Abstract

The present study is an attempt to study the reflection of child psychology and human psychology in the selected works of Narayan. We find the keen observation of children, men and women by Narayan in his literary outputs. The present thesis tries to explain how Narayan has employed the child and human psychology in his major literary works. My entire thesis is divided into six chapters. The first chapter Introduction and Background of the Study focuses on the life and career of R.K. Narayan and also discuss about general concept of psychology. R.K. Narayan (10 October 1906 – 13 May 2001), (shortened from Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami) was an Indian author whose works of fiction include a series of books about people and their interactions in an imagined town in India called Malgudi. He is one of the three leading figures of early Indian literature in English, along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. He is credited with bringing Indian literature in English to the rest of the world, and is regarded as one of India's greatest English language novelists.

R.K. Narayan is credited with bringing Indian literature in English to the rest of the world, and is regarded as one of the India's greatest English language novelists. Narayan broke through with the help of his mentor and friend, Graham Greene, who was instrumental in getting publishers for Narayan’s first four books, including the semi-autobiographical trilogy of Swami and Friends, The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher. Narayan’s works also include The Financial Expert, hailed as one of the most original works of 1951, and Sahitya Akademi Award winner The Guide, which was adapted for films in Hindi and English languages, and for Broadway.

The setting for most of Narayan's stories is the fictional town of Malgudi, first introduced in Swami and Friends. His narratives highlight social context and provide a feel for his characters through everyday life. He has been compared to William Faulkner, who also created a fictional town that stood for reality, brought out the humour and energy of ordinary life, and displayed compassionate humanism in his writing. Narayan's short story writing style has been compared to that of Guy de Maupassant, as they both have an ability to compress the narrative without losing out on elements of the story. Narayan has also come in for criticism for being too simple
Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour. The word "psychology" comes from the Greek word psyche meaning "breath, spirit, soul", and the Greek word logia meaning the study of something. According to Medilexicon's medical dictionary, psychology is "The profession (clinical psychology), scholarly discipline (academic psychology), and science (research psychology) concerned with the behavior of humans and animals, and related mental and physiologic processes."

Psychology may also include the study of the mind and behaviour of animals. In the present study psychology refers mainly to humans. The mind is highly complex and enigmatic. Many wonder how psychologists can study such an intricate, seemingly abstract and extremely sophisticated thing. Even if scientists look inside the brain, as in an autopsy or during a surgical operation, all they see is gray matter (the brain). Thoughts, cognition, emotions, memories, dreams, perceptions, etc. cannot be seen physically, like a skin rash or heart defect. There are many branches of psychology. They are Clinical Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Occupational Psychology, and Social Psychology.

These branches of psychology help the people to understand the different behaviour and actions of the children and adults. In the later chapter, I will focus on the child psychology and the importance of psychology. Though Narayan was not a fellow of psychology but he fully understood the human psychology and child psychology in his most of the works.

The second chapter is Literature Review in which I have selected thirty to thirty five research papers which helps to find the research gap in the domain of R.K. Narayan. This chapter also discusses Importance of the Study, Objectives of the
Study, Research Methodology and Scope of the Study which may help to understand the aim of my research.


The forth chapter *Child Psychology in the Selected Works of Narayan* focuses on the term psychology and its different disciplines and it will also discuss how R.K. Narayan has poured out his knowledge of psychology and especially of Child Psychology in his major works through his characters.

The fifth chapter *Subjective Analysis of Child and Human Psychology* analyses the child and human psychology with different parameters of psychology. This chapter would further analyse the characters of children and mature persons of R.K. Narayan’s selected works. Further the present chapter will discusses about the child development, heredity and environment, the role of heredity and environment in brief whereas mental development, emotional development and moral development at various stages of age in detailed with their leading characteristics.

The sixth and the last chapter *Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion* concludes the entire thesis. This is a complete secondary data based research as it’s not required to carry out any practical or experimental analysis in the live environment. My findings and limitations of research work are discussed briefly in the same chapter.