



Partitions Novels in Indian English Literature

Hasina Jabeen

Research Scholar, Department of English Literature
Jiwaji University, Gwalior (M.P) India
Email: hasinaj24@gmail.com
Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7264-9461>
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53724/jmsgv2n2.04>

Abstract

Politics is no longer a passionate and selfless commitment but a game of intrigue and underhand surreptitious maneuverings. The impact of partition realistically reflect in literature. In Indian English fiction many writers portray the politics and partition butchery. The research paper presents a thematic study of the Indian English novels written on the theme of partition of India and Pakistan that took place in 1947. Sufferings of people are highlighted in the novels. The fateful decisions forced millions of people to migrate and face the barbarity of communal riots and frenzy which results the numerous atrocities, abduction, rapes and violence. The novels show how there was a huge human loss. The brutal killings are seen through various devices and scenes.

Keywords: *Politics, partition, abduction, violence, human loss.*

Introduction

The partition of India and Pakistan is a great tragedy. English people played a major role in partition of India and Pakistan. They sow the seed of partition among the people, which resulted in the creation of two separate nations. Many Indian writer have portrayed the politics and butchery in their novels. 'A Bend in The Ganges' a novel by Manohar Malgonkar shows the civil disobedience of the early 1930s and ends with the partition riots in Punjab .It also shows the role of freedom fighters and the outbreak of second world war, the British retreat from Rangoon the Mumbai dock explosion and the division of India in 1947.

'Train to Pakistan' a novel by Khushwant Singh gives a record of killings of partition time. The horror and the terror is depicted in the novel. The elements of humanity can also be seen there. The



story is set in a village called Mano Majra, a fictional village on the border of India and Pakistan. The majority of population is of Sikhs and Muslims. They hate each other but live peacefully. After hearing the news of partition both groups were not willing to depart from each other. Some agitators spread violence in the village and Muslims left for Pakistan. Khushwant Singh does not describe the politics of the partition in much detail, because his purpose is to bring out the individual human element and provide a social understanding of the two aspects of historical events. Singh successfully brings out the picture of violence during the partition time in front of the reader. The effect of change is significant as Singh has shown frighteningly, as social groups clashed violently. Singh makes it clear that many people played a part in this chaos and everyone was equally worth of blame.

‘Sunlight on a Broken Column’ by Attia Hosain is another novel about communal divide and riots. The trauma of the partition and communal riots are presented by Attia Hosain through her heroine Laila. He shows her heroine Laila making a departure from tradition and customs. She rejects dogmatism and Epicureanism. Laila’s experience with her cousin shows the difference between the two nations. She observes that the ties which had kept the families centuries together have been loosened beyond repair.

After violence of the partition Laila remembers those shocking incidents of partition. Laila’s experience is same that of Lenny’s experience of Ice-Candy-Man both the heroines experience the same situation.

In ‘Ice-Candy-Man’ Bapsi Sidwa shows how friends and neighbors turn enemies within a night. In Pir Pindo Muslim men and women are killed by Sikhs. In Ice-Candy-Man Bapsi Sidwa shows how friends and neighbors turn enemies within a night. In Pir Pindo Muslim men and women are killed by Sikhs. Sikh families are attacked in Lahore and the chain reaction continues. Sidwa shows that communal frenzy has distorting effect on the masses and leads to feelings of distrust and frenzy. People like Ice-Candy-Man loses his temper after seeing dead bodies of Muslims. After such brutal experience revenge becomes only his motive. No friendship or relationship is remembered. The novel conveys a serious warning of the dangers of communalism and religious obscurantism.

In ‘The Shadow Lines’ Amit Ghosh depicts Hindu Muslim riots in Bengal that took place in 1964 and the wave of riots very soon spread to East Pakistan. The novel tells us the story of three



generations of the narrator's family spread over Dhaka, Calcutta and London. He takes characters from different nationalities, religions and cultures. Ghosh says that memory is the thing that makes history of a person and a person cannot change history. He tells the same truth through the novel. There is a sense of home and homelessness that the partition victims experienced.

The communal riots of 1964 in Calcutta have been situated by the author and the riots took place when the narrator was a young school boy. In this novel the riots at Dhaka become the occasion for the acid test of our recording system whether of our history or of our newspaper.

The 'Dark Dancer' by Balchandra Rajan centers on national and personal conflicts. The main character who is a Brahmin returns after 10 years after completing his schooling in England and after his return he sees that his country strife over partition he tries to find out meaning and definition of his life. His wife is a perfect Hindu woman she dies leaving her husband alone. He experiences the loss of partition in his own life. Through a person's struggle Balchandra Rajan tries to explain the loss of the masses.

Conclusion

Partition based novels are basically very large in number but they never achieved the discipline of art. Partition is a drama of human loss a drama of moral degradation and shame .the partitions novels convey the message how there was a loss of human lives as well as of human relations They explain the trauma that the people faced. The lines drawn by the people not only divided the land but they also divided the relations, religions and also the faith that people had on each other. It was a devastating step and would remain so.

References

1. Ashok Kumar Bachan, "A Bend in the Ganges: A Historical Novel," in Basavaraj Naikar (ed.), Indian English Literature, Volume 6, Atlantic Distributors, 2007.
2. "No malice towards Rooks: Khushwant", Indian Express, 10 January 1999.
3. The Dark Dancer New York: Simon and Schuster, 1958.
4. [Http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2005-11-18/news/](http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2005-11-18/news/)
5. Rudm, Frank. Review of The Crow Easter, by BapsiSidhwa. Spectator 245, no. 7945 (18 October 1980): 25.
6. Amit Ghosh-Books, 'The Shadow Lines'.