

Indianness in Vijay Tendulkar's Kanyadan

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Abstract

As there is a trio formed and said for Indian English novelist same is a trio for Indian English dramatist by Girish Karnard, Badal Sircar and Vijay Tendulkar. But with these three the situation is different they write plays in their mother tongue mostly and are translated into English; therefore I would label them as Indian English dramatist. As for Girish Karnard he now writes most of his plays in English, whereas even Badal Sircar he too writes his plays in English very few but for Vijay Tendulkar his plays are all translated, he writes mostly in his mother tongue Marathi. This play **Kanayadan** has its name itself an Indian ideology, speaking about giving away a girl in the form of a present at the time of marriage. But here it is just not about the present it also speaks a lot about the present scenario caste conflict. In reality the present scenario speaks about the suppression of the upper class by the lower class and how it takes place with a lower class society. Here the situation is different an upper class girl believe in Gandhian philosophy of society and class, and after marriage the torture she undergoes but doesn't budge a little. Undergoes the torment and doesn't run away from the society. This is what is called reality, Vijay Tendulkar tries to show the predicament of Indian society, and if one has taken it by choice then the Indian girls will suffer but not run away from the situation remain firm and fight unto the last.

Key words: Indianness, sufferings, suppression and society.

Introduction

Indianness if we say that means something we would like to show that is very much related with India, here I am to speak about drama which is very much Indian. About the Indian society as well as speaking about the Indian culture, the tradition prevailing with the culture and the name or the title suggest to give away something as of we say dan means to donate. Here Kanya means the girl in national languages and dan to donate a girl. According to Hindu culture the Hindu's donate their daughters in marriage, it is they give the girl's hand to the boy and along with the girl they gift in the form of cash or kind in the hands of the boy. With this the girl after performing rituals reciting mantras and going around the fire the girl is now boy's property for along with the girl the parents also give cash or kind and with this the girl will lose all rights from the parents side that is called **Kanyadan**. Besides this it is also said once the girl gets married she will not return to her family until death, she is all for the boy and her family.

Here I am to discuss a very famous Indian playwright and his Indianness, as we have the great Indian novelist who have created a name in history for writing novels and that too

Indian English novelist. Same way we have three great dramatist , no doubt they didn't write in English at first but wrote in their mother tongue but later on they too turned to be Indian English Dramatist. They are Girish Karnad, Badal Sircar and Vijay Tendulkar. They have written dramas which have really made a name and fame as well as taught realistic lessons to the society. Here is one such play by Vijay Tendulkar which I am to discuss that is very relevant to present day society, no doubt his plays have always remained controversial and he too is considered as a very controversial playwright.

Basically Vijay Tendulkar is a journalist by profession and always remained at the forefront runner among the avante-grade playwrights. He is considered as a controversial dramatist as almost all his plays deal with some or the other controversial topics related to politics, sex, violence, women, etc. The anxieties, tensions, suffocations and agonies of the urban white collar and middle class people. They also point out the conflict and confrontations between individual and society. His protagonist both man and woman have to bear the worst of social maladies. Their undeserved humiliation made them rebel against the conventional and traditional norms and values, so the cruelty, savagery and inhuman treatment of some characters may be called a perverted humanity and their sadistic feelings may be associated with a kind of revenge sought against society for soothing the burning wounds.

Kanyadan is a two act play in Marathi and then translated into English. Here Tendulkar has very well portrayed about casteism, how we Indians always talk a lot about bringing up the lower classes and doing a lot of work for their upliftment. But when it comes to actual practice we move back. This play Kanyadan is a story about a young girl named Jyoti whose parents Mr. Nath and Seva are very much Indian and belong to higher class society and are working as socialist, who have a daughter named Jyoti and son named Jayaprakash. They are socialist and political active people. Their daughter Jyoti turns to marriageable age and she falls in love with a boy from a socially inferior but talented boy. Here Tendulkar has explored the texture of modernity and social change in India through the forces and this marriage unleashes. It can be stated a pure form of Indian play, the setting it depicts the tense gripping and charged undercurrent of violence, uncertainties and anger- concerned itself with questions that are critical to all societies grappling with change and social barriers. Kanyadan which itself is an Indian word which means a gift of woman. Here as the story is about Jyoti who wants to get married to a boy who belongs to the lower caste the untouchables and she being a Brahmin girl, but she has given her word she doesn't move back. In spite of her mother explaining to her the hardships and difficulties which she would come across, she says my words are words I cannot turn my back as it is her being a Gandhian man who believes there isn't anything like high caste and low caste. Her mother warns her father also but both father and daughter are so adamant to their words.

At last she is married to the down caste boy and Jyoti is given away as a daan a gift to the boy, and she goes to his house as the tradition in Indian culture after marriage a girl leaves parents house and goes to the boys house. Here the boy is shown to be really typical and the worst part belonging to lower class. He abuses her, beats her, even makes her serve wine to his guest as he is head strong dominant character. The girl Jyoti also bears the pain and doesn't return to her parents place this is what is typical Indian characteristics about the culture. The boy Arun is also shown to be very typical he drinks a lot and beats her and doesn't do any work though being a freelance writer. He wants to survive by selling liquor, he even tells this to Jyoti's father he would not mind selling liquor and run his house. This is

not enough he even tells him that he would not mind asking his wife and children serve liquor and run errands and sell liquor. This type of work doesn't bring him shame at all.

On the other hand we have Jyoti who is shown to bear the suffering as for the girl once given away as Kanyadan will not return to her parents how much ever she pain and suffering she has to undergo. Tendulkar has once again tried to show the strength of womanhood in Indianness. Once it happened that Jyoti was pregnant and her husband came home all drunk and he beats her, but she bears the pain and doesn't go back to her parents. This shows the strength of Indian Goddess deity, even while her mother comes to take her as soon as she comes to know about the situation. Again it happens so that Arun nags Jyoti's parents but she strictly warns him not to nag at them. This is the Indian women strength Tendulkar has shown in his play.

Such are the incidents that Tendulkar portrays once Jyoti's father has to speak on an occasion about his son-in-law's book an autobiography where he has written about the dalits their life injustice meted to them, Jyot's father does preside over the function but never ever say anything bad about his daughter's husband on the contrary he has praised him only. This situation was unbearable for Jyoti as she knew how he had always favoured her. Later after the function she goes to her father's house and fights with him for not speaking the truth and returns home late in the night.

This is the plight of a girl after getting married even though she is going under torment or pain but she bears it, and never ever returns to her parents place. However much the sufferings and troubles come to her but she bear the pain single handed. She even doesn't tolerate anything wrong said about her husband, though he isn't a very good man. This is the peculiar Indian women quality, facing the torment and still no word of complain is heard from her tongue.

Conclusion:

To conclude Tendulkar's play is typical Indian, the setting as well as the actors all very Indian. The language as well as the structure of the play is well knit. The events that follow one after the other, as to how the girl comes to a marriageable age and is given away in marriage to a person of her liking irrespective of class, caste and creed doesn't bother much. The sufferings and the torment she undergoes is the real part of the downtrodden society, who will not change even if they get educated. Though they stand at the fore front of the stage with all amenities provided to them, they want to be where they are as we see how proudly Jyoti's husband saying she and his kids will sell liquor and he will fill their stomachs with that money. Thus Vijay Tendulkar is in reality an Indian in creating such characters and portraying story of the lower caste. Thus there is a talk about casteism, women exploitation or suppression through two characters, Seva mother of Jyoti and Jyoti herself, who are ready to bear all hardships and still face the world with a laughing face..

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