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Prof. K. N. Shelke

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With this aim Research Chronicler, Multidisciplinary International Research Journal (RCMIRJ) welcomes research articles from the areas like Literatures in English, Hindi and Marathi, literary translations in English from different languages of the world, arts, education, social sciences, cultural studies, pure and applied Sciences, and trade and commerce. The space will also be provided for book reviews, interviews, commentaries, poems and short fiction.

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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	Author	Title of the Paper	Page No.
1	Dr. B. Moses	Linguistics Problems in translating the novel <i>Helicoptergal Keezhe Irangivittana</i> from Tamil into English	1
2	G. Christopher	Solitude Leads to Salvation a Critical Study on William Golding's <i>Free Fall</i>	5
3	Ved Prakash Gupta	Study of various Governance Issues in Government Hospitals (A case of Delhi)	9
4	S. Pari & Dr. K. Sundararajan	Explicit of Khushwant Singh's Life and His Literary Works.	18
5	Syed Imranul Haque	Effectiveness of ICT in EFL Classroom	21
6	Mr. Vijaya Kumar Chavan & Dr. R. Udayakumar	UV – VIS Spectral and Morphological Studies on the Effect of Sildenafil Citrate on Testis of Ethanol Fed Albino Mice	33
7	Sana Sulaikha	Dalitistan – Towards the Formation of a Dalit Nation	44
8	Sailesh Sharma	Leadership for Learning beyond Instructional-Lessons from Indian Private School Principals	50
9	Dr. Hemangi Bhagwat & Sugandha Indulkar	Of Man and Nature in 'The Hungry Tide' Ecocritical perspectives on Amitav Ghosh's Novel 'The Hungry Tide'	62

10	Dr. Anil Kumar Verma	Effect of Parental Involvement on Academic Performance of Government Primary School Children	73
11	Dr. Anjan Kumar	Existential Angst in the Novels of Arun Joshi	78
12	Dr Meenu Dudeja	Comparison of the Three Novels: <i>Train to Pakistan, A Bend in the Ganges, Azadi</i>	83
13	<i>Dr. Prativa Panda</i>	Sex Inequality and Inheritance Rights of Women in India	91
14	Prof. Soumyamoy Maitra	Rin & Tide: A soapy Saga	102
Poetry			
15	Santosh Dharma Rathod	How's there, Gautama, how's there?	107
16	Nishtha Mishra	Last of India's "Golden Wings" - An elegy on the Death of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam	109
17	Nishtha Mishra	I Have Given Up My Human Rights!	111
18	Nishtha Mishra	O Bride! O Bride!	114

Explicit of Khushwant Singh's Life and His Literary Works**S. Pari***Ph. D. Research Scholar in English, Ph.D. Research Scholar in English, Poondi, Thanjavur, (T.N.) India***Dr. K. Sundararajan***Asso. Professor and Research Advisor of English, A. V. V. M. Sri Pushpam College, Poondi, Thanjavur, (T.N.) India***Abstract**

Khushwant Singh is a prolific writer in Indian writing in English. He started his writing as a journalist. In his journal he has published many short stories. He is a renowned novelist and short story writer. His first-novel is *Mano Majra*. Later he changed the title as *Train to Pakistan*. He got many awards including Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan. When people hear his name, some are amazed, some are irritated and some ignored, but really he is a great writer to be admired in Indian writing in English.

Key Words: literature, translating, numerous, popularized a deep ironical view

Introduction

Khushwant Singh's native place is Hadali. Where he was born in 1915, now it is in Pakistan. He is the second son of his parents. His father is a contractor. Leaving Khushwant with his grandmother, he lived with his wife and elder son and daughter in Delhi. Khushwant Singh was brought up by his grandmother with love and care. He finished his schooling there. After that he joined Lady Irwin College in Delhi. Where first time he saw Ghayoorunnisa, a Muslim girl from Hyderabad. Though the girl was three years older than him, he fell in love with her. That was the first love of Khushwant Singh, but the love did not end up in success. He went off to England to study and she had gone back to Hyderabad. She married twice and settled there.

Life and Literary works

In London, he saw Kaval at the Modern school. She was a couple of years junior to him. Her father was senior engineer with the

public works Department. So he felt that he had a very little chance to marry her because of his and her family situation. But one day he daringly proposed his love to her. Later both of them got married with their parents' permission in 1939. They got two children, one boy and one girl namely Rahul and Mala. Mala was married to Ravi Dayal. Nainer is the only granddaughter of Khushwant Singh and Kaval family.

He was very close to the Nehru family. When he was eighteen, he first met Indira Gandhi in Lahore. At that time she was very young and also he had a very good friendship with Sanjay Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Rahul and Varun Gandhi. From 1980 to 1986 he was a member of parliament. He admired the deeds of both Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974 and returned it in 1984 in protest against Blue Star operation at the Golden Temple, Amritsar in 2007; he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan.

He is a multi-faceted personality he is a journalist, short story writer Khushwant Singh's writing career started with journalism. He was first appointed as editor of Yojana. His writings amused readers and made them to ask for more. He was editor of several journals like the National Herald, The Hindustan Times and Illustrated weekly of India. His contribution as an editor to the Illustrated weekly of India really was amazing. Nine years he worked as an editor in the Journal. He got worldwide appreciation from his readers. He had written a lot of short stories and published in the Journal during his tenure as a novelist, translator and poet. As a journalist, he popularized Journalism through his writings. He used very simple familiar words and simple sentences to make journalism readable and enjoyable. He had also written a lot of articles and jokes in order to create interest among the readers. His contribution to journalism was unforgettable one.

He began to write short stories when he practiced law at the Lahore High Court. Many stories were published in different magazines. Like Indian Forum Harpers, Saturday Night, and the Staliesman, London magazine Jaico and Outlook. In 1950 *the mark of Vishnu* was published. *The voice of god* and other stories were published in 1957. Later work was *A Bride for the sahib* and other stories which were published in 1967. Almost all his stories were based on real experiences of his colleagues and friends. His stores are good example of Craftsmanship and mastery in fusing there's and plots. His stories portray a deep ironical view of the world around him. He also dares to write on controversial topics, which other

writers do not dare to do. He presents his views in a way that makes the stories very interesting. He enables many readers of his stories to believe in what he believes in.

Train to Pakistan is the first novel of Khushwant Singh. The decision to write this novel came to him only he had found something compelling to writer about.

This was at the time of partition; he was greatly moved by the harrowing events during those turbulent days. His outlook towards life underwent a drastic. Change he felt thoroughly disillusioned with contemporary situation. His second novel *I shall not hear the Nightingale* was largely based on a family involved in the quit India movement of 1942. He thought a lot about politics and the national movement. *Delhi*, another novel of Khushwant in which he portrayed the sexual fantasies of man. The threat of AIDS made a change in the altitude of modern man. This story is a warming to modern man who obsessed with sexual fantasies. In the company of women, the Hindu worship of living persons as god men was criticized and condemned by him. Has last novel is the *sun set club*. In this novel he wrote about the experiences of three eighty year old men. These three shared their own behavior with each other very frankly.

Khushwant Singh is a famous translator. He knows four languages, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and English. He has translated numerous short stories from Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi into English. Particularly he has selected Punjabi stories written by both male and female writers. His translations are very helpful and useful to the world to know about Punjabi custom and culture. A good

example to his translation is *Land of Five Rivers*. In this book 18 short stories have been selected and translated by him. Some important translations are Amrita Pritam's *stench of Kerosene*, K.A Abbas *the death of sheikh Burhanuddin*, Ajeet Caur's *Happy New Year* and etc. and also Usha Mahajan's Hindi stories and some Urdu poems are translated by him. His translations are very popular in Indian writing in English.

Khushwant Singh's is a lover of poetry. He has read and translated a lot of Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi poetry. From the earliest days of his writing career started with translating poetry. Ghalib is a famous Urdu Poet. He has written many poems. Khushwant likes his poetry and translates into English. Other poets liked by Khushwant Singh are Kabir, Akbar Illahabadi, Feza Azmi and Mohammad Iqbal.

Khushwant is really a best writing in Indian literature. His autobiography is a good example. Truth, love a little malice he openly expresses his personal experience in his autobiography. He is very frank and speaks the Truth. His book is *Not a Nice man to know*. This book is also a best book. He speaks about love, religion, women and sex. His writings are indeed enjoyable.

Khushwant Singh's passion for writing is amazing. He spends his lot of time for that. He himself said about writing.

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"It is work, my writing that keeps me going. Writing is a solitary profession and you simply cannot write in a crowd or in the midst of people"

He likes solitude which is very beneficial to him. Every when his wife passed away, he sat alone all night thinking over the past sixty two years married life. He never thinks about his second marriage. He does not feel depressed.

He says, "Work is the cure of all ills."

Conclusion

His writings help him go on. He immerses himself in more writing after the death of his wife. He is engrossed wholly in writing. There is no retirement for him.

As a writer, he has achieved lot. But he only gets satisfaction after publishing two volumes of *A History of the Sikhs* in 1963. He dedicates the books to his parents Sardar Bahadur Sir Sobha Singh and Lady ViranBai. He has a great soul to appreciate and admire other writers. He praises them as follows,

"Writers have different styles and each writer is unique".

His great soul departed from his body on 20 March 2014. At the time he was 99. He said really "He is not a nice man to know, but he is a rice man to know."

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