

Journal of Interdisciplinary Cycle Research

An UGC-CARE Group - A Journal (Serial No. 21259)

An ISO 7021 : 2008 Certified Journal

ISSN NO: 0022-1945 | Impact Factor: 6.2

<http://www.jicrjournal.com/>

Special Issue on "Emerging Trends and Themes in English Language and Literature"

Special Issue Editors

Lt. Dr. K. Premkumar
Dr. K. Kaviarasu
Dr. Suresh Frederick
Dr. C. Dhanabal
Dr. C. Alex Rajakumar Paul



**South-Asian English Language &
Literature Teachers Association
[SELLTA]**

&



**PG & Research Department of English,
Bishop Heber College (Autonomous),
Tiruchirappalli, TN, India**

Volume XI | Issue XII | December 2019

A Kaleidoscopic study of Arundhati Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

Ms. R. Sudha*

Abstract

India is well known for her ethnicity, multi-cultural tradition and variety of languages which have long history spoken by differently identified set of people. Indian Writing in English deals with a wide range of themes. It reflects Indian culture, tradition, social values and even Indian history through the depiction of life in India and Indians living elsewhere. The recent Indian English fiction tops off in its contribution to world literature is largely due to the completely creative literary works generated by Indian novelists in English. Their works contemplated and deliberated on multifarious ranges of issues like nationalism, freedom struggle, social realism and individual consciousness. Likely, Indian writing in English has distinguished itself as a remarkable force in world fiction.

The Indian English novels have proved their mark in the global literary scenario by the manner in which the writers have captured the interest and imagination of the reader through poignant portrayals of various themes such as colonialism impacts, multi-culturalism, social realism, gender issues, comic aspect of human nature, ecological concerns, magic realism and diaspora writings.

One among the kinds of fiction is political fiction which employs narrative to comment on political events, systems and theories. Works of political fiction, such as political novels, often directly criticize an existing society or present an alternative, even fantastic and reality. Political novel as a form is almost an obsession with the Indian writers. Every Indian English writer has debuted at least one political novel in his lifetime.

In Indian English fiction, the political motif has been very prominent from the beginning. The Indian novel in English was born before Independence, and naturally, the politics of the freedom struggle played an important part in it. In fact, it is possible to see an intimate connection between the growth of the freedom movement and the rise of the Indian novel in English. The political theme is at the centre of the works. This was but natural in a period when all problems - social, cultural, religious had ultimately been considered in relation to the question of attaining independence.

Keywords: War and Peace, Indian Politics and Corruption, Terrorism, Power and Money, Transgender issues, Social issues, Struggles of individual life, Alienation, Marginalization, Caste system in India

This paper sheds lights on all the overarching issues in the Indian culture depicted flawlessly in Roy's tale and investigations in alternate points of view which are concerned unthinkable, felt perilous and dreaded to be clarified.

The extent of political novel in Indian Writing in English is extremely wide and enormous. It covers all the political just as social issues of the provincial and post-frontier history of Indian culture. It is hard to recognize social issues and political issues since each social issue procures a political measurement, pointing towards a sweeping, political arrangement. There was a flood of masterfully effective political books in Indian English fiction with the socio-political subjects and issues. The most significant political authors of Indian English writing are Mulk Raj Anand, R.K.Narayan, Salman Rushdie, Anita Desai, Agha Shahid Ali, Arundhati Roy, Khushwant Singh, Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh, Aravind Adiga and so on.

The God of Small Things (1997) the prominent woman novel, won Man Booker Prize and got name and distinction to its writer Arundhati Roy who is truly Suzanna Arundhati Roy, an Indian writer and political author, conceived on 24 November 1961. She is likewise a political extremist engaged with human rights and natural causes. In the wake of distributing *The God of Small Things* in 1997, Roy possesses burned through the vast majority of her energy for political activism and verifiable. She has composed various articles on contemporary legislative issues and culture. She talks about on hostile to globalization development and intense pundit of neo-colonialism and U.S international strategy. She contradicts India's approaches toward atomic weapons just as industrialization and financial development.

Roy figured out how to live and think autonomously from her encounters. She is resolved to do and say what she needs, regardless of whether her feeling conflicts with the social standard. To this, she keeps on voicing her conclusion as a social extremist, expounding on recent developments in article structure. Roy is known for her enemy of war lobbyist sentiments, and she communicates them dauntlessly in her various distributed works and discourses.

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness is the second novel by Arundhati Roy published in June 2017, twenty years after her introduction novel. The tale weaves together accounts of the darkest and most fierce scenes of present day Indian history. The book talks about the darker side of India, the fall of human qualities in the Indian culture. Each character in the novel is the result of mistreatment, subject to the impulses to degenerate political powers and oppression of Hindu patriotism.

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness takes the readers to a private adventure of numerous years over the Indian subcontinent from the confined neighbourhoods of old Delhi and the streets of the new city to the mountains and valleys of Kashmir and past, where war is harmony and harmony is war. It is a hurting romantic tale and

*Assistant Professor PG Department of English NGM College, Pollachi
a conclusive criticism, a story told faintly, in a yell, through unsentimental tears and once in a while with an unpleasant chuckle. Every one of its characters is permanently, softly rendered. Its characters are individuals

who have been broken by the world they live in and afterward safeguarded, fixed together by acts and by trust.

The story starts with Anjum who likes to be Aftab spreading a floor covering in a city cemetery she calls home. The altogether different character Tilo and the men who adored her including Musa, and some more; their destinies are as weaved similarly as with them like their arms used to be and consistently will be. Tilo's landowner, a previous suitor, presently a knowledge official presented on Kabul. And afterward the two Miss Jebeens, the initial a youngster conceived in Srinagar and covered in its stuffed Martyrs' cemetery; the second found at 12 PM, surrendered on a solid walkway in the core of New Delhi. As this bewitching, profoundly others conscious novel plaits these lives together, it reevaluates what a novel can do and can be. With these lively characters and a remarkable plot *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* Roy shows India as a tempest of disorder, and the authorial portrayals extend from the abnormal to the mystical. As relief, she discovers steadiness in certain delineated spots of asylum. Little people group like Anjum's resting house in the memorial park, little islands in the immense ocean of mankind and time.

"There is no such things as the voiceless. There are just intentionally quieted or the ideally unheard" (Roy). *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Roy recounts to more than one story. It tells a beautiful scope of characters up to this point unbelievable on any canvas other than India. Roy shows that the palette has been tinged with a solidified truth of the time. Roy has depicted the clouded side multicultural nation. There are individuals of various race, station, religion and confidence live in India. Now and again, various religions lost its adjust and consistently end up in brutality. The characters are easily intertwined with the political setting and inspirations of India over recent decades.

Roy paints the image of regular political occasion that has molded the topography of the nation, giving epithets to each important individual from the Raajneeti as writer executive, Gujarat ki Lalla, caught bunny and so forth. "The main clergyman with cold eyes and vermilion brow would proceed to win the decisions. Significantly after the writer executive government fell at the middle, he won political decision after political decision in Gujarat. Some individuals accepted he should be considered liable for mass homicide, however his voters called him Gujarat ki Lalla, Gujarat ki beloved"(Roy 63).

The fiction holds the unbearable facts of society, for example, vomited state of minorities, embarrassed ways of life of transgenders, average government, life of treachery, imbalance and preference. In the novel Roy reproduces contemporary history from the perspective of the subaltern and the minimized, drawing out the philosophy of country state should acknowledge and endure thoughts that stun or upset.

Roy, in this novel exhibits the historical backdrop of working of Indian state, which has now and again bombed the genuine soul of democracy. Each and each character of the novel lift the cloak of the genuine essence of Indian Politics. The characters appeared to satisfy the undertaking of political training that Roy has doled out them. Roy needed to bring the subcontinent's castaways under one rooftop. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* leaves nothing open finished or to the creative mind rather it eagerly explains each training and idiosyncrasy. Dr. Azad Bhartiya, one of the minor character of the novel appeared as immediate reportage from private enterprise, communism, casteism, colourism to the divided country and its wartime sexual savagery and wrongdoings. Dr. Azad Bhartiya is the correspondent of the paper "My News and Views". He himself called him as "Free Indian".

I am fasting against the following issues:

I am against the capitalist Empire, plus against US capitalism, Indian and American state Terrorism/All kinds of Nuclear weapons and crime, plus against the Bad education system/ Corruption/ Violence/ Unemployment Degradation and All Other Evils. Also I am against Unemployment. I am also fasting for the complete obliteration of the entire Bourgeois class. Each day I remember the poor of the world, Workers/ Peasants/ Tribals/ Dalits/ Abandoned Women and Gents/ including children and Handicapped people. (Roy126)

Roy anticipated the contemporary basic and delicate socio-political issues of India. Under the fronts of secularism and vote based system how prejudice, bigotry, segregation and foul play every now and again rehearsed, How individuals are butchered and honest people are covered in obscurity. Roy uncovered the

cruel treatment to the Dalits. These Dalits never get an opportunity to create themselves as absence of mindfulness and information, they turned into the casualty of unfairness.

In 2008 the situation much worst inside the forest. Operation Green Hunt is announced by Government. War against people. Thousands of police and paramilitary are in the forest. Killing Adivasis, burning villages. No Adivasi can stay in her house or their village. They sleep in the forest outside at night because at night police come, hundred, two hundred, sometimes five hundred police. They take everything, burn everything, steal everything. Chickens, goats, money. They want Adivasi people to vacate forest so they can make a steel township and mining. (Roy 421)

As she depicted the circumstance of such oppressed Dalits, who are driven away from their very own local spot and denied from their social equality. Roy exhibited the lives of Naxals in the timberland. They don't decide to do a craving strike and solicitation the administration for their privileges. They decide to lift their arms with firearms to grab their benefits as residents of just nation like India. In the letter of Jebeen's genuine mother, a Maoist clarifies each episode. She leaves her youngster since she can't deal with her. She is assaulted by police officer who is on obligation and came about this kid. As she needs to live in woodland, she surrendered the kid for her future. This was the truth which never heard or seen. Poor women need to quiet down. As it is accepted that it's anything but difficult to stifle a woman as they are delicate and called as second sex. The shout of women is constantly stayed unheard. They are educated to hold up under all the torment quietly in light of the fact that they live in a general public where all laws are made to control life of women in name of culture and convention.

All through her life, Roy has been clear and very open on the issues that should have been examined and tended to. Another significant character of the novel, Tilotama additionally embarrassed and experienced mental misery as she wedded to an aggressor named Musa. Arifa and Miss Jebeen likewise shot to death in the viciousness in Kashmir. The political obstruction in Kashmir lead to numerous passings and has impacted the tranquility of the entire nation. As the essayist put it Kashmir will make India pointless. Roy has been challenging the administration ventures which constrained individuals to forfeit their prosperity. She has been representing the privileges of women. Through her composing she makes her voice stronger.

Tilo is presented as an engineering student. Despite the fact that she didn't have a place with a specific network, this didn't stop Naga and Musa to have affections for her. She was not an excellent young woman according to Indian's meaning of magnificence, she was poor. She lived in ghettos but then she was exceptional to these two young men. Naga was even uncertain at whatever point he was around Musa since he thought Musa would do well to opportunities to prevail upon Tilo. After their graduation Musa returned to Kashmir yet later in some way or another both Musa and Tilo figured out how to remain together and got hitched to one another. It was the hour of Kashmir being a combat area and Musa was a youngster who passed on during the war.

Musa was an activist. Not long after his passing, Tilo wedded Naga. Roy as Naga has spoken to the present youngster who is more reasonable and sensible than his predecessors. The man of today discusses thinking and rationale and that is the thing that precisely Naga used to do. Thusly, Roy glimpses herself in Naga. Roy takes up the issue of patriotism and energy in the most ideal manner through the two alternate points of view of Naga and Biplab who had been enamored with Tilo once. Naga however progressively down to earth in his methodology was a greater amount of a lover as he never suspected of the outcomes of his words. Biplab then again was very much aware of the present day state of the nation as he brought up "Individuals are being lynched for far less. Indeed, even my partners in the Bureau don't appear to have the option to see the contrast between strict confidence and enthusiasm" (Roy 165). A long time passed by and both Naga and Tilo engaged with the issues identified with Kashmir. The dead assortment of Musa had such an effect on her, that all she needed was to represent Kashmir and that turned into the sole motivation behind her life. Through Tilo's battle, Roy delineated the awfulness that Indian Army has propagated in the lives of the individuals of Kashmir. Roy unequivocally contended for the opportunity of Kashmir. She was censured by both decision and resistance for her contention on Kashmir detachment. The significant piece of the novel is set in Kashmir and the explanation is Roy needed to take up the issue she has actually had confidence in.

She has consistently represented Kashmiris and consequently the setting. She portrays the genuine situation of Kashmir and the predicament of the locals. Roy says that passing was wherever in Kashmir and demise was everywhere. Biting the dust turned out to be simply one more method for living. "Burial grounds jumped up in parks and knolls, by streams and rivers." (Roy 166)

The nation has been seeing this miserable territory of Kashmir however no arrangement till date has resulted in these present circumstances issue. The compatriots who talk about harmony and thriving of the country don't fret over this extraordinary piece of the country. For them Kashmir is something they would prefer not to represent on the grounds that evidently the moderate passing of the territory of Kashmir doesn't trouble them much. Alongside this issue, the distance has likewise been assumed the place where there is Kashmir itself. It was through a character named Murugesan, a fighter posted in the valley of Kashmir. He was from Chamar, Chamar breed as Kashmiris used to call him. What's more, Roy even brought up that how Dalits and other unapproachable ranks are treated in Northern India. When Murugesan kicked the bucket, his pine box wasn't permitted to try and go through the town as the town didn't have a place with the untouchables' locale and thus needed to take an alternate course to Untouchables' incineration ground.

In his Village the Vanniyars (who are not "Untouchables") would not allow the body of S. Murugesan to be carried past their houses to the cremation ground. So the funeral procession took a circuitous route that skirted the village to the separate Untouchables' cremation round right next to the village dump. (Roy 317)

This delineates how uncaring and flighty Indians act in such basic circumstances. Despite the fact that the town individuals were against it, the military, so as to give him tribute manufactured a statue of him at the passageway of the town and no one could go to the acknowledgment of the way that how an Untouchables' statue raised at the passageway. For the vast majority of them it was affront. The dispute is pertinent on the grounds that Arundhati Roy, the dissident rules over the author. While it tends to be contended that these two personalities are not unmistakable but rather intersectional, it isn't reflected in the composition.

From the earliest starting point, it becomes evident that Roy's advantage doesn't lie in the characters or their advancement. Rather, she means to deliver the issues and conditions of Kashmir, naxalism, relocation of Adivasis, defamation of Muslims, murder for the sake of Gau Raksha and proceeded with mistreatment of Dalits.

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness can be viewed as a political fiction which is unequivocally political and forceful desultory. Roy has been engaged with different fights, for example, against Sardar Sarover Dam venture which removed homes of poor people. She was additionally against building Narmada dam. She wrote down an exposition about it named "The Greater Common Good" (1999). It was not the first run through Roy anticipated the existence ignored, in *The God of Small Things* she anticipated both interior and outside battle of a family, shaped the setting, offered life to the characters and soul to the story to talk about sexual orientation segregation, strict contrasts and the political control that empowered deaths of honest individuals. There are individuals of various race, standing, religion and confidence live in India. In some cases, various religions lost its adjust and consistently end up in viciousness.

Government neglected to ensure them so they left the valley and began living in the fields. A large number of them became destitute and confronted unlimited issues. Muslims young men are likewise captured in the doubt of making a fear based oppressor assault. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* is a finished parody planning to assault the methods for patriarch society and where a transgender ask for their place, women are assaulted and bound to hold onto their lips, deserted existences of Dalits and Hindus and Muslims war. The visually impaired government takes all of political focal points from those occasions. The genuine unfortunate casualties are the residents. Roy demonstrated worries for the developing ecological rot because of deforestation, sewage framework and mining ventures influencing the biological system. "The Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal sprang a dangerous gas release that executed a huge number of individuals. The papers were loaded with accounts individuals attempting to escape the toxic cloud that scrutinized them, their eyes and lungs ablaze. There was something practically scriptural about the nature and the size of ghastliness" (Roy 151).

Roy got renowned for her social movement just as her interest in many revolt so as to get change the general public. She is an author with a reason behind each activity; there is a push to make a superior circumstance for the oppressed. Today, She is world acclaimed creator and a fruitful social lobbyist. She addresses the taboos, patriarch lifestyles, the authority of political control over individuals that is reflected in her works. Her works are the statement of her nauseate, outrage, disappointment and compassion.

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness talks about socio-political issues with the minimized characters of India. The epic is contemporary scholarly fiction containing Roy's writing in numerous structures including verse,

letters, arrangement, discourse, and story. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* is really an acknowledgment of being squashed by harsh powers. Roy shows how inward feelings are as genuine what occur outside an individual. This vivacity of feelings makes the novel so surprising. Arundhati Roy's works epitomizes authenticity, political and social emergency and sympathy for humankind. The fiction holds the insufferable certainties of society, for example, vomited state of minorities, embarrassed existence of transgenders, average government. She is really daring individual who depicts India with mind blowing assorted variety and magnificence.

Reference

- [1] *Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, by Arundhati Roy. Guardian 17 June 2018. Web.
- [2] Roy, Arundhati. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. Haryana: Penguin Random House, 2017. Print.
- [3] <<http://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.the-guardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/nov/28/conversation-edward-snowden-arundhati-roy-john-cusack-interview>