



## **Social Hypocrisy And Individualism: A View Of Modern India From The Novels Of Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* And *Between The Assassinations***

**A. Arunraj<sup>a</sup>, Dr. R. Mayilraj<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Ph. D Scholar in English, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi – 613 503. (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli)

<sup>b</sup>Associate Professor of English & Research Advisor, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi – 613 503. (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli)

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### **Abstract**

Aravind Adiga, the renowned Indo-Australian novelist of Post-Colonial Indian English literature, depicts the Indian diverse culture to a great extent in his own writing style. He depicts the socio-economic reality of society in his novels and short stories. He conveys a collective message to the people of India and proposes to modern Indian society. He is indisputably the greatest artist of Indian Writing in English. Adiga's first novel, *The White Tiger*, deals with the desolation of the trodden and demoralised person and his struggle for a better life. His subsequent novels are almost a deviation from the same theme. Adiga's *Between the Assassinations* has a typical element that deals with the struggle of the poor people in India against the conventional social order, poverty, social and religious hypocrisy among youth and starving millions of Indian people. Adiga has taken the central theme of his novels from authentic life, so his novels are nothing but social realism. The present paper is an endeavour to emphasise how social hypocrisy and individualism are reflected in Adiga's novels.

**Keywords:** Social Hypocrisy, Globalization, modern culture and darkness.

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### **1. Introduction**

Indian English fiction, from its beginning, has portrayed the socio-cultural, economic and political changes in the destiny of this country. In India during the late twentieth century, many luminous authors have written about the socio-economic culture, social iniquity, and political transformation at the time of the modern Indian period while poverty, exploitation and socio-economic changes are at the peak in the downtrodden society.

Adiga's Main Booker-prize-winning novel *The White Tiger* (2008) portrays the journey of Indian society and culture from objective to disillusionment. He focuses his attention in the novel on the desolation, pain, anguish and depression of the acquainted section of society along with the novel's protagonist, which strains Indian society. Aravind Adiga, in his fiction, confers a social message to the Indian people about modern society and exposé the life of poor people who lives in overwhelming poverty. Aravind Adiga contributes to proffer the various methods for convulsion in Indian society

issues of national significance together with poverty, hungry and social mistreatment and intolerance based on caste, creed, class, religion and gender.

## 2. Freedom and the Darkness in *The White Tiger*

Adiga's novel expresses the socio-economic and enriching circumstances in rural Indian society of post-colonial Indian literature. *The White Tiger* is the story of a man named Balram Halwai, his journey of diverse individual passion ranging from deterioration to suppression. Adiga spotlight on the dark picture of India to fetch out the truth behind the representation of the nation. *The White Tiger* and, *Between the Assassinations* (2008), written by Aravind Adiga, are about two different perspectives of India: India, before and after globalisation. *The White Tiger* enlighten the unspoken voice of people from 'the darkness' - the impecunious areas of rural India. The protagonist of the novel Balram Halwai was born in Laxmangarh, Bihar, a rural village in the darkness. Balram recounts the novel as a letter, which he inscribes in seven following nights and addresses to the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao. In his letter, Balram elucidates how he started his life and struggled in his early life as the son of a rickshaw puller, escaping a life of survival to become a booming businessman, recounting himself as a successful entrepreneur.

Balram begins his career working in a teashop with his brother in Dhanbad. While working there, he learns about India's government and economy from customer conversations. Balram portrays himself as an evil servant and decides that he wants to become a driver. Balram moves to New Delhi with Ashok and his wife, Ms Pinky. Through their time in New Delhi, Balram is exposed to the extensive corruption of society, including the government. Balram was moving from the group of people allied with the darkness to the group of people associated with the light. He sought to expose darkness as exclusive to sentimentality or describe them as immorality.

## 3. Social Realism and Poverty in Adiga's *Between the Assassinations*

Adiga's *Between the Assassinations* is set in Kittur, a small town on the southwestern coast of India. The novel sets in a transparent scaffold at the time of pre-liberalised and socialist India *Between the Assassinations* of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India and her son (former Prime Minister) Rajiv Gandhi. The series of such events took place around the mid-eighties and early nineties. When the Indian political system was undergoing a significant change, the people faced unimaginable socio-economic and political issues in their day-to-day life. *Between the Assassinations* is divided into day series from "Day One" to "Day Seven," with each distinguished by a landmark in the town and headed by dump praise in the style of a traveller guidebook, addressed to the second person as an imagined tourist. Adiga brings out the social evil that happens against the rural people in his novel to give a clear picture of real society through his novel, and he shows his concern over the structured immorality in the society, which is the cause of the miseries to the people who exist below the poverty line. This social evil (poverty and corruption) is the natural rival to society. It intentionally refutes fundamental human rights to the poor class. Through his writing, Adiga wants to awaken the exploited, suppressed, dehumanised classes of society. He regrets to uplift the live hood of the poor people from the immorality of society. The endangered life of the poor people oppressed with religious and social hypocrisy who longs for the mere life in their day-to-day struggle. The people who struggle from the entire Outcaste demoralised output of the religious people try their best to exist under exploitation and strive for the good life.

Adiga's view on social realism is persistent in his creative visualisation, which is carried out for art and the manifestation of social reality. The novel describes the socio-economic and cultural conditions in rural Indian society, and the plot circulates an incidence of violence or corruption. It has also been depicted that colonialism and imperialism are not at all obsolete, even after their formal termination. Further, globalisation has affected social as well as cultural ethics. The novel also analyses how globalisation as a form of neocolonialism in the post-colonial period influences English literature in the ever-changing modern trends.

#### 4. Conclusion

Adiga is undoubtedly the most outstanding exemplar of Indian Writing in English, whose literary contribution is infused with a political commitment that transmits the lives of India's poor pragmatically and sympathetically. Adiga describes *The White Tiger* as the best fictional writing on his homeland that organised the outset of the 'natives' and attempted to illustrate the aggressive impact of imperial rule in India. Adiga addresses that India has become a globalised country, but poor people are in the same state as before. From the novels of Adiga, Indian literature is witnessing significant changes. Caste, class and gender issues and similar social concerns have materialised as prevailing themes in the literature. In the realistic depiction of Indian society, he has presented a class of poor people whose social status is dominated by their economic status.

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