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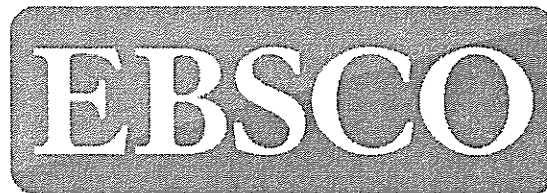
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CONTENTS

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

1. Relationship Between Maternal Parenting Styles And Social Quotient Of Preschool
– Swati Partani 1-10

COMMERCE

2. Emerging E-Commerce Culture – Will It Reduce The Gender Gap?
– Sunita Sharma 11- 19
3. Women Entrepreneurship In India
– Shaheen Khan & Sharon Samuel 20-29

ECONOMICS

4. Women, Technology and Environment
– Vibhuti Patel 30-43
5. ग्रामीण क्षेत्रे शिक्षणमां आधुनिक टेक्नोलोजी नी जूरियात अने तेना पडकारो
– Rekha Kaklotar 44-52
6. Role of e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) in Agri -Trade of India
– Rita Chandarana 53-58
7. Eye Care Health Maintenance: A Status Analysis Of India
– Beena Narayan & Samiran Tripathi 59-76

ENGLISH

8. The Essence Of Pradeep's Creative Output
– Sharmila Jajodia 77-83
9. Female Power As Being Stronger In Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine*
– Annabel Rebello 84-91
10. Language And The Dalit Identity
– Susan Asokan 92-98
11. Existential Precarity Echoing in the Kashmir Valley and Emerging Narratives
– Radhika Rajwani 99-107

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ENGLISH

The Essence Of Pradeep's Creative Output

Sharmila Jajodia

Abstract

Pradeep (originally Ramchandra Narayan Dwivedi) was born in pre-independent India. He is well known for his lyrics, songs and poetry and so got the honour of being a national poet. His compositions are a tribute to soldiers, motherland and humanity. He received India's highest award in Cinema, the Dada Saheb Phalke Award for Lifetime Achievement, in 1997 for his contribution to films through his impressionistic songs. He was also recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1961), Best Male Playback Singer from the Bengal Film Journalists' Association (BFJA) Award (1975). He died at the age of 84. In a span of approximately six decades, he has written nearly 1700 songs, poems and lyrics for 72 films. He has written on and about different kinds of love. His creative output essentially deals with patriotism, national integration and humanitarianism so has psychological and philosophical touches. His simple and powerful language has hypnotized the ordinary minds and shaken the British Empire. In the light of following observations, this paper aims at finding the essence of his works in the backdrop of his pen name. Besides, this paper seeks to analyse the two representative lyrics of Pradeep- "Upar Gagan Vishal" ("The Big Sky Above") and "Kabhi – Kabhi Khud Se Baat Karo" ("Talk to Yourself Sometimes")

Key words: Humanity, integration, nationalism, philosophy, psychology.

Ramchandra Narayan Dwivedi (Nom de Plume "Pradeep") a famous poet and song writer was born on 6 February 1915 in Badnagar, Ujjain, in pre-independent India. He had a passion for writing and reciting poetry since his student life and so he used to attract the audience at the poets' gathering due to his inimitable and spellbound styles of rendering poetry in Hindi. He started to write under the pseudonym (pen name) Pradeep. He started his career in 1939 after

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graduating from Lucknow University when he came to Mumbai on an invitation for a poets' gathering and was offered his first film *Kangan*. He wrote four songs for the film and sung three songs himself which became very popular. He has written all songs for his next film *Bandhan* in 1940 and got recognition for his patriotic lyricism with the most notable *Chal Chal Re Naujawan* as Indian freedom movement was at its crucial stage. His status as a nationalistic writer raised with his song "*Aaj Himalay Ki Choti Se Phir Hum Ne Lalkara Hai, Door Hato Ae Duniyawalon Hindustan Hamara Hai*" in the film *Kismet* (1943) as Quit India Movement was gaining momentum owing to the prominent national leader being in jail. At this juncture this song worked wonder and the public kept on demanding its screening again and again. This song has not only sowed the seeds of nationalism in the minds of the Indians but also lowered the confidence of the British rulers and thus weakened the British Empire. He was forced to go underground to avoid arrest with the release of the film as the British government issued arrest warrant when they understood its real meaning and the poet's clever intention behind the composition. Thus Pradeep has played a significant role in lightening the lamp of nationalism, arousing the feelings of self-independence in the heart of the British ruled Indians. He continued writing on this issue with zeal even after India's independence is evident from his songs- *Aao Bachcho Tumhein Dikhayen*, *De Dee Hame Azaadi Bina Khadag Bina Dhal*, *Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo* etc.,. *Mashaal*(1950) featured his extremely popular song "*Upar Gagan Vishal*".

In "*Upar Gagan Vishal*" Pradeep has appreciated the creator of the universe because he has created the human being as well as various bounties of the nature. He says that God has shown his magic by creating a very big sky above and a very deep underworld and the earth in between. Not only this, he has created the balls of fire- the sun, the moon and the stars in one blow. In addition to this, air, water fire and flying clouds, all are God's creation which surprises and fascinates common being / people. There is no pole to support all these elements of universe though the sky seems the same since time immemorial. The creator is a fantastic magician, as besides creating such elements, he has created a very strange animal which is known as human being and this animal's mind is filled with stormy thoughts. Nobody, no power on earth could identify the mind and behavior of the human being because it is very difficult and a human being is good as well as evil. The god has created such a strange and unique toy which can't be compared to anything at all.

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“इस जग में इनसान के दिल को
कौन सका पहचान
इस में ही शैतान बसा है
इस में ही भगवान
बड़ा गजब का है ये खिलौना
इसका नहीं मिसाल
मालिक तू ने किया कमाल
ऊपर गगन विशाल”

Pradeep is saying this perhaps because according to Indian myth, the birth of a human being is rare but the human being has a basic instinct / intention to do good as well as bad things. When his/ her bent of mind is towards good actions, he believes in “live and let live” and is engaged in the welfare of society and is considered ‘a godly person’ by the public in the surrounding. But in present times, the human being has forgotten the aim of his/ her life as he/she gets pleasure in torturing others physically and mentally. Such human beings are not unhappy and distressed as they are facing problems and sorrows but because others are having good times and enjoying life. They keep themselves engaged in various bad deeds - antinational activities, corruption, terrorism, rape, violent rallies and demonstration, murder, greediness, riots, characterlessness, show of prestige, putting things on fire and varieties of conspiracies, etc., which cause loss to nationalism / national character.

The poet was at the peak of his creative career when he wrote for the films *Nastik* (1954) and *Jagriti* (1954). “*Dekh Tere Sansar Ki Halat Kya Ho Gayi Bhagwaan, Kitna Badal Gaya Insaan*”, his evergreen song was sung by him. *Jagriti*, his one of the works, is considered to be a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and the other freedom fighters due to the hit songs, for example - “*Hum Laye Hain Toofan Se Kishti Nikal Ke, Is Desh Ko Rakhna Mere Bachcho Sambhal Ke*”. His fans like to watch the movie again and again just to hear his soulful songs. In 1958, HMV released an album of 13 songs with his lyrics and he also received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1961) for his contribution to the film and music . In 1962, during Indo-China war he was so touched by the bravery and sacrifice of Param Vir Major Shaitan Singh Bhati that he poured

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down his feelings on paper by writing the song "*Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon*" and he was conferred the honour of a National Poet (Poet Laureate) by the Government of India for writing this song, due to his poetry overflowing with the feelings of patriotism and national integration. He didn't accept a single penny of the royalties of the song in spite of many offers and pledged it to "War Widows Fund".

By the 1960s there was a wave of change in film industry and the film producers started preferring western music and fast numbers. The popularity of his songs diminished but he didn't lose heart. He continued his struggle to work with vigour and proved his critics and rivals wrong by writing songs for movies *Talaaq* and *Paigam*. The film *Sambandh* (1969) was a hit due to the songs written by Pradeep such as "*Chal Akela Chal Akela, Tera Mela Peechhe Chhoota Raahi Chal Akela*", "*Jo Diya Tha Tum Ne Ek Din, Mujhe Phir Wohi Pyar De Do, Ek Karz Mangta Hoon, Bachpan Udhar De Do*". He kept on showing his talent and also wrote songs like "*Main To Aarti Utaroon Re Santoshi Mata Ki*" and "*Yahan Wahan Jahan Tahan*" for a low budget movie "*Jai Santoshi Maa*". He also received the Best Male Playback Singer from the Bengal Film Journalists' Association Award (1975) for singing the song "*Yahan Wahan Jahan Tahan*".

He has written his poems, songs and lyrics with a purpose, meaning in simple language to fit the situation and enlightened the mind of the common people. Nationalism was the main subject of his poetry though he has written on every aspect of life and love. He has also penned down songs like "*Chalo Chale Maa, Sapnon Ke Gaon Mein, Kanto Se Door Kahin Phoolon Ki Chhaon Mein*", "*Koyal Bole Ku*" "*Suno Suno Desh Ke Hindu - Musalman*", "*Bharat Ke Liye Bhagwan Ka Ek Vardaan Hai Ganga*", "*Sanvariya Re Apni Meera Ko Bhool Na Jana*", "*Aaj Suno Hum Get Vida Ka Garaha*". Hence he became famous as "Kavi Pradeep". Pradeep once expressed why he wrote the kind of songs he wrote like, "Love is just a part of life and the love written about today talks about love between the sexes only. But do young men and women have a monopoly where love is concerned. Aren't there different kinds of love that between a mother and her children, between a father and his children, between a bhakt (devotee) and his deity, between a man and his motherland? I chose to write about all these different kinds of love."

The nationalism of a country is identified and seen through the behavior of its people and citizens. The good behavior of a citizen increases the respect and goodwill of that country while

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the bad behaviour of a citizen maligns the image of that country. Therefore, Pradeep has given the message of self-introspection in his next lyric, "Talk to Yourself Sometimes".

“... अपनी नजर में तुम क्या हो? ये मन की तराजू पर तोलो। ...

हसदम तुम बैठे ना रहो-शौहरत की इमारत में।

कभी कभी खुद को पेश करो आत्मा की अदालत में।

...

कभी कभी खुद से बात करो।

कभी कभी खुद से बोलो।”

He says, human beings should try to talk to themselves sometimes. They should assess and identify themselves. They should weigh themselves in scale/ balance of mind. They should not always occupy the palaces of fame but rather should try to make themselves present in the court of soul. Human beings should not only count on/calculate their name / fame and be arrogant but also look into their virtues and vices. People generally think that a human being becomes happy by being famous worldwide but it is not so rather people are actually distressed due to the affected i.e., pretentious nature of the famous person. The human being becomes so snobbish because of name, fame and riches that s/he does not show any interest in listening to others and understanding the viewpoint of others. Therefore, Pradeep advises such persons to open the closed window of their mind and introspect themselves; not to fly sky high but be down to earth, to know and identify the reality. He considers that one should live simple life and give up the modern, luxurious, pompous and conceited ways of life as you are an Indian and India is a land of meditation and of saintly, gentle beings. Hence you should be simple and humble instead of being egotistical and haughty and analyse your personality. There should be no difference between your self-image and social image. You should weigh your mind / thinking because your mind thinking is responsible for your actions and behavior and motivates you for good and bad deeds. So a human being should engage herself or himself in self-talk to assess his/ her actions and behavior. If a human being does the assessment of the self, he is definitely able to differentiate between good-bad and does not involve the self in any activity which is injurious for nation's wellbeing. Thus one can find even psychological and philosophical insights into his poetry.

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Nissim Ezekiel, an Indian English poet also opines the same in his poem *"The Patriot: Very Indian Poem in Indian English"*. Nissim vouches for peace and nonviolence and says that he does not understand why his own countrymen are not following Indian culture which is 100% rational, 100% correct; why the people and nations are not following the Gandhian principles of truth and non-violence and are engaged in fighting time and again; why the modern generation is neglecting the native products, tradition and culture and running after fashion and foreign products and culture.

"I am standing for peace and non-violence.

Why world is fighting fighting

Why all people of world

Are not following Mahatma Gandhi,

I am simply not understanding.

Ancient Indian wisdom is 100 % correct.

I should say even 200 % correct.

But modern generation is neglecting-

Too much going for fashion and foreign thing."(237)

Mahatma Gandhi was a yogi and so he too believed in self-introspection. Like Pradeep, Nissim too supports Gandhi who has said that be the change what you want to see in the society and the future depends on what you do today.

Pradeep received India's highest award in Cinema, the **Dada Saheb Phalke Award** for Lifetime Achievement in 1997 for his contribution to films through his impressionistic songs. He died on 11 February 2008 in Mumbai at the age of 84. In a span of approximately six decades, he has written more than 100 songs, poems and lyrics for 72 films. His death was a great loss not only to the family, friends, world of cinema and literature but to the nation and society too. **Kavi Pradeep Foundation** was set up and **Kavi Pradeep Samman** was constituted by his family and India's postal department a commemorative stamp on **Kavi Pradeep** in his memory.

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To conclude, Pradeep has tried immensely to sow the seeds of patriotism, national integration and nationalism in the minds of Indian public directly or indirectly through his works and that is the essence of his creative output. He is undoubtedly the ever shining lamp of Indian nation and will be remembered forever.

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