

MIRROR OF THE SOCIETY: A SIGNIFICANT STUDY ON CARTOONS OF R.K.LAXMAN

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Abstract

R.K.Laxman was a legendary cartoonist and illustrator of India. He was an artist who ruled tremendously in the Indian newspaper and magazine through his unbeatable cartoon works in the twentieth century. The cartoons of R.K. Laxman speak a lot; the whole of the life, he dedicated to portraying varied subjects and topics. It is specifically observed that his most of the works are related to different segments of society and common men characters as if he had an extraordinary eye angle to observe the nuances of the society. He was unconquerable to portray Indian composition, common man character, behavior and their culture through his inner sense and substantial sense of humor. This study is going to compose a deep assessment of the feature of R.K.Laxman's works in which society topics are exclusively noticeable. During the study, several valuable data, right justification, and views will be provided to full fill aim of the study.

KEYWORDS: *cartoonist, cartoon, character, portray, society*

Introduction

Every cartoonist has an individual phenomenon to express his or her creativity in a different way; often an artist may portray a picture of the social activity or nature commotion and that may be a positive or negative way through artist's inner visualization. Being an intellectual property of human society an artist has the liberty to keep judgment on the society and in the same way, the artist can criticize the same through his significant feature of art.

A cartoon and caricature is a visual representation of an unrealistic or semi-realistic approach to portraying humor in an exaggerated manner. The cartoonist is one of the most specialized products of mass and popular culture. A special significance is linked to the mass media with all types of power, in which the conditioning of individuals and/or corruption and mind control are included. Many studies have shown that cartoons provide a rich source of study for the contemporary cultural and social trends, views and practices of a given society. Although the cartoons do not need to be polite, many studies connect it

with a different way of portraying the humor because humor is always associated with a socially and geographically demarcated frame.

R.K.Laxman was an Indian cartoonist, painter, and comedian, he was known for his composition The Common Man and his daily cartoon strip. In the assessment of R.K.Laxman's compositions, this man has given a lesson of humor to India, a deft stroke was shown with very Sense of Humor; it seemed like an indomitable ability to portray a whole and the mood of the public; his most important feature was the ability to observe his surroundings in a different way and he could transform every aspect of society.

R.K. Laxman was the country's fast cartoonist and political satire for the millions of Indians, along with an honest and humorous depiction of daily cartoons having a bizarre, popular opinion, for the millions of readers. In the morning, the news of the thunder and often eliminated exaggerated bulletins had become a way of nation-wide tradition.

On one hand, people were hungry to visualize such scenes of R.K. Laxman's and enjoyed the popularity in Indian society.

Vasant Sathe late Congress leader mentioned "I couldn't have my morning tea without seeing Laxman's cartoon works"

"It was impossible not to smile in the morning when I saw the pocket cartoon of the Laxman because it reflected exactly what I felt" mentioned by Darryl D'Monte (Former editor of TIMES OF INDIA)

Methodology

The purpose of this study is to explore R.K.Laxman's cartoon and caricature art in response to the important feature in the social aspect very significantly; this particularity has been found in many of his work throughout the study, where the specification has happened, in the cartoon caricature works of R. K. Laxman.

During the study, some works of the R.K.Laxman's have been identified to conduct a deep review and canalization maintaining the logical mannerism.

Several primary and secondary resources were diagnosed by accumulating the records of this study. R.K.Laxman's works have been arranged from various sources of library and data of secondary resources has been earned through different interviews, books, magazines and web sites. Apart from this, research was taken into account in view of critics' opinion.

Discussion

R.K.LAXMAN's was the first cartoonist in India, who sought front-page slot in the newspaper, his common man always graced the front page of Times of India throughout of his career; through his significant cartoon, he was able to convey the pulse of this nation and transition. On the other hand, giving a full

message of power with an exaggerated approach of the Indian society he always reflected the hopes and aspirations of the common man of India. In "The Tunnel of Time" in his autobiography Laxman described the common man as a silent spectator.

R.K. Laxman started his career as a part-time cartoonist, who worked mostly for local newspapers and magazines. In over six decades in his career, R.K.Laxman established himself one of India's finest cartoonist. Most of the Indians had been waiting for his incomparable cartoons in the morning like a thirsty crow.

Although RK Laxman was famous as a political cartoonist, he was famous for portraying the characters of Indian common man. R.K.Laxman's description and composition reflected in each angle of the Indian society, there was no single expanse about common culture and social behavior of India with untouched by him. Laxman's 'Common Man' cartoon observes the Indian, everything that runs around him - wise and important comments on political factions, domestic conflicts, unbridled corruption, social inequality, financial disasters, and political greens are those who have their own Since independence, the country has put the crisis in crisis.

R.K.Laxman in an interview he described -After independence he uses to represent a lot of cartoon on Indian common people but the common people are not the same to look like from the different area of India that's why he draws all of them when it was a matter of common man came into the theme, slowly he started to eliminate the theme like Bengali events, Rajasthan events, Marathi events, etc. the character Came in the times You see, there is a lot of variety among Indians - there are people with beard, turban, whiskers - South Indians are different from North Indians, etc., there is no single specialty which is common to all Indians.

That's why he created a mythical character in a striped coat, with a bushy mustache, a bald head with a white hair on the back, a bulbous nose, which has a pair of glasses, and with it have a frozen black color with permanently raised black hair, he stands for all Indians and passes through life without uttering a single word, but sees paradoxes of paradoxes, contradictions and human condition which again reflects that society, where a common man dominating in his work. 'Common Man' represents every person in India. Through profiles and looks, he is a rural: wearing a chopped coated coat with a white warp of hair, wearing old, bald. His glass is on his nose and he is in a permanent position because Indian politicians behave badly, citizens understand for power and the country tends towards modernization.



Figure: 01 R.K.Laxman common man character with exclusive significance

Courtesy: Karnataka.com

Laxman's cartoons have an astute ability to spot the real issue of society at hand no politician or minister however no one escaped his sharp satire. Laxman quoted that "My common man is omnipresent. He's been silent all these 50 years. He simply listens"

During the emergency, he had to bind his hand to reveal cartoons in serious environment as Sensors said don't do that he was dragged from pillar to post. Laxman mentioned "I went to Mrs. Gandhi (Former prime minister of India) she assured me not to bother about them to work as I think "Through the common man character Laxman always able to connect with every single picture and event like society corruption misbehavior.



Figure: 02 R.K.Laxman common man character with exclusive significance

Courtesy: Karnataka.com

Above cartoon displays the unity and power of India after the devastating earthquakes in Gujarat in 2001. The help of the common man is being done by a beggar to help those who have lost everything in Gujarat which a heart touching example of society topic portrayed in a different way.

Laxman said that the scenario of India provided him enough amount of thought; Laxman's common man was a silent but omnipresent audience, who saw the paradoxes and paths of India's life after independence. A cartoon featuring the 'Common Man' became extremely popular and the character achieved a prestigious status.

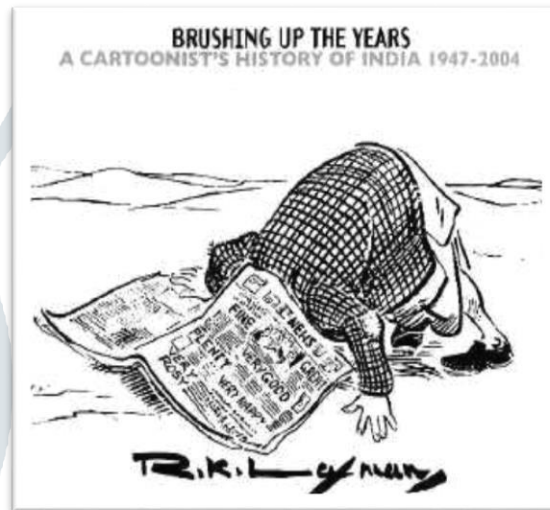


Figure: 03 R.K.Laxman common man character with exclusive significance

Courtesy: R.K.Laxman.com

Apart from this, the character of Asian Paints came out from Laxman's significant creativity, has made an iconic symbol for the company; a common character belongs to Indian society named 'Gattu', Which is claimed for many decades, Asian paints used to be huge posters with Gattu, the child is probably a five to six years boy who has a colored tub with a stunning face and Scattered hair with a large paintbrush of his right hand, it again shows that Laxman work always society reflection.



Figure: 04 R.K.Laxman character with exclusive significant from common society of India

Courtesy: R.K.Laxman.com

Laxman's cartoons have a super-cute story that controls the image and is decorated with the casting of expressions appearing on the face of the common man. Silent ruggedness, passive resignation, silent acceptance of life's prediction, expression of paranoid irony for life and the humility of others, sometimes humor is created for humor, while on other occasions, they have created a common man's subconscious rebellion against the system.

Laxman often uses metaphors and symbols commonly used to relate to a story against contemporary political setting and social culture. Laxman's famous 'Well to the Well' cartoon is remarkable for the use of signals commonly and immediately understood.

To protest, going to the well of the house is certainly an Indian parliamentary event. The image drawn with simple brushstrokes in the picture shown is very common in general, indicating a 'crowd well'.

There is a story in Laxman's cartoon scenes; there is a multitude of meanings in the graphic description. These sequences constitute the underlying narrative in the image created by signals and symbols. Laxman's visual descriptions do not exceed the prescribed limit for graphic illustration.



Figure: 05,06,07,08 - R.K.Laxman's exclusive significant society picture of India

Courtesy: R.K.Laxman.com

In Such (Above) exaggerated way Laxman's cartoon always shows a critical analysis about Indian society. Humor can be a great weapon if you know how to use it. It is like fire; nobody has to enjoy 'light' without getting involved in it. A great sense of humor requires a very sensitive and intelligent mind, something that we see loading in the cartoonist.

This way, Laxman here, point out very easily condition of contemporary society which made a new addition of philosophical angle. He felt pain for the society, often through his work; he never moved back to criticize to the politician, in a quote, Laxman said "I think everybody enjoys it when our mighty politicians are exposed in a comical and often ludicrous light"

The Photograph [Fig -05, 06, 07, 08] taken in the famous Strand Magazine attracted his attention since childhood. Like your common man, who sees everything quietly, he does this. He used to look outside his

window and looked at the size of the twigs and leaves and put it in the drawing. He used to see men and women go about their daily activities and sketch them. His deepest look for expression and expansion is the same as the foundation of his groundbreaking cartoons.

As it is already mentioned that he was also a great philosopher with being a great artist, so every one of his works proves to be true, he could feel every small aspect of the surrounding area as he was the first person who always busted society in another mode.

Another significant feature of Laxman's cartoons is been observed of Throwing bold with strong lines that seems to be dared depiction about the nuances of Indian society.

He did exaggerations in his work s as he did to feel, but never really get away with the truth

He also met film artists and members of the royal family who went to his house. Coming in contact with different levels of society, he received experience and knowledge that would later be seen through his cartoon works.

It can be also searched for such rebellious and meaningful art forms, which Laxman was very inspired by Indian culture. But he used it in a very different way, because he increased the feeling of exaggerated and were capable of portraying humor compared to the real, changed the eyes of every characters, body movement and environment with a fascinating and shocking way of warning. In this context, he coated "My sketch pen is not a sword, it's my friend"

In most of his work, the characters particularly associated with the adventurous social culture and the crooked attitude and it makes that composition attractive to the idea. Prior to them, none of the Indian cartoonists have made such false anticipation and representation in India, in which he present Indian culture with an indivisible and vibrant appeal.

Conclusion

India has been blessed because it has produced one of the planet's best cartoonists like R.K.Laxman. Cartoon of RK Laxman is a rare mix of humor, politics, and commentary. Each and every character displays the artwork of cool storytelling manner in a very reliable form of society although it isn't always easy to show the truth of the tough and hard lifestyles of a realistic society were always facing several dilemmas. On the other hand, RK Laxman unexpectedly depicts the most difficult events in society, which illustrates the transcript of society.

The presence of commonplace guy is laughable as well as being funny. The Common Man changed into a democrat and in a way; he turned into also how we'd remain as a citizen in India. The Common Man

turned into born for the first time in 1951 on print and for fifty years he has been active amongst us till his producer retirement.

Salman Rushdie (politician) has noted him in his books-The common man created with the aid of RK Laxman has observed his place amongst many fanatics.

He is a citizen of a state with hope, aspirations and quite a few scopes but is delivered through those men who're corrupt and silly. There is a lot of slyness in looking to damage the not unusual man but he sees it through every person, as a silent observer.

Although Laxman could not live without newspapers: "Newspapers in India will never die." The world of the web has become lively. Now the city cannot claim its cartoonists. Digital cartoon in color dot in the virtual world Laxman considered such cartoons as "infertile".

James Scott has described -the hidden humor in a cartoon as a hidden transcript that represents the criticism of power spoken behind the head. R.K.Laxman was fit inaccurately in this respect; for Sure Laxman, Cartoonist is becoming more adventurous and fulfills his work with more punch towards the Indian society. Generally, the intention of R.K.Laxman's caricaturists was mainly provocation; shock and tell people about their reality so that they can wake them up and show them fear and concern of Indian common society.

The purpose of this study is to apply RK to society by implementing an image study approach to investigate the culture and then the present cartoon. To understand Laxman's work is to understand. Attempts are made to search the general subjects made by cartoonists, and then according to these findings, the communities are associated with many categories of mirrors of the society.

This proves that the cartoons of R.K.Laxman display collective consciousness on the one hand and stimulate the imagination of the people on the other. He used to display the unity of the common Indian society, and rather instead of being funny, he acted as the mediator of moral responsibility and social change.

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