"A Critical Study of The Novels Of Amish Tripathi"

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The Present study would help the literature students to know the elements of literary appeal in Amish Tripathi's novels. It will further validate or refute what Amish Tripathi has professed about India in general and Lord Shiva in particular. The social significance of the study is far-reaching. Shiva is a figure of tremendous importance in India. The present study compares the Shiva of Mythology with Shiva created by Amish Tripathi in his fictional world. It would be a valuable addition to the existing body of studies in mythological literature. The analysis is carried out regarding popular myths of Shiva and Shiva created by Amish Tripathi. It also analyses these three novels regarding Amish Tripathi's compliance with the stories of Shiva in myth, culture and religion, as well as in terms of differences between Amish Tripathi's Shiva and Shiva in Indian culture.

This paper critically analyses Amish Tripathi s Shiva Trilogy in light of the fundamental concepts of archetypal literary criticism. The paper attempts to explore the idea of the archetypal Hero through the narrative of the Shiva Trilogy. Shiva, the Trilogy's protagonist, has been projected as a mythical counterpart of lord Shiva. He appeals to the people of his clan to stop drinking ' Somras' - the water of eternity. This appeal of the Hero could be more apparent. However, as the narrative moves on, the ambiguity gradually resolves. The relevance of the Shiva Trilogy's narrative to the world's present situation lies in its meticulous exposition of the concept of Good, Evil andGreed. The novelist has used the myth of ' Somras' to bring home the idea that the excessive greed among humans to exploit the ' Good' to its extreme leads to the birth of ' Evil'. Within the mythical frame of the narrative, the novelist delineates the contemporary situation of a crisis caused by an imbalance between good and evil.

INTRODUCTION

Fantasy fiction writers have always meticulously portrayed their narratives' protagonists, as the fantasies are mainly hero-centric. A hero becomes the source of inspiration and motivation for the human race. A hero represents universally admired qualities such as courage, wisdom, patriotism, kindness and self-abnegation. He epitomises the ethos and culture of his nation. He also reflects his culture and civilisation. The classical age preferred the Hero to be a male warrior or a soldier such as Achilles, who primarily aimed to achieve honour and greatness. Later, Spiritual qualities were added as in Spencer s medieval romance, The Faerie Queene. The age of chivalry focused more on protecting the weaker sections of society. The concept of the Hero kept evolving over the centuries leading gradually to the emergence of the ordinary person as a hero in the twentieth century. The

International Journal of Research in Economics & Social Sciences

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mythical records in different cultures are seen as the manifestation of values, beliefs and philosophies that fulfil the people's national interests. In this regard, the bible encompasses Christian values and philosophies.

Amish Tripathi is one of the most famous authors in this tradition who has tried to do more than what his predecessors and contemporaries tried. He has not only retold the myth but also tried to give it validation in the modern world of logic and reasoning.[1] His Shiva Trilogy establishes the gloriousIndian tradition of gods. He makes imaginative use of mythology to propel the plot and develop the theme of his texts. He tries to validate the mythological stories to make them concurrent with the contemporary world. He tries to build a logical argument for his incidents, characters and their actions. He tries to retell the fictional stories setting them into historical context, geographical areas and mythological characters using modern techniques, lucid style and elaborate descriptions. He intends to present Indian mythology credibly.

SHIVA IN MYTH, CULTURE AND RELIGION

Most of the religions of the world are governed by the faith in 'The Ultimate One', who is considered as the omnipresent, the omnipotent and the omniscient. The world's most prominent religions, namely Islam and Christianity, believe in God as the creator of this universe. God is the Supreme Being and, thus, the ruler of the whole universe. They believe in prophets as the messengers of God. Indian religious tradition, however, differs from that of Western tradition. Hindus believe in multiple gods, as ancient Greeks did. Attempts have also been made to find Indian equivalents for Greek and Roman deities. Deities in Hinduism, like Greek and Roman mythology, are personifications of natural objects, phenomena or heavenly bodies. Vedas are full of prayers and offerings to these deities.[6] Excessive ritualistic practices marked later Vedic religion. Shiva is mentioned as the Supreme God in many stories. Shiv Puran, Ling Puran, Markandeya Puran and Skand Puran are considered Puranas devoted to Lord Shiva. Garud Puran and Brahmand Puran are also Puranas dealing with the story of Lord Shiva. The stories of Shiva and Vishnu are generally positing the supremacy of one over the other.[16] Another version of the mythology posits Shakti as the supreme deity and Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesha as the secondary gods originating from her. Indian mythology thus leaves us in slight confusion if seen through the specks of sects. Its implied significance, as narrated by Indian spiritual scholars, is much like modern Western philosophy that believes in the plurality of truth.[7] There is another sect called 'Shakti'. 'Shakt' are the people who believe not in the supremacy of any of these three gods but in the goddess Shakti. Shakti is identified with 'Prakriti', who, along with 'Purusha', shouldered the responsibility of creating the universe.[8] Shakti is commonly identified with goddess Parvati, Shiva's Consort. Sometimes, she is regarded as Vaishnavi, the consort of Vishnu though more popularly and commonly identified with Sati or Parvati as she often worshipped Shiva.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

[1] SYMBOLISM IN AMISH TRIPATHI'S SHIVA TRILOGY: A STUDY, G. Aiswarya, Dr R Madhan,2019

This article analyses the use of Myths in Shiva Trilogvby Amish Thipathi to bring out the symbols employed by the writer in the works and their meanings. In general, writers use symbols to express their ideas and notions effectively. Further, using symbols will add colour, variety and ornamentation to the works. From society to society, symbols and the meanings they allude to are different. It applies to religions also. In a particular religion, certain symbols allude to certain things. However, in other religions, they are not used for the same purpose. Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. Amish Thpathi bases his Shiva Trilogy on Lord Shiva, and to delineate His spiritual greatness, Amish has employed many associated symbols with Lord Shiva.

[2] Representation of Myths: A Reading of Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy,2021
Indians have always given importance to our culture and tradition. It is the same in the case of myths and folklore. These are the essence of our Indianness. We always try to promote such works, even in this 21st century. These works get much importance now. However, this is the truth. Consider the encouragement contemporary writer Amish Tripathi gained, the sole reason for

developing a trilogy written a few years ago. Myths and ideas represented through these novels must have significantly influenced Indian society. This paper is a rough reading through the Shiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi and the representations of myths in it.

[3] A Critical Study of Archetypal Hero in Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy, Dr Subhash Chander, Surinder Singh Kotwal,2018

This paper critically analyses Amish Tripathi s Shiva Trilogy in light of the fundamental concepts of archetypal literary criticism. The paper attempts to explore the idea of the archetypal Hero through the narrative of the Shiva Trilogy. Shiva, the Trilogy's protagonist, has been projected as a mythical counterpart of lord Shiva. He appeals to the people of his clan to stop drinking ' Somras' - the water of eternity. This appeal of the Hero sounds ambiguous. However, as the narrative moves on, the ambiguity begins to resolve gradually on its own. The relevance of the Shiva Trilogy's narrative to the world's present situation lies in its meticulous exposition of the concept of Good, Evil and Greed. The novelist has used the myth of ' Somras' to bring home the idea that the excessive greed among humans to exploit the ' Good' to its extreme leads to the birth of ' Evil'. Within the mythical frame of the narrative, the novelist delineates the contemporary situation of the crisis caused by an imbalance between good and evil.

[4] HUMAN AND MYTHS, Dr Rituraj, 2019

Amish Tripathi is an illustrious Indian English novelist who describes legendary stories with coherent clarifications to the new generation of readers. His books, The Immortals of Meluha, "The Secret of Nagas" and "The Oath of Vayuputras" are the three books that make the Shiva Trilogy arrangement. It centres around looking at how the characters and episodes in Indian Mythology and antiquated writings rework the legendary past and how particular writers use fantasy innovatively to deal with current situations. In Indian legendary English story writing, the utilisation of Hindu folklore resembles scholarly convention. Indian legends have an all-inclusive history settling all sorts of social, political, and other worldly worries. Indian legends help in a more profound comprehension of humankind, just as they teach and lecture about the ideal method of human existence.

[5] Amish Tripathi's The Shiva Trilogy: Significance of Mythopoeia, Indra Pal Singh, 2022

Amish Tripathi's debut novel, The Immortals of Meluha (Shiva Trilogy I), can be interpreted from multiple theoretical perspectives. Amish Tripathi is a new Indian English writer who has displayed unsurpassed brilliance in recreating Hindu mythology. His Shiva is a Tibetan immigrant who migrates to Meluha to lead the Suryavanshi vengeance and destroy evil. Shiva's clan constitutes a different diasporic community. Shiva cannot be defined as a community leader from a traditional diasporic perspective. The conventional diasporic consciousness of displacement, dislocation, alienation, nostalgia, desire for the Homeland and identity crisis is not shared by Shiva's diasporic community. His tribe is satisfied with the Meluhan scheme of things; Meluhan's magnificence has mesmerised their mind. Amish has humanised legendary figures and mythological characters. His Sati is a Vikrama woman who is supposed to be the carrier of terrible fate; despite being a subaltern, she manifests rare martial arts skills. The women in the fiction do not demand political equality, economic rights and social identity; they are embodiments of excellence and perfection.

Lady Ayurvati is an experienced, professional doctor who is adept in the prescription of medicine and the conduct of surgery. Kanakhala is the prime minister of emperor Daksha; she looks after the administrative, revenue and protocol matters. The text can also be conceived from an ecocritical perspective.

[6] Indian Feminism: An Analysis of Amish Tripathi's Sita: Warrior of Mithila, Anjali Tripathy, 2022

The essay proposes to study Amish Tripathi's Sita: Warrior of Mithila (2017) as a representative voice of Indian Feminism. More specifically, it will dwell on the author's holistic and nondualistic approach to Feminism. I contend that purush-prakriti harmony rooted in ancient Indian philosophy is one of the fundamental concepts/ theories distinguishing Indian Feminism from Western theories of Feminism.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the themes and motifs in Tripathi's novels: The study will analyse the recurring themes and motifs in Tripathi's novels, such as duty, sacrifice, friendship, and love. It will also explore how these themes relate to Indian mythology and history.

- To analyse the characters in Tripathi's novels: The study will examine the complex and well-developed characters in Tripathi's novels, analysing their motives, actions, and relationships. It will also explore how these characters relate to Indian mythology and history.

- To examine the writing style in Tripathi's novels: The study will analyse Tripathi's unique writing style, examining his use of language, imagery, and narrative techniques. It will also explore how these elements contribute to the overall impact of his novels.

- To explore the cultural and mythological influences in Tripathi's novels: The study will examine how Tripathi draws inspiration from Indian mythology, history, and culture to create his unique world of fiction. It will also explore how his novels relate to contemporary Indian literature.

- To assess the impact of Tripathi's novels on Indian literature: The study will analyse the impact of Tripathi's novels on contemporary Indian literature, examining how they have influenced other writers and opened up new avenues for publishing in India.

- To provide recommendations for future research on Tripathi's works: The study will provide recommendations for future research on Tripathi's novels, identifying areas for further exploration and analysis.

- Overall, the critical study of the novels of Amish Tripathi aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of his unique storytelling style, exploring the themes, characters, writing style, cultural and

mythological influences, and impact of his novels on contemporary Indian literature. The study will contribute to a deeper understanding of Tripathi's works and provide a foundation for further research on his novels.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The critical study of the novels of Amish Tripathi is significant for several reasons. Firstly, Tripathi is one of the most popular and successful authors in contemporary Indian literature, with his books selling millions of copies and being translated into numerous languages. His novels have captured the imagination of readers across India and beyond, sparking a renewed interest in Indian mythology and history. Therefore, critically studying his works is essential to understand his impact on Indian literature and culture.

Secondly, Tripathi's novels represent a unique fusion of Indian mythology and history with modern storytelling techniques. His works are characterised by complex characters, intricate plots, and a richly imagined world that draws on India's rich cultural heritage. Therefore, a critical study of his novels is significant as it provides an opportunity to examine how Indian mythology and history are being reimagined and represented in contemporary literature.Thirdly, Tripathi's novels have been credited with breaking new ground in Indian publishing. His success has inspired many other Indian writers to explore similar themes and subject matter, opening up new publishing opportunities in India. Therefore, a critical study of his novels is significant as it provides insights into the changing landscape of Indian literature and publishing.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Literature Review:
The first step of the study will be to conduct a comprehensive literature review of existing research on Tripathi's novels. This will involve identifying and reviewing academic articles, books, and other scholarly publications. The literature review will critically analyse Tripathi's works and cover various perspectives and interpretations. The review will be guided by the research questions and objectives of the study and will be used to inform the subsequent analysis.

2. Close Reading and Textual Analysis:
The second step of the study will be a close reading and textual analysis of Tripathi's novels. This will analyse the novels' themes, characters, writing style, cultural and mythological influences, and other literary devices. The analysis will be guided by the research questions and objectives of the study and will be supported by references to relevant literature on Indian mythology and literature. The analysis will be conducted using manual and digital tools, such as note-taking, coding, and text mining.

3. Interviews and Surveys:

The third step of the study will involve conducting interviews and surveys with readers, critics, and other stakeholders in the Indian literary community. The interviews and surveys will aim to gather insights into the perceptions and experiences of readers of Tripathi's novels and the views of literary critics and other experts. The data gathered from these sources will be analysed qualitatively using thematic analysis techniques. The interviews and surveys will be conducted in person and online and guided by the study's research questions and objectives.

4. Content Analysis:

The fourth step of the study will be a content analysis of Tripathi's novels. This will analyse the novels' representation of Indian culture, mythology, and history and their portrayal of gender, caste, and other social issues. The analysis will be guided by the research questions and objectives of the study and will be supported by references to relevant literature on Indian culture and society. The content analysis will be conducted through manual and digital tools, such as coding and text mining.

5. Ethical Considerations:

The study will adhere to ethical research principles, including obtaining informed consent from participants, ensuring confidentiality, and ensuring the research does not harm or exploit participants. The study will also consider cultural and social factors that may impact the interpretation and analysis of Tripathi's novels and will seek to incorporate diverse perspectives and voices.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the methodology employed for the critical study of the novels of Amish Tripathi will involve a multi-dimensional approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The study will use various tools, including literature review, close reading and textual analysis, interviews and surveys, and content analysis, to analyse the novels and their impact on Indian literature. The study will be guided by the research questions and objectives and will seek to provide a comprehensive understanding of Tripathi's novels and their place in Indian literature.

Shiva Trilogy is not merely the reworking of the myth/s of Lord Shiva. It is, in fact, a reworking of the Hindu system of beliefs and ideas: its history, geography, philosophy, culture and literature. Amish Tripathi attempts to provide validation for the stories of Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva, who had been the mythical hero, almighty manifestation and Philosophical metaphor for Hindus, becomes a historical figure in Amish Tripathi's fictional forte. For Amish Tripathi, great men are not born but chosen by the system for its general good. To create a compelling narrative, he creates his glorious traditions of ancient India, which are no less than the ideal world. The Shiva Trilogy tells the story of Shiva, a man who, over time, becomes a legend and is eventually associated with the

"Paramatma." Amish Tripathi, of course, does so with the help of his imaginative powers and understanding of ancient history and geography. His technique of blending his characters with historical events and using places, rivers and mountains make it a different world, away from the world of mythical stories.

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