

The Study of Light and Darkness in *The White Tiger*

Anusheya V M ^{1*}, Dr. M. John Suganya ²

² Department of English

^{1*,2} PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore.

^{1*} manianu20@gmail.com

² suganyajohn@gmail.com +91 9994924381

Abstract

The White Tiger tells the story of a poor Indian who wishes to leave the dark with his miseries and poverty in order to live life. The entire novel is narrated by letters addressed to a Chinese prime minister who wants to visit and learn more about India. The novel contains a mass quantity without being a great epic or losing its firm objective. The book features a modern, capitalist Indian society with free market and business. He also demonstrates how he can create the economic division. In India, social classes do not exist, social cases do exist. The novel depicts Indian society as very negative towards the inferior social caste the Balram calls "Darkness". This paper analyses how Balram's hard work changes his life from darkness to light. Hard work is the substitute for success.

Keywords: *Darkness, Economic Division, Social castes.*

Introduction

Aravind Adiga was born to Madhava Adiga and Usha Adiga on 23 October 1974 in Chennai. Now he is 47 years. He is an Indian writer. He is also a journalist. The book *White Tiger* won the man Booker prize in 2008. Mangalore was the city where he grew up. He went to Canara high school and later at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore where he finished his SSLC in the year 1990. Financial times where Adiga's career began as a financial journalist. Currently he lives in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

The second book of Adiga's *Between the Assassinations* that was released in India in November 2008 and in US and UK it was released in mid-2009. Third book was *Last Man in Tower* which was published in the UK in 2011. *The White Tiger* was Adiga's debut novel which won the Booker prize in 2008 and it is also been adapted into a Netflix original movie *The White Tiger*.

The *White Tiger* is the life story of Balram Halwai. He was born to a poor family a rickshaw driver's son who cleverly climbs India's social ladder to become a chauffeur and later he turns to a successful businessman. Balram narrates the novel as a letter, to visiting Chinese official premier Wen Jiabao, he describes about the goal of educating the premier about entrepreneurship in India. He writes a letter from his luxurious office in the city of Bangalore. In his rural ancestral village where the story begins. From his childhood, Balram's indigent family lives. Their family had been tortured by landlords. He excelled in school. Once a school inspector distinguished Balram and his classmates between poor and wealthy. Balram kept a nick name for his inspector "The White Tiger". His grandmother do not want him get educate while he wants to get some work and help the family.

Balram gets a work from a rich families, he arrives at the mansion of the stork, Mr Ashok's and his wife Pinky madam returns from America. Ashok's driver hires Balram to become the family. Once in Delhi, Pinky kills a young child in a drunken, hit and run accident, so she returns to US. Ashok goes to bar all the time, their life has been shattered. Balram becomes disillusioned and rancorous. Although Ashok is a kind master. He realizes that whatever generosity Ashok has shown him is only a fraction of what he can afford. So he plans to murder ashok. After killing his master, he returns to Ashok's apartment and collects Dharam, and escapes with his young cousin to Bangalore. Balram gets to know Bangalore's business. He start a taxi company called White Tiger. Now he is a wealthy man who keeps to himself, still fearful that one day his crime will be discovered and will caught. He concludes his letter to Wen Jiabao that he will never regret his crime, because he facilitate him to experience life as a free man rather than as a servant.

Light and Darkness

The play *White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga is a social situation, of an individual which makes us to feel the gap and distance between rich and poor people. It makes the instability of the individual according to their richness and poorness "money ruins the happiness of the people". The statement somewhat connects the play and its true. In this story, at a certain point of time the money makes the person to kill a person which brings immorality and darkness to the like Balram was born in a poor family but at the end he became rich because of his immorality deed. The darkness appeared in his life but the play ends in light which make Dharman and Balram life rich. Balram's feeling about the rich are conflicted. Balram's

position in society, allows him to cover the immorality of the rich, a personal servant to a rich. And we can understand that how much servants long for a way out of poverty, this desperation leads Balram himself to cheat his master and earn money. Adiga uses dark human frequently in the play “*The White Tiger*” to emphasize the immorality of the poor and the rich. The sudden change of humans light and dark in the *White Tiger* also seems to make story more digestible. It is very difficult to realize the society which expose negative, immoral aspects. The main point is to picturaize poor living in the darkness and the rich living in the light. This comparison shows the difference between poor and rich. Balram is a rare man as *The White Tiger* is a rare animal. At the end he successfully broke the chain of poverty the darkness of his side by a murder.

Conclusion

“A Thorn Should Be Taken By A Thorn”. The darkness of life removed by a dark deed and came to a light and bright side of his life Balram murdered, stole and sacrificed his family to break the chain of servant cycle. *The White Tiger* is a darkly humorous commentary shows how large disparity in wealth can move people to make immoral choices. Whether they are wealthy or poor. The novel had played a major role in furthering the awareness of the people about the ‘darker’ aspects of both the poor. The novel ends with the protagonist Balram’s strong conviction in the bright future of the poor and his “starting a school...for the poor children in Bangalore” (Adiga, 2008, p. 192) demonstrates the novel’s optimism. A school where you would not be allowed to corrupt anyone’s minds with stories and prayers about Gandhi and God nothing but the facts of life of these kids. Balram takes advantage of Ashok’s faith and trust in him and kills him with an empty whisky bottle and along with his cousin, Dharam and escapes to Bangalore. He changed his name to Ashok Sharma, owns a Taxi company and becomes a wealthy entrepreneur in India’s most technologically advanced metropolitan city.

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