

Dr. N.Gunasekaran

Head cum Assistant Professor

Department of English

Sri Vidhya Mandhir Arts and Science College

Uthangarai, India

K.S Shyalaja

M.A., M.Phil., Net.

Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of English

Sri Vidhya Mandhir Arts and Science College

Uthangarai, India

shylrani@gmail.com

Theme of Modernity Kiran Desai's *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*.

Abstract

This paper studies the theme of modernity of the human behavior in the novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*. Kiran's purpose is to mirror the life of modern man by the tool of satire. The plot of *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* is drawn on contemporary life stories. Desai clearly depicts the fable on hermits and saints which was assumed by the modern society. Her characters are the most significant, colorful and lively. The back drop of the novel is guava orchard, where human and the monkeys compete to survive. This forms whimsical in the plot and character

Kiran resembles her mother by handling the artistic sceptre of magical realism to enrich her imagination. This paper is an attempt to explore the themes of changing values and morals, the confused state of society, finding solace in this consumerist culture, and surviving under the modern society. Desai splendidly portrays feelings of insecurity and desperation through the protagonist. This novel is considered to be powerful commentary on 21st century modern India.

Keywords: Blind Faith, Escapism, Selfishness, Nothingness, Isolation

The purpose of the paper is to study the influence of modernity of the human behavior in the novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*. In this materialistic development, Kiran Desai has a great concern for modernity formed in the Indian society. She brings forth the human's superiority attitude towards materialism and behaviour. There by, she depicts the contemporary society in modern conventions.

Based on this experience, *The Inheritance of Loss* depicts a group of "lost" people and the state of their lives, and how they lost themselves in the course of pursuing their cultural identity in the process of globalization. This complex background is of great significance to the multitudinous diasporic writers who are still struggling hard to recognize their cultural identity. A sensitive response to the diasporic challenges characterize Kiran Desai's fictional world. (Dash Bihari,273)

Kiran Desai's debut novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* received Betty trask award in the year 1938. She became the youngest woman to win Man Booker prize for the second novel *The Inheritance of loss*. Salman Rushdie praised her work as "welcome proof that India's encounter with the English Language continues to give birth to new children, endowed with lavish gifts." She gained International acclaim for her works.

The novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* revolves around Sampath Chawla, a dull witted young man, who transformed in to “Baba” a sage of wisdom. The protagonist birth is not usual, but of fortunate to his parents in the town of Shakot .He was being attracted in the town Shakhkot for he was late born child to Kulfi, mother of Sampath at the time of drought. So the entire town celebrated his birth as fortune.

‘Oh dear, what is going to become of this woman?’ said Lakshmiji, the Raipurs, the Bengali teacher, and all of the others when they looked out of their windows, when they gossiped at the tea stall or sat in each other’s houses eating peanuts together. ‘There was always something odd about her,’ they said. (Desai, 5)

This attitude of sampath’s parents and society made him not to progress in education and career. He led his life in despair and frustration. Most of the days, he spends his time in tea stalls and singing to himself in the public gardens. The fortunate man turned out to be burden to his family. But Sampath’s grandmother trusted:

He is going downhill, he will come up out on the other side” (HGO, 26)

Shakhkot People’s blind faith backed him up. He became vagabond and seeks for solace. Desai relentlessly criticize the modern society for their blind faith.

The protagonist Sampath hails from Middle –class family settles in guava orchard to escape from his strife. He took nature in his hands for gaining name and fame. His escapism made him central figure and manifests tradition as a source of peace and tranquility. He became popular after the transformation of hermit. The modern man was named as “Monkey Baba” The estranged relationship of man with the monkeys of Shako is evident of modernity. At this point, Sampath becomes comically misconstrued, when he searches for peace and happiness.

Mr. Chawla, Sampath's father is presented as a symbol of selfishness. He made use of opportunity to make money. His father wants to commercialize his son's presence. On the other hand, he deceives people, who listen to Sampath's words of wisdom. Thus Mr. Chawla's family bank account begins to grow and he looks at investment plans. His mother Kulfi served Baba with lavish food. Her art of preparing the food was chopping, bubbling, of frying, slicing, stirring and grating. She supplied the food with hidden ingredients and was strange to the modern world. Desai interprets modern man's life is nothingness. Though Sampath growth as a hermit is so large, he gained nothing in it. She satirizes the consciousness of his development is a sin of nothingness.

Sampath, on the other hand, is ostensibly much more engaged with the people around him, even while he is likened to a "vegetable" a lazy dreamer lacking the common sense that would undoubtedly lift him up from the bottom rung of the social ladder. (Desai, 26),

Sampath's dream-like life represents a journey deep within oneself, to the expanse of emptiness, reminiscent of the Buddhist ideal of nirvana-the being of nothingness. It is significant that Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard is a whimsical tale magic of satirical comedy.

Kiran Desai dealt with the Gripping isolation to bring out the attention of the readers. Sampath aspires to be isolated after losing his clerical job. During his travel in the bus, he thought of leaving the world out of fear and joy. He wants to flee from the society and survive alone. He chose to settle in the Guava tree by presenting sermons. He denies to come down from the tree. His seclusion exhibited him as the super human. He was given more respect and veneration.

Sampath felt his body fill with a cool greenness, his heart swell with a mysterious wild sweetness. He felt an awake clear sap flowing through him, something quite

unlike human blood...He could have sworn a strange force had entered him, that something new was circulating within him. (Desai, 46-47)

The situation turns out to be chaos at the the end. When the visitors bring liquor, the monkey tasted and caused threat to the visitors. Due to nuisance caused by the monkey, his position of the respected saint seemed to be trouble maker. The situation of the saint become worse with the civilians, military-men, policemen. They united together to clear the monkey menace:

...he chirped, 'Yes, sir. I will see to it right now, sir.' But once he began, the latter half of his sentence – the 'right now, sir' – amazed and shocked by the preceding words, grew shaky and trailed up thinly into the high ceiling of the room...They all turned to stare at him in surprise. Never had they heard him attempt such a sentence. (HGO, 32-33)

In *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* Kiran Desai's has attained universal thought to the hopes and aspirations of the modern man. This paper investigates the challenges of contemporary modern man who leads an idle life. He dominates the nature to form the new society. The problems of competition, employment, human presumption, selfishness and the loss of inheritance are exposed in the sense of humor to rethink about the modern society.

Desai portrayed the modern man as null on believing his destiny. The fascinating protagonist showcases his hypocritical life to survive in the world. Indeed, the problems in the novel embarked with artistic resolution by the tool of magical realism.

The modern man has developed a misconception that development and progress as man apart from non-human world can bring peace, however the novel provides a plot where the real peace is shown to be achieved by Sampath through reconciliation with nature.

(Mishra, 354)

Kiran Desai's modern vision for awareness engraved with a satirical comedy. It is truly a powerful novel for the younger generation for shaping the betterment of the society. This paper is an attempt to explore the themes of changing values and morals, the confused state of society, finding solace in this consumerist culture, and surviving under the modern society. Desai splendidly portrays feelings of insecurity and desperation through the protagonist . This novel is considered to be powerful commentary on 21st century modern India.

References

Dash Bihari Bipin. "A Critical study on the themes and Techniques of Kiran Desai's Fictions",

International Journal of English Language. Literature in Humanities, Volume 2, Issue 5,

September 2014, PP 269-2284, ISSN 2321-7065 .Print.

Desai, Kiran. *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1998. Print.

Mishra, Gaurav. "Ecological consciousness in Kiran Desai's *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*",

International Journal of English Language . Literature in Humanities, Volume 5, Issue

10, October 2017, PP 351-356, ISSN 2321-7065. Print.

Rushdie, Salman." Synopsis & Review". September 2006 .< <http://www.Powel.com/>>