



A STUDY OF REHASHING MYTHOLOGY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN- ENGLISH FICTION THROUGH SELECTED WORKS OF AMISH TRIPATHI, DEVDUTT PATTANAİK AND ASHOK K BANKER

INTRODUCTION:

In recent years, it is observed that many writers have led their road to ancient mythology to build their career as writers. 'Mythology' can be referred to the collected myths of a group of people- their collection of stories they tell to explain nature, history and customs. As a collection of such stories, mythology is a vital feature of culture.

Besides, emergence of mythology in contemporary fiction started with the series of Ashok Banker based on Shree Krishna in 2003. Many authors practiced the same and earned name, fame and obviously money.

'Indian Express' reports that after publishing Ikshvaku, Amish Tripathi has been offered 5 crore rupees for writing new series by one publishing house. Today, we see publishers with an unending list of mythological fiction and shows and movies revolving around characters from our epics. We find that while our original source might be the same as the one used by those in the past, both our approach to it and the way we consume this genre have changed.

This popularity has led to ponder what changes they make which appeal readers the most and make them best seller. A question also arises in the mind why authors try to ride on the same boat.

SOCIAL RELEVANCE:

Since mythology is a part of culture, it has its great relevance with society. This research will unfold the gap between original mythological work and contemporary fiction, so it will help other scholars to interpret in different ways. This will motivate young generation to read original mythology too.

Mythology is all about winning of Devas over Danavas- virtues over vices. This will lead young generation to righteous path and create sound environment in the society. This may put our culture on international level as 'ChhotaBheem' has done.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

This research deals with two main points:

- (1) Why have these authors ridden on the horse of mythology?
- (2) How have authors modified the original mythology to appeal the readers' Contemporary interests?

Dibajyoti Chaudhari in her article, 'Modern mythology' explains that why authors have taken ancient mythology as base. She has quoted Amish Tripathi- author of best-seller Shiva-Trilogy: "There are crucial reasons for retelling mythology. You see in Greece or Egypt, no one talks about Zeus or Amun Ra. But Indian mythology surrounding Ram, Krishna or Shiva is much alive in the Indian mind. They have become the part of our collective consciousness." Amish Tripathi also considers economic factors at play. He opines, "In the last twenty years, we have emerged as an economically confident nation and there is a new found interest in our culture. I'd say we're at the right place at right time."

It is observed that these authors are like the charioteers of the Gods, armed with solid research, a vivid imagination and a writing style, dipping into the vast pool of Indian mythology to come up with powerful tales for retelling our social and historical origins. Amish Tripathy shows Shiva as a Tibetan hero who migrates and attains divinity in a distant land.

A research paper by Dr. M.M. Nivargi reveals, "The Indian literary market is dominated today by novels mythical pasts. These novels often rework the Indian myths creatively to address contemporary concerns as well as eternal human issues." In brief, modifications in retelling have been done keeping contemporary society in mind.

Now a day, people want to perceive mythology from different angle and point of view. Authors have done the same. Amish Tripathi argues that the term 'mythology' has been derived from Greek word 'mythos' which means to hide the truth and that is up to us to discover through the story. He has done the same.

Swati Daftur in 'The Hindu' says that new generation loves modified versions. There are scattered indications- popular guest appearances by ChhotaBheem at birthday parties, headlines that announce Bahubali'sroaring, thumping box office success etc. Prof. Visvanathan says, "Mythology never dies, it resurfaces with new interests. The seed of myth is archetype, myth condense the very meaning of existence."

In a nut shell, present social and cultural situation make authors to retell mythology with modifications.

HYPOTHESIS:

- Different mythological characters will reflect in selected contemporary fictions.
- Mythology never dies, it is retold with modifications to appeal readers.

OBJECTIVES:

- To find out the differences between the original works and fiction reflecting mythology and bridging the gap- difference.
- To infer the reasons for leading authors to mythology in contemporary fiction.
- To provide source for interpreting works with more meanings and dimensions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

- Comparative and analytical

CONCLUSION:

The young generation of India, presently is deeply interested in knowing about its roots, and a new generation of writers is riding the wave, churning out one book of mythological fiction after another. There is always black and white available in all colour, likewise good and evil is there within each one of us. The mythological reading helps us to realize virtues within us and get rid of the vices. This research will help scholars to have different dimensions to look at mythology. This will bridge the gap of ancient and contemporary references of mythology.

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