

A Study of Social Realism in the Novels of George Orwell

Abstract

George Orwell being a modern novelist believed in socialism. This is the reason his all novels present discontent and unrest among the people of contemporary society. He was a farsighted and visionary. So he thinks for them not to be suffered and exploited by elite class and high official of the society in future because the author was a typical product of inter-war years. He saw a big massacre and the miserable condition of the lower class labour and weaker section who were bound to lead live in stark poverty as well as they lacked social relationship. They ran here and there for food cloth and job but they found only slavery and unemployment during that time. The novelist voiced against those class people who never cared for commoners, downtrodden and the poor.

Keywords: Socialism, Discontent, Elite Class, Massacre, Poverty, Unemployment, Exploitation and Unrest.

Introduction

George Orwell (Pseudonym) of Eric Arthur Blair (1903-50) was indeed a talented novelist, Unfortunately his novels have not received extended critical attention. Some aspects of his novels, in particular, have escaped the attention of the scholars and critics of modern fiction. One of these aspects is the social realism in his novels. In my opinion, I intend to make a thorough and extensive study of this aspect of the novels of George Orwell.

In the early part of his literary career, Orwell was considered a dissident "minority" writer with a readership of moderate proportions. He suddenly achieved wide fame with the publication of two books namely "Animal Farm"(1945) and Nineteen Eighty Four (1949). These two novels gradually elevated him into a cult figure, a hero of our times, a secular saint. In this article my object is to assess and evaluate all his novels with particular reference to the realistic picture of the society that we find in his novels, one is confronted with an eccentric hero, a social dissident or misfit, a rank outsider. The society around him is generally assessed from the view point of this hero or anti-hero. This gives a positive advantage to George Orwell as he can present us an objective and dispassionate picture of society.

In the Thirties, George Orwell wrote five novels. These novels are widely different as to their subjects and settings. These novels are however unified by their close adherence to an important theme, the realistic portrayal of these societies. It is true that each of these novels tells the story of a single lonely individual's disaffection from his society, his retreat or escape from it. The novel however does not end with it. It ends with the hero's resigned conformity or death.

Burmese Days (1934) is his first and perhaps the best novel. In this novel we find a truthful account of the Burmese society in Rangoon, the capital society, we find an account of the race-relationship among the Burmese, the Indians and the British people. The Burmese society of that time has come alive in the pages of the novel, but their future was bleak and they led life in obscurity.

Keep the Aspidochelone Flying is his second novel. It was published in the year 1936. In this novel the background is rural England and the hero Gordon Comstock, is a person belonging to the lower middle class. The theme of the novel is the joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats of an ordinary person. But what impresses us most is the picture of English rural society as seen through the eyes of a common man, who happens to be

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the hero of this novel. There is a similarity of theme in his next novel entitled **Coming Up For Air** (1939). The hero of this novel is named George Bowling. In this novel too, we find a dependable picture of the contemporary society. This picture has, apart from a literary value, a kind of sociological importance too.

Aim of the study

The present paper evaluates the social realism in which we find that the author reflects how a poor, needy person, a lonely person and a homeless person leads life where there is nothing only darkness all around. Why it happens so with human beings which compels to unrest and dissatisfied with society where he gets nothing- only rejection and disaffection in life. He has raised a basic question in his novel how Burmees are exploited by the British officials.

There is hardly any doubt that Orwellian heroes(or anti heroes) are not only sensitive and well meaning people, they are also observers of human nature and the relationship between men and society around them. Orwell's well known work **Homage To Catalonia** (1938) is a book in which politics plays a very important role for the first time and who will deny that politics has now become the most powerful factor in the thought process of modern man. The impact of politics in social life is undeniable. This book records the author's deeply moving experience of comradeship with a band of brothers fighting a common foe in the filthy conditions of a battlefield.

Down and out in Paris and London is not a novel in a conventional sense of the term. But this work gives us a true to life picture of the sad plight of the unemployed young men during the inter war period.

Conclusion

The analysis of the novels of Orwell shows social realism as his main stand which exposes a true picture of human condition of that time. It is an appeal to stop inhumanity and brutalities on simple and poor person because they are human beings and they can not tolerate for a long time.

Both "Animal Farm" and "1984" are ruthless exposure of the inhumanities and brutalities of the stalinistic regime in Russia. in this article, I intend to probe into the details of this exposure. In passing it can be commented here that after the lapse of five decades, after the fall of the massive citadel of communism. These two novels have achieved a fresh and vigorous significance.Orwell believed in socialism and his novels show his discontent with contemporary society and his depression at the horrid vision of the future. He became widely known for his short political satires on a totalitarian state. In *Animal_Farm* he declared all animals are equal but some are more equal than others. It shows Orwell's Socialism of his time in which he was living.

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