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A brief discussion on modern Sanskrit literature

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Abstract

The oldest book in the world is the Rigveda. Sanskrit literature originated from this Rigveda. Upanishads, Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Abhijnanasakuntalam, etc., the flow of Sanskrit literature continues to flow today. Ages have changed, thoughts have changed, Sanskrit literature has also changed with it. Sanskrit literature is not limited to mythology but has come closer to reality. Numerous modern Sanskrit literatures have been written beyond the known table. Modern Sanskrit literature has got short stories, novels etc. along with poetry and drama. In modern Sanskrit literature, reality has prevailed more than imagination.

Keywords: Literature, modern, reality, Sanskrit

Introduction

Most of the people say 'Sanskrit' means only Vedic worship mantra, 'Sanskrit literature' means only 'Ramayanam', 'Mahabharatam', 'Puranam', 'Upanishad' and Sanskrit story means 'Panchatantram', 'Hitopadesh', 'Betalpachabingsati' etc. For many learned scholars, modern Sanskrit literature seems to be an unimaginable impossibility. This idea has traditionally taken place in people's minds for ages. But the real truth is that the Sanskrit literature that we think of as 'Ramayanam', 'Mahabharatam', 'Puranam', 'Panchatantram' etc. are actually Sanskrit literature of ancient times. Sanskrit literature is well-established in the modern age as well, surpassing the long medieval literary period as well as other provincial literature in keeping with the times. Needless to say, Sanskrit literature of the modern age is much more unique and rich than that of the ancient and medieval times.

Where the main subsistence of ancient and medieval more Sanskrit literature was 'Ramayanam', 'Mahabharatam', 'Puranam'. Such as - Kalidasa's 'Abhijnanasakuntalam', 'Vikramorvashiyam', 'Meghdootam'; Vasa's 'Abhisheknatakam', 'Pratimanatakam', 'Uruvangam', 'Karnavaram'; Bhattanarayana's 'Benisangharam' etc. In modern Sanskrit literature, real human life has taken place in the pen of modern Sanskrit writers. Such as - Chintaharan Chakraborty's 'Sushila', Radhaballav Tripathi's 'Somaprabham', Rajendra Mishra's 'Abhishtamupayanam', Tarapada Bhattacharya's 'Shaibali' etc.

In the ancient fictional literature like 'Panchatantram', 'Hitopadeshah' etc. where human words have been placed in the mouths of animals and birds for the entertainment of children, for the purpose of teaching through entertainment. In the writings of modern Sanskrit storytellers the human heart has spoken. In Tarapada Bhattacharya's story 'Shaibali', the unspoken words of his soul have reached the hearts of the readers more than what Shaibali has said. Proverbs told in ancient fiction have been transformed into social messages in modern fiction. Modern Sanskrit literature seems to be much more aware.

Literature is the mirror of society. Best examples of this are found in modern Sanskrit literature. Professor of Jadavpur University Dr. Rita Chattopadhyay in her book 'Adhunik Sanskrit Sahitya' called modern Sanskrit literature as 'Mirror of Time'. Instead of mythological, fictional and historical stories, the social sufferings of recent times have taken place in the thoughts of modern Sanskrit writers. Unemployment, terrorism, politics, corruption of public leaders, communalism, oppression of women, degradation of humanity, environmental pollution, ethnic problems, etc. have become the subject of modern Sanskrit literature. Tarapada Bhattacharya's story 'Athavejalkatha' depicts the image of adulterous omnipotence at different levels of society. Chintaharan Chakraborty's 'Sushila', Rajendra Mishra's 'Abhishtamupayanam' and Tarapada Bhattacharya's 'Shaibali' tell the story of women's suffering in modern society.

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The story of corruption in recruitment in the world of education has been narrated in Haridatta Sharma's 'Sakshatkariyam' story. Veenapani Patni's two stories 'Sankhanadah' and 'Batayanam' tell the story of the self-establishment of a woman who was not respected in a patriarchal society.

Modern Sanskrit literature has undergone radical changes not only in storytelling but also in words, language and style of writing. Modern Sanskrit literature has got a simple, fluent language by abandoning the long, complex, compound words of ancient and medieval times. Modern Sanskrit writers have enriched the Sanskrit vocabulary by introducing words like Bengali Tadbhav, Desi, Arabic, French, English. From Marathi "Jhakli Muth Sabba Lakhachi" to Sanskrit "Baddha Mushtih Lakshadhikamulya" or from Bengali "Dekhlei Ga Jwale Yaaye" to Sanskrit "Darshanmatren Gatradahmutpadayati" etc. Sanskrit translation of the most popular proverbs in the provincial language has not only made Sanskrit literature more attractive to the readers but has also given a new identity to Sanskrit literature in the court of the world.

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