



Available online at www.jlls.org

JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTIC STUDIES

ISSN: 1305-578X

Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies, 17(4), 3322-3324; 2021

Changing India: An Overview From Select Novels Of Aravind Adiga

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APA Citation:

Arunraj, A., & Mayilraj, R. (2021). Changing India: An Overview From Select Novels Of Aravind Adiga, *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 17(4), 3322-3324.

Submission Date: 11/10/2021

Acceptance Date: 25/12/2021

Abstract

Aravind Adiga provides the concept of the day-to-day life of the ordinary people through his novels with a sympathetic understanding of the variety of suffering a poor man has to undergo. The novels of Adiga mainly deal with the theme of poverty, bereavement and other everyday adversities. Adiga shows an accurate picture of corruption prevailing in Indian society. This paper examines the way Aravind Adiga's novels act as a harsh critique of the notion of the "New India," which is still plagued with a system of servitude and rampant political, economic, and social corruption. The select novels of Adiga throw light on the social, economic, and cultural collision of globalization on the poor of India, particularly in terms of its role in widening the gap between the upper and lower classes. It argues that both globalization and the system of servitude have contributed to creating two facets in India.

Keywords: Social evils, Poverty, Corruption, New India.

1. Introduction

The post-independence India started with a unique set of problems and conflicts based on caste, religion, migration and lack of economic opportunities. The government strategies in the first phase of the post-independence era were based on socially resolving these issues and economically strengthening the nation. After independence, there was a significant fundamental improvement in the different spheres of society and transformations in cultures. The changes were focused on the socio-economic growth and its structural classifications, successively the functioning and the associated problems. The new 'types' of situations are emerging and are proving their presence through their 'impacts' on society. Though the nature of these social 'instances' has changed, the 'essence' remains the same. The conventional social and political system based on essence and its flexibility to adopt foreign cultures is now unexpectedly facing the challenge of hyper-modernity and screw up to globalization. Everything has turned very dynamic through the ease of use of technological development and updated knowledge with its users. Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* take steps as an inconsiderate critique of the notion of the "New India," which is still plagued with a system of servitude and rampant political, economic, and social corruption.

The White Tiger and *Between the Assassinations* are about two different perspectives of India: India, before and after globalization. Aravind Adiga's *Between the Assassinations* is set in a specific time framework in pre-liberalized, socialist India. The novel is set between the assassinations of Mrs Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India and her son (former Prime Minister) Rajiv Gandhi. The novel arose the effect of endangered humanity with political bias and the collection of events tied together and narrated together and ping together to expose the situation of contemporary society and the period of the mid-eighties and beginning of the nineties when the Indian set was undergoing a significant change.

Between the Assassinations is a collection of short stories set in Kittur, a small town on the southwestern coast of India. Kittur, the small town, represents one of the hundreds of small Indian towns out of which the skilled and educated youngsters moved out due to lack of employment. In contrast, the despondent inhabitants remain in Kittur and move around the prevalence of violence or corruption. The novel narrates the incidents like: a street-side bookseller who is harassed for selling a pirated copy of the Satanic Verses, a discontented student who sets off a bomb in his chemistry class, a girl who is forced to beg to support her father's drug addiction. Drawn from the suppression that happened to the inhabitants of Kittur, Adiga focuses on the situation prevailing in the society, and he exposes the condition of the poor through his novel as a series of stories. His novel captures a series of widely known injustices—including "the disparities between the poor and the rich, communal disharmony, corruption, violence and hypocrisy" and their impact on human relationships.

2. Corruption in India: From the Vision of Aravind Adiga

Aravind Adiga's contribution to Indian writing in English" deals with the analytical study of how he deals with hovering multifarious corruption in India, the agony of unprivileged people, and the burning issue of the atrocities against the poor. The central theme of Aravind Adiga's writing is hovering various corruption in India. Aravind Adiga has a finely alert eye and ear. He has been gutsy in tackling a complex and urgent subject. For the first time, Aravind Adiga has created a memorable tale of one bloodthirsty murderer taxi driver's hellish experience in modern India. With close attention to detail, Aravind Adiga brings the story to the colours of life, which the readers like the most. The characters and the situations of Aravind Adiga are incredibly realistic rather than supernatural. Aravind Adiga has carved a niche for himself in the mind of readers worldwide with his unique Indian style of writing.

Aravind Adiga's *Last man in Tower* depicts the actual image of India. It shows how urban cities have developed and how people have adapted to social and global changes in the post-millennial period. In this novel, Adiga shows the picture of Mumbai, a big city where big malls can be seen everywhere. A city like Mumbai attracts people; money plays a vital role in all their walks of life. They feel money is everything to them; people are running for materialistic things and want money to fulfil their dreams and desires. For this, they leave all human relationships and do anything for money. Adiga illustrates in this novel the business of buying land and constructing huge malls in big cities, where land is very costly. However, the life of the human is very cheap in this materialistic world. He shows in his novel how people like Dharmen Shah can use money to attract people. In his novel, he again shows the difference between rich and poor. Rich people are living fulsome life, and on the other side, the poor are living in slums. Again, he shows the dilemma of the poor in India. This novel is a story of capitalism. Adiga tells that people like Dharmen Shah exploit the poor, and helpless people like Masterji, the protagonist of the novel in the society, were used and cheated by rich people for their benefit.

3. New Millennium and Social Changes: A View from Adiga's Novel

Aravind Adiga gives a sardonic and dark picture of India in his writings, based on his acerbic and bitter experiences. His intolerance against the social evils including poverty, corruption, the growing difference between the rich and the poor and the brutality of the caste system are elaborated and projected brilliantly in his three major works, *The White Tiger* (2008), *Between the Assassinations*

(2008), and *Last Man in Tower* (2011). He gained immediate success as a notable writer and won one of the most prestigious literary awards, the Booker Prize, for his very first novel, *The White Tiger*. Aravind Adiga throws light on the social stigma of the dowry system, which plays a devastating role in heightening the burden on the poor.

Aravind Adiga, in his novels, has shown a picture of different sides of India – the villages and the cities. He peels off the glossy surface of the economic miracle to expose the rot beneath. The author throws light on the fact that political and other disturbances IN the society only affect the poor people. His works are a 'sorrowful parade of humanity and an investigation of the naked reality of the predicaments of India, through which he reveals the plights and pains of his nation. Aravind Adiga's contribution to Indian writing in English" deals with the analytical study of how he deals with hovering multifarious corruption in India, the agony of unprivileged people, and the burning issue of the atrocities against the poor.

4. Conclusion

Aravind Adiga has dealt with the subject of globalization and its impact on Indian life with much depth, insight and seriousness. Adiga's entire body of fiction circles around the theme of globalization, mostly that decisive force in moulding India's socio-cultural, economic and political discourse. Adiga's fiction delineates a comprehensive panorama of the changing socio-cultural, economic and political paradigms and how these transform human lives in India. Aravind Adiga conveys a social message to the people of India regarding modern Indian society and how the poor people survive in crushing poverty. He portrays religious hypocrisy, corruption, the feudal system, politics, democracy, the place of women in society, poverty, hunger, and exploitation. He writes realistically, and his attitude towards society is realistic. He stands apart among other contemporary Indian Writers in English.

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