

## Various themes of Urdu novels

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***Abstract:*** In Urdu literature there are various themes of the novels. And Urdu literature, regardless of any era, is necessarily bound to social concerns. But the novel has a special status in this regard. Regarding the novel, it can be said with full confidence that it is not possible to create a novel without themes cultural and social concerns. The novel has been an observation of human thinking about their culture and society since its inception. The history of Urdu novel is a witness to the fact that this genre has never been oblivious to the cultural and social cold. From Nazir Ahmed and Sarshar to contemporary novelists, all of them have not only fully expressed this concern in their novels, but have made every possible effort to harmonize the Urdu novel with the various themes cultural and social requirements.

***Keywords:*** Urdu novel, literature, atmosphere, culture, themes, reflection.

Novel is an Italian word that literally means unique, quirky, new. This Italian word came to be used in the English language for stories that describe strange or shocking events in life. This genre is distinguished from the story because the story is based on imagination and supernatural stories. Goes while the novel depicts real life events. After the War of Independence in 1857, this genre started in Urdu and literature took the place of stories. For the first time in Urdu literature, stories came out of the magical atmosphere and entered the world of facts, and writers started to describe their views and philosophy of life in the form of stories. Dr. Abul Lais Siddiqui writes about the novel:

"The word novel does not have a clear application here due to the influence of Western literature, especially English, in which the stories have a more organized plot in which the problems

and events of the life of the fictional stories are described. So, like the ancient stories, it should be so long that several authors are needed to write a story, and not so short that it is being written and read on a cup."1

In a novel where the theme, plot, characters and scenes are important, the style of the novel is very important and another factor in the style is its narrative. Walter Allen writes in this regard:

"We know too what the Novelist sets out to do when he writes a novel. Like any other artist the novelist is maker. He is making an imitation of the life of man on earth. It might be said, a working model of life, as he sees and feels it, his conclusions about it being expressed in the characters he invents, the situation in which he places and in the very words he chooses for those purposes. The word conclusion is inescapable, though it does not follow that the conclusions are concisely arrived at. They may indeed be at odds with the novelist's intentions. Novelist has given many reasons for writing novels: Richardson believed he did so to inculcate right Conduct. Fielding to reform the manners of the age. Dickens to expose social evils. Trollope to make money by providing acceptable entertainment."2

A novel also reflects the period of life and a well-written novel describes a particular purpose of life and also describes its atmosphere. In fact, one's novel also presents a true picture of one's era. Western critic Baker's opinion about the novel is complete. In his view:

"The novel interprets human life through a prose story. Instead of a poetic and sentimental view of life, it presents a philosophical, scientific or at least a mental critique of life. A story book cannot be called a novel unless it is in prose. A picture of real life should be nothing like it and under the influence of a certain mental trend and point of view, there should be a kind of monotony and coherence in it." 3

The work of correction is also taken from the novel so that if there is any distortion, it is corrected. The feeling is being revived in the people. The novel has the status of a mirror for life. Abdul Halim Sharr writes:

"In Europe, novels which have been declared as a source of all kinds of moral, religious and political reforms, then this is not an irrational act. Nor is Europe so foolish and careless as to fall into any glaring error. The fact is that there cannot be a more effective method than a novel to make people aware of a problem or a culture and to make people commit to it. That he should adopt the style of novels and there can be no success in any way." 4

Nazir Ahmad is recognized as the first Urdu novelist. "Fasana-e-Mubtala" and "Ayama" are recognized by all, discussions on social and cultural issues. From which he took the task of reforming the novel. Dr. Abbas writes about Nazir Ahmed:

"Maulvi Nazir Ahmed's novel writing started in 1869 with the authorship of "Mirat-ul-Uroos". His art is based on objectivity which travels on different levels from individual to society. His aspiration is the reformation of national ethics and thus his novels can be related to Sir Syed's reform movement." 5

Rattan Nath Sarshar gained fame by writing "Fasana-e-Azad" and "Sair-e-Kohsaar" in this era and according to Dr. Maimoonah Ansari:

"Sarshar is the first novelist of Urdu, who wrote novels with the purpose of entertainment after the story, the way he wrote free fiction after being inspired by the story." 6

Sarshar also has a realistic depiction of Lucknow culture and society in his novels, but at the same time, he has not done full justice to the technical features of the novel.

Abdul Halim Sharar's historical novels introduced a new subject in literature because Sharar himself created historical novels. In his novels

"Firdaus-e-Bareen", "Mansoor Mohana", "Ayyam-e-Arab", "Malik Al-Aziz Virgina" are a notable novel and "Firdaus-e-Bareen" is a fictionalized version of an esoteric movement in which the concept of paradise was used as a means to achieve political interests. Sharar's novel writing was purposeful. Dr. Khawaja Muhammad Zakaria writes about Sharar:

"The beginning of the Urdu novel is owed to Nazir Ahmed and Sarshar, but its popularity increased manifold due to Sharar." 7

Mirza Hadi Ruswa was born in Lucknow. He took interest in all kinds of knowledge. He wrote famous novels like "Zaat Sharif", "Shareef zada", "Akhetri Begum" and "Umrao Jan Ada" and expanded the scope of Urdu literature. Lucknow environment, culture, society and the life of prostitutes are depicted in these novels.

Krishan Chandr in his novel "Shikast" has evoked the economic misery and class conflict from the background of Kashmir. The two main characters of the novel Shyam and Mohan Singh belong to the upper class and the female characters Vanti and Chandra belong to the lower class. Their failed love and tragic end revealed the woman's victimhood.

Krishan Chandr's novel "Jab Khait Jaage" mirrors the political struggle of the farmers. In his others novel like "Toofan Ki KaliyaN", "Aasman Roshan Hy", "Ik Aurat Hazar Diwane" which shows the wounds of the society. It is more and more "Aik Gadhya ki Serguzasht" in which humor becomes the dominant force.

Muhammad Ali Tayyab's "Ibrat", "Jafar-o-Abbasia", "Khizar Khan", became very popular, especially "Ibrat" gained great popularity. All critics of Urdu literature have considered this novel as worthy of special attention. Ali Abbas Hussaini writes about this novel:

"The best example of unnatural love is John, the hero of the novel "Ibrat". This vision of the African governor has exactly the heart of the story-loving princes, which is the soul of the novel"8

The main purpose of Rashid Al-Khairi's novels has been to educate and to highlight Islamic ideals and values and to keep people closer to their traditions and to familiarize them with history. Among his novels are "Shaheen-Ud-Daraj", "Maah-e-Ajam", "Princess of Andalus", "Yasmin Durr-e-Shahwar", "Tanseekh-e-kamal" included.

Upendranath Ashk's novel "Sitron ka khail" is a love affair in which destiny plays a dominant role. The transition from Hindi to Urdu has further weakened the narrative of the novel and it seems devoid of the touch of life.

Premchand's main fame is due to his fiction writing, but his contribution to the history of Urdu novel cannot be denied. His novels "Bazaar-e-Hasan", "Chogan Hasti", "Gosha-e-Aafit", "Purda-e-Majaz", "Nirmala", "Ghaban", "Maidan-e-Amal" and "Gaudan" is also a milestone in his artistic journey. The main subject of his novels are the problems of rural life and socio-social problems. Dr. Muzaffar Abbas writes:

"After the publication of Premchand's novels, intellectually, the genre of novels begins its journey towards maturity. The novels of this period are generally seen as touching the western technical standard of fiction and critics like Dr. Hasan Farooqi are forced to say that the technical standard of Premchand's novels is very high." 9

Ismat Chughtai's "Terhi Lakeer" emerged from the background of her own life. Her protagonist Samman is a mirror of her personal and psychological life. "Ziddi", "Masooma" are also his novels and their subject is women's problems, psychology, sexual suffocation of middle-class youth. Which he has presented very well to the public.

In fact, Aziz Ahmed is a novelist of political and social thought and sexual realism in his famous works such as "Aisi Bulandi Aisi Pasti", "Shabnam", "Guraiz", "Namood", "Marmar Aur Khoon" are included. He also presented the angle of platonic love and had a great experience of meeting the contemporary, social and cultural life in the novel. He had complete mastery of novel techniques. His style is unemotional but effective.

Their influence is also seen indirectly in Qarat-ul-Ain Haider and Khadija Mastoor.

Dr. Ahsan Farooqi writes in this context:

"riots began to arise in literature and ,1936 From  
,In all this turmoil ...literature also began to be rioted  
one is Krishan ,three personalities are noticeable ,Chandr  
the other is Aziz Ahmed and the third is Ismat Chughtai."

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Sajjad Zaheer rose to fame with "London Ki Aik Raat". His main theme is the mental conflict between the East and the West, the rebellious consciousness of the youth, their mental and emotional conflict and ideological conflict. Which he has depicted very well.

The establishment of Pakistan was the most important event in the history of the continent of Pakistan and India. Where it brought the promise of a safe future for Muslims, the Hindu-Muslim riots brought sadness to these joys. After August 14, 1947, an endless series of events began which affected all sensitive mind especially writers and poets were greatly influenced by it. Below is a description of the important names among the novelists who came into prominence after the creation of Pakistan at the themes chosen by these novelists of that and also takes a look time.

Ahsan Farooqi became famous as a novelist with "Sham-e-Awaddh" which is the real monument of Lucknow civilization after "Umrao Jaan Ada". His novel "Sangam" is a novel of awareness of political consciousness. His other novels include "Ra historical andh-o-Rasam Aashnai", "Abla Dil Ka" but the fame that "Sangam" and "Sham"-e-Awaddh" achieved in Urdu literature was not achieved by anyone else.

Qurratulain haider is a modern novelist. Her popular snovel are "Safina-e-Gham Dil", "Aag Ka Darya", "Kar-e-Jahan Daraz Hai", "Aak"hir-e-Shab kay Hamsafar" and "Gardish-e-Rang-e-chaman". -Quratul Ain Haider has tried to travel in the interior of history through the novel and has recovered the spiritual values. Her ovels span three n

eras. Although Dr. Ahsan Farooqi has criticized her severely, but it is not possible to deny the fact that she has broadened the Urdu novel and given it credibility and exposed the Urdu novel to new horizons.

Fazal Ahmad Karim Fazli is a reflection of the terrible situation of famine in Bengal and the cultural, social and political situation. His novel "Khoon-e-Jigar Honay Tak" brings out the social reality in an unadorned manner. The background of this novel is Bengal in 1945. Fazli found this novel with details from real life and put them together in such a way that an effective and meaningful novel was created.

In Shaukat Siddiqui's novel "Khuda Ki Basti", the appearance of poverty and greed was highlighted with social crimes and immoral characters, as their theme was to bring out the chaos of the social life of Karachi after 1947.

Rajinder Singh Bedi's novel "Ek Chadar Maili Si" presents the positive and negative aspects of women. Bedi has raised the banner of freedom from the strong grip of environment and society on man. This representational novel became the blueprint for Bedi's art. Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad Khan writes in this regard:

"Rajinder Singh Bedi seems to have a rough and uneven style of narration in his fiction and novel 'Ek Chadar Maili Si'. However, a closer look reveals that this is not the case. It may be a surprise to many that their roughness itself becomes beauty. It may be asked why? So, the answer is that Bedi was a fiction writer and novelist who worked hard on each sentence."II

Khadija Mastoor's novels "Aangan" and "Zameen" have tried to integrate social issues and currents of history. Apart from this, the main theme of Khadija is the feudal system, the ravages of politics and the conditions of refugees in Pakistan. But it is a fact that Khadija Mastoor has created every single line of her novels with blood.

### *Various themes of Urdu...*

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Hayatullah Ansari's main theme is migration, riots after independence, exploitation of farmers and cultural conflict. "Lahoo ke Phool", "Gharunda" and "Madaar" are his beautiful novels.

Jameela Hashmi has emerged as a writer with a strong imagination in "Talash-e-Baharan", "Chehra ba chehra" and "Dasht-e-Soos". The unique corners of her art have also been refined in "Apna Apna Jahannam" and she reveal the angles of social awareness.

Mumtaz Mufti's thick autobiographical novel "Alipur Ka Eli" reveals the psychological complications that arise from children due to parents' inattention. This great experience of the novel has remained exclusive to Mumtaz Mufti.

The political and social background of Abdullah Hussain's novel "Udaas Naslain" covers the last years of the British government, but the events of this period could not be fully covered in the novel. Its main character, Naeem, is a representative of the sad generation of this era. This novel has been given an important place in Urdu literature. Apart from this, "Baagh", and "Nashaib" are different novels in terms of their nature.

The main theme of Intizar Hussain's novels "Chand Gahan" and "Basti" is migration, while in "Din Aur Dastaan" his style is unconventional. "Basti" is considered to be an important link in Intizar Hussain's art and Urdu novel.

Anwar Sajjad has symbolically presented the political impression of his era in "Khushiyon ka Baagh" and "Janam Roop". Anwar Sajjad's special theme is the ongoing oppression and oppression in the imbalanced society

Bano Qudsia traveled to the novel "Raja Gidh" through "Purva" and "Shehr-e-Bemisaaal". These novels highlight the strong reaction that exists in some corner of Bano Qudsia's heart against the big cities. These novels of Bano Qudsia have a prominent place in Urdu literature.

Altaf Fatima's novel "Dastak Na Do", "Chalta Musafir" deals with the partition of East Pakistan. In Ghulam-ul-Saqlain Naqvi's novel "Chandpur Ki Naina", "Mera Gaon", the process of change is defined as the

arrival of the machine. In this way, this novel would have become a representative novel of every village in which machine and electricity are playing an important role in its transformation. Dr. Wazir Agha writes:

"Such a novel is rarely created, but when it is created, it is considered the most important event of its era."<sup>12</sup>

Along with this, Farkhanda Lodhi's novel "Hasrat-e-Arz-e-Tamanna", Farooqi Khalid's novel "Siyah Ainay", Khawaja Ahmad Abbas's "Inqalab" could not make their special place in literature, but they started to be liked.

Qudratullah Shahab's "Ya Khuda" is the tragedy of an oppressed woman. Which was made numb by the brutality of the riots. In Syed Anwar's novel "Somnat", the role of Pakistan Navy is inspired by the 1965 war and its romantic aspect is embellished with an imaginative love story.

In Siddique Salik's two novels, "Pressure cooker" and "Emergency" the social breakdown of Pakistani society, the decline of morals and the state of the soul are presented with the authenticity of the events and the existential meaning of the characters.

Joginder Pal created a novel in the form of "Na deed". In this novel, from the world of the blind, the untruths that are normal in the world of people with eyes are marked.

Anis Nagi in a novel "Diwaar Kay Peechay" which has tried to reveal the existential behavior of every human being and the futility of greed.

Faheem Azmi's novel "Janam Kundli" is a new experiment in disjointed technique. He has tried to reveal the meaninglessness of the thought.

Shamsur Rahman Farooqi's theme has been the moral crisis of colonial India. There is a narrative style in "Kai Chaand Thy Sar-e-Aasmaan".

"Ghulam Baagh" by Mirza Athar Baig is a prominent novel in Urdu literature. In Mirza Athar Baig's themes, the important events of the 21st

century have been the problems of the colonial system and society, which he puts on the mantle of a novel by adapting them in a fine style.

The above historical summary of the Urdu novel reveals the fact that this genre is no longer restricted in thematic and technical terms, but has now expanded. Various novelists have made many additions to it. Experiments have been done, from which the artistic level of the novel has been described in detail and this fact is not short of Urdu novel, it is still inclined towards evolution.

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