



A Study of Social Issues in the Novels of Mulk Raj Anand

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ABSTRACT

Mulk Raj Anand was India's most prolific writer. He illustrated Indian socioeconomic injustices. In *Untouchable* and *Coolie*, Mulk Raj Anand explored socioeconomic concerns. He exposed the mistreatment and tyranny of the weak and downtrodden, despite his Hindu upbringing. Mulk Raj Anand was a key figure in the 1930s Indian Progressive Authors movement, which was founded by Indian students who wanted to write. Anand believed literature was socially useful. Mulk Raj Anand dislikes writing for art's sake. "He said art should have a purpose. Through literature like G. Bernard Shaw, Charles Dickens, and Galsworthy, he exposes Indian society's flaws and acts to alter it. Anand's writings and stories are based on empathy, per his humanism. Use photos from the two novels to analyze the characters' grief and suffering and their attempts to cope. This analysis reveals Mulk Raj Anand's goal of highlighting societal injustice was achieved.

Introduction

Mulk Raj Anand was born 1905. He studied in India and UK. London granted his PhD 1928. His literary daily "The Criterion" was linked. He penned "Untouchable" after visiting the Sabarmati Ashram with Gandhi in 1932. In 1935, an English firm published it after 19 rejections. "Coolie." was one of his four fast novels."

Anand won the 1952 International Peace Prize for his peace writing. That year, he joined an Indian mission in China. For the 1961 Australian Peace Conference, he went to Melbourne. He led the Indian



team to the 1962 Afro-Asian authors conference in Egypt. For his literary and artistic contributions, he won the Padma Bhushan in 1967. A 1972 "Sahitya Academy" winner for "Morning Face." Gandhi greatly inspired Indo-English fiction. Many novelists were inspired by Gandhi's Harijanas, women's empowerment, mass awakening, and independence. In over 50 years, he wrote 12 novels and 70 short tales. His novels shaped Indian English literature. Many consider Mulk Raj Anand a socialist and humanist. History, genocide, class, caste, colonialism, fascism, superstition, and dictatorship disgust him. Anand says man creates man.

The 1930s Indian Progressive Authors movement comprised Mulk Raj Anand and other Indian students who desired to write. Anand thought literature might assist society. Anand saw his characters react to political and social changes. No Indian English-language fiction author "comes anywhere near Mulk Raj Anand in providing a social and political portrait of India" from the 1911 Delhi durbar until the 1947 princess's death, says Saros Cowasjee."

Manohar Malgonkar and Mulk Raj Anand fake history and politics. According to Saros Cowasjee, Moulk Raj Anand and Manohar Malgonkar show the princess's sophistication against Indian Independence. Anand hates art-only writing. Quote: "Art should have some purpose." Shaw, Dickens, and Galsworthy writings change Indian civilization. Empathy dominates Anand's storytelling.

His ideas and approaches make Anand a standout writer. Mulk Raj Anand explores casteism and the hardships people face owing to political, economic, social, and cultural factors. Many languages translated his novels.

The novelist objectively exposes the lower dogs' predicament. This shows how caste Hindus tortured scavengers, leather workers, washermen, barbers, water carriers, grass cutters, and others. The lowest and most awful low caste is the sweeper. At the bottom of the caste hierarchy.

Class division in Anand's "Coolie" The novel shows Munoo's distress. The orphan Mulk Raj Anand plays in Munoo is shunned by society, family, and masters M. K. Naik says, "The author's compassion for the oppressed and downtrodden is pure and intense but does not degenerate into blind hysterics or dull preaching." Pirate Coolie. Whites and rich exploit Indians and poor. Poor Munoo. Dad couldn't pay landlord, therefore he died of shock..

Munoo could not get rid of his memory of what his mother was going through everyday and what his father was enduring. He is the victim of exploitation, poverty and human selfishness and greed. The major source of tragedy suffered by Munoo is poverty. At the beginning of the book, Munoo was



fourteen years of age and when he died, he was sixteen years old. Balarama Gupta says that Anand feels that poverty is a brutal evil and brutality is a fatal evil. The novel *Coolie* reveals how these evils of brutality and crime ruin a youth before such a person could show his abilities. Since Munoo is poor, they can treat him as a leper or untouchable, kicking then slapping him as well as performing other forms of abuse.

Mulk Raj Anand clearly understood that he had to devote his writing time on serving the disadvantaged and the poor. He described human emotions in a certain way as to show how the developing and changing society influenced them. It was taken up differently by people, and, that is why it attracted his attention. The nature of man changed by social order. To begin with, he was concerned with human passions in a social and psychological level. So here it is evident that the mission that Mulk Raj Anand set himself in trying to highlight the extent of social injustice in the first two novels has been fulfilled.

Both *Coolie* and *Untouchable* are the terms concerning the mistreatment of a waif of Munno in *Coolie* and an oppressed group in *Untouchable*. In actual sense, he is the voice of fire of the people who suppressed child labor such as Munoo and who established the untouchability caste. This was during the 1930s. The era of Raja Rao was a very active decade and was the start of the modern independent India and Anand had to write about the impacts of the Indian events too. He was a writer of the people, of the poor and of poor people. He had wandered into an area never extensively explored by Indian writers before by writing about outcasts and underdogs instead of the electorate and the intelligent. Yet, in spite of this powerful nationalism, the books of Bankim Chandra were nothing more than romances. Sarat Chandra wrote about lower-middle classes and Tagore was only interested in upper and medium classes.

Coolie is India, that mingling together of the dreadful and the devout, of the inhuman and the human, of that which is revulsive and of that which is beautiful. Just like in life, the good and the evil are interlaced in order to create an overall image that is general. Munoo grew up under the care of his vicious aunty and uncle since he was an orphan. His vengeant aunt beats, mistreats and scolds him because of Munoo being a financial burden to the family. His uncle then transfers him to Shamnagar where he can use him as a domestic assistant in Nathuram house. At Shamnagar his youthful exuberance and innocent inquisitiveness easily got him into mischief. Munoo cannot demand to be involved with Sheila and her friends having a good time because of the differences in social statuses between the two of them.

Mulk Raj Anand deals with social themes. Anand's first novel, *Untouchable*. It tells us the story of a day of the life of a sweeper boy, Bakha. In fact, the book *the Untouchable* is rather a strong statement concerning what could be regarded as a chronic problem in Indian politics. The novel portrays a conflict



between two classes of the society but it is between a class of craftsmen and a class of businessman, not between untouchables and the Hindu caste. Although the book is the shortest of all his books, the book *Untouchable* has had the greatest impact on the Indian readership. The second point is very clear in terms of exploitation towards workers in Bombay. At long last, Munoo is employed by Jimmy Thomas (Chimta Sahib), which would cut his earnings in terms of commission. Other vultures of the Society are Pathan who is the gatekeeper and shopkeeper Sikh. Munoo and Hari have rented a room in a chawl, which is stinking of feces and urine. The seven restrooms have the capacity of use by two hundred.

Trade unions do have rival factions and communal uprisings are also a political tool envisaged by owners to divide workforce. Mrs. Mainwaring who is an Anglo Indian lady ferries Munoo out of Bombay to Simla. To finish off his social portrait of exploitation and suffering, Anand prefers to display his hero in an aristocratic environment as well. Munoo finds out that Simla only survives by the presence of two people; the so-called, the Sahib Log and the Coolies who live abound with lavish and rich kind of life and those who overwork and are unemployed. Even gracious Mrs. Mainwaring is indifferent to the overworked rickshaw puller Munoo. At a hospital, Munoo dies after a short term treatment on diagnosis of tuberculosis. The story of Munoo is a survival story and he brings out very graphically the miserable plight of the multitude in pre-independence and post-partition India. Premila Paul argues that the book represents Coolie is not a gloomy one in spite of its tragic end. People like Prabha, Ratan and Mohan are the best bet of humanity. Anand is acquainted with life not having poetic justice. However, he is optimistic and feels that human beings are good. C. D. Narsimha says that the poor no longer dread death and he thinks that death is a relief and life is the threat.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, Mulk Raj Anand wrote “*Untouchable*” (1935), on privileged class atrocities. He is the untouchable caste's “Fiery Voice” and fulfills the author's goal of turning “words into prophecy.”

The Mulkmaster Army subedar Raj Anand partied with sweeper kids, joined his father's regiment, and had other cross-caste relationships as a child and teen. Childhood pals and playmates were his early protagonists. Recognizing “*Untouchable*” writing. An article by Gandhiji describes how he took Bakha, a Sweeper youngster, into his Ashram after finding him hungry and with tattered clothes. This was more accurate than Anand's fanciful draft fiction. After writing to Gandhiji in Bloomsbury, England, to make an appointment, Anand visited Sabarmati Ashram. Gandhiji warned Anand to shorten, clarify, and condense his draft. In 1935, the book was published.



Through his 'Stream of Consciousness,' which Virginia Woolf and James Joyce describe, Anand's novel depicts a day in Bakha's life as a sweeper-boy and what events affect him.

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