



DELINEATION OF HUMAN FAMILIAL PROPINQUITY IN THE FICTIONAL REALM OF R.K. NARAYAN: AN ANALYSIS.

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An Abstract:

This research paper, at the outset, first looks at how great R. K. Narayan in his fictional realm discusses how different relationships between people, both within and outside of families, can affect society. In his literary world, Narayan delves into the correlation between different relationships involving individuals, both within and beyond the confines of families, and how they shape the fabric of society. Additionally, this research deeply examines the role of R. K as an observer who carefully watches and understands human intentions and motivations. In his novels, Narayan depicts diverse types of connections between characters, ranging from uncomplicated to intricate ones.

Keywords: relationship, family, desires, motives, society, community, love, understanding,

There is widespread consensus on the interconnectedness of history and literature. While, historical information may be scarce, literature serves as a reliable source for understanding the lives and events pertaining to a wide range of people. A multitude of stories could be found within novels from both the East and West. The Rig Veda and the Upanishads are regarded as crucial narratives in India. In the first millennium AD, a plethora of narratives were written, encompassing both regular sentences and poems. The term Indo-Anglican literature pertains to the assortment of English writings originating from the Indian subcontinent. When exploring the history of Indian literature, including Indo-Anglican fiction, one will come across the accounts of the past as well as the present. The expansion of English literature authored by Indians can be attributed to the British rule in India.

The emergence of writers like R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao, Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, and many more writing in English propelled Indo-Anglican literature into the limelight, leading to increased popularity and marked improvement in its artistic merit. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* (1935), and Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* (1938) explored themes related to social hierarchy, discrimination, and the struggles faced by marginalized groups in Indian society. These novels depicted the lives of individuals from the lower castes,

particularly the untouchables, and shed light on the injustices and hardships they endured. Ultimately, these works aimed to raise awareness and provoke discussions about social inequality in India. Narayan's novel *Swami and Friends*, and Raja Rao's book *Kanthapura* are said to have introduced Indian literature in English in the 1930s. *The Serpent and the Rope* is a very important and well-known book in Indian English literature. Indian writing in English as per the words of M.R. Anand:

“They were flesh of my flesh and blood of my blood and obsessed me on the way which certain human beings obsess an artist’s soul” (Iyengar, 334)

For nearly a century, Narayan has dedicated himself to writing and is affiliated with the Humanists group. Focusing on key periods of transition in modern Indian history, his literature encompasses the time frame following the end of British colonialism to the present day. Some of his works include *"Swami and Friends"* which was published in 1935 and *"The World of Nagaraj"* which was published in 1990. In his stories, he imagines a made-up place called Malgudi. He notices traces of his own identity within the characters he creates and writes about, including even the most minute human emotions. William Walsh emphasizes that Narayan's writings are captivating as they reveal essential and relatable aspects of human nature. Narayan has a deep affection for individuals and finds joy in witnessing their interactions and conversations. His ability to connect with others and his openness in understanding them make him highly admired by many people. Devoting attention to all aspects of human existence and considering them as divinely crafted, he exemplifies a genuine Humanist.

Narayan is a writer who delves into the lives of people and their interpersonal bonds. The stories he weaves possess an uncanny realism, evoking the sensation of gazing at a picture. Narayan creates art that centers around intense emotions and encounters, highlighting the challenging struggles individuals encounter in both their physical and mental realms. Through the portrayal of various characters, the novels illustrate how people have the ability to feel love for others and determine their own paths. The books demonstrate the capacity of individuals to both love others and exercise their own free will. Their aim is to aid readers in establishing meaningful connections and grasp the importance of their role within their community. Narayan believes that interpersonal bonds are incredibly significant. Stressing the value of robust familial alliances, he underscores the vital role played by strong bonds within a family, particularly emphasizing the importance of sibling connections. The personality of R.K. Narayanan according to D.A. Shankar as follows:

“Of all the Indian writers in English, R.K. Narayan is surely the finest and most authentic in his representation of the national ethos, the scenery, the sights and sounds, the ambience of the nation or at least of South India, which he had made his special domain under the name of Malgudi. There is hardly ever anything that is unread in his picture of peoples and places alike, we are constantly aware that what he depicts is what we are accustomed to, what we know from experience or from report” (p.137)

Narayan pays close attention to people's emotions, leading him to act accordingly. As a result, he scrutinizes people's behavior and interacts with them unsympathetically. His frequent discussions revolve around the dynamics of human interaction, and analyzing his work can provide valuable insights on fostering healthy relationships. Some of his most interesting novels include *The Guide, The Financial Expert, The English*

Teacher, The Vender of Sweets, The Dark Room, and The World of Nagaraj. He greatly cherishes his familial bonds and the ancestral practices of his home and kin. The central theme of his stories centers on the way individuals interact with one another, particularly within familial settings.

R.K. Narayanan, in his writings, he delves into various aspects of family relationships, such as their impact on society, politics, and finances. Narayan's works investigate the influence of family relationships on society, politics, and economics. Narayan's literature intricately examines the interconnections between family dynamics and their repercussions on society, politics, and monetary affairs. The author demonstrates the significant impact of these regulations and traditions on an individual's capacity to thrive within a society dominated by negative elements. He presents a range of people who desire a greater sense of fulfillment in their lives. In his books, he shows strange family relationships in a way that seems real. In the majority of his books, the author emphasizes the significance of the relationships involving husbands and wives, lovers, and parents. What he does in his novelistic paintings goes beyond just showing what he sees. What he does with Malgudi goes beyond just showing different kinds of how people relate to each other. Swami, Krishna, Raju, Sampath, Srinivas, Raman, Sriram, and Margayya are all different types of people that can be found anywhere in the novel.

If people both participate equally in a conversation or activity, it can be good and beneficial. It should also go both ways. The emphasis in his portrayal of characters lies on their collective identity as part of a big family, rather than focusing on their individuality. According to Graham Greene, Narayan utilizes the family as a means to demonstrate tradition and rigid convictions. Narayan primarily centers his attention on the interactions between men and women and their private affairs. Through humor, they discuss their aspirations, objectives, blunders, disappointments, accomplishments, and instances of failure. The human-relationship, in the words of R.K. Narayan:

“I value human relationship very much intensely. It makes one’s existence worthwhile human relationship in any and every form whether at home or outside. And as far as this is concerned, I think I have expressed this philosophy in my work successfully” (Kohlie, 13)

Narayan pays close attention to people's feelings and reactions, ultimately impacting their behavior. His strong critique of people's behavior stems from this. By consistently delving into individuals' interactions, the author emphasizes the valuable lessons we can acquire about cultivating healthy relationships. His early writings delved into straightforward associations, such as the bonds between pupils and educators, buddies and schoolmates, or family members, including a father-son dynamic or husband-wife relationship. Some of his most interesting novels are *The Guide, The Financial Expert, The English Teacher, The Vender of Sweets, The Dark Room, and The World of Nagaraj.* He believes that maintaining strong family bonds and preserving traditional practices within the home are of utmost importance. The interconnections among individuals hold paramount significance in his narratives. In particular, he dedicates his attention to relationships that exist within families.

In his novels, R. K. Narayan examines the diverse approaches through which families engage with each other, including their involvement in society, politics, and economic matters. The author demonstrates the significant impact these regulations and traditions have on an individual's survival within a society governed by malevolent

individuals. He portrays multiple characters yearning for something beyond the ordinary in their lives. Strange family relationships are depicted authentically in his novels. The significance of the relationships involving husbands and wives, lovers and beloveds, as well as fathers and mothers, resonates throughout the majority of his novels. His novelistic paintings go beyond mere depiction of reality, achieving a deeper meaning. The accomplishments of what he achieves extend beyond merely showing different types of human connections in Malgudi. Many character sketches such as people named Swami, Krishna, Raju, Sampath, Srinivas, Raman, Sriram, or Margayya in any part of the world. Each of them possesses distinct qualities and are individuals with varying characteristics.

Narayan's novels, similar to Sharad Chandra Chatterjee's work, depict human relationships in an unbiased manner. The depth of insight into human interaction is evident throughout his literary works. Narayan understands that there are big problems in life and the world that cannot be fixed. The hidden knowledge of R. K. Narayan's artistic vision is about carefully noticing and understanding the small details, using sarcasm in a gentle way, and creating balance in the portrayal of how people relate to each other. In his books, he has made different kinds of friendships between people. Narayan's strong belief in Indian values and traditions, particularly in interpersonal relationships, is one aspect of his conquering personality.

A captivating aspect of Narayan's personality is his deep conviction in Indian values and traditions, specifically in the way individuals connect with one another. The most fascinating and intriguing thing about R. K. Narayan wrote about a relationship between a mother and her son. In the book *Swami and Friends*, Swami's connection with his mother is discussed. Similarly, in *The Dark Room*, Sriram has a bond with his mother Savitri. In *Waiting for the Mahatma*, Sriram also has a relationship with his friend Kenny. In *The Guide*, there is a relationship between Raju and his mother. In *The Financial Expert*, there is also a relationship between Balu and his mother Meenakshi. Lastly, in *The Painter of Signs*, there is a relationship between Raman and his mother. K.N. Sinha observes:

“R.K. Narayan is keenly aware of the fundamental irremediable incongruities which life and world are confronting with us. The secret of R.K. Narayan’s artistic vision lies in his minute observation, subtle irony and perfect harmony which are the basic ingredients of presenting human relationships. In his novels, he has created all sorts of human relationship”. (p.63)

Narayan has a keen interest in observing and comprehending the reasons behind people's emotions and behaviors. He takes a critical stance towards people's actions. Many times, he discusses the dynamics of interpersonal relationships and highlights valuable lessons we can glean from observing how people interact with one another. At first, his work centered around fundamental relationships. Initially, he directed his attention towards primary connections in his work. In the early stages, his focus was on the foundational relationships in his work. For example, he explored connections between students and teachers, friends and classmates, and family members like fathers and sons or husbands and wives. Some of his most interesting novels include *The Guide*, *The Financial Expert*, *The English Teacher*, *The Vender of Sweets*, *The Dark Room*, and *The World of Nagaraj*. He really values his relationships with family members and cherishes the traditions that they have at home. In his stories, the focus is on human relationships, especially relationships within families or homes.

The influence of society, politics, and money on families is examined by Narayan. He demonstrates how these regulations and traditions significantly impact an individual's capacity to survive in a society governed by malevolent individuals. In his novels, he depicts unconventional family bonds in an authentic way. Through his writings, he realistically illustrates peculiar family connections. In the majority of his books, significant connections exist between husbands and wives, romantic partners and their loved ones, and fathers and mothers. What he creates in his paintings goes beyond just showing what he looks at. What he accomplishes with Malgudi goes beyond just showing different kinds of relationships between people. People named Swami, Krishna, Raju, Sampath, Srinivas, Raman, Sriram, or Margayya can be found anywhere in the world among regular people. In every scenario, Narayan has portrayed the deep and subtle emotions experienced by mothers who endure mistreatment from their disrespectful sons.

The novels of R.K. Narayan, including *Swami and Friends*, *The Bachelor of Arts*, *The Financial Expert*, *The Vendor of Sweets*, and *The World of Nagaraj*, look at the relationship between fathers and sons. Narayan also writes about the relationship between husbands and wives in *The Dark Room*, *The English Teacher*, and *The Guide*. In *The Dark Room* and *The Guide*, the relationships between Ramani and Savitri, and Marco and Rosie, highlight that a partnership without respect and peace cannot last. In *The English Teacher*, Narayan demonstrates the immense beauty of human relationships through the bond between Krishna and Sushila, as their affection fills them with optimism, joy, and serenity.

R. K. Narayan depicted about the relationship between two people who love each other. In the book *"The Bachelor of Arts,"* Chandran and Malathi's relationship is discussed. In *"The Dark Room,"* the relationship between Ramani and Shantabai is explored. In *The Guide*, Sampath, Raju, and Rosie have a relationship. In *Waiting for the Mahatma*, Sriram and Bharati also have a relationship. Ramani and Savitri have a loving and adored relationship in *The Dark Room*. Similarly, Marco and Daisy also have a similar relationship in *The Painter of Signs*. Narayan is upset in every situation because there is no dedication, surrender, mutual respect, or understanding between them.

The Financial Expert, *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*, and *The Guide* are four novels written by Narayan that delve into relationships between people. Velan and Raju are friends in the novel *The Guide*. Vasu and Nataraj are friends in the book *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*. Pal is a character in *The Financial Expert*. These characters are part of every relationship. Each of these characters is intertwined with one another within every relationship as they pursue their individual objectives and desires. Narayan's novel, *"The Guide,"* is portrayed in a straightforward manner. Narayan's writing is often described as realistic. People appreciate how he accurately shows the way people relate to each other. The words of C.D. Narasimaiah as comments:

“Narayan is a product of the Hindu middle class in South Indian sharing the beliefs, superstitions and prejudices of his class in a town and viewing its going on with sympathy but also with a keen eye for the exotic life around him”. (p.36)

The primary focus in Narayan's novels is on how human relationships transform as time passes, portrayed through his main characters. As an individual who keenly observes and comprehends the motives and wants

driving people's behavior. R.K. Narayan aspires to transmit a lucid and uncomplicated message. In R.K. Through his books and short tales, Narayan endeavors to illustrate a human connection that is both straightforward and intellectually astute.

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