

Seth Unveils Facts of History via Fiction

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ABSTRACT

Vikram Seth is an emigrant and therefore presence of multiculturalism is quite obvious in his work. Vikram Seth won prize for his pioneering works in several different genres. He is certified as the creator of present Indian English literature. Though of Indian origin, he has travelled extensively to many countries and resided there for long time. Currently he is living in Britain. Unlike the educated young men of his time, Vikram Seth is not tempted by prospects of career of a world bank. Writing a quick witted and good novel is not a painless task and writing a historic piece of fiction faces different types of complications and challenges. He knows what his characters wear, what they think, how they look like, what they eat and what they love. Their attitude incorporates harmonious adjustment with Historical Fiction poses a length to the authors. They have to present history accurately. He chose for himself the calling of being a writer and created an ever expanding circle of readers of his literary works the time period in which it is set. His style is often starts building on historical base which mixes rationalism, realism, religion and changing values of whole universe. This article will make an enquiry how Vikram Seth reveals facts of history through literature and how much authenticity is stored in his works on the grounds of history.

I.INTRODUCTION

Seth has written about love, marriage, political system, cultural values, cultural gaps etc but he always advances his pen and stories by keeping a perfect co ordination with historical base. Vikram Seth has beautifully created past through years of academic and on location research. Seth's narrative fiction of the controversial times is highlighted with a work of fiction as a product of marvelous originality. Historical Fiction poses a length to the authors. They have to present history justly, but many authors fail to create. Seth's style is often starts building on historical base, which mixes rationalism, realism, religion and changing values. His accustomed, graceful and fusing way of treating has provoking criticism. Vikram Seth travelled extensively in India and Many other. All his novels are compulsive and convincingly read. Two Lives is a panoramic story of love and war, moves from tear-jerking anecdote to the cartage of ditches, to the resolving of life and memory when aortic factors are involved in the battle. Historic fiction is really sizeable category.

II.LITERATURE SURVEY

A Suitable Boy is another novel based on history. This novel is based on post independent history of India and most of the critics discuss and appreciated this novel as a post colonial literature and this novel has been a centre of attraction for its mammoth size. Some critics compare him with Jane Austen and Dickens. India is a country

of warm and various novelists find it interesting to write a work of fiction based on these traits and there are many key points to write a brilliant work of fiction because of culturally different from other English spoken countries. Even outside India it has been read with great interest and Vikram Seth who has Indian origin. And Two Lives placed Seth in the category of librettist, memoirist. But this article throws light on the fact that actually he is presenting history through the lens of literature and vice versa.

III. A SUITABLE BOY

In this novel writer contemplates the inner functioning of a marriage as it is arranged by keeping into consideration the religion, culture, cast and creed of both boy and especially of girl. Among the vast number of historical texts available to us, only a few grab a reputation as literature. It is a historical drama in which people find their old mutual provocations and dispersed conditions of massive political and economical upheavals. Even the lead character reflects the loss of her near and dear ones and is caught up again in romance that saves her sanity. Told from his views and slide into another world war, test the hook up of their marriage to the utmost.

Oh, no, no, Dipankar... you don't understand—the fundamental construct of Indian Civilization is the Square- the four stages of life, the four purposes of life- love, wealth, duty, and final liberation— even the four arms of our ancient symbol, the swastika alone that is the fundamental construct of our spirituality... you will only understand this when you will only understand this when you are old lady like me...' (Boy. 399)

In the novel A Suitable Boy Seth presents a post Independent India with changing values and fast change in Indian culture with the help of various episodes among different social institutions and countries across the globe.

Although Arun was feeling more venomous than Calm, he smiled a brave, morale-building smile Even put his arm around his mother's shoulder. Meenakshi reflected that the seating around the oval table looked a little more symmetrical now, though there would be an even greater imbalance between men and women. Still, it was not as if any other guests had been invited. It was just the Coxes and the family. (Boy 380)

.Seth observes from proximate ghettos the turbulence of the human hubbub, where he goes he remains a great observer and active listener. These observations are reflected in his writings. Basically Seth has depicted various years of post independent India in cultural, political, educational and social aspects and religion had remained a centre after big historical upheavels.

IV.TWO LIVES

His work has been known for its heterogeneity and facts, so it is not surprising to know that his Magnum opus was a huge success. Meticulously researched the work was one first to combine actual first hand documents with fabricated accounts and there are many descriptions present in the novel Two Lives support the above fact. One of these descriptions are:

International Conference on Applied Science, Technology & Management

Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune (India) ASTM 2018

10th February 2018, www.conferenceworld.in

ISBN: 978-93-86171-99-3

...The struggle between Italy and Britain For control of east Africa. Among them were enemy soldiers, mainly Italian but a few Germans too. (Two Lives 118)

Vikram Seth is a brilliant recounted writer. Infact, his choice of words and the way he describes each action and thought of a characters is extremely lucid. One can read ‘Two Lives’ from many other perspectives but all these perspectives can be categorized under history and fiction. He presents fiction via history or vice versa. The second half of the book comprising a love story that happened as a result of famous historical events.

Shanti Baheri Seth tiptoes between lawlessness and ruthlessness in Nazi’s Germany. So this novel’s version with photographs is fantastic one. It is powerful story about the Nazi Germany –the events sorry to say had not known much about by many people until coming on this field. The story centers around two characters Shanti Baheri Seth who is a dentist and an immigrant from India lives in the house of Hennys as a tenant and Henny gave a gesture of negativity for a darky.

Mrs. Cairo phoned her younger daughter Henny

With the news that they had a lodger, her first

Reaction been ‘Nimm den Schwarzen nicht’

[Don’t take the black man]. (Lives p.81)

Above lines points towards presence of racism even in those times and Seth has revealed this fact before the readers.

As story moves further tension gradually begins to build. The breaking point arrives when Seth caught the horrors of brutal exploitation of Jews and Hill’s order. Till it has grabbed a classical status for the right reasons. It has been subject to high lofty admiration his many works seems closer to the reality and history. After all brutish incidents Jews become desolate to pursue concerning their providence.

And all victims divided to lead new lives after emotional disturbances. Many people lose their respective places, properties and even family members. The plot moves round in space and time with the masterful and skilful ease and one can’t help but a vague sense of forbidding and with all these outstanding and appreciate able features this novel got much appreciation as historical novel.

Vikram Seth’s quest for new forms of expression continued. The insanity and mindlessness of the conflict is cleverly depicted throughout the novel especially in a case of Henny the victim of Nazi riots. Two Lives is beautifully written as he writes all this with deep creativity as he left no stone unturned to add great creativity and this creativity facilitates and categorized his works into realist fiction by giving exact dates for different incidents that occurred in the story.

By june 1942, the Germans had got as far as

El Alamein, only about a hundred kilometers

From Alexandria. Here, however their advance

Was halted. (Boy 119)

It depicts the myriads of human emotions which arise in troubled times and portrays how nothing is concrete. Vikram Seth weaves a poignant story about the loss of innocence, pilfering, sexual assaults, butchery and mass slaughter over just a fleeting stretch of time are ample to shivers down.

Some of her Jewish friends had been deported
And methodically murdered by order of their
Fellow citizens; some had committed suicide;
Some who were in mixed marriage to Aryans,
had managed to remain in Berlin; some had
gone underground' , but been discovered and
killed; one or two of these so called U-boats (Lives 200)

This work of fiction hauls up most of the bookmen. It describes far reaching devastation caused in the aftermath of one tragic event. But hurts the most is the intensity of characters suffering. Inspite of huge aggregation of historical fiction literature on the shelves of library novels clearly stands apart because of his creative skills.

The dilemmas and the questions raised in the novels by the author be in terms of religion ethics or goodness make a reader to pause and ponder over the history as it also proves fiction has power of sublimity especially when we combine history with fiction with great skill.

Haman's murderous intentions towards the Jews
Are bluntly recorded in the book of Esther, as is
Their deliverance, celebrated on Purim; but in Germany
, millennia later, the murderous trail of paper was couched
In ellipsis and euphemism, there was no seal, there was
No clear warning of exact intent, and there was to be no
Deliverance till half the Jews of Europe had been killed (Boy 195)

International Conference on Applied Science, Technology & Management

Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune (India) ASTM 2018

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Two Lives it is crept into readers' bones and it is simply a great work. It is a painful story full of artistic efforts. It is a written piece of history in disguise of a novel. A reader from first chapter to the last will find rolling himself on the vehicle of history, reality and rationality:

In 1942, Shanti now a captain, was sent to
Egypt, to the Canal Zone. The battle for
Control of eastern Africa was being fought
Delta against Rommel and his Africa Korps...

By June 1942, the Germans had got as far as
El Alamein, only about a hundred kilometers
From Alexandria. Here, however, their advance
was halted. (Lives.p119)

Vikram Seth's virtuoso novels with description of World War adeptly cast light upon the ultra fine fibers of the human empathy as moving as it outlines the savagery of battle. Heart-rending and open-handed works are of high worth. A spellbound historical story is a chronicle comprehension with considerably powerful sensibility of time and place.

V. THE GOLDEN GATE

Through this novel writer has depicted yuppie culture in San Francisco during 1980's and effects of information technology results into cyber society. This novel is written in verse. When this novel was written it depicts 1980's and was depicted of realistic and contemporary society but with passage of time this novel is depicts history of 1980's.

VI.CONCLUSION

A perfect amalgamation of history with rationalism and creative biography elevates his novels into a great work of art, a best in class item. A top notch books worth a read by every Indian. He simply presents history because he never mentioned what has happened and he did not even tried to provide a false crisp to this novel. His deserves to be placed in the category of realistic fiction. Through his novels one can go through brutal and straight forward views at Indian history. The book is full of such entertaining sentences that allude to real characters

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International Conference on Applied Science, Technology & Management

Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune (India) ASTM 2018

10th February 2018, www.conferenceworld.in

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