

## **Romantic Analysis Of Basheer's Novel 'Balyakaalasakhi'**

**JUMINA.V**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> M.A ENGLISH**  
**JAIN DEEMED-TO-BE- UNIVERSITY**

**ABSTRACT-**Balyakalasakhi is a Malayalam tragic novel written by Vaikom Muhammed Basheer published in 1944. In the autobiographical novel Basheer induced almost all the characteristics of Romanticism. The story revolves around Majeed and Suhra who are in love with each other. The childhood romance between the neighbours blossoms into a passionate love during adolescence. Even though the relationship between them was a such a sincere one it didn't come to success because of some social and family circumstances such as financial and commitments to siblings and parents.

Majeed who was a single son in his rich family left home in the stage of adolescence due to some crashes with his father. After many years when he returned to home he and his family lost all properties and also her girlfriend. Because of Suhra's widow mother's pressure she got married. All these drastic changes in his native made Majeed so dippresed. And the responsibilities he wanted to take is not he never expected. But any how that responsibilities are not escapable. So he decided to leave his native and work for the earnings to meet the life expenses of his family. From there he underwent through so many crisis in his life. In between these years he lost Suhra who waited for marry him even though she was already married. Before leaving the native Majeed promised to Suhra to wait for him. But the faith didn't gave time them to live together.

Characteristics of Romantic literature such as narrator's emotions and the innerworld celebration of nature, beauty and imagination, idealization of women and rural life. Experimental use of language is liberally visible in the novel. Basheer in his novel he used his own colloquial Malayalam accent. The emotions he expressed in his novel are so touching and very well contemporary related. This paper gives us a deep analysis of Romanticism in Malayalam literature

**KEY WORDS:** Romanticism, Idealization, Imagination

In the Malayalam Literary arena the legend Vaikom Muhammed Basheer (1908-1994) owns a remarkable position who was born in Thalayolaparambu in Kottayam district of Kerala state. With his profound and simple writing, touch of satire, sarcasm and black humour, Basheer had woven a style of his own and marked his presence as a short story writer, novelist, humanist and also as a freedom fighter. The cult classics of Basheer earned him a reputed position in Indian literature. Fondly known as Beypore Sulthan, Basheer is an unparalleled genius in the selection of themes, characterization and narration. Love, humanity, poverty and harsh realities of life all find their place in their works. He was the eldest son of a timber businessman. Basheer even from his childhood days was attracted to Gandhian thoughts and ideologies. May be that inspiration made his writing so simple and accessible to ordinary people. The unique ebullient intellect is the rarest of rare kind who revolutionized Malayalam literature and took it to a whole new level. Basheer has honored with Padma Shri in 1982 and he also bagged Sahitya Academy award and Kendra Sahitya Academy Award. The major literary contributions of this Artistic genius include *Patthummayude Aaadu*, *Madhilukal*, *Premalekhanam*, *Anargha Nimisham* and so forth.

The novel *Balyakalaski* is largely autobiographical story. In the novel for his own character only he gave the name Majeed. The love story that themed the novel also of his own. The affection Basheer felt in that affair made the novel so Romantic, that is what making the readers this novel so peculiar. He used his native place slang of Malayalam very proudly in the novel. The story which is so touching to ordinary people thrilling the readers to know the climax either the couples succeed in their life to get marry and led a life or faith make them separated only

The high tide of renaissance was brought into Malayalam literature by a variety of influences. The familiarity our poets acquired with British romantic poets was one of them. There were in 19<sup>th</sup> century in Kerala, a number of precursors of the Romantic movement. Romanticism understood broadly as a break from the guiding principles. Romantic literature includes of enlightenment-which established reason as the foundation of all knowledge. The Romantic movements emphasized the importance of emotional sensitivity. For the Romantics, imagination rather than reason, was the important creativity faculty. Some of the main characteristics of Romantic literature include focus on the writer on narrator's emotions and innerworld, celebration of nature, beauty and imagination, rejection of

industrialization,organized religion,rationalism,and social convention,idealization of woman,children and rural life,interest in the past,experimental use of language and verse forms.When we approaching Balyakalasakhi as a Romantic novel,the important characteristic of Romanticism is Imagination, the writer used in that novel was in a such a great way.

The story revolves around childhood sweethearts Majeed and Suhra.Born to rich parents,Majeed falls inlove with his not-so affluent neighbour Suhra.After her father's death,when Suhra struggles to make both end meets,Majeed pleads with his father to sponsor education.Refused, he wanders off to distant lands.when Majeed returns after some years to his native by roaming different states many tragedies awaited at there for Majeed.His family lost their all wealth and prosperity,and the most tragic thing is Suhra who was her sweet heart got married with some other guy.This all made Majeed so depressed.but for him there is no time to get set his mind for the new surroundings as because the only hope to his family was him. Majeed wants to earn for them.So he decided to leave her native and seeked for a Job.Before he leave Suhra visited him and convinced him by explaining her situation that made her a wife and she also revealed her worst condition in her husband's house.Thus Majeed promised her to give a new life.But Majeed's struggle to bring his family upward fails.And also in between the struggle he lose his Suhra as because she suffered to some illness and that took over her life.

While examining one by one characteristics of Romantics,the focus on writers or narrators emotions.we can point out many situation that emotions expressed by Basheer as Majeed's in the novel.Before when the love tenders in Majeed and Suhra's heart,they quarreled between each other many time.The emotions that they expressed as a children before adolscene are expressed in very interesting and funny way.But once Majeed troubled by ant for Suhra made her heart soft to Majeed who was her enemy always.Like the rudeness before that incident, the love and soft corner was presented in such nice way by the narrator.It was not sure as a friends or lovers they shared their pain and feelings.When they entered to the period of adolescence love and their secret meeting make the reader so thrilling.When the unexpected situations made them separated Majeed always trust that Suhra will wait for him to make him her life partner.that shows the sincerity he paid for Suhra.But the circumstances

made Suhra wife of some other, so the reader cannot blame Suhra. Even though she got married she was not satisfied as his wife. The coming back Majeed gave her a great hope to life. When Majeed left the home town to meet his family's daily needs the couple's heart remains so hopefully that once the day will come to join. After the tragic death of Suhra the pain that faced by Majeed is so heavy in the novel. All these emotions that underwent by Suhra and Majeed was expressed in the novel was such a touching way.

Celebration of nature, beauty and imagination is one of the other characteristics of Romanticism. The set that the love sprouts is under the Mango tree that nearby the Suhra's home. That shows the connection between nature and the Childrens that is not visible in present generation. The beauty of Suhra and nature is expressed by the narrator in different situation in between the story. Imagination Basheer given to the novel made the Balyakalasakhi a perfect example for Romantic novel. While analyzing the characteristic; rejection of industrialization, rationalism, and social convention it is much more explored by Basheer for the novel. This characteristic of Romanticism cannot be point out from the novel. The cruel face of industrialization was just visible in the storyline is when Majeed harmed in between his works at the town. Social convention that faced by Suhra is even though she was not willing to marry none other than Basheer, she wants to commit that for her family

Idealization of women in the novel Balyakalasakhi is very clear that the women are always helpless in the society. Suhra who is a one of the important character of the novel is a typical example of the women that who did not have any freedom to their life. That made Suhra's life such a miserable. If she got a chance to take decision in life it may be even increase her life span. May be the life that she was not at all expected made her mind and body sicked. and the sisters of Basheer who were not even get an alliance of marriage because of they belongs to unwealthy family and helpless parents to give dowry to daughters also a perfect stereotype women of the society that they belongs to. The mothers of Basheer and Suhra also create a correct visual to the readers the mind set of mothers of that generation. By compelling her daughter to get marry to stranger that she not at all loved and forcing of

Majeed's mother to leave the home town for bring their family prosperity and make his sisters married together forms a correct idealization of women to the readers in the novel.

Inclusion of supernatural and mythological elements are not mentioned hardly in the novel. One religious custom that creates a bitterness in readers minds is the process of making a boy to the Muslim community by trimming their Anus which is a common practice among that community. Eventhough the process is such a painful one it is mandatory for the Mappila community.

As because of the story revolves around the whole life of Majeed and Suhra the characteristic of Romanticism; interest in the past cannot point out from the novel. The novel which is already an autobiographical one did not offering the characteristics of romanticism; personification. Experimental use of language and verse forms, including blank verse is evidently clear in the novel 'Balyakalaskhi'. Basheer tried to bring the correct Calicut slang in the language of the novel. he used correct language of literature for the narrator but while stating the character's dialogue Basheer used the exact slang of natives. There is a chance to get slight difficulty to get meaning of some words which is perfect native slang for the reader. but any how it is really interested to know different slangs. And also it is appreciable to the writer for the attempt to bring his own native slang. When the writers are so formal in the language of their works, here Basheer is so happy to expose his native slang through his works. Not only in Balyakalaskhi but also in many other works he brought that colloquial slang. Basheer was always experimental in his language. Emphasis on individual experience the another characteristics of Romanticism as it is an autobiographical novel the whole story was an individual experience only.

**Concluding** with the analysis of Romantic characteristics in the novel Vaikom Muhammed Basheer's 'Balyakalaskhi', it offers almost all the characteristics of Romanticism. Except very few, like organized religion, rationalism and inclusion of supernatural and mythological elements all other characteristics can picture out from the novel in different situation of the story. While quoting his life experience through his novel the writer didn't tried to bring those things. But eventually many of the characteristics we can see in the novel. Film based on the Novel also released in 2014 starring Mamoty and

Katrina Kaif as Majeed and Suhra. Eventhough the film is so accessible to people the novel remains in it demand. That is what the extra ordinary power of a writer.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Primary Text-Balyakalaskhi, Basheer

<https://www.enotes.com>

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>