EMERGING TRENDS IN LITERATURES IN ENGLISH THE ORIGIN OF LITERATURE WITH A SPECIAL REFERENCE ON GENDER STUDIES

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Literature at its best is a reflection of our lives in our times. The primary aim of this paper is to explore the process of transformation procured by the literatures in English over a period of time. If we have a proclivity to turn to the pages of the past trends within the literatures of English, right from Old English period, middle and the modern, literature has peregrinated into a number of genres and now it has anchored into the visual media.

When we look into the past it was the Religious literature, History plays, War poems dominated the world of writers. It was an epic poem ‘Beowulf’ made the debut in writing between 8th and 11th centuries and it was a consequential work during Old English period. The later part of the 17th century optically discerned John Milton who wrote the great epic poem ‘Paradise Lost’. Bible translations were done during the Middle English period. There was a consummate transformation in the technology of writing where the writers concentrated on the Psychological novels. ‘Samuel Richardson’s ‘Pamela’ can be cited as the first example for psychological novels. Science fiction came into existence between 17th and 19th centuries due to the extraordinary scientific revolution and inventions in the field of astronomy, physics and other areas. We have evidence in our Indian Literature about the subsistence of science fiction. The Hindu Epic Ramayana verbalizes about ‘Vimana’ a flying machine which is capable of travelling in space as well as water. ‘Rig Veda’ has an accumulation of Sanskrit hymns which describes about ‘mechanical birds.’ Greek playwright ‘Aristophanes’ in his work talks about a voyage to another world. ‘The Clouds’ can be cited as an example.

The years between 1950 and 1985 proved a tremendous change and a revolution in the world of Children’s books. It was the vicissitude transpired in the world of children’s books publishing houses and the convivial structure of the country. It was in the year 1918 which can be construed as the year for children’s publishing in the United States and it went on till 1950’s. Children’s books had some restricted themes, structured plots, determined morals and great regalement. The writers of children’s books took an oath to indite children’s books, which can inculcate and motivate children. These books reflected the culture of the period and how children were injuctively authorized to understand about social values. Owing to commercialization, children’s literature found its axe on compromising with values. Paperback romances became the greatest seller of the time. It was after 1960 a new genre emerged in children’s literature. Whatever considered taboos were explored by upcoming writers. The themes like alcoholism, drugs, sex, and violence were analyzed. Topics about death and disease were withal discussed in children’s books.

An incipient theory of fiction emerged with a bang called dystopian fiction. Dystopian fiction was integrated to literature during antediluvian times but it was in the 1900s it propagated. It was additionally called as Escapist fiction. It magnetized the teen age readers because they were caught in the web of monotonous life. Later in the year 1960 L.P. Hartley penned ‘Facial Justice’ which describes about transmuting the look through a process of surgical alteration.


Thus the transformation of literature over the years gained obdurateness and it has spread its tentacles to sundry genres till the present day. Among the themes “Gender Studies” got a prominent place in literature. If we trace the inchoation of gender studies, it was way back in 1970s when women protested against the gender partialness in Academics. Women were consummately absent in the field of edification. The appetency zeal of women to contribute to the world of literature paved way for a platform for women. It resulted in Feminism, women writings, men studies and LGBT literature. The aim behind gender studies is to ascertain scholarly engendersments towards literature and society without gender inequitableness. The women’s kineticism in the west can be projected into two phases. The first phase was in mid 19th century and perpetuated till 1920s and the second commenced in the 1960s. When we analyze the theoretical trends within the feminist movement, it was ‘Liberal Feminism,’ came into existence in the 18th and 19th centuries. The pioneers were Mary Wollstonecraft, Harriet Taylor Mill. The Center stage was occupied by ‘Radical Feminism’ after ‘Liberal Feminism’. It aimed to reshape the society and restructure its institutions, which they felt patriarchal. A sizably voluminous bombshell came in 1970 in which ‘Kate millet’ published a book on ‘Sexual Politics.’ It has the inscriptions of a broader view of potency relationships. It briefly talks about the relationship between men and women in society. She was of the view that if we opt ate to eliminate Patriarchy in life; both men and women must shirk gender status. She was keen on eliminating crooked traits like arrogance (among men) and duteousness (among women). Another puissant writer was ‘Shulamith firestone’ came out with a powerful book called ‘Dialectics of Sex’ (1970). It verbalizes about women’s subordination and man’s ascendance in the process of reproduction. She advocated artificial reproduction and withal insisted on intentional family rather than traditional biological family. In the tardy 1970s, one section of radical feminist writers endeavored to concentrate exclusively on women. There was no comparison with men. It was an act of glorification of being born as women. Women clubs, women institutions and a
separate women culture were initiated. They called themselves as “Cultural Feminists.” This trend paved way for eco-feminism and post-modernism as well. Marilyn French and Mary Daly was the popular contributor of ‘Cultural Feminism.’ The ‘Radical Feminists’ did not even spare the conjugal relationship between man and woman and they termed it as a medium for male ascendance. But in reality women were not subordinated by men in terms of reproduction. In fact, women were glorify the theory of existence. Reproduction is a biological act and it cannot be termed as oppression against women. The admirable trend of ‘Radical Feminism,’ was that they focused on Economic development for women, education and the women’s right to live, blissfully and placidly.

“The Second Shift,” a book written by ‘Ardie Hochschild’ discusses about the day to day turmoil encountered by women who works away from home. It was the dual responsibility on the shoulders of women, Child caring, cooking, washing and other household responsibilities were still on the work schedule of women. Many cogitate and ridicule that women’s rights has come to a saturation point, but it is erroneous in certain areas like pay structure, economic imbalance, supremacy at work spot and at home etc. Female infanticide is still prevalent in the event of becoming a mother and the rituals pertaining to motherhood were gargantuan and it integrates color and ecstasy to women. “Extremism in Feminism could be visually perceived in ‘Radical Feminism.’ In Post-Modernism, the Post-Modernists celebrate the identity and they do not accept the Marxian theory of ‘Totality.’ The main hiccup in ‘Radical Feminism’ was that they challenge the fundamental grey areas around the globe. The future trend of the writers of feminist theory may verbally express that “it is not eluding from the mainstream and getting disoriented but being in it and to rule.” The future women writers may scientifically try to induct some system to tackle the challenges regarding ‘responsibilities in family, parental care, convivial stigmas like girl child abuse etc. Definitely it will be a non-violent super psychological approach. They will be yare to oppose vehemently any move that outrages the modesty of women. Rather than involving in any ‘Man-execrating,’ exercise, women writers in future will engender a trend where men will be taken along the divine journey, to crown the potentiality of women.

The world of cinema played a major role in promoting feminism and due to the technological advancements; it has become a more preponderant medium to promote feminism to the audience. A few examples like a movie named “Thelma & Louise (1991) American drama film by “Callie Khouri” bagged six academy award nominations and it was a film which exalts the uncompromising validation of women’s experiences. Another film called “Turning” enjoyed overwhelming support from the audience for projecting women’s capacity to rule over intuition and the capacity to handle the emotions shrewdly. This film stood as an intersection between trans-feminism and future-feminism.

In future, women writers will break the barriers of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation etc. They will follow a trend of a broader spectrum of including women from all walks of life. If the future women writers, concentrate on the above anticipated areas welkin will be the constraint for the developments. The world would be a much more preponderant place if we could give women a more vigorous voice and rights worldwide.

Another major trend to be adopted by women writers will be the ‘contribution of women towards the exploration of the ‘Mars Planet.’ There is a possibility of women scientists joining the group who were orchestrating to peregrinate to Mars and explore. That day will be marked in the
annals of women writers and it will be a remarkable day for women. The entire human world will salute and adore the vitality and grace of women. The future women writers may opt for that great occasion to indite the glory of women for decades.

International Men’s Day is celebrated on 19th November every year. The motive behind celebrating Men’s day is to promote optimism, reverence towards women, social concern, men’s role in family and society etc. Masculinity studies depend on various forms. The social, Political and Psychological concepts prevailing towards masculinity differs with the theory of masculinity across the globe. American masculinity has a different construal, a man who is involved in sports and games were considered to be an authentic man, whereas, those who shun sports and live at home were considered subordinate masculinities. An Organization subsisted in the early 1970s and it was called (NOCM) National organization for changing men. In the year 1991, American Men’s Studies Association was composed. In the conference of AMSA, the nuances of perspicacity and the contribution to the study of men and masculinity were accoladed. The various denominations in the categorical division on Men’s studies can be understood from the book called “Reel Men at War; Masculinity and the American war films (scarecrow press, 2011) by Dr.Ralph Donald.

Any literature springs out of pain. It is this pain brings resplendency to that literature. When we enter into the world of LGBT literature, the writers will give their voice en masse to fend the life style of the gays. They say that it is the biological process that transpires in a human body and it goes unnatural. In the melee, the person also undergoes the process and encounters an unbearable contempt by the society and regime. There is no salvage for them even in religion. It is a total psychological and biological transformation. But it is the cruel society which turns truculent against these remotely people. This is the theme highlighted in Gay literature. The future trend of Gay literature may be predicated on the transmuting life styles of the people. The writers of gay literature endeavor to bring cognizance among the readers so that the situation may turn humane towards LGBT. In future the emotional and religious bondage towards this type of literature may fade away. The future writers of LGBT may approach scientifically to make the audience understand and dote it. George Meredith contributed to this literature and his viewpoint was talked about in “Sensible Males.” D.H.Lawrence, E.M.Forster contributed a new lexicon to write about typical, sensible men. Frederick Pohl’s “Gateway” a novel with scientific connotations features three men living together in a sempiternal relationship and it was not called a Gay book. There is a possibility of eradicating the social stigma by the writers of gay literature. The future writers may try to abstract the religious taboos in order to popularize Gay literature. LGBT writers in future may be looked as just writers and segregating categories on book websites and stores may vanish. The future trend of Gay literature may give a different interpretation; verbally expressing that same sex espousal is just an “Alternative life Style.” Will this Gay literature be useful? Or will the writers of Gay literature be successful in achieving their mission? It all depends on the mindset of the people in future.

Finally the latest and the expeditious emerging trend in the study of literature is through visual media. Visual media is more subsidiary in analyzing literary texts. The people will appreciate the quality of literature more by viewing than reading. The writer’s adoption of literary contrivances in poetry, prose and novel can be exhibited by converting it into films. In future the readers may use media texts more than literary texts. To understand the main components in a literary
text such as theme, plot structure, narration, mood etc, the readers may opt for media for a more preponderant exposure. Plays, fiction and other forms of literature will get transformed into films for the better understanding of the audience. Hence the visual media is a representational manifestation of gregarious vicissitudes in a contemporary global society.

Works cited:


General books on feminism.
Old English describes the origins of the English language from around 450 - 1100. English is Germanic in origin, although over half of its words have derived from contact with the Latin and French languages and some from Scandinavian influence. Much of the Old English language surviving today uses gender in nouns, while word order was not fixed and there was a lot of freedom in the way the language was used. Old English grammar is similar to the grammar of modern German with different inflectional endings, four distinctive cases (nominative, dative, accusative and genitive) and gendered nouns. Old English Literature. Texts written in Old English language consist of poetry, prose, maxims and proverbs. Much of it was based on the Bible and Pagan traditions. English literature includes literature composed in English by writers not necessarily from England, but all are considered important writers in the history of English literature (for example, Robert Burns was Scottish, James Joyce was Irish, Joseph Conrad was Polish, Dylan Thomas was Welsh, Thomas Pynchon is American, V.S. Naipaul was born in Trinidad). Thus Old English literature, or Anglo-Saxon literature, comprises literature written in Old English in Anglo-Saxon England, in the period after the settlement of the Saxons and other Germanic tribes in England after the withdrawal of the Romans and “ending soon after the Norman Conquest” in 1066. Old English poetry falls broadly into two styles or fields of reference, the heroic Germanic and the Christian. To study the classic, English scholars had to go to Italy and this contact with Italy, for a second time, inspired English writers. Close on the heels of the men of learning went the men of fashion. The classical learning and art of Italy, its rich sensuousness, and its splendour, dazzled their eyes and corrupted their morals. Satirical references to the fashion, and extravagance of these young men are frequent in the plays of Shakespeare. The licentiousness of Italy is reflected in such poems as Marlowe’s Hero and Leander and Shakespeare’s Venus and Adonis and The Rape of Lucrece. In the history of English literature, the period of over one hundred years from 1660 to 1789 is variously called to Augustan Age, the classical age or the Pseudo-classical age or the age of Neoclassicism.