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Gandhian Influence on Indian English Writing

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Abstract

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial patriot, and political ethicist who led the victorious movement via peaceful resistance. Gandhian principles such as Ahinsa (nonviolence), Satyagraha (insistence on the truth), and nonviolent methods of resistance such as the boycott of English goods and way of life have had a profound effect on the political movements of the globe. Even Mahatma Gandhi's life was extremely remarkable, with his saintly austerity and restricted demands. Indians and foreigners gained a new feeling of pride and purpose as a result. This paper seeks to trace Gandhian effect on Indian English Writing. Gandhi and his ideology were inevitable and unavoidable for Indians. foreign authors, philosophers, and scholars. The study is an earnest effort to comprehend Gandhi's impact on Indian literature written in English Mahatma Gandhi has left an indelible mark on Indian culture and literature.

His philosophy or His life is guided by his 'isms' In a few words, I will now discuss Gandhi's guiding ideas.

Later in his life This includes Satya (Truth), Ahinsa (Nonviolence), Vishvashanti (World Peace), and Asahakar (Noncooperation). Incorporating these ideals throughout his life, he put them into practise. These terms may appear Very easy to say, yet difficult to remember or follow. There are several pieces of literature impacted by the life and teachings of Gandhi. This paper discusses briefly some of the significant literary works that represent Gandhi's life and world view.

Great men die physically, but continue to live in the memories of people by their actions and work.

Keywords: Ahinsa (non-violence), Satya (Truth), Asahakar(non-cooperation), Vishvashanti (world peace), Satyagraha (insistence of truth), Gandhian Philosophy etc.

Introduction

Creativity and inspiration are the two defining factors for most writers and their craft. But while creativity is largely the process of generating original ideas, inspiration is random. Sometimes it comes from the simplest of things. Like the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Poetry, prose or drama; fiction or nonfiction -- Gandhi is everywhere.

Gandhi is one of the few famous figures to have captivated the minds of as many authors as he has. And it is astounding how many various works have been written on him or inspired by him. Even seventy years after his passing, the process has only gathered pace.

From Mulk Raj Anand to Sarojini Naidu, Dominique Lapierre to George Orwell and Khuswant Singh to V.S. Naipaul, almost all "during-Gandhi", "post-Gandhi" and contemporary writers have somewhere referred to the life of "Bapu" in their works. Thus, they have brought different interpretations to his sayings, sketched fictional characters on his principles and composed verses on his thoughts.

In fact, the majority of authors focused on the issues of the liberation movement, the independence of India, and the partition of India. It was difficult for Mahatma Gandhi to treat these subjects with indifference. The influence of Mahatma Gandhi and his ideals on twentieth-century writing has persisted until the present day. In his book *A Presentation of Social Problems in the Indo-Anglian & Anglo-Indian Novel*, Kai Nicholson writes, "A character who has loomed large in Indo-Anglican fiction during and after his life time is Mahatma Gandhi."

(Kai, 239). Gandhi's ideology and life became a model and an ideal for the majority of the world's most influential individuals to live comfortably. Many notable individuals, including Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama, have acknowledged the impact of Gandhian ideology and philosophy on them and their work. His effect was all-encompassing and unavoidable.

Gandhian principles such as 'Ahimsa' (nonviolence), 'Satyagraha' (insistence on the truth), and nonviolent methods of resistance such as the boycott of English goods and way of life have had a profound effect on the political movements of the globe.

Even Mahatma Gandhi's life was pretty amazing, with his saintly austerity and restricted demands instilling Indians and foreigners with a new feeling of dignity and purpose. K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar recognises Gandhi as a "formative influence on writers of the time" (Iyengar, 249). Men are remembered not by the length of their lives, but by the impression they leave on the minds of others. When this is examined, Mahatma Gandhi's effect cannot be avoided. In the edited book by Norman titled *Profiles of Gandhi*, John Haynes Holmes mentions:

When I think of Gandhi, I think of Jesus Christ. He lives his life; he speaks his word; he suffers, strives and will someday nobly die for his Kingdom upon earth." (Haynes, 15) The book further records the quotation of Martin Luther King: "From my background, I gained my regulating Christian ideals. From Gandhi I learned my operational technique." (King, 14)

Numerous eminent experts concur that Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of India, was a remarkable man. Respect and honour from the citizens of a country are only bestowed upon those who have made significant sacrifices and made unselfish contributions to their nation and its people. Mahatma Gandhi selflessly committed his life to the welfare of the people of his nation. A dhoti and a stick was his whole asset. He stood by the values he held dear. himself made over his life

Bhabani Bhattacharya's So Many Hungers!:

The novel "So Many Hungers!" by Bhabani Bhattacharya focuses on The Quit India Movement of 1942. The story sheds light not just on the independence movement but also on the social climate of the period.

Underneath the struggle for independence, it addresses pressing concerns of poverty, politics, love, and sex. In the narrative, the dreadful and deadly Bengal famine of 1942 and its aftermath are described. The book consists of two distinct sections, each of which tells a unique story that the author masterfully weaves together at the conclusion. The tale depicts a conflict between Gandhi the man and Gandhi the ideal. The main character, Rahul, portrays Gandhi as the man, whilst his grandfather, Devta, depicts Gandhi as the vision. In the first section, Rahul is the key character, whereas Kajoli dominates the second section. The work depicts the consequences of the great famine of 1942 in a realistic manner. Bengal faced tremendous level of poverty after the famine and the novelist has tried to pinpoint the grave situation in Kajoli's attempt of becoming prostitute.

Nayantara Sahgal's Storm in Chandigarh:

Through her book "Storm in Chandigarh", Nayantara Sahgal tries to provide a nonviolent alternative to the violence that has erupted in Punjab. She expresses her abhorrence for the insanity of the violence that has erupted in the newly split states of Punjab and Haryana over the subject of Chandigarh. She believes that nonviolence is the optimal way for a prosperous and peaceful society. In Storm in Chandigarh, Nayantara Sahgal demonstrates her commitment to Gandhian values in this manner. Through the storylines of Inder-Saroj, Jit-Mara, and Vishal-Leela, the book beautifully juxtaposes two worlds: the personal world of man-woman relationships and the interpersonal world of politics.

Sahgal typifies the senior Home Minister as the final remaining person from the Gandhian period, who uses his ideas to maintain political importance in the changing political landscape. The work also addresses topics such as incompatibility in human relationships as a result of miscommunication, extramarital affairs, and poverty. The work touches on the existential nature of human existence. These profound words are the novelist's definition of Gandhism. Vishal

Dubey, the protagonist, pondered such ideas and was pleased to see that, despite the pervasive darkness, there were believers like himself in the cult of nonviolence.

Waiting for the Mahatma: R. K. Narayan's:

R.K. Narayan's book *Waiting for the Mahatma* focuses on Indian freedom. The author has skillfully weaved together two parallel stories: the independence struggle and the exquisite love tale of Sriram and Bharati. Essentially, the plot centres on the character of Sriram, an ordinary guy who lives with his grandmother. Prior to meeting Mahatma Gandhi, he was unemployed and aimless. The speech of Mahatma Gandhi dramatically affected him, compelling him to join the battle for freedom. He met Bharati, who was already fighting with Gandhi in this great cause and was one of Mahatma Gandhi's active liberation fighters and followers. Subsequently, he fell in love with Bharati, who felt the same way about Sriram. When he inquired about a marriage, Bharati, under the influence of Gandhian ideas, said that she would be willing to marry him after India had independence. The couple had received a promise from Mahatma Gandhi that he would organise their marriage. India attained freedom, and Sriram and Bharati awaited Mahatma's fulfilment of his pledge. But before that, an anti-activist shot and killed Mahatma. Unfortunately, Sriram and Bharati were forced to marry without Mahatma's blessings.

Manohar Malgaonkar's *A Bend in The Ganges*:

A Bend in the Ganges narrates the saga of partition and its aftermath. It recounts the massacre, rapes, abduction and atrocities of millions of affected people by the partition of India. It describes the death of more than 2 million people. The novel accounts the life in Indian from the 1930s to 1947. This is done with the help of his three protagonists,- Gian Talwar, Debi-Dayal and Shafi Usman. The story of freedom fight goes along with the three different perspective of three different characters of different socio-economic and cultural background. Violence dominates almost every scene of the novel. The opening and the end stand contradictory in the novel. It opens with 'A ceremony of purification' describes burnings of Foreign clothes. Gandhi is the hero of this movement. In the last chapter too there is a burning but it is of cities which are on fire, Hindus and Muslim killing each other, is this ceremony of purification too?

CONCLUSION:

Through his life and ideas, Mahatma Gandhi has left an indelible mark in India and internationally. As he has created precedents for others to follow, the authors cannot disregard his impact. He is the need of all ages. His life and ideas should be reflected in international literature. If the world is to advance and peace is to be restored, then the countries of the globe must adopt and respect Gandhian philosophy.

Gandhiji will continue to be mirrored in Indian literature for the foreseeable future. His ideas of Ahimsa (non-violence), Asahkar (non-cooperation), and Swaraj (self-rule) have been admired and followed by a large number of eminent individuals around the globe. His autobiography, *The Story of My Experiment with Truth*, serves as a guidebook for many living people throughout the globe.

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