



The portrayal of Hero in Bucchibabu's *Chivaraku Migiledi* and Albert Camus' *The Outsider*: A Comparative Study

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Comparative Literature focuses on the study of literature from different cultures and nations. It gives scope to understand the literary world in a different perspective. Comparative Literature focuses on the comparison of genres and forms themes, social or political movements. It is a complex discipline because it incorporates the two or more literatures at a time. It is a study of inter-relationship between two different works across the time and space. According to Bijay Kumar Dass, Comparative literature analyses the similarities and dissimilarities and parallels between two literatures. It further studies themes, modes, conventions and use of folk tales, myths in two different literatures or even more.

The present paper is an attempt to compare two different regional novels. They are Albert Camus' *The Outsider* and Bucchibabu's *Chivaraku Migiledi* (What is left at the End). The first one is a French novel and the later one is a Telugu novel. The two novels created sensation during II World War time. The novels were written in regional languages and translated into English also. The two novels were based on the existentialism.

Albert Camus was a French-Algerian novelist, playwright, essayist and Nobel Laureate and he was a revolutionary thinker of the 20th Century. His notable works are "The Outsider" (1942), "The Myth of Sisyphus" (1942) and the "The Plague" (1947). Albert Camus tries to explore the absurd conditions of human beings in the world through his characters.

Buchibabu was one of the famous writers of Telugu Literature. He was a novelist, essayist and also worked in the All India Radio for a period of twenty two years. He was famous for his analytical style and expression in writing. He was the first Telugu regional writer to introduce psychoanalytical technique in novel.

Albert Camus' *The Outsider* and Bucchibabu's *Chivaraku Migiledi* are narrated in the first person. Meursault in *The Outsider* and Dayanidhi in *Chivarakumigiledi* are alike in major aspects. *The Outsider* begins with a tragedy. Meursault is the protagonist of the novel. He receives a telegram, "Mother passed away. Funeral tomorrow. Yours sincerely." (9) Meursault's set out to attend the funeral of his mother at Marengo. He sleeps for almost the entire trip. He arrives and speaks with the director of the home. The director shows Meursault his mother's body. He notices that her body has already been sealed in the coffin. He immediately refuses the directors to open the coffin. That day night he stays with dead body



with the care taker. Meursault smokes a cigarette, drinks coffee and dozes. The next day morning funeral procession was held in the small local village, it was too hot to reach the place, “the sun was already high in the sky. It was beginning to weigh down heavily on the earth and it was rapidly getting hotter....it was hot under my dark clothes.”(20) It clearly shows his lack of emotions and inhuman behavior at funeral service. The same day night Meursault happily returns to Algiers and sleeps for a whole twelve hours. The next day he goes to the beach for swim. There he meets Marie Cardona, a typist who formerly worked in his office. Meursault enjoys her company and decides to see a comedy movie at the theater, “I asked her if she wanted to come to the cinema that evening.”(24) After the movie Marie stays with Meursault in his flat. When he wakes up Marie has gone. He stays in bed upto noon and then sits on his balcony until evening, watching people on the street, “I realized that I’d managed to get through another Sunday, that mother was now buried, that I was going to go back to work and that, after all nothing had changed.”(28)

In the later one *Chivarakumigiledi* Dayanidhi is the primary character of the novel. He is introduced to the reader as a Medical Student and goes to his house for vacation. The novel begins with his family destruction. Dayanidhi’s elder brother has a conflict with their father and his brother decided to abandon the family permanently. At that time Dayanidhi was at river bed and informed by their faithful servant Narayya. Narayya requests Dayanidhi to go his house. Though it was a very serious issue in the family, Dayanidhi thinks about Kamakshi’s daughter Komali. Komali is the object of his infatuation. He involuntarily walks towards

Komali’s house. Komali is surprised to see Dayanidhi. He notices her disheveled beauty. He asks her whether she likes him or not. Komali is a low standard woman. She wants to get maximum benefit from others. Dayanidhi is surprised by the behavior of Komali and her double standards. He leaves the Komali’s house with pain. Daynidhi’s attention shifts towards his brother, who left the house permanently. According to Daynidhi’s father, his mother’s immoral behavior is the root cause of the entire problem in the family. He feels that his family has been broken long ago. Once again his thoughts centered on Komali, the object of his infatuation. His thoughts came to an end when he receives the news of his mother’s serious ill health. He rushes to his house and realizes that his mother was no more.

The two novels *The Outsider* and *ChivarakuMigiledi*, start with tragedies. Both the protagonists of the novels have lost their mothers. Merusault lost his mother in the very beginning of the novel and Dyanidhi at the end of the first chapter. When we look at the protagonists as individuals, they are alienated from their respective societies. The both novels were written between 1940 and 1950’s. At that time they lived in a conservative society. There was no chance for individual freedom. An individual has no liberty to behave as he wishes. Both Meursault and Dayanidhi, show their disinterested attitude. It was a crime and they were brutally penalized by their respective societies. They didn’t show off their inner emotions openly. Merusault and Dayanidhi were very practical persons; they know well they can’t change things. They accept situations as they come to them and never try to bring a change in it.



The incidents, where the protagonist reluctant to change their life in the novels for example; Merusault is a very hard worker. But, he never tires to change his life style. He doesn't want to maintain any relationship with anyone. He accepts that life as it comes to him.

Meursault's boss asks him if he would like to manage a new office. His boss is going to set up a new branch in Paris and travel around for a part of the year. Merusault replies, "...yes but really I didn't mind." (44) But his boss is not impressed with his reply. The same day evening Marie asks Meursault, whether he like to marry her. He said that, "I didn't mind and we could do if she wanted to." (44) Then Marie wanted to know if I loved her. He gives the same indifferent reply that he gave to his boss, "I replied as I had done once already, that it didn't mean anything but that I probably didn't." (44) She retorts that marriage is a serious matter.

In case of Dayanidhi, his father proposes to him the match of a police officer's daughter. He refuses at the first, but finally agrees and marriage is celebrated with Indira. In the process he receives message that, Komali is eloped with a rich man to a far off place. The news disturbs Dayanidhi at a greater extent and it is clearly evident with his actions at the marriage ceremony. Immediately, the rumor starts about the past of his mother and his relationships with other women. He goes back to his studies, leaving Indira with her parents. Indira's parents try to set up a marital life for Dayanidhi with Indira. But he is not ready to involve in any relationships. He deliberately joins the freedom struggle movement. He is lathi charged along with some others and admitted in to a hospital. Thanks to his father-in-law who is a highly influenced Police Officer, he luckily escapes imprisonment. Indira, his bride remained with her parents. Dayanidhi begins his career as a doctor at Eluru. After some time people want to know about him, enquiries have been started regarding his marriage. Though he is married, why is he alone? Dayanidhi doesn't want to discuss his personal. It gives a wild scope to start gossips about him and his spouse. But he prefers to turn a deaf ear to all those.

Both the protagonists of the novels aren't very serious about relationships in life. Though the main characters lived in different parts of the world, the society never encourages individual living. According to Chaman Nahal in an interview says that... to live personally in a society that is so inhibitive because it discourages individual living. One is constantly being asked to sacrifice one's pleasure for the sake of the society, for the sake of the clan, for the sake of the family. Thus an individual is torn between duty to self and duty to society.

Meursault and Dayanidhi are content with their lives. But they face negatives in their respective societies regarding their indifferent behavior. In case of Meursault maintains friendship with Raymond Sintes. Raymond is widely rumored to be a pimp. Raymond invites Meursault for dinner and recounts his conflict with his wife. He informs Meursault that he has been following by some Arabs. One of them is the brother of his former mistress. He requests Meursault to inform if he notices Arabs in the nearby of his house. Meursault readily agrees. On Sunday Meursault, Marie and Raymond go to a beach house. They swim happily in the ocean and have lunch. While they are walking at beach, they have a fight with two



Arabs; one of them is the brother of Raymond's mistress. In the process of it Raymond is stabbed. After treatment, once again Raymond and Meursault return to beach. They find Arabs at shore. Raymond takes his gun to shoot them but Meursault stops him and picks the gun away. Later Meursault returns to the shore and for no reason he shoots Raymond's mistress's brother. He is arrested and sends to jail.

Meursault becomes a great puzzle for his lawyer and Magistrate. Both of them seem disgusted at his lack of remorse over his crime and his lack of grief at his mother's funeral. Meursault slowly adapts the prison life. His isolation from nature, women and cigarettes torments him at the beginning but he slowly adjusts to live without them. Meursault is taken to courthouse for his trial. The courthouse is filled with spectators and members of the press. The discussion of the trial quickly shifts away from the murder to a general discussion of his character, especially his reactions to his mother's death in particular. The prosecutor calls Meursault a monster and says that his lack of moral feeling threatens the society. Like the magistrate, the chaplain cannot believe that Meursault does not have faith in God and after life.

He declares at the end that he is correct in believing for meaningless and purely material world.

For the first time, Meursault welcomes an idea that human existence holds no greater meaning. He gives up all hope for future and accepts the gentle indifference of the world. This acceptance makes Meursault feel happy.

Dayanidhi is attracted towards Rayalaseema and he has a desire to serve the sufferers at the humanitarian grounds. At that time Rayalaseema was infected by plague. He renders his noble services at Kurnool in Rayalaseema for two weeks. There he encounters Ananthachary. Ananthachary is an elderly man and the head of the Nayampalli village near Vajarakaruru in

Anantapur District. He notices that Daynidhi's commitment and requests for staying in his village. Daynidhi readily accepts his offer and follows Ananthachary. The elderly man arranges a temporary stay to Daynidhi. Dayanidhi gains good name within a short period. His peace of mind is disturbed by his friend Rajabhushanam and they argue with each other regarding to Daynidhi's relationships with women. In a fit of anger he goes out of his room and walks a long way. On his way to back home he finds a shining stone which later turns into a diamond. All of a sudden of his life has transformed and he became the owner of diamond mines. Later Komali, his young age infatuation joins in his life. Her stay with Dayanidhi gives scope for some discussions. In course of time he receives regarding to his wife Indira that she is seriously ill and she may not live long. Daynidhi goes to his in-laws house to pay visit Indira. He returns to Rayalaseema shortly after performing the funeral rites of Indira. Dayanidhi is greeted with the bad news of the strike by the workers. They lodge a case against him and report to the District Magistrate that a man from Circar Districts by name Dayanidhi, he tries to exploit the natural resources of Rayalaseema. The workers damaged all excavated and dug mines as a part of diamond investigation which are covered with sand and mud. The petitioners oppose that people from other districts should never be allowed to start industries in Rayalaseema. Ananthachary and his family have to face the wrath of



the people. Ananthacary's house is burnt by some rebels at night and with great difficulty they escape the calamity. Komali who went to save the family was hurt in the process. As a result of these incidents he lost the sense of direction and he does not know his destination.

At the end of the novel, Dayanidhi realizes that he can change neither people nor society. Every incident of his life helps Dayanidhi to improve his personality. Now he knows clearly that life is riddled with questions which have no answers. He has left himself to his destiny.

Meursault and Dayanidhi are the champions of existentialism and alienation. The heroes of both the novels become victims of the society. Meursault admits his guilt that he committed a crime. In case of Dayanidhi, people raised doubts on his past and his personal relationships instead of showing gratitude for the services where he rendered to them. Both of them are existential heroes who don't live with regret but live only thinking of the present and immediate future. They never follow the typical conventions of their conservative society. They never lied they are very honest to themselves and to their society. They spare their life in alternate approach which is great crime in view of the society. They stand as standard icons of absurd heroes. Though the two novels narrated in different parts of the world, the novelist portrayed their heroes alike.

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