A study of sociolinguistics in the novels of Mulk Raj Anand

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Abstract: *Mulk Raj Anand, in his novels, describes situations and portrays his characters using the language that suits them. His novels are better understood with the help of socio- linguistic approach since Indian social relations are intricate and culture-bound, which are revealed through the language variations used. sociolinguistic approach prove to be a vital tool to explore the various aspects of the language used by the writer while depicting not only the deplorable conditions of the marginalized sections of the Indian society but also paves the way to understand the attitudes of the characters towards one another: the high castes toward the lower casted vice-versa.*

Key words: *novels, colonial Rule, R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao and Mulk Raj*

Narration

Mulk Raj Anand was born in the family of metalworkers in Peshawar on 12th December 1905 in Peshawar, now in Pakistan. Anand had always befriended and played with the children of sweepers. As a child, he had been traumatized by the suicide of a family member who had been rejected by his family for sharing her food with a Muslim. In those days, sharing food with the Muslim was considered as an of pollution. Anand always disliked and opposed religious sectarianism, communalism and caste hierarchy.

He has experience and deep Impact of British Raj the colonial Rule. He realized the colonial rule and freedom are binary opposites. He was one of the witnesses to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre at Amritsar in 1919. He Joined Gandhi's non- cooperation movement and inspired by the spirit Gandhian Ideology Ahimnsa.

Sociolinguistic approach is a vital tool to study effects of all the aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context, in investigates the interrelationship between language use and society. it is a relatively new discipline as it developed in the last quarter of the 20th century as the relationship between language and society had been 'Ignored' by linguistic studies for the sake of theoretical advances. It is not only useful for interpreting the day –to-day exchanges of various speech communities but is all so an important devise to understand fictional discourse . This approach enables the researcher to study the masterpieces in English literature in general and the Indian English fiction in particular. According to sociolinguists, the way people use language may reveal information about the social background. Trudgill (1995) speaks about two aspects of language behavior that a social dimension, the first is the role of language in establishing relationship between people and the second is the role of language in conveying information about people's background. In case of

fictional discourse, it is important to know how the writers make an experiment with the language they use in their literary works. They manipulate the language to suit their characters. The characters are given certain specific roles in the society in which they are born brought up and live. Therefore, their language has to be governed by the set of social norms. The Indian writes of the first generation such as R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao and Mulk Raj Anand have skillfully used Indian English to describe and portray their characters.

Mulk Raj Anand, in his novels, describes situations and portrays his characters using the language that suits them. His novels are better understood with the help of socio- linguistic approach since Indian social relations are intricate and culture-bound, which are revealed through the language variations used.

The purpose of the present research is to study and analyze methodically the selected novels of Mulk Raj Anand by applying the principles of sociolinguistics. Since sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to its society, the selected novels are examined and interpreted against the backdrop of the Indian socio-cultural context existing at the time when these novels were being written. These novels revel the Indian socio-cultural context. Therefore, sociolinguistic approach prove to be a vital tool to explore the various aspects of the language used by the writer while depicting not only the deplorable conditions of the marginalized sections of the Indian society but also paves the way to understand the attitudes of the characters towards one another: the high castes toward the lower casted vice-versa. The characters portrayed by the writer

come alive as they make use of the local words, phrases and idiomatic expressions to convey their emotions, attitudes, priorities and also on the novelist use various techniques to highlights the sociolinguistics realities in India.
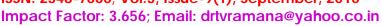
Understanding language in society means understanding the social networks in which the language is operated. This may not apply to the macro level of a society but also to the inter-hyper personal level of neighborhoods or a single family sociolinguistics is a tool to understand the social relations of the characters as well. The culture in which the characters live reflects their attitudes in a nutshell; culture is the way of life. Culture is an umbrella term, which includes religion, political, economics institution, customs, traditions beliefs, practices, educational opportunities and language and the ways people follow the customs and traditions. The expectations of the people regarding their choice of political system, religion and language are determined by the socio-cultural norms. Therefore, the socio-linguistics study will go a long way in the interpretation of Mulk Raj Anand's selected novels.

The present research is an Endeavour to thoroughly study, examine, explore the various socio-culture factors, which might have gone a long way in creating, supporting and sustaining the cast and class based hierarchical social structure as reflected in Mulk Raj Anand's sociological novel. His novels can be best understood against the existing social-cultural background. The novels selected for the sociolinguistics study offer a tremendous scope for the in-depth socio linguistics study because the varieties of the language used by the characters are unique and culture bound. An attempt is

made to scrupulously discover the socio-cultural realities in the pre-independence and the post-independence India as reflected in them.

The present study deals with Anand's creative experiments resource of the English language, his narrative technique, his humanism, his treatment of individuals as social construct, the symbiotic relationship between art and culture studies, and other unexplored facets. The range of setting of his novels is vast covering not only the Punjab but also the towns like Bombay and Simla, the trenches of Flanders, and the tea garden of Assam, his concerns for the underdog does not take the form of communism. He is above all a humanist and his humanism embraces all aspects of life, from contemporary slums to ancient's Indian art and philosophy. Therefore sociological background of the major and minor characters in each novel is better understood through their use of English language. Their class, caste, ethnicity, education, age, gender and social standing are the major factors influencing their language variation. these sectors are studied and analyzed.

To discover Anand's linguistic experimentation in the novels under consideration to explicate the address terms and greetings in the Indian context, to investigate the effects of social and regional dialects on the characters use of language in Mulk Raj Anand's selected novels study in detail religion specific expressions in Indian context.

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