

# Comparative Literature, A Different Thought In English Literature

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## I. INTRODUCTION

India, being a multi-linguistic country, one could not expertise in all languages and thus, English became a mode of medium. The mind of India was reflected in English writings even against the British. Some Indians entrusted themselves in writing stories and novels with the same fortitude with tremendous change which glimpsed after 1970s. Cities saw significant change with writer's workshops, Calcutta established by P. Cal in 1958. Poets did not have to go hunting for a publisher. Certain good volume of books was published. Emerging poets in the 20<sup>th</sup> century like Nissim Ezekiel did quietly, rightly and effectively when India wanted the worldly recognition. They opened the eye of the Indian writers to have the worldly recognition to India, the home country. Indian writing in English and the international recognition encouraged many a budding writer to develop their own style of writing in free verse.

## II. HISTORICAL APPROACH

The eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries presented a sensibility towards literature and that has been reflecting since then. The age of enlightenment followed and the creativity in English writing has become ad infinitum. Twentieth century had no barriers with freedom in thought and with human rights focused on in the field of literature sustaining with anticipation of the future. The art of writing has been the boon for the younger generation since the sprouting publications in the field of education. The one world concept, in the minds of all those who loved world literature started to learn from the other which gave way for comparative literature.

Comparative skill is the base for the knowledge to get the best from each other. It widens the thought of the world as a branch and entertains the global consciousness of languages. Comparative literature does not and cannot exist in a vacuum rather it is the relationship between literature and the other arts. Comparative literature does not leave unlettered myths, epics and tales. From Aristotle to the modern time, the students of research are perplexed to find the truth of comparative literature. Though Greek and Roman epics played the starting role in the form of literature, the folklore spread and maintained the equilibrium between literature and life. Historicism,

romanticism, criticism and grammaticism cluster under the thought of comparative literature to bring in flourishing atmosphere in the field of literature.

The 'one world' concept in the mind of all- those who are in the field of world literature- clutches with humanness. The mind that instigates to produce any piece of art is the expression of the mind. It is for the betterment of the human beings with humanness that frames the base for literature to form the social concept of literature. The art, comparing between one another generates advantageous knowledge into the field of literature. Comparative literature brings out the best to the other field of art for the better inventive art. Modern Indian literature has brought in invincible credit to the world literature and the crisis between the two sects in India is competitive as Dr. Marudhanayagam insists as in the following: "The spectacular success of contemporary Indian writing in English has led to one more controversy concerning its relative merits and limitation when juxtaposed with Indian Writing in the regional language like Bengali, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil or Kannada." (78)

Comparative literature has skeptics experiencing a constant crisis within. It has responded by enlarging its purview and self-definition. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the European literatures embraced East-West literary and cultural relations. Edward Said's Orientalism, Homi Bhabha's Deconstructivist postcolonialism, and Gayatri Spivak's Eclecticism have contributed to their best to comparative literature. Terrorism, war, and globalization conveyed their views for comparative literature. Comparative literature can survive so long as the balance persists between theory and practice. The indivisible relationships uniting humanism, humanities and humaneness are not refreshed in comparative literature which retains its emphases on language-training and critical skills. It satisfies desires to transcend boundaries culturally and interpretatively.

## III. SOCIAL APPROACH

Literature that gives personal satisfaction creates social thought when read. This complex from both personal and social approach produces another kind of literature, which could be called as Comparative literature. From the biblical 'Babel Tower', people had started to speak different languages which symbolize the wide spread human race

that has been using multiple languages with various kinds of dialects. Comparative Literature brings in the best from the choice.

Scope of comparative literature is often defined in terms of nationality or geographical area. The most popular notion is that comparative literature studies literatures of two or more nations. Comparison of Hsu Chih-mo of China and Hardy or of Kamban and Milton, to use an Indian scholar's example, fall under comparative literature. Li Po and Tu Fu of China or Kamban and Ilango are not geographically possibly taken into consideration. S.Ramakrishnan drafts comparative literature as, "Another popular notion is that comparative literature compares literatures of two or more languages".( ) India is a nation with many languages. Comparative literature scopes to compare two writers of the same nation who write in two different languages (e.g., Tagore and Bharathi or Dickens and Mark Twain). It has been assumed that the scope of comparative literature can really start from a clan within a small area or a city commonwealth and then enlarge it through a nation or country towards the whole world.

#### IV. ARTISTIC APPROACH

Comparative literature is a young and new discipline, in which, the practitioners are still keenly interested in renovating its objectives and scope. It is the study of literature beyond the confines of one particular country, and the study of the relationships between literature on one hand and other areas of knowledge and belief, such as the arts e.g. painting, sculpture, architecture, music, philosophy, history, the social sciences, politics, economics, sociology, the sciences, religion, etc., on the other. It is the comparison of one literature with another is with other spheres of human expression.

One of the first to anticipate the study of Comparative Literature was Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Goethe promulgated the idea of Weltliteratur, or World Literature, though he did not follow up with any comprehensive critical work on the subject. Comparative Literature studies literature across different times and cultures. Comparative Literature programmes are interdisciplinary, but stress language skills and critical theory. Goethe in France and the circulation of ideas in the French Emigration, enlightening thoughts of Baldensperger with *Texte Rousseau* and *The Origins of Literary Cosmopolitanism*, made the steps confidently to introduce comparative literature to the world of thought.

#### V. INTERNATIONAL APPROACH

The academic discipline of Comparative Literature practices literary criticism on works written in different languages and coming from different cultures. Comparative literature regularly joins literary texts from different languages and cultures. It also regularly connects,

say, a poem with dance, a film with the novel, photography with the essay. It even relates different disciplinary languages and modes of thinking. The modern comparative literature takes in to consideration the diversity of topics, authors, disciplines, and intellectual traditions crucial to comparative studies and its manifestation in the tensions between such as the individual and the collective, autobiography and history, and writing and morality. Comparative literature tries to confirm the re-interpretations of any society's own image of identity. S.S. Praver explicates it with a different interpretation as the following:

Comparative literature requires greater concentration, since two languages, two literary giants or two different fields are taken for the study, which by and large involve various ages, cultures, persons, issues, and many more. The effectiveness of developing arguments is progressed in the comparative study. Comparative literature confines the study of the relationships between literature of knowledge and belief. (P.22)

French school exemplified during the early part of 20<sup>th</sup> century that out lined thought out the world. American universities took the lead to have them in the 70s and 80s with the thrust for the continental culture studies. Some comparatives re-focus the field entirely away from the nation-based approach with which it has previously been associated. These scholars advocate cross cultural approach that pays no heed to national borders. It remains to be seen whether this approach will be successful, given that the field had its roots in nation-based thinking and that much of the literature under study was inspired by issues relating directly to the nation-state.

Valid appreciation for other language literature buds on when comparative literature is exposed to study as the comparative study of literature and psychology. The interpretation of human consciousness and behaviour brought out from Freud and Jung is shown relevant to the study of contemporary comparative literature. Comparative learning increases the skill during the process of research. It flings the scholar to the vast field of understanding the philosophy by entrusting themselves with a spirited search. The involvement of the individuals in reading to find the truth and the seek out are the base for the comparative learning. In grasping the essence of the search, the purpose is fulfilled only when it carries out the course of exploration in a proper manner with commitment and thirst for knowledge.

#### VI. SUMMATION

Comparative literature is not confined to an area but to the level of human expression. In brief, it is the comparison of one literature with another or others, and the comparison of literature with other spheres of human expression.

Appreciation for cultural differences possibly helps to grow since they are mirrored in social, artistic and literary arty-facts originating in different national and geographical traditions. Going beyond the found data crossing all borders is essential for the research scholar to reach at a conclusion. The involvement in manifold paths of research has the right indication towards the reality that has been hidden. Bringing the mind of another culture closer to the other is reflected through the help of comparative literature where growth is easier with intellectual exchange. The western thought and the definitions of comparative literature still remains the paramount. European literature is the exclusive preserve as most of the other groups have only nodding acquaintance with it.

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