonialism. Indian novels are enriched with philosophic thought and Indian novelists also employ mythical texts into their novels to make them life like. They tried their best to show the social, religious and cultural values of Indian life. All the Indian novelists did not deal the Indian theme with the same manner.
Some novelists tried to show India with its ritual and customs. Authors like R.K. Narayan using this novel form tried to show his moral vision. Narayan did not try to glorify India as a great country, but he represented his own experience through his novels. He represented his characters with their virtue and vice holding a sympathetic view towards his characters.

Indian novelists presented the East-West theme. Through this theme Indian writers manifested Gandhian independence, Casteism political upheaval, modernity vs traditionality etc.

Gandhi was the most prominent figure especially for Indo Anglian novelists. It is very correct that the clay through which the novels were created was Gandhian thought.

**Major themes in Indian Fiction in English: Gandhian Consciousness**

Gandhian Thought and Indo Anglian novelists-

Indo Anglian novelists were greatly influenced with Gandhian thought. Writers represented their ideal thinking and pure living dealing this theme as their literary motif.

Gandhian thought were used by the Indian novelists of 19th century by the Indian novelists of 19th century a clay which is used to create a pot. Anglo Indian novelists were greatly inspired by Gandhi and his thought as Gandhi tried his best to bring East-West and traditional modern. At that time social and political both the fields were influenced by
Gandhi and his thoughts. In 1920-1947 all Indians adopted Gandhian consciousness as their pattern of living and thinking.

In 1930-1940 there can be seen a change in the choice of theme as Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan all of these used Gandhian theme with thus distinct ways.

Anand in his first novel Untouchable used Gandhian theme. R.K. Narayan through Swami and Friends showed the influence of Non-cooperation movement of 1921.

Raja Rao in Kathapura tried to show the social evils of Hindu system due to the ignorance and illiteracy.

Narayan deals with this Gandhian theme with a gentle touch of philosophy. Narayan’s aim was not only to criticize the western system of education but also to idealize the Indian forms of learning. His vision of education was extended to the philosophic experiences which can provide an evolution of man’s personality.

R.K. Narayan was quite different from Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. He was neither politically committed nor a metaphysical philosopher like Raja Rao- as William Walsh writes, “Narayan is basically a native talent natively nurtured”.

According to Mulk Raj Anand reconstruction in humanity is possible only by exposing the current human situation with correct understanding and sympathy. In *Untouchable* Anand represents his character Bakha who is crushed by humanity. Struggling against such external evils his heroes come alive. Raja Rao derives his heroes from the middle class family but are well educated. His hero “crosses the sea and returns in his search for illumination”.


R.K. Narayan’s heroes are fallible. He himself laughs at the stupidity of his heroes, but has sympathy too. He created his heroes from the typical middle class and projected them in Malgudi society. Living in his own dream world they are disillusioned and finally attain spirituality.

Thus we can say that Indian philosophic thought is an individualized interpretation of Gandhian thought.

**Philosophical Underpinnings:**

According to Indian philosophical virtue when a man takes birth in this world his struggle starts; and constantly he struggles for attaining freedom from all worldly worries. This is possible only by the knowledge of religious books. So in India religion and philosophy both are blended. According to Indian philosophy through this mortal body in this world we can make ourselves fit for spirituality.
In Indian philosophy there is ‘law of karma’ (Nishkam Karma), the concept of immortality, salvation, the significance of Ashramas Brahamacharya, Grhastha, Vanprastha and Sanyasa etc. According to Rajagopalachari, a philosophic thinker, Vedanta teaches us to be free from selfish desires and the desire of fruit of action. It is also said in Gita.

According to J. Krishnamurti (1895-1986), the greatest treasure of man is our mind. First of all for knowledge it is necessary to know the self. For the knowledge of self our mind should be free from preconceived ideas then will be able to know the self. No one is able to teach us what self knowledge is. We should ourselves find it out. It is our own discovery. To know our own behavior is to know ourselves. “Self knowledge is the beginning of meditation”.


According to Radhakrishnan (1888-1956), just as our body needs food and drink in the same way our soul always remains busy in search of truth that is God. To set him free from false ideas is a passion of liberation.

The Quran says the true servants of God are those who move on this earth keeping the strength of forbearance and pardon.
Anand Coomaraswamy (1877-1947) The origins of sufferings are lust, desires and hunger for pleasure and power. Following the eight fold path we can be free from Dukkha. That is to wit: Right belief, Right aspiration, Right speech, Right living, Right effort, Right recollectedness and Right rapture etc.

Following the path of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha, man can attain his goal, the purpose of life that is Moksha.

**Themes and Techniques in R.K. Narayan’s Novels**

Rasipuram Krishnaswamy Iyer Narayan was born on 10 October, 1907. In his early literary career, he was rejected, but after some time he was accepted by the people.

R.K. Narayan represented the typical Indian scene in his novels. He used gentle irony and humour, warmth and sympathy. Narayan leaves a message to his readers. He adopted his form and style from the west dealing his own ideas and experiences.

Through the depiction of Malgudi which is not a real place but an imaginary town in South India, he tries to show both old and new traditions.

Narayan uses English language perfectly in harmony with his theme and technique. He uses English masterfull and perfectly conveys his message. He uses simple English avoiding complicated adjectives and metaphors. His language is easy to understand.
Narayan’s heroes belong to the urban middle class family follows their traditions. Narayan’s heroes struggle according to their own way to find the real attachment and detachment. He deals this theme with a slight touch of comic. He also represents the Hindu ideal of ‘Virakta or Sthitprajana’ through this theme. He represents the theme of real values of life and traditional Indian culture.

*The English Teacher* is his autobiographical novel. It is a direct record of his own predicaments and predilections. This novel shows how the life of lecturer comes to a tragic end due to the premature death of his wife.


**Individual Novels: An Intensive Study**

The heroes of Narayan effort to know the self through detachment Narayan tried to wake spirituality especially at the climax of the novel.

In *The English Teacher* deals the theme of domestic and spiritual life. This is about the search of identity, goal of life, Krishna is upset due to the death of his wife but at the climax of the novel Krishna realizes through telepathic
communion that she exists in a more refined state that is spiritual existence.

The story of The Financial Expert is like the story of king Midas. His hero is an embodiment of greed. He wanted more and more money for his son Balu. That is his false attachment with money and his son. But at the climax of the novel Margayya has known what is real attachment and detachment through the reality of life.

Narayan set the theme of this novel The Guide during his sojourn in America when he stayed in Bukeley. In the beginning of the novel Raju the hero was a tourist guide but, on coming into contact with Rosie he leaves his profession and has some illegitimate relationship with Rosie who was already a married woman. But at the end he preserves fourteen days fast for the welfare of society and general public. He remained selfish throughout his life but it was the first time when he was doing something for the welfare of people. He becomes aware of the reality, and God has also forgives him. Raindrops are the symbol of this forgiveness. He becomes successful in search of truth.

This novel deals the theory of Karma. At the end of the novel Raju turns as a saint who is attached with reality and detached with false expectation.

The Sweet Vendor Through this novel Narayan deals various themes such as Gandhian, education and life view of Indian tradition which is based on Indian religious epics as Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagwad Gita etc.
If we are doing our real karmas then we will never be indulge in Maya that is the false idea and reason of sadness. This is showed in *The Vendor of Sweets*.

A clash between Indian spiritualism and western materialism is also represented.

R.K. Narayan never forces his readers to reach on a high philosophy. On the other hand Raja Rao imposes philosophy and Anand raises his voices against the evils of the society as a propagandist.

Narayan’s heroes become aware of reality of life that is the state of Shunya. This is the distinct quality which makes him unique in comparison to other writers. All his novels end with a moral lesson. All his heroes live in this world fulfilling their duties like karmayogis who do not wish any reward.

Narayan’s writings are enriched with the teachings of *Ramayana, Mahabharata* and *Bhagwad Gita*. So, we can say that Narayan is such a story teller who is known for its simplicity, and artless, natural beauty.