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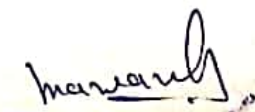
English Department

B. A. III Project List (2021-22)

Paper-XII Introduction to Literary Criticism

Sr. No.	Name of Student	Title of project
1	Kamble Sanket Satyashil	Ab.
2	Sadigale Dattatray Vilas	Mathew Arnold as a Victorian Critic
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6	Pawar Mayuri Chandrakant	Mathew Arnold as a Victorian Critic
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8	Randive Pooja Sachin	Various types of Figures of Speech
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10	Gaikwad Prerana Ajit	T.S. Eliot as a modern critic
11	Gosavi Prashant Rajendra	Various types of Figures of Speech
12	Kharade Varsha Shashikant	


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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that... Karpe Dattatray Sharad ... Of B.A. III has satisfactorily completed Project work on the topic - HARVEST - Manjula Padmandbhan - Drama Sem -VI in the year 2021-22.

Date: 7/6/2022

Student's Signature *Dattatray Karpe*

Shardha
Subject Teacher

Title: Harvest- Manjula Padmanabhan

Objectives

- To understand the various features of Indian English Drama.
- To comprehend the postcolonial drama.
- To know about the futuristic play.
- To acquaint with the globalization and its disastrous impacts on the developing countries.
- To understand the themes, motifs and symbols of the play 'Harvest'.

Introduction

Manjula Padmanabhan wrote this play in 1997 for Onassis Theatre Competition held in Greece on the challenges facing humanity in the next century. The play is about the exploitation of the poor nations by the rich through the sale of body parts. The action unfolds in 2010 in Bombay (Mumbai), where the transplant donors are cast as Indian and the receivers as North American. The play 'Harvest' tells the story of poor family of Om Prakash, Ma, Jaya, and Jeetu. Om Prakash is ready to transplant his organs to Inter Planta Services to overcome his poverty and enjoy a better lifestyle. This fictional transnational corporation provides human organs to the rich Americans. The rich American, Virgil, in the guise of Ginni, lures the poor family with modern resources of pleasure and money. However, they mistakenly take Jeetu, the brother of Om, as the donor. Jaya, Om's wife registers her strong opposition, as she prefers to die with dignity than succumb to the First World by sacrificing her identity rooted in her Third World body. The story presents the conflict between the First World and the Third World as it poses threat through the wireless communication and limitless money.

Harvest

The story of the play centres on Om Prakash, who signs up to be an organ donor for the agency named InterPlanta Services. He is the victim of the financial crisis and computerization at the international level. He is the only bread-winner of his family as they live in the tenement. His family comprises his mother, Indumati Prakash, his wife, Jaya, and his younger brother, Jeetu. He loses his job as a clerk due to technological advances and he is

replaced by machine like other jobless employees. The play opens with Om's search for new job with other thousand unemployed people. Ma and Jaya are seen waiting for Om who is about to come after job-hunting. Consequently, he falls to victim to the flourishing organ transaction international trade. Om comes back and begins to describe how he has been selected for a different kind of job. He narrates the mechanical instructions at the time of his selection procedure. There begins the commanding influence of the machines in human life. His selection as a candidate is completely controlled by the machines functioning at different levels. Being unskilled employee, Om's body is the only asset for him in order to get a job. The InterPlanta Services is the agency working in the organ transplantation. It requires the organ donors who are ready to donate their body organs in exchange of money.

The agency works for the rich American receivers who are in need of organ transplant. Om has to undergo certain precautionary measures before donating his organs to the agency. The InterPlanta Services check the bodies of the candidate before selection with machines as if they are inanimate things. The men in line were ordered and monitored by the instructions being given by the faceless machines. As they were selected, they were given packets with essential things to remain in contact with the agency. Om describes the selection procedure of thousand jobless people who were crammed in a building like a big machine as if they are animals. Their condition reminds the Jews treated in the concentration camps of Nazi militaries. He describes the inhuman treatment given to them as they enter in the tunnel: Then a sort of rain burst. I wonder if I am dreaming! The water is hot, scented. Then cold. Then hot air. Then again the water. It stings a little, this second water. Smells like some medicine. Then air again. Then we pass through another place....I don't know what is happening. Ahead of me a man screams and cries, but we are in separate little cages now, can't move. At one place, something comes to cover the eyes. There's no time to think, just do. Put your arm here, get one prick. put your arm there, get another prick- Pissshhh! Pissshhh! Sit here. stand here, take your head his side, look at a light that side. (L.i.-16)

The above narrative focuses on the machine-like interaction between the employee and the employer in the technically advanced stage of the selection procedure in the postmodern world. All the instructions and guidelines are given through the machines without any human contact.

Characterization

Jeetu

Jeetu is seventeen, handsome younger brother of Om. He is dashing, easy going, and loveable person. Like Om, he also suffers from poverty. He prefers an immoral profession of male-prostitution to survive in the hard circumstances. always keeps himself away from his family. He enjoys his freedom of choice and solitary way of life. He does not get enough attention by his family due to his immoral profession. Om is selected for a new job only after he registers himself as a bachelor although he is married to Jaya. As a prerequisite condition, he has to record the names of his family members to the InterPlanta Services. In order to maintain his job, Om presets Jaya as his sister and wife of his brother, Jeetu. They declare Jeetu as a businessperson who is away from home for a business purpose.

When Jaya secretly meets Jeetu on the roof of the tenement, she tells him about their changed relations. She also informs him about Om's new job as a donor of organs. Jeetu has heard about it as Om has sold himself to the rich Americans for the sake of money. He receives neither love nor affection from his family. Ma hates him and Jaya for their behavior as she remarks in the Act I, Scene 1:

Om Prakash -

He is the main protagonist of the play. We see the character, Om, signing up as an organ donor for Ginni who is an American woman simply because there is no more jobs in India. Ginni pays him to lead and live a healthy life, so when it is time for doing an organ, there is no difficulty or problem in doing so. This play feels nice in the beginning because it seems as after signing up as organ donor, leading a happy and healthy life is guranteed and certained, but what lies underneath is when Om and his small family starts to enjoy their new lifestyles, they also start to deny the consequences.

By seeing the financial situations of Om and his wife Jaya, we can appreciate money as a necessity to life. In this play, we see Om pretty much selling his life in order to obtain the top dollar for this family, well at least in India it was considered top dollar. Jaya was evidently distressed about Om's decision on signing himself to Ginni because the family is already on an off and on a troubled relationship because Jaya is having a secret relationship with Om's younger brother Jeetu. Jeetu works as the prostitute mentioned earlier, Ma is Om's mother who also lives in the house who favours Om more so than the others.

Themes

Reflection of cyber culture

Padmanabhan's play, *Harvest*, written in 1997, has a futuristic setting in a Bombay of the year 2010. Cyber culture provides clues to the spread of globalization and technology that the First World uses as tools of exploitation to dominate in transactions with the Third World. In the postmodern world, the cyber culture is spread throughout the cybernetic circuit. In the play, the Contact Module is one of them that perform an instrumental role in avoiding the actual physical existence of Ginni, simultaneously enabling her to monitor the daily activities of Om and his family members. It allows her to maintain her safe distance from the unsanitary conditions of the site of colonization (or production) i.e. the home of the Prakash family.

First World versus Third World:

Harvest delineates the relationship between the first and the third worlds, focusing on the fundamental practice of globalization and its impacts. The first world exploits the third world for its rich resources in every sector. It survives and expands, on the basis of new advanced technology and capitalism. In the play, Virgil, the foreigner buys Om Prakash's organs. Virgil represents the first and Om is the mouthpiece of the third world nations. The play shows an unemployed man [Om] selling the rights of his body parts to a buyer [Virgil] in the United States. With the technological progress, the first world is able to sell and buy the human organs. The first world countries are dependent on the third world for the economical profit. Third world is a rich storehouse of different resources essential for the growth and development of the first world. The economy of the world has changed with the industrialization, and globalization. The first world countries have developed their own economy of labour force management. With the technological advances, labour is carried out by non-human means and human labour is obtained elsewhere. The first world countries always search for the cheaper, weaker, submissive, and poverty stricken population as it is easily available..

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Conclusion

This chapter is designed to be a review of the critical analysis of Padmanabhan's plays which have been discussed throughout the study. The goal of this chapter is to show how the various aspects of analysis may be synthesized into a coherent, total examination of play. While reading Manjula Padmanabhan's plays we are reminded of Rousseau's observation: "... Man is by nature good, and the acts and institutions of civilization have produced perverted expression of his true nature", and also of Shakespeare's well-known, often quoted lines:

"... All the World's a stage

And all the men and women merely players".

These two epigraphs succinctly but aptly describe the human condition as it obtains today, Human beings seem to play various roles which are culturally attributed to them. In doing so, they get alienated from their real nature. This seems to be the basic cause for all the problems that they have been facing since the dawn of civilization. And drama truly reflects the cultural deformity of human life more than any other genre of literature does.

As an expression of our national genius, Indian Drama, with its long history of 2000 years, is a unique phenomenon in the literary world. It was only after the British set up their regime in India that the crippled Indian Drama received new strength and witnessed a revival. The Modern Indian Drama "owed its first flowering to foreign grafting". With the impact of the Western civilization on Indian life, a new renaissance dawned on Indian arts

Reference

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- <https://smartenglishnotes.com/2020/10/03/theharvest-summary-themes-setting-and-characters/>