

Partition Literature

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Abstract

Partition Literature is one of the most important genres in the history of Indian English Literature. Many writers have been writing on the issue of partition of India. The partition of 1947 has not only divided the nation but also its power, people, land and so on. It's true that during partition only women suffered in a very large number. Male felt very proud to exploit, violate women. Besides women exploitation, the partition literature also highlights the forced conversion of people from one religion to another. Many people had lost their homes, children, wives, sisters, and mothers. Many well-known writers like Khushwant Singh, Bapsi Sidhwa, Salman Rushdie, Saadat Hassan Manto, Amrita Pritam, Manohar Malgaonkar, Manik Bhandopadhyay and so on focused on the issue of Indian partition with detailed and realistic way. The present paper 'Partition Literature' broadly highlights the historical saga of partition and its effects.

Keywords: Partition, literature, exploitation, migration, violence, history, religion etc.

Introduction

Partition Literature in Indian English writing is a genre that documents the human experience of the 1947 partition of India. Partition Literature includes poems, short stories, novels about violence, exploitation, migration at the time of partition. The Indian partition literature narrates human experiences. The main theme of the partition literature is- literature tells a tragic story of the millions of the people of the both sides of the border. The communalism is one of the major aspects of the partition of India. There was the communal hatred between Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. This hatred completed the mission of demands of blood and human lives. The death danced in the form of sectarian violence for a long time on the eve of the partition.

Themes in Partition Literature:

1. The human cost of the partition.
2. The mass migration of people.
3. The communal hatred between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims.
4. The emotional responses to the partition.

The partition of India in August 1947 is the most noteworthy incident of the 20th century. Partition is division, a split, a parting, a breakup. It is a kind of obstruction, hindrance, divider and septum. Partition was marked with large scale communal violence. The partition is the most terrible tragedy in Indian history.

It could be said that 'Literature is the mirror of the society.' So whatever happens in the society is reflected in literature. Due to partition India and Pakistan totally

finished the peace of the region. As a reaction to all this, both Indian and Pakistani writers came forward to put the theme of partition on paper. Many writers brought forward the actual scenes of partition days in their writings.

During the partition of India violence against women was one of the serious problems. Women were the worst sufferers of partition. Women were treated like a community that could be bought and sold for handful of money.

Many writers were impressed by the historical event of partition and wrote about the miseries of partition in their writings. While writing about partition, the writers also focus the impact of partition on the life of women. Well-known writer Khushwant Singh has depicted the miserable life of Noor and Begum Hasina during the partition in the novel 'Train to Pakistan'. The action of the novel revolves around Mano Majra and its vicinity. Mano Majra is a tiny village on the Indo-Pak border affected by the partition. The novel tells the horrible tale of migration of the people on religious grounds and in a very bloody manner. The train is a symbol of the loss of humanity. It plays very vital role in the 'lives of the people of Manjo Majra'.

'**Toba Tek Singh**' is the short story written by Saadat Hassan Manto about insanity and partition. The story is set in the background of the biggest tragedy and episode violence in the history of Independent India. The old man, Toba Tek Singh is wondering where his village resides as the partition of India and Pakistan takes place. 'Toba Tek Singh' mainly focuses on the fear of lost forced shifting. It is the story

about partition and has become a metaphor for the mindlessness of politicians.

'**The Final Solution**' this short story is written by Manik Bandopadhyay. The story is about a family that migrates to West Bengal after the partition. It is about values destructing in the refugee Cain Calcutta during the partition. Mallika is the protagonist in this story. The story has described the tale of Mallika and her family members become a refugee. The protagonist Mallika who struggles through the pain of abduction, gender violence and displacement. The story is a saga of violence not only against the protagonist but for the womankind. It is about the destruction of moral values and the sufferings of the woman in the spiraling refugee camp in Calcutta.

'**Defend Yourself Against Me**' is another story in which Bapsi Sidhwa has made a comment on the brutalities of communal hatred. The story deals with various themes like silence about the women's fate, violence against women during social disturbances, human compassion and cultural assimilation. This is a story of Sikander's family. His village attacked by thirty thousand Sikhs. All men and children were killed brutally. Hindus and Sikhs kidnapped Muslim women. Thus, the women and also children were victimized during the partition.

'**Midnight's Children**' is the second novel by Indian-British writer Salman Rushdie. The novel is about India's transition from British colonial rule to independence and partition. It is a postcolonial, postmodern and magical realist story told by its chief protagonist, Saleem Sinai, set in the context of historical events.

The novel was awarded the Booker Prize in 1981. Saleem Sinai, protagonist and narrator of the story born at the exact moment when India became an independent country. Saleem was born with telepathic powers. Saleem using his telepathic powers assembles a midnight children's conference, reflective of the issues India faced in its early statehood concerning the culture, linguistic, religious and political differences faced by a vastly diverse nation.

'Pinjar' is well-known novel written by Amrita Pritam. The novel depicts the conditions and nature of the Indian society during the partition of India in 1947. It is a story of a Hindu girl Puro, abducted by a Muslim man, Rashid. Puro's parents refuse to accept the defiled girl when she manages to escape from Rashid's home.

'Cracking India' is a novel written by Bapsi Sidhwa. This novel is originally published as 'Ice Candy Man' in 1988. Sexual awakening is a major theme of the book. The story is told from the perspective of Lenny Sethi. Lenny's life and community provide a window onto the violence that occurred during partition.

'Azadi' is another partition novel written by Chaman Nahal. The title of the novel is very symbolic and it stands for the struggle for independence. Lala Kanshi Ram is the protagonist of the novel. The novel centers on the Lala Kanshi Ram's struggle for independence in the horror of partition. He had a great respect towards Hindu culture and Vedic Philosophy. Being an

Indian he loves the nation and hates Britishers and their Government. The novel describes the sorrow and crimes that occurred during the partition of India, the darkest event in Indian history.

'Tamas' is well-known partition novel written by Bhisham Sahani. The novel centers on political turmoil, communal violence, human sufferings during this period. 'Tamas' tells the story of a sweeper named Nathu who is bribed and deceived by a local Muslim politician to kill a Pig, ostensibly for a veterinarian. Writer focused in the novel on Hindu-Muslim conflicts with appropriate events.

Conclusion

In short the present research paper focuses on the partition saga through the selected short stories and novels. The paper highlights the historical saga of partition and its effects. The partition left a significant impact on the people on the people of Indian subcontinent. It marks a turning point in the history of nationalism in India. All the novelist referred above depicted the partition from their own viewpoint; they have chosen different incidents for expressing sensitive issues of politics and impact of partition on human lives. The Partition of India was an unforgettable event. During the last four decades many novels, stories and poems were written about partition. Partition brought multiple levels of sufferings and traumatic experiences. It caused the identity crises on personal, social, religious and national level.

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