

# Comparative Analysis on Social Realism Portrayed in *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy and *Two Leaves and a Bud* by Mulk Raj Anand

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**Abstract:-** Literature has a large number of strings that can weave a delightful bit of craftsmanship. Each of them holds major importance towards the contribution of the composition being created. The interesting use of realism has been a vital piece of literature. Realism is regarded as an approach that describes life without glorification or sentimental subjectivity. Both Mulk Raj Anand and Arundhati Roy are regarded as the prominent names of Indian English writings with distinct writing styles. Yet both of their works reveal a realistic plot of the societies through the projections of their characters. Arundhati Roy has a very poetic prose form of writing which are embedded with metaphors that bring forth the real dimension of the authors Indianness. While Mulk Raj Anand's compositions throw light towards the prevailing social injustice of the era keeping in mind the existing wide divide between rich and poor. The objective of this paper is to analyse the aspect of social realism which is reflected in both the works of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* and Mulk Raj Anand's *Two Leaves and a Bud*.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Literature has a large number of strings that can weave a delightful bit of craftsmanship. Each of them holds major importance towards the contribution of the composition being created. The interesting use of realism has been a vital piece of literature. Realism is regarded as an approach that describes life without glorification or sentimental subjectivity. Realism has been principally stressed over the commonplaces of ordinary presence among the middle and lower classes of the general public, wherein the character is depicted because of social components and condition and is considered as the fundamental component in the creation, featuring in writing, a methodology that returns from an examination of reality concerning regular powers. It is regarded as a medium of composing which extends the truth in its genuine sense.

Realism started as a visible development of craftsmanship in the eighteenth century. In the past, Realism is known as a change against style and sentimentalism and imaginative developments best described by the works that glorify life. Social realism implies the portrayal in the writing of social reality for what it's worth there ought to be a direct one toward one correspondence between the society portrayed in writing and the real society. Social realism implies the portrayal of the social reality not for what it's

worth but rather as it ought to be. The aspect of the device is that real realism portrays man and society as complete elements as opposed to appearing only in either of their perspectives. It isn't only a reverberation however a genuine description concerning the person and the community. Such particularly can be seen evidently in what major Indian writers compositions, an extraordinary pragmatist in creative writing acknowledges that the author must stand up to the all-out the real world, including its ignobility if one somehow happened to get by in the realm of deplorable complexities between the lifted and respectable vision of the visually impaired versifier. Many notable authors have portrayed a realistic vision of a society in their writings. Their writings despise a persuading picture regarding life and make attention to the fundamental estimations of life. There was a strain of social presence in the works of the prior authors. Concerning Indian Fiction, social realism is not a vision that the writers are unaware of.

## II. MAJOR DISCUSSION

Suzanna Arundhati Roy, popularly known as Arundhati Roy, the prizewinner of Booker Prize for the year 1997, in provision to the novel *The God of Small Things* which was her first book and for her ceaseless contribution in condition and human rights motivations. She is an influencer and was a child of a Bengali father and her mother was a Christian of Syrian descent who powerfully challenged the laws of India's inheritance and fought for the rights of women in India. The incredibly made work, which centres around the complications encountered and endured with each passing day by the individuals living in the rigid culture by the insights and observations given forth by the protagonist of the story. The work, however, is noticeable as a vivid portrayal of the hard times followed by the heavy curfews of Indian society. Even though Roy composes the novel from a point of view, which allows the characters through time to uncover their weakness as the story progresses. Although the swiftness with which the story makes its progress is moderate, it is created brilliantly and it eventually ends up being a prevalently pleasurable encounter for its audience. The storyline is divided into two braided plot structure. The first narrates the account of a household residing at Aymanam following everyday undertakings. Also highlighting the different worries about the lead character's early gathering with that of her close sibling in the wake of the huge gap of many years. Simultaneously, Mulk Raj Anand can be seen as an investor in the branch of Indian English writings. His composition

can prevail with regards to cutting for himself a unique speciality. Every one of his books and short stories bears him out as a campaigner of the weaker section of the society and his compositions uncover his profound comprehension of financial issues. In the year 1937, his work the *Two Leaves and a Bud* was published, which recounts the expectations of Gangu, a Punjabi worker, who has been baited under bogus vows to work in the dreadfully unhygienic states of a tea domain in Assam. The reasonable depiction of the terrible existence of the estate coolies adds to the sentiment of the novel. In Anand's writings, the readers can grasp the brimming tone of detest and hate. The anger portrayed in the writing is clearer than the craftsman himself. The endowment of his creative mind followed by the delicate also accommodating compassion toward the persisting issue provides a different and fresher outlook with affectability in writing. Many acclaimed acquaintances of Anand regard him to be one of the most stimulating men and above all, recall him to know the demanded requirements for values in his works the cultivating esteem which allows supporting an illuminated and compassionate society. To none's surprise, many such praiseworthy writers, writing in English, can be regarded without any doubt as a writer with a solid confirmation to reveal the social shades of malice of abuse and disparity. The novel projects the worry towards disturbed workers of the plantation under the authority of the colonizers. Also provides an observant outlook of characters deadly existence working as a contracted holder in an estate owned by a colonizer. An uncovered traced reality that how a British ace adventure the workers.

Both these novels can be considered as the true representations of social life that an individual can come across in their respective insight. Both these novels reflect upon the two-way connection, first being that of an individual's role in society and how it aides but simultaneously impacts an individual's thought and life as a whole. Both these novels create certain connectivity between the mind of the writer and the life of the reader. Likewise, both these novels speak to a brilliant encounter for their audience with a practical structure and approach.

Individual and society are seen as the two entities with inseparable relations until one has completely detached oneself physically and mentally. Our surrounding has the power to put forth major influence in an individual's life. Each society has set certain standards as an indicator by which one should shape their lives. The society is not quite the same as others dependent on the regional, social, recorded, political, social, and so on shared by the individuals inside that land limit. Similarly, the Indian society has also created various such structures within the society which influence one life such as the rigid cast system, class difference, position of women, masculine power within society etc. are projected. Through the novel, the author portrays the mocking reality and the two tracked creation of the surrounding. She represents the hollow attitude which the society keeps towards the biased gender reflection. The male-dominated society always paves its path to males of the society leading a life with lesser-known struggles in terms of pursuing education and making the

fullest of the opportunity to make their living and livelihood a prosperous aspect. The males are provided with luxury whereas the females are neglected of those. The author unfolds the true version of the community which is often forsaken, also portrays the guidelines and convictions of those occasions.

“Chacko had been a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and was permitted excesses and eccentricities nobody else was.” (Roy 38)

Pappachi demanded that a degree was a superfluous cost for a young lady, she was left with nothing except leave north then shift to down south. The shift brought no joy to her it felt like a void that she struggled to fill in with each passing day by engaging herself with activities she never been part of and also being a helping hand towards completing the household chores. Concerning Arundhati Roy's work as an activist, this work can be seen as the articulation of the same. It also highlights the solitary atmosphere followed by the nearby network. The authenticity of the work can be sensed clearly as the characters and the circumstances in the novel stand true to its settings and background. As Arundhati Roy grew up in the lap of nature down south, Ayamanam place belonging to her maternal side, situated in Kottayam near the river minacil. The progression of the novel takes place in a small settlement known as Ayamanam. The settlement is assuredly seen like the genuine Ayamanam and Minachil, and the composition has a various encounter which draws its inspiration to the real of South-Central Kerala, it is the kin and their regular traditions, along with their taste for music and move, followed by their faith and community association, finance, diplomatic conditions and exercises.

On the other side, Indian culture is encountered as a subjective auxiliary change during the period of the British Guideline. The British monetary strategies were imperialistic and were generally exploitative and also suppressive which was intended for ethnic subjection. Colonization incorporates the variation of incomparable power and is appeared in the liquidation of the domain, the abuse or progression of benefits, and the undertaking to deal with local people of included countries, much of the time by violence. The colonial literature is something which is thought to be writing mirroring a pioneer ethos, for the most part, needs increasingly exact definition, somewhat because it is presently very little sanctified, and incompletely because it is so heterogeneous. Thus, the impact of colonization can be seen in his work. It starts with a rational proclamation towards a long route filled with numerous obstacles and hindrances that an individual is expected to tackle at every stage of their lives, and this particular thought sets the stage towards a disastrous excursion for the hero, a miserable worker from a town close by, “life is like a journey” (Anand 1), starting his new beginning by heading towards the delightful Assam. The protagonist Gangu, is portrayed as indentured labour. In the novel writer's anxiety regarding the deteriorating conditions of the workers of the plantation can be reviewed upon. The unsafe livelihood of the workers in the estate is under the responsibility of a

British man. The dull everyday practice of the work and incomprehensibly enough soothes the labourer's transience of its dullness.

“I will make a good sheaf  
Plucking, plucking, plucking  
Two leaves and a bud  
Two leaves and a bud” (Anand 1)

Soon Gangu begins to join the dots with his evil destiny. He was abused by each prevalent, also he as well as all the workers in the estate had their enduring adventure of the trauma experienced. The misuse of Gangu can be reflected in the estate itself. The sum provided to his family was less than the promised price. This situation takes him back to the time wherein his town used to make a decent amount of living a day by dealing with rich land rulers. These springs up the troubled and disturbing thought about what an unfaithful man Buta all this while giving him high hopes concerning his conversation about the high wages and the genuine presents of land that accompanies it. Although Indian English writings have gotten a decent arrangement of basic consideration throughout these years, the social reason with which an enormous number of books have been composed has bewildered the genuine concerns of many acclaimed critics.

Certain characters in the novel are portrayed to be entitled to labels. She highlights the unbending position of a framework into the spotlight with various encounters expressed all through and alongside the sense of compassion towards the injustice and the ill-treatment of the untouchables and as the novel progress towards its end, the audience is left with a profound sentiment of torment and hatred for the cultural arrangement. She provides particular details concerning the environment which the state withholds towards the lesser fortunate. Similarly, the detailed analysis of the scenario allows putting forward a large ideal picture of the condition for the unfortunate events that characters in the novel go through as they come from the weaker sections of the society. The Paravan, in the novel, is concerning the people who are fishermen. Papen's family is Paravan. It is through his family that the idea of the existing discrimination of society is projected. These people had major restrictions imposed on them as part of their social status. “Pappachi would not allow Paravans into the house. Nobody would. They were not allowed to touch anything that the Touchables touched.” (Roy 73) The individuals who hailed from the lower hierarchy were bound to follow those above them. Apart from the paravan, paalyas and pulyas were the castes belonging to the lower hierarchy. Untouchability forms to be a major part of Indian society. The ideology of the rich in society is portrayed through the Ipe. They never gave in the thought of mingling with those of the untouchables. The character such as Kochu Maria who is the housekeeper of the Ipe household is herself against the idea of merging themselves with them. The diplomacy projected in the writings lets out the true picture.

Also, in Anand's work, the coolies likewise face tremendous embarrassments. They are blamed for stealing. The coolies are held responsible for every turn of event that occurs on the plantation and continuously shamed with hurtful remarks. For instance, in a particular situation, it is seen how the master strongly compares to the protagonist that the gems shine brighter than his face in the pitch dark. Also, on the other hand, in the novel, the readers can recall the incident wherein Muno is exploited by the rich, which hurts his sentiments yet after all the hardships which he went through he never looked down on the city which provided him with a living. Out of all the characters in the novel Gangu can be regarded as one of the mature characters. He exhibits a real authentic part of the country. His work can be regarded as a mirror reflection of the hardship and the obstacles the workers of the tea plantation. To provide his readers with an experience that they would be able to truly connect with the author made genuine interactions with plantation workers. He has visited the spots and met such a large number of coolies and discovered their genuine issue. His work can be seen to highlight the odds that individuals in society face constantly when they are battling and struggling against the dominating aspects of power.

In a patriarchal society wherein gender discrimination and the inequality prevalent in the community can be seen to have culminated in many writings around the country over the period. Similarly, writers across the country accommodate their writings with changing and relevant themes and patterns of society. In the same way, the portrayal of equality is depicted in such an atmosphere of biasness by the twins who prove to be a symbol. As the time-lapse Esta can be seen as a man who evolves with graceful qualities and can be regarded to be self-sufficient who with time grown out to be someone who got accustomed with the household activities. Even the tasks which were usually performed by the women of the household, he used to perform tasks effortlessly. Although he came back to his maternal house, he found himself amidst the ravages of time he grew up to be a silent man who interacted least and kept himself busy. His personality was different which was hardly understood by any. Society and politics go hand in hand in the author's writing and it is visible with how each of the characters eventually turns in to be a victim of both these factors. She takes the edge to make the readers come to terms with the preconceptions that exist in the minds of those who belong to the higher strata of the society concerning those belonging from underprivileged sections. As the story is seen to be progressing the audience meet the character of inspector Thomas Matthew who is a sly and greedy police officer. He is regarded as one of the many characters who represent the male-dominated society in the novel. The male dominance of this particular character is traced by young Rahel. Who recalls the incident of Ammu along with her and Estha reaches the police station to file the complaint of the injustice which were taking rounds at the Ipe household. Matthew threatens her by saying that filing a complaint is not meant for someone who indulges in relation with people who are untouchables. “Inspector Thomas

Mathew seemed to know whom he could pick on and whom he couldn't. Policemen have that instinct. "(Roy 8)

Behind him a red and blue board said:

P oliteness  
O bedience  
L oyalty  
I ntelligence  
C ourtesy  
E fficiency (Roy 8)

The novel carefully examines the outline of the existing humbug concerning the prevalent scenario of society. Nevertheless, the author takes complete advantage of the surveillance through the character's perspective to mark the happenings of the corrupt state.

### III. Conclusion

To sum it all up, Arundhati Roy's creation is indeed regarded as one of the major creations through various perspective. Mammachi, Ammu and Rahel are the leading female characters around whom the novel is weaved. Three of them react in a particular manner to circumstances that take place in the scenario. Three of them hold different perspectives of life and respond in their specific manners to the circumstance that they are confronted with. The background for this composition of Roy is set in the magnificent coastal state alongside the beautiful oceans. The setting of the storyline enables the characters to discover themselves against the traces of their journey. Her writing style can be considered to be to the point with the exact choice of vocabulary to describe any circumstance with vivid visualization. Her skills enable its audience to inspire their thoughts and connect well with each of the characters. The novel is packed with parameters that focus on the reality of the society without dissimulating its audience and putting forward an image of incorruptible livelihood. Whereas Mulk Raj Anand's work illustrates the subjugation through fortified work in India. Although this work of his is considered to be moving without a doubt, it completes in a heartbreaking irreconcilable circumstance and fates. He is a dedicated author, worried about social shades of malice. Therefore, it is seen to be considered as an eminent work that extends the quality of its subjects and creation.

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