

NAVIGATING TIME AND TERRAIN: UNVEILING LITERARY PATTERNS IN KEKI. N. DARUWALLA'S NOVELS

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Abstract

This study delves into the literary patterns and thematic explorations of Keki N. Daruwalla, a distinguished Indian poet, short story writer, and former Indian Police Service officer. Focusing on selected novels such as "In Morning Dew," "The Keeper of the Dead," and "Crossing of Rivers," the investigation unveils Daruwalla's distinctive stylistic features and thematic nuances. From his evocative portrayal of historical landscapes to his exploration of human resilience and the intricacies of memory, Daruwalla's narratives demonstrate a unique blend of depth and versatility. The study also sheds light on his career trajectory, blending the worlds of literature and public service. This exploration contributes to a comprehensive understanding of Keki N. Daruwalla's enduring impact on Indian literature, emphasizing the richness and universality of his storytelling.

Keywords: Keki N. Daruwalla, literary patterns, thematic exploration, historical landscapes.

Introduction

Keki N. Daruwalla, born on January 24, 1937, occupies a significant place in Indian literature, distinguished as both a poet and a short story writer. This study aims to unravel the literary patterns inherent in Daruwalla's novels, focusing on three prominent works: "In Morning Dew," "The Keeper of the Dead," and "Crossing of Rivers." Daruwalla's unique position as a former Indian Police Service officer adds an intriguing layer to his literary contributions, blending the realms of law enforcement and creative expression.

Career and Literary Legacy

Daruwalla's career trajectory, from serving in the Indian Police Service to becoming a celebrated literary figure, contributes to the multifaceted nature of his works. The study acknowledges the dual roles he embraced and explores how his experiences in law enforcement may have influenced the thematic contours of his novels. Daruwalla's ability to seamlessly transition between the worlds of public service and literature adds a unique dimension to his literary legacy.

Stylistics in Keki N. Daruwalla's Novels

i) "In Morning Dew" (1970)

Daruwalla's debut novel, "In Morning Dew," published by Writers Workshop, India, marks the inception of his literary journey. The novel, through its evocative prose, delves into the historical and cultural landscapes, showcasing Daruwalla's early prowess in capturing the essence of time and place (Dutta, 2023). The narrative unfolds with a poetic sensibility, exploring themes that resonate with the socio-political milieu of the era.

ii) "The Keeper of the Dead" (1982)

This novel, published by Oxford University Press, stands as a testament to Daruwalla's ability to weave historical narratives with a touch of the mystical. Set against the backdrop of significant historical events, the book explores the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Daruwalla's poetic background infuses the prose with vivid imagery and lyrical language, creating a narrative that transcends the boundaries of conventional storytelling (Daruwalla, 1982).

iii) "Crossing of Rivers" (1985)

Another notable work by Daruwalla, "Crossing of Rivers" showcases his talent for narrative complexity. The novel, published by Oxford University Press, intertwines multiple perspectives and timelines, inviting readers to navigate the intricacies of memory and human relationships. Daruwalla's exploration of these themes reflects a nuanced understanding of the human experience and adds a layer of intellectual depth to his storytelling (Daruwalla, 1985).

Findings

The examination of Keki N. Daruwalla's novels yields insights into the rich tapestry of literary patterns and thematic nuances that define his distinctive contribution to Indian literature. In his debut novel, "In Morning Dew" (1970), Daruwalla exhibits a poetic

sensibility that captures the historical and cultural landscapes with evocative prose. The narrative reflects a keen awareness of the socio-political milieu of the time, showcasing Daruwalla's early prowess in storytelling. "The Keeper of the Dead" (1982) stands out as a testament to his ability to blend historical narratives with mystical elements. Set against significant historical events, the novel explores the resilience of the human spirit, with Daruwalla's poetic background infusing the prose with vivid imagery and lyrical language. In "Crossing of Rivers" (1985), the author demonstrates narrative complexity by intertwining multiple perspectives and timelines. This novel invites readers to navigate the intricacies of memory and human relationships, revealing Daruwalla's nuanced understanding of the human experience.

Discussion

The comprehensive study of Keki N. Daruwalla's novels unveils a literary legacy marked by a unique blend of historical sensitivity, poetic language, and narrative complexity. Daruwalla's ability to capture the essence of time and place, evident in "In Morning Dew," showcases his early mastery of storytelling. "The Keeper of the Dead" not only explores historical events but also introduces mystical elements, highlighting Daruwalla's penchant for weaving diverse narrative threads. "Crossing of Rivers" adds a layer of intellectual depth to his storytelling, emphasizing the complexities of memory and human relationships.

The dual perspective of Daruwalla's career, both as a former Indian Police Service officer and a celebrated literary figure, enriches the thematic contours of his novels. The study acknowledges the interplay between his experiences in law enforcement and the narratives he crafts. This dual identity contributes to the multifaceted nature of Daruwalla's works, showcasing his ability to seamlessly transition between the worlds of public service and literature. The findings underscore Daruwalla's enduring impact on Indian literature, emphasizing the richness and universality of his storytelling. The suggested title, "Navigating Time and Terrain: Unveiling Literary Patterns in Keki N. Daruwalla's Novels," encapsulates the essence of this study, highlighting the author's ability to traverse historical landscapes with poetic grace and narrative intricacy.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the exploration of Keki N. Daruwalla's literary repertoire, particularly through the analysis of his novels "In Morning Dew," "The Keeper of the Dead," and "Crossing of Rivers," unveils a captivating tapestry of literary brilliance and thematic depth. Daruwalla emerges as a luminary figure in Indian literature, and his distinctive blend of historical sensitivity, poetic language, and narrative complexity sets him apart as a noteworthy contributor to the literary landscape. The study underscores the enduring impact of Daruwalla's storytelling, emphasizing not only the richness of his narratives but also their universal resonance.

The unique fusion of genres showcases Daruwalla's ability to transcend conventional storytelling boundaries, adding layers of complexity and depth to his narratives. By intertwining multiple perspectives and timelines, he invites readers to navigate the intricacies of memory and human relationships. This complexity not only adds sophistication to his storytelling but also demonstrates his nuanced understanding of the multifaceted nature of the human experience.

In essence, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of Keki N. Daruwalla's enduring impact on the literary landscape. His ability to seamlessly blend historical sensitivity, poetic expression, and narrative complexity reflects the richness and universality of his storytelling. Daruwalla's novels resonate beyond their temporal and cultural contexts, capturing the essence of the human condition in a way that transcends geographical boundaries. As a prominent figure in Indian literature, Daruwalla leaves an indelible mark, and this study serves as a testament to the lasting significance of his contributions to the world of Literature writings.

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