Indian Writing in English with special reference
To
ShobhaaDe

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INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SHOBHA DE

A new group of writers have arrived on the Indian scanerio, for example –Anita desai,Chaman Nahal, Kamala Markandaya, Arun Joshi, Dina Mehta, Salman Rushdie, Shobha De and the Booker Prize Winner Arundhati Roy. Tried their best to give new indentity to Indian writing in English. K.R. Sriniwasa Iyenger rightly remarks: "When an Indian writer of fiction uses a learnt second language like English, he is actually recording a kind of half-conscious translation (from mother tongue into English) that has taken place in the mind. Most of our writers are bilingual, some equally proficient in English and the mother tongue, and some more in one than in the order. The background and situation are usually Indian but charecters may often be drawn from bilingual milieus. The need for expressing the values verities and heartbeats of one culture in the language of another poses its own problems and there is doubtless the inner urge to render in English the rhythms idiosyncrasies images, idioms, and proverbs of the local speech." Thus one of the most outstanding charecteristics of Indian writing in english is that the background is Indian and the language though foreign has adopted itself to the needs of the Indians.

Today   Indian English as well as Indian writing in English has got its own identity. Actually speeking the most intresting aspects of the fiction at the turn of the present century from the Indian point of view is the emergence of new talent. A number of recent Indian novelists have produced significant novels, making a mark in the literary world. However, on reading Shobha De's novels, one can get some idea about the changing trends in Indian writing in English. She began a career in journalism in 1970 in the course of which she founded and edited three popular magezines- 'Stardust', 'Society' and 'Celibrity' and was consulting editor to 'Sunday' and 'Magacity'. In 1988 she wrote her first novel- the best-selling 'Socialite Evenings' and, so far, has in all published seven novels. Shobha De has been many things to many people : Super model, Celibrity journalist and best selling author of intellectual prose writings and popular novels: friend, rival, colleague and confidante. In her latest publication 'Selective Memory: Stories from my life'(1988 Penguin Books, New Delhi) one comes across her engagingly candid memoir, a woman who has been a familiar face and name to millions (although few know her) and where she finally reveals the true self behind the public persona. Insiders know that despite her commitment to work and the frantic pace of her life, Shobha De's first priority in life has always been her family.

Shobha De's high voltage career 'happened' in unexpected ways, started with her unplanned entry as a magazine editor,teenagerinto the glamorous world of modeling, and moving on to her high-profile years as a magazine editor, columnist, social commentator, TV scriptwriter and author. In these 'avatars' she keenly observed and astutely chronicled the new india-brash,affluent and ambitiou. High-society hi-jinks, movie-star follies,celebrity neuroses-none of these escaped her unsparing eye. In addition to her novel writing, Ms De has also been a model, a film journalist, an editor of magazines and popular columnist. It is always interesting as well as necessary to take into account the different aspects of writing of any writer because the writing is concerned. Though the present research is about the

themes,techniques and style of Ms De's novels, to study in brief her other literary aspects would certainly enlighten us to give justice to her. Starting her career as a model, as a film journalist, as an editor of popular magezines and as a columnist, the world of experience of Ms De is quite rich, varied and extremely fascinating. Her novels bring to our notice characters, incidents, episodes of different kinds of men and women who appear to be real but at the same time foggy and rather thin (just noticed and jist gone. . . disappearing from the eyesight within a fragment of a second)

Shobha De's journey from a model, film journalist, column writer to fiction writer is very thrilling and interesting. It is necessary to see how the person of Shobha De developed step by step. Any great person's character – building is assessed from the roots. Yet, Ms. De's biography is not written by any writer. But we have more authentic life-story narrated by Ms De herself in her autobiography(?): Selective Memory – Stories From My Life. It is a matter of dispute whether Selective Memory is an autobiography or not because the very title of the book suggests that there are only selective memories from her life. She has omitted some memories, which she does not wish to share with the readers and critics. But after reading selective memory, one gets sufficient stuff from the book to know the real self of Shobha De. Here, the efforts are not to evaluate the book.

The intention is only to present the important aspects of a versatile personality of Shobha De. One can divide her saga into five sections: Shobha De as a model, as a film journalist and columnist, as an editor of magazines, as an intellectual prose writer and as a novelist. While on the way becoming model, Shobha feced many strange people and strange events. She was youngest of the women chosen and had to model exquisite Banarasi Sarees. It was a kind of ego trip. One of them was a wealthy married socialite. It was an opportunity for the lady to display her splendid body. The location was Delhi and Agra. During this campaign Shobha De experienced an ugly side of the modeling business, forexample, wine-drinking women and keeping illicit relations. One of them even went away with costly Banarasi Saree, which was borrowed from the shop. She saw beauty queens with dirty toenails and ramp mannequinswith oily pigtails. Though she was the part of this world, she did not belong to it. She remained on its fringeswatching, laughing and learning. It was possible then to work in that artificial, almost unreal environment without loosing one's perspective or a sense of humour. Other girls concentrated on becoming swans while Shobha chose to be down. It was hard for her to take modeling business seriously, because she did not possess the prerequisites for such a high visibility job, as she thought that time.

Any literary work is examined in terms of its theme and style. The theme is the subject or the meaning of a work. It can also be explained in terms of its style. Broadly, 'style, is the writer's manner of presenting his ideas to thoughts and feelings. It is also defined as the overall effect of a literary work. This effect is the result of the interplay of sentence structure, vocabulary, figures of speech, rhythm and many other stylistic features. A researcher has to identify the elements of style, to analyze them to show their structural significanceand finally inter-relate them to suggest their total meaning. Broadly, novel falls into a category of 'prose' though it is essentially dramatic. It creates a world through action, dialogues and images. It is

centered in a narrative. A novel is a work of imagination. It presents s fictional world in such a way as to make us feel that it is real one. So novel is both, fantasy and truth. In it an artist forms, from the chaos of everyday life, a work that is ordered and aesthetically satisfying. In the process he distorts time and compresses or eliminates many details from commonplace experience. He selects events and people and organizes them to illustrate what he believes to be truth. As such, novel comprises of setting, mood, story and characterization.

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