



A PORTAYAL OF MODERN INDIA IN ARAVIND ADIGA'S SELECT NOVELS

Tamilarasan A., Research Scholar (Ph.D. Part time), Government Arts and Science College, Kangeyam.

Dr. B. Devaki, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Government Arts and Science College, Kangeyam.

Abstract:

This paper discuss about Aravind Adiga's contribution to Indian writing in English deals with the detailed study of modern India, the suffering of unprivileged people, the burning issue of the atrocities against the poor. Arvind Adiga in his Booker prize winning novel —The White Tiger¹ gives a cynical picture of modern India. Aravind Adiga's Last Man in Tower is a story of money and power. It chiefly deals with the quarrel of interest between the real estate mafia and civilians who endure at the receiving end in Indian sociometry. It also describe about the weakness of the civil society, media and law and order agencies in modern Mumbai. Arvind Adiga discuss about reality of modern India and exposes the defining immoral hierarchy of Indian society. Adiga has further elaborated the political, social and cultural location of India in his second novel Between the Assassinations. Kittur is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multilingual town. Underneath the assured richness, diversity and scenic topography, Kittur proves a background for communal hatred, casteism, corruption, social evils and political contamination..

Key words: *Modern India, Inhumanity, Corruption, injustice, power, rights, rural, social,*

Indian English writings can be divided into two parts. During the pre-independence, Raja Rao, R K Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Rabindranath Tagore and other novelist have mainly indicated the subjects of Indian traditions, Gandhian Movements, and freedom struggle. When we show partially into the details of writing during British rule, we come to recognize that Indian English novels were written to endorse the idea of the freedom struggle. The novels written after independence have displayed a realistic picture of the modern India, customs, illiteracy, and patriotic outbreak. The portrayal of modern India and injustices based on

religions, ethnicity and urban-rural life was the exhausting subjects for the writers of Marxist centric affiliation.

The White Tiger throws light on the different aspect of modern India. The novel is written in the form of letters to Wen Jiabao, the Prime minister of China. It takes the reader to different things of India and shows that dark India and so-called shiny India. It is a story about Balram's journey for freedom who suffers from social inequality, discrimination and bankruptcy. Balram, who lives the life of poverty in a nameless rural community near Dhanbad in Bihar, worked very hard to overcome the social disorder and become a successful entrepreneur. Through this novel, Adiga display the sensible and intense illustrate of contemporary India. The White Tiger, a novel that not only consider the inequalities between India's uncompromising commercial urban high class and the persecuted rural poor but also exposes the excruciating world of the crushed.

The story of Arvind Adiga's Last Man in Town happens to be in Mumbai, capital of Maharashtra state and deals with the struggle of Yogesh A. Murthy, a retired schoolmaster against his times. The detailed understanding of the Last Man in Town brings out terrifying pictures about the current scenario ideas of countrywide growth in the construction of buildings and recognizes the strategies accepted by the people in India. As the novel begins, Adiga records the historical consequence of Vishram Society, located in Vakola slums. With the entry of globalization, many puzzling situations have been generated and that lead to an era of chaotic psyche in the marginalized. In middle-class families, the Vishram society preserved their status and individuality. In an essay, "Arvind Adiga's Last Man in Town: Survival tricks in a Morally Ambivalent India" by Rositta Joseph Valiyamattam has mentioned some facts regarding the context of publication.

The novel front to the life of a melancholic protagonist known as Masterji, the 61-year-old retired physics teacher whose main concern is to save his memories of the extinct past, specifically what he recalls of his defunct partner and daughter. In the novel, as the topic states, Masterji is the Last Man in Town, an individual keeping his viewpoint and privileges while facing battle and argument in society. It is a powerful and darkly comic story of avarice that lays bare the teeming metropolis of Mumbai. Adiga narrates an emotional story of power and supremacy, displacement, dislocation, and neo-colonialism. Last Man in Town represents the outlooks and suffering of ordinary individuals in the name of modern Indian culture. The novel rotates around the subject of longing and an appetite for a new identity in the capitalistic modern India. Dharmen Shah, a pig-headed businessman discuss an imperialistic personality who resolute to do anything to attain his intentions. Adiga expresses the burning matter of high class modern in India.

In recent times, Arvind Adiga, a writer of *The White Tiger* and *Last Man in Town*, emerged as a new voice in the galaxy of Indian English Writing. Adiga, an ex-employee of Time Magazine, began his professional career as a financial journalist and authored five novels. His contribution was acknowledged with the publication of his debut novel, *The White Tiger* (2008) and awarded the Man Booker Prize in the same year. He has depicted the ambivalence scenario of modern and global India. His novels examine the devitalizing effect of globalization on the Indian socio-cultural sphere. Born in Madras, Adiga introduces how modernization has brought about a sea change in the thinking of Indian people. The scholars have selected Adiga's *The White Tiger* (2008) and *Last Man in Town* (2011) to explore the representation of India. On the other hand, *Last Man in Town* is a crystal clear image of the post-independence scenario of the slum and its condition, problem of corruption, passive leaderships, and loss of standard values of life. Famous historian, Benedict Anderson's important work *Imagined Communities* explains the importance of nationalism. Likewise, in his third novel, Adiga portrays social evils and the shifting political and national boundaries.

Between the Assassinations showcases the most puissant aspects of Adiga's writing brilliantly: the class struggle contribute personal; the violence of the underdog and the fire of the rebel. The novel foregrounds the struggles and the injustices, sadness and the ironies that are an integral part of the Indian society by stringing together short stories set in the fictional town of Kittur in the period between 1984 and 1991 –that is, the period between the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi. The collection brilliantly high flown the sonorous voices of the subaltern which is brutally faint and silenced by the institutions of the society. It takes the reader through a journey of the real India –complete with the vices that is inherent and an ultimate part of the modern and neo liberal Indian ethos.

The White Tiger and, *Between the Assassinations* (2008), both written by Arvind Adiga are about two different perspectives of India: India, before and after modernization. The stories of *Between the Assassinations* are specify in a opportunity fabric in pre-liberalized, socialist India, between the assassinations of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of the country and her son (former Prime Minister) Rajiv Gandhi. The series of such incidents took place around mid of eighties and starting of nineties when the Indian set was undergoing a major change. Each of the stories circulates around a prevalence of violence or corruption. Example, a street-side bookseller who is attacked for selling a pirated copy of the *Satanic Verses*, a disgruntled student who sets off a bomb in his chemistry class, a girl who is forced to beg to support her father's drug addiction, and so on. Through this mechanism, Adiga again draws attention to a series of wide

known injustices—including “the disparities between the poor and the rich, communal disharmony, corruption, violence and hypocrisy”⁵ and their impact of human relationships. Between the Assassinations is divided by day, ranging from “Day One” to “Day Seven,” with each distinguished by a landmark in the town and headed by a short blurb in the style of a tourist guidebook, addressed in the second person to a potential or imagined tourist.

Adiga represents the two different India’s here. During his mother’s burial, Balram observes mother’s body against the thick sludge. Adiga subverts the symbol of the river Ganga as frugal. Instead, he presents it as a symbol of the oppressive cycle of subjugation that traps India’s poor people. Thus, Adiga has subverted the myth of enlightened India along with traditional myth of river Ganges. He has exposed bitter reality of ravenous, poor and degraded India with postmodern narrative technique.

The tower was built in 1950 where it is described on a plaque in hour of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as “Good Housing for Good Indians” with an objective to serve as an example but the intention remained in starting stage and remained absent in progress of the course of developing India. It reflects the citizens having worries, care and lack of enjoyment. The situation of tower is a symbolic example of progressing India in the middle of wretched slums ridiculing a utopian dream of “Developed India”. Mumbai is the central character in „The Last Man in Tower“. The cultural values change on accounts of increase of materialism and consumerism as side effects of the modernization, weak political system, capitalist economy, exclusive growth, vote bank politics and importance to instrumental rich economic class which has given the most significant place for money in deciding over the principles, cultural values, morality and patriotism. This in turn has given rise to tremendous greed as almost everyone wants something i.e. a piece of wealth destroying the sense of community sharing and responsibility.

REFERENCES

1. Adiga, Aravind. *The White Tiger*. New Delhi: HarperCollins, 2008. Print
2. *Between the Assassinations*. India: Picador, 2008. Print.
3. *Last Man in Tower*. India: HarperCollins, 2011. Print
4. Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 1999. 7th Ed. Singapore: Thomson-Heine, 2005. Print.
5. Vanitha S. “*Historical Representations in Indian English Novels*”. *Literary Endeavour*, VOL.XIII NO.2 April-2022, pp.47-50.