

The Relevance of Philosophy in Literature in Contemporary Contexts

Parlad Singh

Ph.D. Research Scholar, LPU Jalandhar,

E- Mail: parladsooch@gmail.com

Phone no. 9463535246

Literature and philosophy have been in a close relationship since the beginning. Despite two separate disciplines literature and philosophy have been striving to uncover various layers of knowledge, truth, human values and human mind. Both of these disciplines have influenced each other. Exploring the interrelationships of supreme truth and nature and identifying the meaning of life has become the subject of both literature and philosophy. Great writers have their own vision, which is reflected through the literary works they produce. Although literature is not philosophy, but the philosophy of great literature and literary writers is definitely there. In contemporary world it is very important for a human being to be connected to the philosophical concerns. The purpose of this research paper will be prove to the relevance of philosophy in literature in contemporary contexts.

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The term 'synchronization' refers to a particular time, place and state. Scholars have attempted to understand the concept of synchrony both as a word and an idea. In the literal context, 'synchronous' is used to refer the isochronal, relative to the present time or generally to the post-1990s. Contemporary is a different concept than modernity and post-modernity. These terms have also been integrated, which is not right. 'Modernity' is the production of scientific thinking and the industrial age. Post-modernism is the provenance of the Communication Revolution, while the 'synchronization' started from near about 1990, is the result of new economic conditions.

When major changes in economic and political conditions are occur, the cycle of time changes. Analyzing Indian literary history, it seems that after the 1990s, as the culture of globalization, liberalization and privatization enters into the post-modern era, there is a drastic change eventuates in the condition, direction and state of knowledge. An individual, organization or class loses the monopoly on the Knowledge. Traditional knowledge methods, Ideologies and concepts are redefined from a new perspective.

Contemporary 'is the phase between history and the future, which is different in form and nature but has not fully developed. Thus, synchrony is not only related to time, but also to ideology and society. In recent times, many complex forms of social conflict and internal tensions have emerged in the foreground across India. Which has become an inspiration for contemporary, multilingual literature. With the alarming increase in materialist interests, human beings are seeing a lot of decline from the philosophical point of view. This emptiness has put him in a complex existential crisis. The main reason for the tragedy of a human being is to break away from his inner consciousness and to indulge in the desires and desires of life. Materialistic thinking, luxurious life and devoid of spirituality are the reason for the irony of today's man. Literature can be called contemporary literature while experiencing creative pressures arising from current emerging concerns and ideas. We can say that literature that is consistent or relevant to current values is called contemporary literature. Synchronization depends on the particular circumstances of a period, which affects the reality of time.

The word 'philosophy' means 'to seen with' and ' which to be seen', but the relation of vision is not merely to look at external events or phenomena with the sensory eye. It is concerned with knowing the origin of life, the world, and the concerns of the underworld. Like philosophy, literature is also full of self-experience. When a literary work combines knowledge and aesthetics, creation becomes the embodiment of eternal qualities. In medieval Indian literature the poetical status was very high because for Indian people, poets were the great purists of the mysterious world of life and the world. "Plato as Philosopher decreed the banishment of poets from his ideal Republic, but, in India, philosophy ever sought alliance with poetry, because its mission was to occupy the people's life and not merely the learned seclusion of Scholarship."¹According to Indian thinkers, when the poet's conscience is illumined as an infinite vision, the poet instinctively enters the boundaries of philosophy.

Literature is an artistic re-creation of life. The literary artist, with his philosophical prudence, gains the knowledge of life and the world, a special artistic revival called literature. The world's devotional and mystical poetry seem to be full of philosophical concepts. Explaining the importance of philosophy in poetry by quoting Charlton Collins Radhakrishnan says:

"The chief office of poetry is not merely to give amusement, not merely to be the expression of feelings good or bad of mankind, or to increase our knowledge of human nature and human life, but that, if it includes this mission, it also includes a mission far higher, the

revelation, namely, of ideal truth, the revelation of that world of which this world is but the shadow or the drossy copy, the revelation of the eternal, which underlies the unsubstantial and the ever-dissolving phenomena of earths, empire of matter and time."²According to Jainism "Do not live to gain knowledge, but to gain knowledge so that you can live"³The contemporary thinking of 'eat, drink, enjoy' has removed man from such a conception of knowledge. As a result, today's situations have blurred human consciousness. Such a person, despite being aware of his situation, is unable to find a way to out of it. In such cases the importance of literature with philosophical concerns has become enormous.

Literature and philosophy have a very close relationship. Both analyze life with welfare and a humanist spirit and try to portray life. Both philosophy and poetry are like criticisms. Where Philosophy analyzes Intuitive knowledge, Literature assesses life. Both give systematic form to the facts. Both are based on talent and experience. Philosophy is basically depends on thoughts and ideas whereas poetry incumbents on emotions. Both can be described as the mirror of life's knowledge and experience. This mirror not only depicts the superficial appearance of life but also reveals intimate and deep secrets.

The meaning of literature revive the weltanschauung."In Poetry, Philosophy lives."⁴The philosophy discovers the origin of life, and literature gives it shape by thoughts. Philosophy is directly related to wisdom. Literature builds the fictional and the emotional world. The philosophy is instructive, while the literature's approach is enjoyable. Direct discourse is considered a demerit of literature. The philosophy that makes theory about life, literature builds the sentiments on these theories. Philosophy seeks to understand the world at the level of wisdom. Whereas the literature works on profound sensations. "The philosophy which determines, by contemplating, the writer tries to get that into the hearts of the people."⁵It would not be fair to conclude that literature merely promotes philosophical principles or concepts. Because literature itself is a different discipline. Philosophy and literature both have their own independent fields, functions and purposes. In the words of Matthew Arnold; "More and more mankind will discover that we have to turn to poetry to interpret life for us, to console us, to sustain us. Without poetry, our science will appear incomplete, and most of what now passes with us for religion and philosophy, will be replaced by poetry"⁶

Indian writers are also been philosophers. Rabindranath Tagore states that: "We never thought there was any anomaly in poet being a philosopher or a philosopher being a poet, the word Kavi has a much wider and deeper significance than the English word poet. A Kavi is a

poet, a philosopher and a prophet rolled into one.”⁷ The above statement fits perfectly in medieval Indian literature. Sheikh Farid, Bhagat Ravidas, Sant Kabir and Guru Nanak Dev are considered as poets, philosophers and legends at the same time. For the compositions of these poets, it is almost impossible to analyze as mere poetry. Dr. Radha Krishnan considers philosophy’s involvement in the literature of the highest order. He says: "In true poetry the real is idealised, and the ideal realised, and we have quite a genuine but a higher kind of real object. As Tennyson puts it, poetry is truer than fact. So the greatest poetry must embody an ideal vision or a true philosophy. Without this philosophic vision no great poetry can exist.”⁸ Unless the creation is not make the harmony with any original or eternal truth of the life, it remains outside the purview of literature.

The outward practices of contemporary have deceived man from within. Disappointment, loneliness, triviality, strangeness, paradox has become his destiny. Today's capitalism and market phenomena have given man an infinite world of dreams and aspirations, but the shortage of the resources needed to fulfil them have remained constant or it can be said that the ownership of only a few people on the resources has exempted from many. The absence of harmony in dreams and reality has increased human tragedy. The traditional bonds, morality, honesty, purity, innocence are ending in relationships. At present it is replaced by fear, insecurity, anxiety and immorality. Homes are converting in stone, city, and houses.

Persistent hardness has increased the distance from one's own inner self. Such a fragmented human being is suffering this incomplete current, which has no ideology or direction. Home has entered the realm of materialistic ambitions, selfishness, uncreativity, and flattery. Eventually a person sitting in a home is feeling himself lonely. This kind of tragic human being always feel himself in doubt, anxiety, sadness, and insecurity.

Man claims to be more civilized than ever, but the love and affection from the human mind is diminishing day by day. He wants to take control over everything. This sense of possession is not limited to humans, animals, or objects, he wants to see the whole of nature in his control. Man is strayed in the confusion of situations, ideologies, and commitments. The issue of identifying the truth is big challenge for him. Inner and outside there is noise on both sides of himself, while he is silent. This intermittent and external noises breaks him from solidarity and given him a feeling of doubt, suspicion and isolation. Noise is a sign of the philosophical scandal of human thoughtlessness and indifference.

Lack of moral values produces haughtiness, thunder, havoc, degradation and ego in human being, which hampers human development. Day-to-day incidents of murder, rape, betrayal, etc. are indicative of human philosophical deception. Literature can overcome this nonsense of today's man by adopting philosophical concerns.

An unnecessary craving for material development has removed the contemporary man from the nature also. He is constantly destroying natural resources in the name of development. In the war that man has waged with nature, his victory is actually a defeat. Man has broken by himself after separation from nature. The disappearance of natural resources has destroyed the instincts of human being, thereby the possibilities of life on earth in the future is also in danger. Global warming and pollution problems are becoming constantly solemn. It is only by reviving thought and consciousness that a present human being can develop into a prosperous environment. Philosophical literature can become a true guide of a human being in this context.

Based on the discussion above, we come to these conclusions.

Conclusions

- Since ancient times, literature and philosophy have had a very close relationship. Without higher ideals, philosophical insights and human values all the artistic words, craftsmanship and mere imagery cannot be called literature.
- Philosophy, which discovers and reveals the elements of life and the origin of the world, literature has the ability to make that knowledge easily a part of ordinary life because of its artistic qualities.
- In today's ultra-scientific era, the surge in electrical and print media, assume the ultimate purpose to consumer culture and competitiveness in every field has made man out of inter-philosophical concerns.
- In present day due to the diminished interest in philosophy, India has been divided into many divisions. Unemployment, women's insecurity and peasant crises, are increasing day by day. Desires to be free from all healthy/unhealthy traditions and the degradation of the environment have led to many psychological conflicts and social movements.
- Engaging in capitalist, materialistic-extroverted practices, the present-day human being is living in contemporary conditions, suffering from serious matter of existence and many social crises.

- Literature can play an important role in getting out of these crisis by directing a person's outward journey into the inner mind.

Bibliography

¹ Rabindra Nath Tagore. The Indian Philosophical Congress Silver Jubilee Commemoration volume, Page 301

² Churton collins "The true function of poetry: quoted by – Dr. S. Radha Krishnan in his "The Philosophy of Rabindra Nath Tagore." Page 128.

³ OutLines of Jainism 112

⁴ S. Radha Krishnan, The philosophy of Rabindra Nath Tagore, Page166.

⁵ V.N. Upadhyay Hindi Sahitay Ki Darshnik Prisht Bhumi, Page 2

⁶ Mathew Arnold: Essays in Criticism, Second series, 1935, Page 10.

⁷ The Indian Philosophical Congress Silver Jubilee Commemoration volume, page – 30

⁸ S. Radha Krishnan, The Philosophy of Rabindra Nath Tagore, Page-145.