INTRODUCTION

The present works “Ameen Rihani: A study on Migrant literature” is a comprehensive study. It is basically projected on the life, works and thinking of Ameen Rihani and impacted with the migrant literature of Arab American.

1. Migrant Literature:-

Migrant Literature is a newly created literature comprised writers from Lebanon and Syria who often wrote in Arabic and collaborated with translation of their works. It is experiencing a renaissance. In this current atmosphere in the united state of enjoying and celebrating literature of culture and immigration, many feelings we have “discovered” the Arab-American voice. The Arab American dieospera tradition goes back to the early years of the 19th century and continues to thrive today.

During the migrant era, the most glorious and the brightest period is the period in between 1920-1931. AD. For the development of Arab culture through literature, a rigid chain of mixed and inter-culture of Eastern and Western civilization was framed. The prominent writers associated together in order to bring forth the germination for seedling a new developed mixed culture and established a pen League named by “Al-Rabital Al- Qalamiyah” in the city of New York in 1920. Almost all the reknowned personalities
of migrant poets and writers tried level best in writing poems translation and historical aspects of evolutionary changing of various cultures and socities and nations. It will not be too much to estimate that their endeavours reached its zenith and they could build and tied up a good relation of interchanging the Arab–American culture and as a result of their utmost sawing and forming the Arab literature as well as English were cultivated and prouduced the most golden corns of literature, Ameen Rihani, Khalil Gibran, Mikhail Nuai’ma and Ilia Abu Madi etc.

2. Ameen Rihani

Ameen Rihani is considered by all “the father founder” of Arab-American literature. He was born in a Merownite Christian family on 24th November 1876 in Freike, Lebanon, a few miles to the north east of the country’s capital, Beirut, and died there 64 years later, on 13th September 1940. He spent his years moving between East and West, especially between Lebanon and his second home, New York and travelling in the world. His early English writing mark the beginning of a body of literature that is Arab in its concern, culture and characteristics, English in language, and American in spirit and platform. He was the first Arab to write English essays, poetry, novels, short stories, art critiques and travel chronicles.
3. Statement of the problems

There has always been a tendency of Eastern and Western to scholar to overlook Ameen Rihani’s poetic achievements in favour of his meritoriously paraded prosic works. There is no doubt that “The Book of Khalid” (in English) and “Al-Rihaniyat” (a collection of essays written in Arabic) alone would be enough to stamp Rihani’s name with letters of gold in Eastern and Western literary anthologies as a modern philosopher, political thinker, and literary critic. It is also true that his English and Arabic prose works exhibit Rihani as a pioneer anti-conventionalist, who devoted his life for the cause of liberty and freedom in Lebanon and the Arab world, as an enthusiastic promoter of East-West cross-cultural understanding. And it seems that the realistic and imaginative depth of Rihani’s prosaic acumen amazed his scholars to the point of deferring them from his prose and poetry, which I believe is amongst his most significant contribution to the world of literature in the Arab world and in the west. The present study is the discussion, analysis and solution of the problems stated as follows:

3.1. Arab émigrés migrated from Syria and Lebanon to European countries in the last half of nineteen century. Ameen Rihani’s family originated from Lebanon. Hence, the historical background of Lebanon may be mentioned.
3.2. Ameen Rihani was founding father of migrant literature and migrant literature was influenced on the Modern Arabic literature. Therefore the origin, objectives of migrants and the contributions, characteristics of migrant literature may be considered to be a matter of discussion.

3.3. Ameen Rihani was also a man who believed passionately in the oneness of the world's religions and the brotherhood of all nations, devoting his entire life to prompting the cause of East-West understanding. Virtually able to claim dual nationality he assimilated two widely differing cultures to an extent perhaps never achieved before him profound through his grasp of the modern west was, Rihani never lost sight of the rich cultural heritage into which he was born, and which was bequeathed to the world by Arab civilization. As a pioneering futurist he recognized that the issues now facing humanity demand a new set of answers, arising from a new pattern of faith and belief. Rihani gave to dynamic engagement with the world as a path to self-transcendence and social reform.

In this way Rihani’s different thinking may be discussed.

3.4. Perhaps Ameen Rihani was the pioneer poet of prose-poetry of free verse in Arabic literature. He wrote his first free verse poem in 1907 under the remarkable influence of the American poet, Walt Whitman, whose fans and followers spread in America and Europe. He was the first Arab traveler of modern times to discover the
heart of Arabia and his writings influenced on the next Arab writers. That is why prose literature is to be discussed.

3.5. Ameen Rihani wrote 26 Arabic books in 28 volumes and left 29 books in English. His writings have been translated into fifteen languages. He was renowned all over America, England and Canada as well as Europe, the Middle East and Arabia. Hence, Life and works of Ameen Rihani and comparative analysis may be discussed in writing.

4. Hypothesis: We have carefully formulated the Hypothesis of the present problem, which will properly be tested in order to obtain suitable findings and appropriate solution of the stated problem. It was our tentative proposition that Ameen Rihani’s writings pioneered the movement of modern Arabic literature that played a leading role in the Arab Renaissance.

The evaluation of the roles by these activists and the categorical enumeration, observation and assessment are our consideration. Our primary investigations lead us to presume that Rihani was in his mid-twenties when it became clear to him that decay of Arab society was primarily due to ignorance and sectarian fanaticism, and that sweeping intellectual, spiritual and material reform was needed. His willingness to articulate these radical views in his speeches and his writings, alike won him many enemies, but more importantly it brought “out of the woodwork” those many Arabs who shared his beliefs. He contributed a lot with his writings in Arabic of
different types and tests, evaluation of which would also our probable result of this study.

5. Methodology

We have collected relevant data and authentic literature related to the problem and reviewed them by testing their reliability to get a final result. We relied upon the textual literature and the books written on Ameen Rihani’s work and contributions of both primary and secondary nature. We have discussed briefly the historical background of Lebanon; the political, economic and social conditions which informed us the condition of Ameen Rihani’s native and during his life in Lebanon in the last part of nineteen century. (Chapter-I)

We have discussed the migrant literature and prominent personalities of that literature who contributed to modern Arabic literature with mentioning the main characteristics of the literature, in the light of descriptive method. (Chapter-II)

In the same way we have discussed the life history of Ameen Rihani, from birth to death with his travelling life where his national thinking, humanist vision, globalization and peace were the subject of narration which is more effective. (Chapter-III)

Through the study of prose and poetical literature we have obtained information about his writing style and different subject matter. (chapter-IV) In his analytical methods, he may justifiably be
characterized a forerunner of post–modernists, post-structuralists and deconstruction.ists as a thinker, who questioned all assumptions, and pushed reason to its limits.

In this way, we have discussed the topic and examined in different ways which have been methodically treated and analyzed and the related literature have also been reviewed, more or less, in the light of Descriptive and Analytical method.

6. Design of the study:

The present study is a humble approach assessing, highlighting and evaluating the different phenomena of Ameen Rihani’s contributions to modern Arabic literature. This investigation has been organized, manifested and designed in six chapters besides the ‘Introduction’ and ‘Conclusion’ as Shawn below:-

Chapter I: A brief historical background of Lebanon.
Chapter II: Origin of migrant literature.
Chapter III: Life and thinking of Ameen Rihani.
Chapter IV: Ameen Rihani’s modern Arabic prose.
Chapter V: Selected works of Ameen Rihani.
Chapter VI: Comparative analysis with his contemporaries.
Chapter I: This chapter has been divided into three sub headings, such as: 1.1. Political condition 1.2. Economic condition. 1.3. Social condition
Chapter II: This chapter has been divided into three sub-chapters, such as: 2.1. Migration of Lebanese and their objectives 2.2. Migrant literature and its contribution. 2.3. Characteristics of migrant literature.

Chapter III: It has been divided into three main units, such as: 3.1. Life history of Ameen Rihani. 3.2. National thinking and humanist vision of Ameen Rihani. 3.3. Rihani’s vision of Globalization. 3.4. View on peace of Ameen Rihani.

Chapter IV: This chapter has been divided into two sub-headings, such as: 4.1. Writing style of Ameen Rihani. 4.2. Rihani’s different subject matter.

Chapter V: It deals with the works of Ameen Rihani, divided into two sub-chapters, such as: 5.1. Selected Arabic works. 5.2. Selected English works.

Chapter VI: The last chapter deals with comparative analysis of Ameen Rihani’s life and works among his contemporaries like Khalil Gibran and Mikhail Nuaima.

We are confident that no comprehensive works on this topic have been published so far: nor are we aware of any unpublished research work done there on. It is expected that this humble effort will reveal a glorious part of Modern Arabic Literature, which might be proved to be a stepping stone for the further advancement of cultural renaissance and political recognition of the Universe.