Title: Silence! The Court is in Session

Introduction

Vijay Dhondopant Tendulkar, born in 1928 in Mumbai, was a leading Indian playwright, television writer, literary essayist, journalist, and social commentator primarily in Marathi. He is best known for his plays Shantata! Court Chalu Ahe.

Silence! The Court is in Session is a play written by Vijay Tendulkar in 1963. The play was originally written in Marathi language titled “Shantata! Court Chalu Ahe.” The play was first performed in 1967. The play considered to be written with the real life incidents of the playwright Vijay Tendulkar. The story of the play revolves around the theme of gender discrimination and the courtier system of India.

Theme of The Play

It seems that the play is based on the theme of Gender Discrimination. Women are the real architects of society, she has the power to create, nourish and transform. The society around her always had been a challenging. The women in India have never been able to live in a circumstance where they are treated equally. Tendulkar’s “Silence! The Court is in Session is a critique of gender discrimination in patriarchy and the women’s fight against the injustice done to her. He represents the problems faced by independent women in India.
**Characters in The Play**

[1] **Miss Leena Benare** Miss Benare is the chief protagonist and heroine of the play. She is thirty four years old, self-dependent successful unmarried school teacher. Tendulkar has presented her as an intelligent and matured lady with her own conviction.

[2] **Mrs. Kashikar** Mrs. Kashikar is the wife of Mr. Kashikar who represents typical Indian housewife dependent on her husband for everything.

[3] **Sukhatme** Sukhatme plays an important role in the prosecution of Benare. He is a lawyer – cum – actor and is unsuccessful in his own career. Sukhatme upholds the principle that woman is not fit for independence.

[4] **Mr. Kashikar** Mr. Kashikar becomes the judge in the mock trial in the play. He is a disgruntled sadist figure like other men in the play except Samante. He belongs to the category of urban character.

[5] **Samante** Samante is a rustic uneducated villager in a galaxy of educated urban characters. He is pure at heart and stands for justice. He is not a professional, but he is honest, helpful and compassionate.

[6] **Prof. Damle** Professor Damle is a married man live with family. He leaves Benare pregnant and disowned responsibility.

[7] **Other Characters** There are some other characters such as Ponkshe, Karnik and Rokde.

**Satirical Attack in The Title**

Tendulkar satirically attacks on the society with the title “Silence! The Court is in Session.” There is no silence or discipline in the court, and even the wife of the judge Mrs.
Kashikar disturbs the court all the time. Thus, in this way, the word “Silence” seems more impactful. The title, “Silence! The Court is in Session” is a powerful satire on modern society. The famous critic N. S. Dharan points out that –

It is the imposed silence on Benare that gives the title its uniqueness and tells us about the mockery in the title.

So, here, the title can be justified as a satirical attack on the people of modern society.

**Judicial Register: The First Title**

Vijay Tendulkar chooses Judicial Register as the title of his play to make a powerful comment on a society with a heavy patriarchal bias that makes justice impossible. A Judicial court is supposed to be a seat of justice seriousness and decorum. Throughout the play, he makes a review of the present day court procedures, and points out the problem of the court. Ideally justice can be provided only if the judge and the judicial system are objectively detached. But the same objective detachment can become the face of a very repressive and dehumanized system if the people involved in the process of justice are themselves devoid of human value and compassion. As for all these, the title “Judicial Register” suits perfectly; but at last, “Silence! The Court is in Session” remains for the play.

**Significance of The Title**

Silence! The Court is in Session is originally a Marathi play. So, the original title of the play is “Shantata! Court Chalu Ahe.” The title indicates absolute authority of the judge in the court where the judges pronounce such words to bring back manners or discipline of the people.

In the present play, we find how Benare becomes the victim of sadism of his male counterparts. The audience is made to witness a mere enactment of what is a rehearsal of sorts of a mock-trial to be staged later in the day. But what begins as a harmless game begins to
assume a grim aspect before long. When Benare wants to protest she is ordered to be silent because the court is in session. Again when she keeps silent she is ordered to break the silence in the name of law and threatened with contempt of court. She is driven to despair and attempts suicide. In such a grim scenario, every word of the title SILENCE THE COURT IS IN SESSION assumes symbolic significance. The word "Silence" symbolizes the patriarchal conspiracy to silence the voice of a woman in the name of social justice and ideology. And therefore, the title is appropriate for the play.

**Conclusion**

Vijay Tendulkar’s “Silence! The Court is in Session” is an effective play with a very impressive language and style. It is just another play presenting the picture of Indian society. The play exposes the social hypocrisy and its dubious double standards. The play is well constructed that presents the realistic picture of current situation of India’s modern society.
**Introduction**

Amrita Pritam was an Indian writer and poet born in 1919 and died in 2005. With a career spanning over six decades, she produced over 100 books of poetry, fiction, biographies, essays, a collection of Punjabi folk songs and an autobiography that were translated into several Indian and foreign languages.

Pinjar is a great 1950 novel written in Punjabi language by the poet and novelist Amrita Pritam. It was translated in English language by Khushwant Singh. It is one of social novels of Indian literature. The novel tells the story of a Hindu girl, Puro who was abducted by a Muslim man, Rashid. Pinjar is believed to be one of the best literatures written in backdrop of the partition of India.

**Theme of The Novel**

The novel focuses on two main themes – Partition of India and Status of Women. Pinjar is such an important novel because of its depiction of the status of women. Perhaps, the struggles of women are the center point of the novel. The novel is believed to be one of the best literatures written in backdrop of the Partition of India.

**Characters in The Novel**

1. **Pooro**
   - Pooro is a young and beautiful Hindu girl belongs to Chotto village in Punjab. She is betrothed to a wealthy and handsome young man. She is the central character of the novel.

2. **Rashid**
   - Rashid is a Muslim guy who kidnapped Pooro for marriage and later on became husband of Pooro.
Ramchand is a handsome and intelligent Youngman belongs to a neighboring village of Pooro called Rottoval. He is a man with whom Pooro has been engaged.

Lajjo is Ramchand’s sister whose engagement is fixed with Pooro’s twelve years old younger brother Trilok in exchange.

Trilok is a brother of Pooro and son of Tara and Mohanlal.

Rajjo is Pooro’s sister and married with Ramchand’s cousin.

Hamida After her marriage with Muslim Rashid Pooro changed her identity and became Hamida.

**Domination of Social System**

The most fascinating thing that the novel focuses is the fact that when a social evil surpasses on the victim, family is the sole basis for the sufferer. But it is also difficult for the family to accept the sufferer with the fear of disrespect due to the social system.

The novel shows when Puro returns to her parents escaping from Rashid’s home, her parents disown her so woefully explaining that if Puro stays with them, Rashid’s family would slaughter them. However, when the same situation is undergone by a great numbers of victims, the society handles the situation with a sympathetic touch as it clearly revealed in the novel.

**Women’s Struggle**

Precisely, Pinjar is such an important novel because it conceives the status of women. The novel presents the plight of the women. It shows a clear picture of the mournful condition of a woman that resulted because of India’s Partition. Pinjar presents the story of a Hindu girl who is kidnapped by a Muslim guy named Rashid. After her kidnapping, she has faced many struggles and became same as Skeleton as the title “Pinjar” suggests to us. Amrita Pritam has perfectly depicts the suffering of Puro. The novel not only presents Puro as a struggling woman,
but it also presents the struggles of every common women of the time of Partition. Amrita Pritam greatly presents the struggle of women through the character of Puro in the novel Pinjar.

**Attack on Partition**

Partition of India was the great historical event in 1947. Partition affected millions of people and changed the whole scenario of the sub-continent. Pinjar novel by Amrita Pritam is about the partition of India. The novelist focuses on the situation before and after partition. The novelist bitterly satirizes the political leaders and their decision of separation of Hindu and Muslim. The novel also highlights the extreme violation and molestation of women during partition. The people before partition were happy among each other, living unanimously and in humanity. The partition changed the minds of the people and in the fortnight became the enemies of each other. Women were most affected in this era and were left desolate and deserted. During Partition the people, though they may be Hindu, Sikh and Muslim feel pride in taking revenge against the opposite religious women. It was such a worst time in which women suffered a lot.

**Conclusion**

To conclude, the novel Skeleton is no doubt an excellent novel highly explores novelists capacity of communicating lot of things in a very few words. Amrita Pritam has highlighted the deep human psyche during partition. The novel reveals the social evils and also the bitterness of the upheavals due to the communal disparities. Moreover, the description of the sufferings of the female flock in a male dominated society is outstanding. Thus, the novel is a unique work of Amrita Pritam describing the partition of India – Pakistan and the evil side of the society as well.
I Take This Woman

**Introduction**

Rajinder Singh Bedi was an Indian Urdu writer of the progressive writers' movement and a playwright, who later worked in Hindi cinema as a film director, screenwriter and dialogue writer. He was born in Punjab, British India in 1915. Bedi is considered one of the leading 20th century progressive writers of Urdu fiction, and one of the most prominent Urdu fiction writers. He is most known for 'disturbing' Partition of India tales.

I Take This Woman is originally a translated novel from Rajinder Singh Bedi’s Ek Chadar Maili Si (A Slightly Spoiled Sheet). The novel, Ek Chadar Maili Si, is a remarkable Urdu novel of Rajinder Singh Bedi, written in 1962. It was translated into English by one of the most contemporary English writers Khushwant Singh with the title of *I Take This Woman*. The book was later translated into Hindi, Kashmiri and Bengali languages. The novel won the 1965 Sahitya Akademi Award. It is an unusual story of a woman compelled to marry one whom she brought up as her own son.

**Theme of The Novel**

The novel includes such themes as women suffering, women exploitation, exploitations of the man dominated society and some others. Throughout the novel, we see the suffering of a woman named Rano, and the domination of the society over her. She was forced to marry again by the society. The novel also depicts the grim undercurrent of ruthless tragedy under the placid surface of rural India.

**Characters in The Novel**

[1] **Rano**

Rano is the central character of the novel. She is the daughter of poor parents and lives with her drunkard husband in a village.
[2] Tiloka
Tiloka is the husband of Rano. He is drunkard ekka driver and not an ideal husband.

Jindan is the mother of Tiloka and mother-in-law of Rano. She constantly berates her for dowry, always heaps abuses on Rano.

Hazur Singh is the father of Tiloka and father-in-law of Rano. He is an old blind man. He is always kind to Rano but unable to help her.

Mangal is the brother of Tiloka. After the death of Tiloka, Rano is forced to marry with him.

[6] Other Characters
Waddi, Salamat, and Gyan Chand.

Rano’s Struggles
Rano is a daughter of poor parents. She is a feisty woman lives in a village with her husband Tiloka. Tiloka is drunkard Tonga driver. He was far away from an ideal husband. When Rano comes to Kotla, she found new parents and brother-in-law Jindan, her mother-in-law, became a new mother for her; Hazur Singh, Rano’s father-in-law, became a new father for her; and Mangal, Rano’s brother-in-law became a new brother to her. Mangal is barely six years old when she met him. Though Rano is largely content with her husband Tiloka, he beats her often when he gets drunk. Rano’s mother-in-law Jindan heaps abuses on her for inadequate dowry, even years after her marriage. Only her father-in-law Hazur Singh, an old blind man is kind to her but he cannot do anything more for her. The only member who can save her is Tiloka’s brother Mangal.

Death of Tiloka and Rano’s Remarriage
One day Tiloka drops off a young woman of 13 years old at a nearby inn and goes home. The next day, the inn keeper tells him that woman is dead, and he is to take her dead body for cremation, which he does so. On the way there, Tiloka is killed by the young dead girl’s enraged
brother. The killer is caught by the police and imprisoned. But this does not solve the problems. Rano gets into trouble after the death of Tiloka and the family is virtually destitute.

After the death of Tiloka, the village elders decide that Rano must either leave the house or marry Mangal. Rano has a social insecurity so, she has to marry Mangal. Rano and Mangal are not married around a sacred fire or holy book; instead Mangal places a sheet over her as a sign of protection.

**Domination of Society**

In this way, the story would have been a pathetic tale of woman’s suppression. The novel shows a clear picture of male dominated society. The novel also depicts how a woman suffers under the domination of the society through the character of Rano. The central character of the novel, Rano shows the situation of a woman in contemporary Indian society.

**Conclusion**

I Take This Woman is a pathetic tale of woman’s suppression. In the hands of Bedi, it becomes a triumph of the human spirit above time and circumstances, and becomes a flesh and blood emblem of courage and strength. In short, the tragic story of Rano is actually scathing domination of a social system where poverty is the root cause of all evils.

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Introduction

Gitanjali or Song Offerings is one of the finest examples of religious and devotional poetry in the entire literature of the world. It is a collection of 103 poems by the Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore who was awarded The Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. The volume of Gitanjali was published in 1912. Gitanjali is mainly a collection of devotional songs. The English Gitanjali became very famous in the west and was widely translated. The poems depict the yearning of the devotee for the reunion with the divine. According to Radhakrishnan—

These poems of Gitanjali are the offering of the finite to the infinite.

Theme

According to S. Radhakrishnan, the poems of Gitanjali are the offerings of the finite to the Infinite. The relationship between the two is conceived as that of love between the lover and the beloved. The central theme of Gitanjali is devotional. It is in the great tradition of devotional poetry centering on the love of Radha and Krishna. The human soul is spoken of as Radha or the beloved waiting for the arrival of the lover or the bridegroom, Krishna. It is a drama of love, which takes place between Radha and Krishna. Radha, who surrenders everything to Krishna, symbolizes the human soul and the terrestrial Universe yearning with reckless passion for union with God.

God's Love in Human Love Relations

According to Tagore,
The finite ideals will have to be transmuted into the infinite before the soul can get perfect satisfaction through them.

In human experience, there is nothing that equals the joy of love. For Tagore, God is love. The love of the mother for the child or the love of the lover for the beloved is only an instance of the supreme love, which is God. And this love expresses itself not only in the ecstatic devotion of the mystic but also in the routine of everyday life of the common man. Tagore declares that God is to be realized in the common realities of life and in the daily work which sustains the world.

**Conclusion**

The central theme of Gitanjali is devotional. It expresses the yearning of the devotee for re-union with the divine. When Gitanjali was first published in English, the western countries hailed it for its message of peace and love in a war torn and embittered world. Some regarded it as the most beneficial and elevating reading ever possible in this world. The translation of Gitanjali is hailed as a great contribution to English language and literature from the East.

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Godan

Munshi Premchand

Introduction

Godan – The Gift of a Cow is a Hindi novel by Munshi Premchand. It was first published in 1936. It is considered to be one of the greatest Hindi – Urdu novels of Modern Indian Literature. It was the last complete novel of Premchand. The novel was translated into English in 1957 by Jai Ratan and P. Lal translation. Gordon C. Roadarmel also translated the novel in 1968, and is now considered a classic in itself. Godan was made into film in 1964. The story of the novel revolves around many characters representing the various section of Indian community.

Theme

In Godan, Premchand has successfully presented various themes such as problems due to caste segregation, exploitation of the lower class, exploitation of women, problems of industrialization, inter – caste marriage and political scenario of the time.

The Story

The story of the novel revolves around many characters representing the various section of Indian community. The peasant and rural society is presented by Hori Mahato and his family members – Dhania (Hori’s supported wife), Rupa and Sona (Hori’s daughters), Gobar (Hori’s son), and Jhunia (Hori’s daughter – in – law). While the urban society in the novel is presented by Malati Devi (Doctor), Mr. Mehta (Lecturer and Philosopher), Mr. Khanna (Banker), Rai Sahib (Broker), and Mr. Mirza (Social Worker).
In this novel, Hori is shown as a typical poor peasant who is the victim of circumstances and possesses all the deficiencies of common man but despite all this, he stands by his honesty, duties and judgments that time requires. He is shown dead – partially satisfied and partially unsatisfied.

**Conclusion**

Thus, Godan is one of the greatest novels of Munshi Premchand. It was a great work of Hindi – Urdu novel. It was the last completed novel of Premchand, presenting the themes of Rural vs. Urban, and the exploitations of the poor village people.

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Introduction

Halfway House or Adhe – Adhure is an influential play written by Mohan Rakesh in 1971 which brought the middle class mind face to face with the changing realities in fragmenting man – woman relationship. This is the drama of looking for perfection. The play reflects the slow but steady changes in the shifting position in the family frame in the wake of modernism. The play was set in the early seventies when the family institution had begun to lose its traditional structures. The play is based on the main theme of the crisis of identity and breakdown of community in human relations.

Theme

The crisis of identity and breakdown of communication in human relations constitute the theme of Adhe – Adhure, Halfway House. This search for identity and meaning in Halfway is best articulated through the character of Savitri who seeks fulfillment.

Adhe – Adhure

The play Halfway House rolls between Mahendra and Savitri. In the beginning of the play, we do sympathize with Savitri, the way she works hard to manage the family; but at the other side of Savitri, our sympathies for her change as Savitri falls in our estimation. However, at the end of the play, the playwright focuses on the protagonist with her fragmented desires of modern Life, its bundle of temptations knocked at her door which make the family half way – neither fully compact, nor fully broken.
**Conclusion**

It must be said that –

*The play is not a direct attack on career woman, nor is it anti – woman; it brings out prevailing conditions in upper middle society.*

We find playwright’s bitterness directly engendered by the situation which he must have personally experienced.

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**Introduction**

Hayavadana is considered to be the third remarkable play of Girish Karnad. It was originally written in Kannada and later on, it was translated into English. It was written in 1971 and was awarded Natya Sangh Award in 1972. It is a successful experiment on folk – theme. The play is richly symbolic and spectacular. The source of Hayavadana’s plot is taken from a collection of Sanskrit stories called Kathasaritsagar for the purpose of the play. It is based on the idea that humans are imperfect and thus have a number of limitations.

**Theme**

Girish Karnad’s play Hayavadana deals with the theme of incompleteness. Karnad has tried to illustrate incompleteness with divine, human and animal figures. Ganesha has the elephant head and the human body. The transposition of heads does not give Devadatta, Kapila and Padmini completeness. Only Hayavadana, who had the horse head and the human body, achieves completeness. He wanted to become a complete human being, but he becomes a complete horse.

**Title and Plot**

The importance of the Hayavadana can be understood as it is used as the title of the play. The title of the play, in this way, is appropriate and suggestive. Hayavadana is a man with the head of a horse. Here, Haya means horse and Vadana means face. The story of the play is of a love triangle between Devadatta, Kapila and Padmini. In Hayavadana, the sub – plot is also equally important. The horseman deepens the significance of the main theme of
incompleteness by treating it on a different plane. The horse’s search for completeness ends comically that he becomes a complete horse. At the end of the play, Karnad presents the death of all three main characters not for tragic note but to show the absurdity of the situation.

**Conclusion**

Karnad draws ideas from Thomas Mann’s mock – heroic tale *The Transposed Heads*, but he uses the story to explore the theme of human identity in a world of tangled relationship and struggle for perfection. In *Hayavadana*, Karnad has explained the problem of identity on the intellectual level because organic unity is possible either on animal level or on divine level; but on human level, it is very difficult to acquire.

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Introduction

Kundanika Kapadia was an outstanding revolutionary female novelist of Gujarati literature. She was given Sahitya Akademi Award for the novel Seven Steps in The Sky in 1985. Seven Steps in The Sky is the English translation of a Gujarati novel named Saat Pagala Aakashma. It is considered to be the greatest novel of Gujarati literature. Some critics are of the opinion that it is a revolutionary novel. The novel was originally written in Gujarati in 1985. It revolves around the Life of the protagonist of the novel Vasudha and a few of her friends and relatives. Kundanika Kapadia has discussed the social status as well as the exploitation of woman in the male dominated society.

Theme

The novel was presented by Kundanika Kapadia with the themes such as Feminism, Freedom, Responsibility, woman’s suppression, and importance of women. Kapadia through these various themes and ample discussions wants to points out the ignorance of her potentiality by male. At the end of the novel, we witness Vasudha grows as a leader by accepting every challenge as a woman and this is a birth of a new woman. We could say that –

This novel while describing the prune of such a woman virtually describes the life of a great number of women.

Story of Every Woman
The Seven Steps in The Sky was originally written in Gujarati in 1985. The novel revolves around the Life of the protagonist of the novel Vasudha and a few of her friends and relatives. It talks about the stuff that a woman has to go through being a female in the male dominated society. The novel Seven Steps in The Sky unfolds the story of how Vasudha, after thirty two years of marriage, finally dares to challenge her husband’s authority and leave home to fulfill her aspirations. It is also the story of several other women who yearn for fulfillment of their Life.

**Conclusion**

To conclude, we could say that Kundanika Kapadia has discussed the social status as well as the exploitation of woman in the male dominated society. The novel presents to us the limitations of the women set by the society. It is a unique novel of Gujarati literature entitled Saat Pagala Aakashma. As for English translation, Seven Steps in The Sky is considered one of the greatest novels representing the Life of women.

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The Revenue Stamp

Amrita Pritam

Introduction

Amrita Pritam is considered to be the first important woman writer in Punjabi literature who is also the first woman to receive the Sahitya Academy Award. For Amrita Pritam –

An Autobiography is the Gospel of Truth.

The Revenue Stamp is one of the remarkable autobiographies of Amrita Pritam. As a successful autobiography writer, Amrita Pritam has succeeded in penning down her inner world and in voicing her desires, dreams and idealism. In her autobiography The Revenue Stamp, Amrita Pritam embrace and unfolds her interior landscape and reconstructs and redefines relations and incidents which have let a permanent mark on her.

Theme

Amrita Pritam’s longing for equality and harmony is reflected in this autobiography The Revenue Stamp. Amrita Pritam embrace and unfolds her interior landscape and reconstructs and redefines relations and incidents which have let a permanent mark on her. Feminine sensibility also appears to be an integral part of Amrita Pritam’s emotive Life.

The Revenue Stamp as a Symbol

Symbolism makes this autobiography more artistic, for many characters, objects, incidents and even dreams appear to be symbolic.
In The Revenue Stamp, Amrita Pritam embraces and unfolds her interior landscape and reconstructs and redefines relations and incidents which have let a permanent mark on her. The title The Revenue Stamp symbolizes the writer’s own soul; while the size of other stamps keep on changing, the size of the revenue stamp remains the same. The Revenue Stamp then appears as the unchanging soul which survives all storms like a steady flame of a lamp. The special quality of the revenue stamp lies in its use; it is used for the versification of documents. By writing The Revenue Stamp, Amrita Pritam authenticates the truth of her journey both as a writer and as a human being. Amrita Pritam recalls her early life in which her nurture fosters her nature and often poses contrast with her nature.

**Conclusion**

In this way, The Revenue Stamp appears to be an externalization of the internal rainbow of its writer. Similes, metaphors, personifications, ironies and many other figures of speech enshrine the pages of The Revenue Stamp.

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The Fire and The Rain

Girish Karnad

Introduction

The Fire and The Rain is a play by Girish Karnad. It was originally written in Kannada language and later on, it was translated into the English and published by Ravi Dayal publication, New Delhi, in which the playwright treats the problem of a moralism in contemporary Life. The central action of the play revolves round the motif of revenge, futility of superficial knowledge and the frailty of human nature. It presents the family relationship between the two stages, Rabhya and Bhardwaj and how Yuvakrit’s lust for fame and status, his jealousy and malicious behavior resulted into the downfall, death and rebirth because of the penance. The entire plot – structure of The Fire and The Rain is based on the performance of Vedic rituals obsequies and the art of Natya.

Theme

As the title of The Fire and The Rain, the play focuses on both positive and negative emotions of human as its central theme. The play is based on the themes such as jealousy, betrayal, revenge, death and selfless love as well. The fire in the play suggests to the fire of revenge, lust, anger, envy, violence and death. On the other hand, the rain symbolizes self – sacrifices, compassion, forgiveness and revival. Thus, the play mainly focuses on negative and positive emotions of human, and it is the central theme of the play.

Message of The Play

The play The Fire and The Rain presents human emotions of both negative and positive such as jealousy, betrayal, anger, lust, compassion, forgiveness and revival. The message of the
play is that all our miseries and wretchedness are the tragic outcome of our submission to evil desires and the most tragic aspect of our Life is that instead of using knowledge to conquer evils, we use knowledge to boost up and nourish evil desire, passions and appetites which can produce nothing but discord and wretchedness.

**Conclusion**

At last, The Fire and The Rain is another great play of Girish Karnad. It was originally written in Kannada language with the title of *Agni Mattu Male*. The play was awarded the *Gnanpith Award* in 1999. Girish Karnad takes human’s positive and negative emotions and the chain of murder, revenge and jealousy within the families for the play The Fire and The Rain.

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