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VITALISM AND BLOOD-CONSCIOUSNESS IN D. H. LAWRENCE: INSTINCT, SEXUAL FREEDOM, AND THE ASSERTION OF UNIQUE IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

David Herbert Lawrence (11 September 1885 – 2 March 1930) *– D. H. Lawrence was a prolific writer. He has written novels, essays, poems, short stories, dramas, literary criticism etc. His writing reflects the impacts of modernization, industrialization and social changes. Alienation and seclusion is a major feature of his writing. His has dealt with sexuality, sensuousness and socially taboo things. Lady Chatterley's Tale was banned for his open minded discussion of sensuality. He has created his unique place in the 20th c society due to his originality of subject matter and through his unique view to see the world.*

KEY WORDS: *Unique, Industrialization, innovative, unconventional, psychological, sensual freedom, censorship, ban, spiritual, intellect, instinct, vitalism, life force*

METHODOLOGY

The study follows close reading of all the texts. The textual, analytical and interpretative study helps in the deeper understanding of the uniqueness and innovative technique in D. H. Lawrence's literary works. The theoretical approaches of Psychoanalysis, Existentialism, Ecocriticism, Vitalism, New Historicism, and Marxism and provide this analytical methodological research a profound wisdom, clarity and detailed understanding of the unconventional, path breaking and extremely psychologically intense works of the D. H. Lawrence. The secondary sources, scholarly articles and writings have assisted in the enrichment and clarity of the texts.

Major Characteristics of his writing

- His works are marked with intense psychological insights.
- Autobiographical elements are pervaded in his works
- He has protested against industrialization
- He has done experimentation with socially restricted themes
- His writing is marked with vivid imagery and metaphor
- The inner lives and the inner thoughts of the characters are focused intensely
- Family, relation and complex family dynamics are shown in his texts
- Sexuality and sensuousness are openly discussed in his novels.
- The prophetic and didactic tone is often found in his art.
- He prioritizes human instinct over modern intellect
- His writing is full of vivid and colorful description of things which seemed like painting.

His Major Works

Women in Love (1920) - The novel is unique for its intense psychological depth. The inner lives and the inners selves of the characters are analyzed and demonstrated with utmost depth. The relationships of modern times are scrutinized in the text. Lawrence casts a leisure sharp focus on the emotional, unconscious self. The intense emotional experiences and the subtle sensations of the characters are portrayed vehemently in his literary works. His text is pervaded with the different philosophies and ideologies of the characters .Everyday life is less discussed than these philosophical matters. Lawrence put much priority on the higher consciousness of the characters. Industrialization and its effect on

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the human lives are shown poignantly. The use of symbolism is a unique thing in Lawrences' works. The profound psychological conflicts between two sisters are expressed marvelously. The text highlights the New World relationship in the post World War society. While Ursula Brangwen & Rupert Birkin are in a relationship where there is a balanced restrain in their feelings and emotions. There exists intellectual compatibility between them. Birkin tries to establish a perfect balance between his intellect and emotion. Gudrun Brangwen and Gerald Crich are extremely passionate in their affair having intensity in emotions and sensual pleasures. Their sexual attraction is immense; there is violence and exercising of power in between them. Gerald Crich's cold and poised nature shows the post modern dehumanization and the efficiency of him shows the mechanical attribute of human beings after industrialization. People are turned into workaholic machines and having profound lack of emotion and affection. The "blood-brotherhood" between Gerald and Birkin is a completely innovative and unconventional thing displayed here. The text showcases the fragmented, alienated and disenchanted human lives after the post War and modern society and there is artificiality in the relationships.

Lady Chatterley's Lover *(1928)* - This is one of the most radical and experimental work of D. H. Lawrence. It was banned for the censorship of the subject matter or obscenity in the United States in 1929. Constance Chatterley is a modern woman and is confined in a barren relationship with her physically immobile or paralyzed husband, Sir Clifford. She starts an amorous relationship with her housekeeper Oliver Mellors to get rid of the emotional exhaustion of her legal relationship and to fulfill her sensual gratification after prolonged sterile existence in her conjugal relationship. The theme itself is untraditional which breaks all the dominant norms of the civilized society. It breaks the class discriminations between the owner and the housekeeper. The text has spread sensations in the society for its groundbreaking and raw nature of human relationships. Set in the post world war society the relationship itself a rebellion against the intellectual and paralyzed elite class. Connie prioritizes her emotional and sensual cravings. Even she leaves her husband after being impregnated by Mellors despite the pending divorce. Despite being aware of it is a social taboo and stigma she refuses to remain as a traditional, submissive 'angel of the house'. The novel advocates sexual freedom of individual's life and supports for sensual gratification openly. It is not at all a hidden or secret thing to keep quite rather it should be discussed openly and it is a basic need of every individual, so its gratification is also an essential thing. This novel is a vehement protest against the class discriminations of the society. Connie chooses emotional and sensual fulfillment in Oliver Mellors rather than sterile intellect in Sir Clifford. Connie chooses love rather than monetary gain. Their romantic love in the woods contrasts the polluted ambience of the coal area.

The Rainbow(1915): The novel pivots around the Brangwen family from 1840s to 1900s. The main conflict here is between traditional agriculture and modern industrialization. The three generations of women are struggling to establish their own identity, sensual freedom and want to attain spiritual enlightenment. The 1st Generation Tom Brangwen and Lysia Lensky , a Polish widow represent the union of the binary opposites. They belong to the completely contrary worlds. The marriage has intense passion but it lacks intimacy and there is an intense emotional distance between them. The 2nd Generation Anna and Will Bragwen starts with passionate love which later shifts with Will for her complete attention to her motherhood and domestic affairs. The third generation Ursula, Anna's daughter is the modern woman. She is educated, independent- teacher and have established her own individual identity in the world. She is inclined to her self-discovery and spiritual enlightenment. The rainbow was also banned in Britain for long eleven years due to its explicit theme.

Sons and Lovers (1913) - This is a poignant piece of literature focusing on the emotional conflict of Paul Morel. This novel pervades with autobiographical instances. Gertrude, Paul's mother is married to Walter, a crude mining worker. His excessive drinking has disgusted Gertrude. She becomes indifferent to him and shifts her attention completely to her children. After her eldest son's premature demise her attention shifts to Paul. The mother-son duo creates an unnatural bond between them. They were their emotional refuge. This unconventional and passionate bonding between the mother and the son hinders Paul's romantic engagements. Paul Morel, the young artist of the mining area find love in Miriam Leivers, a spiritually inclined and gentle girl but Gertrude disparages it. In Clara Dawns, Paul attains physical proximity but he is not contended in this affair. The conflict between spiritual love and physical desire is demonstrated here. After his mother's death he becomes morally devastated and lonely but becomes

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independent. The mother-son unconventional bond shows the existence of psychological Oedipus complex and profound dependency. The novel shows the after effects of Industrialization.

Theoretical Approaches

Vitalism- Lawrence prioritizes Vitalism or the life force of an entity. He prefers instinct, sexual gratification to intellect and emotion to rationalism. "Blood-consciousness" is preferred to "mind-consciousness."

Psychoanalytic Theory: Oedipal complex, anxiety, psychological dependencies, libido, suppressed desires, alienation are demonstrated in the texts.

Marxism- Industrializtion, class discrimination, Capitalism are shown in the texts.

Ecocriticism: Nature is the dominant and controlling force, it is a peaceful refuge and solace for human beings. Industrialization destroys the natural worlds and causes social decay.

Existentialism : Human search for unique identity is demonstrated by the prominent characters.

New Historicism: Contemporary context is validated and analyzed by the texts.

CONCLUSION

D.H. Lawrence is a prominent writer of the 20th century. His writings are acclaimed worldwide. The originality and unconventional content and innovative ideas of his writings create his distinct identity in Indian English Literature. The psychological intensity of the characters, sexual freedom and the choice over traditional restrain, the vulnerability of modern relationships and the after effect of World War I and Industrialization are vividly described in his works.

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