

EMOTIONAL THOUGHTS AND INTELLECTUAL SENSITIVITY: A THEMATIC STUDY ON SELECT SHORT STORIES OF RUSKIN BOND

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Abstract

The mental characteristics or attitude of a person or group is psychology which is quite interesting and thought provoking to study. The psychology of children and adolescent is more interesting in the present world. The nature and attitude of children is highly creative and most genius as mentioned by many philosophers. As Wordsworth said, "Child is the father of man", there are many interesting interludes and episodes are interwoven around the children and their psychology. The present paper titled: "Emotional Thoughts and Intellectual Sensitivity: A thematic Study on select short stories of Ruskin Bond is decent contribution to the child's psychology and it relates the stories of Ruskin bond with this important issue of the children. These stories highlight the various attitudes and feelings of the young children and their views to tackle the situations. At this juncture one can find that the children are highly imaginative, creative and the most natural in behaviour.

Keywords: Attitude, Behaviour, Children, Creative, Psychology.

Introduction

The gradual development of human psyche makes man social animal. The approaches towards socializing the things depend on the attitude and the temperament of an individual. In this process, the human relations maintained strongly depend on the psychic state of the individual and their relationship. Every human being naturally develops a kind of relationships according their taste and thoughts. All these features of human relationships make the things heterogeneous in nature. Ruskin Bond entwines various kind so frealtions and designs with the same human thread. His presentations through various short stories reflect the human relationships through various characters and situations. His short stories interpret the psychology of relationships. His stories are mainly character centred one and the theme of the stories moves speedly with the actions and characters. Most of his characters are making very high standard psychological study. There are four types of characters are found in his short stories as per the situations and themes of the stories are concerned. They are ;

- i. Psychoneurotic characters
- ii. Psychotic characters
- iii. Mental deficient characters
- iv. Antisocial personalities

Psychoneurotic characters suffer from a kind abnormal neuroses. These characters project a variety of mental and physical symptoms that persists for several weeks or months. They also feel a kind of mild personal disorder. When the personality is reflected as unharmed and the reality is not deformed. Characters such as Sunil in the Story, "Chachu's Funeral", Wang's wife in "the Most Potent Medicine of All", Inspector Hukum Singh and Sub Inspector Guer Singh in "Hanging at the Mango-Top" and William Jones of "He said it with Arsenic" are the best examples of such psychology.

Developmental psychology is the scientific study of how and why human beings change over the course of their life. Originally concerned with infants and children, the field has expanded to include adolescence, adult development, aging, and the entire lifespan. Developmental psychologists aim to explain how thinking, feeling and behavior change throughout life. This field examines change across three major dimensions: physical development, cognitive development, and socio emotional development. Within these three dimensions are a broad range of topics including motor skills, executive functions, moral understanding, language acquisition, social change, personality, emotional development, self-concept and identity formation.

. Importance of Study of Child's Psychology

1. To Know the Child Better.
2. To Know the skills of the child and develop them in positive way.

Solutions to Above Issues and Problems

1. The Children require healthy environment in family so parents should be happy and healthy themselves first.
2. Faith and better understanding between parents and child.
3. Reducing School Pressure.

Ruskin Bond has very nicely related the child's behavior and expectations in his short stories. If they are seriously read by the young children they will get better understanding of the problems and the parents will be benefited by these stories. The Stories are very interesting and are widely accepted and read. The stories like *The Angry River* and *The Blue Umbrella* brilliantly amalgamate the traditions of Indian and English Children's literature. Sita, the young heroine of *The Angry River* bravely fights the destructive forces of nature. Binya, the vivacious girl of "The Blue Umbrella" successfully overcomes the self-seeking attitude towards life. The readers are motivated in witnessing the indomitable spirit of both the heroines, Sita and Binya, as they fight the external and internal forces of life.

Binya, the child heroine of a moving story *The Blue Umbrella* from Gharwal hills, is hardly ten-year-old. She willingly lends her pleasing smile to anyone who is unhappy. She possesses the heart of a young lady. On a childish impulse, she quickly gets ready to exchange her charmed pendant made up of a leopard's claw for a dainty, blue silk umbrella.

The umbrella is owned by a wealthy woman who came for picnic in the hills. Binya's pendant created a stir in the heart of this lady. With a desire to possess the pendant she reluctantly gets ready to exchange her umbrella for it. Binya is very happy, on the seventh heaven, after receiving the blue umbrella. She gets enamoured by its beauty. Her passion sees no limit for her prize possession. She carries it wherever she goes and seldom closes it. It accompanies her everywhere protecting her from storms and snakes, as goes the description: "Whenever Binya went out – whether it was to graze the cows, or fetch water from the spring, or carry milk to the little tea shop on the Tehri road – she took the umbrella with her.

Bond's acumen could well be observed in his projection of life-like children. His child protagonists appeal enormously for their love, adventures and inquisitiveness to know the things around them. They pester the adults, at time their friends, with unending and mind boggling questions. They frequently tell lies which are invented truths of their imagination, tease each other, befriend again forgetting the scuffle of one minute before and show concern for peer interests. The child characters of Bond act and behave as the children do in any part of the world. In their appearance and attire, Bond's children could differ from the children of the world but not in their attitude and temperament. If Tom Sawyer of Mark Twain steals jam from a pot in the Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Ranji, Koki and Teju of Bond steal guavas in the story "When Guavas are Ripe." Tom befools Aunt Polly and so do these three children play tricks on Gopal, the watchman of the guava orchard. Aunt Polly punishes Tom by asking him to whitewash the fence. Tom shows excessive interest and indulgence in whitewashing with the intention to allure his friends to complete his work. His trick works. The gullible friends of Tom not only whitewashed the fence but also enriched Tom by gifts for allowing them whitewashing. Teju, Koki and Ranji flatter Gopal, an ex-wrestler and the keeper of an orchard. They praise his prowess and physique and listen to dull stores of his bravery with the sole interest of procuring guavas in return. The old and lonely Gopal was immensely impressed by children's flattery. He treated them with the grand feast of guavas from his orchard. Tom and Huck love adventures. They enjoy hunting and fishing and go for expedition to Jackson's Island. Laurie, Anil and Kamal of *The Hidden Pool* enjoy themselves the secrete pool on the mountain site. At the pool they fish, build dams, take midnight dips, wrestle and ride buffaloes. They go for trekking up to Pindari Glacier at 12,000 feet above sea level, where no one from their town has gone before. Rusty in *The Room on the Roof* runs away from his apathetic and strict guardian, Kishen in *Vagrants in the Valley* from his drunken father, Daljit and Rusty from school.

The credit of flourishing a separate corpus of literature for children goes in Bond's favor. He freed children's literature from the shackles of retold Indian mythology, legends and folklores, adaptation of western stories and also from the mode of didacticism. He nourishes it by setting on a new foot of realism. His writing is marked by an individual signature. His canvas radiates with vivacious children who by their individuality captivate us. He is one of the few authors who straddle the gulf between prescribed and popular texts

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