



Role of Progressive Movement and Modernism in Urdu Literature

Yasmin Sultana¹, Lubna Ahsan², Mahrukh Khan³ and Dawood Usmani⁴

^{1,2}Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, Karachi, PAKISTAN

³Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, PAKISTAN

⁴Govt. Boys Degree College, Baldia Town, Karachi, PAKISTAN

Available online at: www.isca.in, www.isca.me

Received 9th August 2014, revised 2nd September 2014, accepted 18th September 2014

Abstract

Aim of this article is to discover prominent attributes of The Progressive Movement in the literature of Urdu language and considering dimensions to compare it with the European Modernism. This article also discovers development of The Progressive Movement year wise and outlines sway of Modernism of Europe over it.

Keywords: Marxism, modernism, literature, urdu, authors.

Introduction

Modernism, as a term has been utilized in order to differentiate between the literatures that were formed farther than the 1st World War. Modernism intentionally ruined with customs of Western world with assurance. During the collapse of them, Modernism started to develop and began to challenge all the styles that were present at that time. Significant ancestors of the Modernism were Freud, Marx and Nietzsche which rejected the different levels of religious faiths, psychology, politics and philosophy.

They developed to disbelieve the constancy and arrange provided in previous works related to literary. It also ruined with principles of literary; Such as any type of newly started movement it also insurrected in opposition to the previous and old.

It was related to nihilism that time and leaned to trust in its possessed self adequacy. Now the reading audience of that literature was given the invitation to have a glance at them, in order to found their actual associations with the globe and to overlook the society and religious related regulations. Modernism desires then to crack the previous and old associations since it has the belief about these being are fake and manipulative.

People are incited to start thinking and then make a decision by themselves. These people are anticipated to redesign their ethics. The worry of social welfare sustained. Since the world came into being, spend every era has its own leading religion and hope; while socialism in an unclear and indeterminate logic was reckoned as a hope of 20th century¹.

The theory of Marxism underwent an obscure following the Second World War. Although it still participated by performing a vital role in writers' hands; thus far few writers such as Orwell were disheartened even prior to the Second World War. There were Thousands in numbers who were in homeless in United Kingdom. Cry for justice had challenged the previous ethics

owing to increase in social understanding. Agricultural despair of years 1870 to 1902 indicated the crumple of ethics that personified by rural society².

Authors such as Galsworthy, Forster and Yeats watched the country house back upon nostalgically. Realism established as modernism along with further difficult implications of the globe beyond the 19th century. Realism of 19th century was a segment of idealism although generally it was considered as a response next to it. The realism started in United Kingdom with the George Eliot, with Howells in America and similarly with Balzac in Europe¹.

Impartiality and demonstration of characters in psychological order were its objectives, besides a look for reality. In several countries in the world; particularly in France; use of the term naturalism was with the objective to restrict realism after producing literature directed by rules of scientific determinism. Concept of Drawing related to human just like an animal and the life akin to bloody struggle was their belief. Naturalism tackled further willfully through the running groups than the Realism more than it ever did before.

The growth of grand understanding beats moral turmoil's note and disorder. In spite of asserts of them, the Imperialists to be society's torch holders were utilizing colonies for untreated stuffs and earnings. 1st World War pierced the balloon of the British self-satisfaction and uncovered the void of false claims and moreover undertakes of the Empire. Indian's abhorrence resulted struggle of thirty years long until on August 14, 1947 when Pakistan and India came up as sovereign countries inside the Commonwealth. E. M. Forster and George Orwell, with concerns of socialism, passionately started to write by opposing the political overthrow for it stimulated tough guilty feelings.

Progressive Movement and Modernism

As far as literature of Urdu language is concerned, Modernism appeared past Iqbal; even if the roots were there in the authors' works where they had written in the context of ghadar 1857.

That began with Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Shibli and Hali because they had the honor to be known as the pioneers who use to narrate literature intentionally with their society. Slowly, it was distributed into various movements such as The Progressive Movement, Cultural Movement and Neo Progressive Movement³.

In any segment of the globe, the Modernism is the result of the void widespread in the society. It originates when the old norms and standards start to shape up as worthless and new probabilities take place. Types of Old literary could not manage and handle such new probabilities. Sensitively people adhere to their previous time even if rationally they desire to manage with the varying globe. After the 1857 authors were engaged in activities of politics. These authors found utilizing literature as an instrument in order to serve up their interests of politics. Literature of dissent was developed opposing the foreign government authorized with deadly weapons⁴.

The 1971 revolution in Russia wherein the masses conquered Capitalism and Imperialism were warmly received as a beam of trust for all the broken sections. It was because of they being logical and reality based in their loom towards the life. They expanded the civic flavor for science, philosophy and further disciplines about the information.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan brought up not only novel ideas but inserted new vocabulary as well into the Urdu language. Hali pressured nationalism and supported for the social development. Urdu poetry was revolutionized by his "Musaddas". The only deficiency in this was that it only concentrated on Muslims community⁵. It became an exemplar for progressive authors as it portrayed the worsening of privileged division and society's backwardness all together.

Shibli also added by using his written material to awaken the people politically. He established the base of agitation poetry and expanded the skill of disparagement and biography. After the 1857, authors are the pioneers of literature of democracy and disparagement analysis that heads the progressive authors' participation in the movement of independence.

Various authors of foreign countries i.e. Lenin, Darwin, Nietzsche, Romi and Marx motivated novel authors. In result, the subject turned out to be significant than the form. They imagined human as a crown of formation, able of using the objects of natural type to supply his concerns. It was their strong belief that every human has its own self respect. Progressive literature comprises these ideologies as the root in spite of the reality that was observed by the progressive authors these modernist authors irresponsible. They applied an immense pressure on the progressive authors. After the First World War, Europe was in disaster.

The old norms and standards felt down and the fresh had not been yet given a birth. The beginning of labor segment and

farmers gave strength to the movement of freedom. Similar to politicians, authors did not left any option apart from to select the way towards the revolution or to exit the picture. At that crucial time, Josh Malih Abadi and Prem Chand designed the path for literature comprising opposition or moreover for the The Progressive Movement. Both of them wrote regarding the tormenter and the demoralized. They portrayed the difficulties of communities from untouchables, those who working as clerks or belong to inferior and middle class by defining the mental status of their minds, mentioning their restrained wishes, being ignored, being with narrow minds, irrational nature and their utilization because of dishonesty widespread in that society.

Josh condemned sulkily the U.K government and cheered the movement of freedom. Post 1916, the teenagers were seriously pressurized by Marx's theory of economic. In year 1935 a party in Congress was formed by giving it the name of Socialist Congress. It was the time when The Progressive Movement was ready to take its place. World had to face the threats of Second World War and Fascism. Dying of people in Berlin was also seen. In Italy, people were being slaughtered. Spain was being attacked⁶.

In Asia region, India and China had to face the oppression of the settlers. In Germany, It was announced that if any author does not favor fascism will be declared and reckoned as traitor. In order to protect the independence of literature Gorky, in year 1935, Authors like Thomas Mann and few others organized a conference in Paris which had the scope of international arena. Authors from entire world participated in that conference however, no any author from India took participation in it, Just Raj Anand and Sajjad Zaheer took the participation in it. It was the time when they had formed the organization of all authors from London with progressive frame of minds; however they did it with the assistance of students of India. The setting of initial proposal of progressive movement formed in London.

Following is an extract from that proposal of the progressive movement: "We have the belief that literature introduced recently in India should manage through the fundamental troubles of current time, the troubles of lack of food and scarcity, backwardness in the social sector and inability in the political side"⁷.

Prior to launching of Progressive Movement, the literature of Urdu language was apathetic to social concerns. Mostly, it was over-romantic, inspired and isolated out of social realism. This movement took the responsibility to bring the literature near to reality.

According to Dr. Saleem Akhter: "The literature of Urdu language was never established as a means of transportation for some movements nor it was an innovation reckoned an instrument to admit a few policies.

The authors with progressive frame of minds were nearer to Communism so these authors' written material was opposing the Capitalism. These authors showed the ideology of Communism as a key to the social and economic utilization of ordinary man.

Prem Chand is known as the pioneer revolutionary literature. In his writings he has uncovered the politics of United Kingdom and protested opposing the industry persons because of their ill-treatment of the laborers. His earliest collection comprising short stories named *Soze Watan* was burned by the government of U.K in protest he gave resignation from the government job and spent remaining life as an author. In 1st conference by that movement, Prem Chand acknowledges that literature; that could situate the experiment of the time is the one that provokes the thought, freedom's fond, appeals artistically, has the capability for spiritually purgation, has the capability of moving, reflects the life's facts, evolves and transforms people by enlightenment and giving them further awareness as a substitute of calming them to sleep which can't be reckoned better than the death⁸.

In Lucknow, in year 1936, the first conference of All-India Progressive Writers was organized, that could be considered as a defining moment in Urdu literature's history.

According to Professor of Allah Abad University: "To return to the past or renew its ambiance is not possible. Realism based on Social sector of the history is not the social based realism today! Tagore's poetry and also Iqbal morbidly escapist took birth of a wish to overlook the realism and in spite of its beauty is dream of a dreamer⁷. Progressive Movement came out due to freedom movement opposing the rulers of U.K. This movement was against the fascist movement. Afterward, Communism influenced it.

Second The Conference pertaining to Progressive Movement was conducted in year 1939. This conference was held in Calcutta. Evidence of the status of Progressive Movement was the representative works of authors like Sajjad Zaheer, Krishand Chand, Saadat Hassan Manto, Faiz and Faiz, Bedi and Ismat Chughtai etc. Their addressed topic was the issues going through by Women, laborers and farmers etc.

In protest against classical literature, they placed prominence on ease of style and language. They utilized informal articulation to create general individual perceive whatever they had the wish to speak. They initiated fresh categories in Urdu language's literature as well as extended range of poetry based on Urdu language by developing latest principles. Skill of disparagement was also customized through highlighting the political learning, historical and social outlook. It held this to be transformed into the skill of science. They had a dream of a humanitarian society open from class difference.

Modernism influencing is obvious together on structural and thematic point in the functioning of the Progressive authors. An

author named Dr. Gopi Chand Narang somewhat disagrees with the opinion mentioned above by claiming that Modernism in the form of a movement in the Urdu literature attained its max out when it saw down fall in the European countries. He differs between Modernism and The Progressive Movement by claiming that Modernism opposed the Marxist theory. He acknowledges however, that progressive authors that include Bedi, Ismat and Manto were known as modernists' authors. The Progressive Movement emphasized over the pledge but Modernism upraised next to it. Therefore, it limited literature by fully without the political conversation⁹.

The progressive authors like Asghar Nadeem Saeed and Faraz have been recently busy in work of creativity. The Progressive authors addressed social problems in their writings due to sexual deficiencies, industrialization and urbanization. There are several novels authored by using other languages specifically Russian languages were interpreted into the language of Urdu. The progressive authors exhibited brilliance in the skills to draw the drawings of persons.

The leading division launches its plans in ethics and skill; but as the time passes it fragments and has been replaced by new elite, jumping out of the ordinary public and that carries with it a further virile beginning of life and skill¹⁰.

There was another change in the later thirties when a change from leading middle division to a novel division of scholar and cultured people. The history of the people belonging to middle class has unavoidably chased the similar point as happened in U.K in 1890s. Then appeared the breakdown of the Victorian ideal with Shaw, Wells and Bennet and in the end of 1st World War that shattered up the previous ideals in single and universal wreck. We stood in those thirties whereas U.K stood in 1890s.

In the literature based over Urdu language, similar cases are available such as Ismat Chughtai, Manto, Rajinder Singh Bedi and Aziz Ahmed etc. Writers of modern era denied in believing that the sex was anything that could be ashamed of and it was a thing that could be adopted to enjoy in confidentiality escaping staying away from the vigilant society. Life of any person incorporated its role and allowed. Sexual obsessions shaped up as a topic for the composers to write about. Agricultural style to the urban style comprising change of life lifted the balloon of affectation making the exposure of the reality that ethics is an issue of financial ease and approval.

The passion by means of sexual issues reasoned immense commotion in the conventional circles. As the composers or modern era did not bamboozle morals with artistic, the conventional composers, critics and journalism associated experts made an attempt to advocate all that was written by them.

Proclaiming themselves to be diabolic, they disregarded the intent of these composers to picture the unraveled area of human

consciousness and efforts made by them in order to treat the society affected by disease. Composers of modern era did not construct malevolence eye-catching⁷.

Urdu Literature: Reflection and Criticism: The Existentialism appeared as a different doctrine. Sartre strained the individual liability and finished that human is damned to be open. Ismat, Mufti and Manto have been talking paradoxically regarding the lately autonomy won by the man. Existentialism of Sartre did not guide to insignificance and distrust; in its place it emphasized over the value of autonomy of man and social justice. Thus, he emphasized over the necessity for pledge. Art of writing is pledge and progressive ideological writers have vital belief over it too.

That man is dedicated to all the ethics that could play role in improving the circumstances to live. The writings of ever writer become the way to express their pledges in diverse manners. Actually, pledge and principles are reckoned as two faces of the same coin. It isn't the representation to the manufacturing of propagandist literature the way is an opposition to the literature of progressive ideology.

Pledge to exhibit the fact; fact of social side is not similar as from propagandist literature. It is a phenomenon that keeps growing continually. The recent development in market and in the technology is a fact of multidimensional type. For the humanity, it is a blessing as well as a curse. This age has been modified by the Industrialization as an age of consumerism. The man is considered as an entity. The focus of man is redirected from the improvements related to spiritual angel towards the material hunt.

The authors of modern era such as Virginia Woolf, Jean Rhys and D.H. Lawrence belonging to Europe, Isamat, Manto and Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi delivered their writings on these matters. They investigated on evils of social sides and explored into the objectives at the back of them. Writers such as Ahmed Ali and Sajjad Zaheer had their qualifications from foreign countries and had great inspiration from James Joyce. The style of James Joyce and his methods were followed in the writings of these writers. They emphasized reality based depiction of realities in their writing works. In the West, modernist style of literature is short stories.

Writing the short stories was absorbed by the Urdu literature off the West. The skill of short stories writing for Urdu literature was adsorbed from the West. These Urdu stories also experienced the convincing of social pragmatism and few other movements based over fictions and propensity in the West. Social pragmatism by them was a response to romance based works by Manjnoon Gorakhpuri and Niaz Fatehpuri. Just then,

Prof. M. Mujeeb, Prof. Khwaja Manzoor Ahmed, Jaleel Qadwai, Sajjad Haider, Shahid Ahmed Dehlwi, Manto, Hamid Ali Khan and several other Urdu writers interpreted the best

French, Russian, English, Bangali and Turkish works into the Urdu language. Urdu readers and writers were also under the influence of Maupassant, Chekov, Trignov, Tolstoy, Hardy, Gorky, Oscar Wilde and Shaw. Chekov and Maupassant are reckoned as the founders of short stories of modern era. Not just the general society, but this scenario left student of Pakistan as well in fair amount of frustration¹¹.

Chekhov reflected the soul of the body while Maupassant the reality. Area of Maupassant's focus was actual realism while theoretical realism was presented by Chekov. Not just the Western but also the Urdu short stories writers were greatly influenced by them. Still now, the glimpses of their method has been seen if we go through the works authors like of Hayat-u-Allah Ansari, Bedi, Ghulam Abbas, Hassan Askari etc.

Nature of the human, its versatility, multisideness and complexity was understood by them. Chekov's technique and style has been followed by Bedi while Manto is being compared often with the Lawrence and Maupassant. Maupassant portrayed ethical down fall of the society of France and similar was performed by the Manto who highlighted the issues of the segments of society which were marginalized such as women, actresses and prostitutes who were enforced to choose the business of sex in a society that was ethically conservative¹².

Kirshan Chander was inspired from this influence and because of it performed several experiments; approximately every single story by him was an innovation. Pattern of Kafka was followed by Ahmed Ali and he had a strong belief over the realism outside the perception⁷.

In company with political and social based issues, they also depicted the issues related to sexual side. It formed up as a passion with Ismat, Mumtaz Mufti and Aziz Ahmed. They despised the exterior ethics and sexual slanting of a man that has to be socially reputable, for example; Lawrence, they were substantial critics against illogical ethical and social forbidden and resulting affected behavior.

The method of stream of consciousness was utilized by them for the exposure of concealed objectives in back of several actions. While utilizing this method, Ismat, Manto and Mumtaz Mufti established themselves experts full of skills. Imagination was used in the works of Ahmed Ali while Aziz Ahmed and Manto performed the experiments in system of expressionism in few of stories written by them. Expressionism and Imagination were also used in the stories of Hayat-u-Allah Ansari for instance "Shukarguzar Ankhen" and "Maa Beta".

Psychoanalysis was utilized in the works of these writers for exploration of subconscious of characters of them. To quote, "Jhoota Khwab" written by Aziz Ahmed and "Farishta" by Manto are examples. Likewise female modernist writers from Europe the female writers of Urdu language also made their work addressing the local and social issues. Women's rights and

their autonomy was a topic by Rasheed Jehan. Ismat achieved a distinctive status in the presentation of women, their sexual progress, the succeeding affecting disturbance and psychological status of mind.

Path set by Ismat was followed in the writings of Khadija Mastoor and Hajra Masroor. Qurrat-ul-Ain Haider was intentionally influenced by Virginia Woolf. Although inspiration might not be intentional one, but still we could find the reasons to compare and the realities of their lives support it as well. Surrealism and stream of consciousness was experimented in the writings of them. Tolstoy, followed by Prem Chand not just did the presentation of social wickedness but also emphasized over taking regarding the amendment. He did the translation of Tolstoy's works. He was also influenced by the Gandhi Ji.

Marxist criticism was launched by the Progressive Movement. It reckoned as significant sign in the Urdu literature History. The barely school of criticism was constructed by it the reason was that all other efforts in criticism were on individual basis.

There are few critics that include Ehtsham Hussain, Aziz Ahmed and Majnoon Gorakhpuri who revealed innovative features of the modern literature. They gave freedom to the criticism out of the discussions that had no any meaning and also author-centered approach, at its place, a new approach based on scientific ideas was given to it. The literature is considered as the symbol of life. For example Prem Chand and Maxim Gorky described the literature as an analysis of life¹³.

It teaches as well as guides. While participating in the 1st conference of the Progressive Movement, Munshi Prem Chand said that literature's role is known as to support divested people to attain their rights and support demoralized persons by pleasing their case, collections and nations. Nothing else, but the practicality can heal the society out of its malevolence.

The point of art is not just to supply affecting release or catharsis but also to guide through the act. Anybody who is a writer must be reckoned as an optimist making efforts to produce a perfect world to survive in. The artistic vision of prettiness is moreover to be amended and prettiness is to be described a further. It is not a thing that could be outlined in the palaces, castles and princes but it also could be traced in the slums and ruins.

Beauty is an asset should be outlined in a mother with sweat, she is with her children with no clothes and she is doing the works in the grounds; an beggar who has become too old and now about to die for a wish of a bread; in the eyes of a kid who is weeping because he has lost a coin and the coin which was his wage which he took after he worked all the day.. "Do Hath" of Ismat Chughtai, "Kalu Bhangi" by Krishan Chander and "Eik meli si Chadar" written by Bedi are few cases only. A writer is

the one who does not nostalgically look towards the history but reflects the current realism and forecasts the prospect¹⁴.

Conclusion

The literature of English language and from the Europe left strong influence over many languages in the different fields of life such as hospitality, travelling, engineering etc. This influence also left substantial impact over the Urdu language and its literature¹⁵. Transformation of different writing works not just initiated storied of short length into the Urdu language literature but in addition, assisted it to expand as a flourishing and grown-up type of literature. New methods of writing given by these translations gave broad vision to the Urdu authors. Growth and expansion in different fields such as agricultural, psychological, industrial, political etc was also moved with the help of such translations. This influence helped the Urdu language literature to emerge along with the experimental spirit in Marxism, Existentialism, Impressionism, Psychoanalysis, Surrealism and Expressionism. Behind the line set by modern authors, progressive authors also addressed the outer oppressive circumstances and trouble faced by insiders; but they had no negative status about the destiny of a man. They had a hope to make the amendment with the help of struggling in continuous manner. In their presentations, man was described as a noble and a vital individual, has the capability to prove himself in a society that comprises feudal and capitalists that used to exploit him. They had the belief in saying of Marxist regarding the changing the world.

References

1. Smith, Martin Seymour, Introduction, Guide to the Modern World Literature, London: Papermac, 13-21 (1986)
2. Bantock G.H., The Social and Intellectual Background, Part 1. The New Pelican Guide to English Literature 7: From James to Eliot, ed. Borris Ford. U.K: Penguin Books, 17, (1983)
3. Agha Wazeer, Besween Sadi ki Adabi Tehriken, Pakistani Adab: Tanqid, Ed. Rasheed Amjad and Farooq Ali. Rawalpindi: Federal Government Sir Syed College, 385, (1982)
4. Gácsi Zoltán, The Essence of Human Societies: Purpose of life, Challenges, Opportunities, Limited Power of States, *International Research Journal of Social Science*, 1(3), 56-58, (2012)
5. Jaffery Sardar., 3rd Chapter Tarikhi Pase Manzer, *Tarraqi Pasand Adab*. Lahore: Maktaba e-Pakistan, 108-110, (1956)
6. Freddy Haans J., Human Rights Non-Governmental Organizations: Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Sri Lanka, *International Research Journal of Social Science*, 1(2), 1-7, (2012)

7. Sadiq, Muhammad, Twentieth Century Urdu Literature, Karachi: Royal Book Company, 191-195, (1983)
8. Akhter Saleem, Urdu Adab ki Mukhtasir Tareekh, Short History of Urdu literature, Lahore: Sang-e Mil Publications, 221, (1971)
9. Chandnarang Gopi, Tarraqi Pasandi, Jadidiyat, Mabad Jadidiyat, Lahore: Sang-e-Mil publications, 578-585, (2006)
10. Murray Brian, Modernism, *The Continuum Encyclopedia of British Literature*, Ed. Steven R. Serafin and Valerie Grosvenor Myer, New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group, 670, (2003)
11. Shazia Gulzar, Farzan Yahya, Muhammad Nauman, Zarak Mir and Syed Hassaan Mujahid, "Frustration among University students in Pakistan, *International Research Journal of Social Science*, 1(4), 7-15, (2012)
12. Haveripeth Prakash, Prostitution and Its Impact on Society – A Criminological Perspective, *International Research Journal of Social Science*, 2(3), 31-39, (2013)
13. Majeed Iqbal., Mashraqi Tarraqi Pasandi, *Tarraqi Pasnd Adab*, Ed. Prof. Qamar Rais and Syed Ashor Kazmi, Lahore: Maktaba-e-Alia, 144, (1994)
14. Sobia Kiran, Modernism and The Progressive Movement in Urdu Literature, *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*", 2(3), (2012)
15. Bhatt Vinod and Joshi Dipti, Dominance of English in the Global Market and the First Generation Learners (FGL), *International Research Journal of Social Science*, 1(1), 35-38, (2012)