

## Selected Novels of Mulk Raj Anand Based on Themes, Social Realism and Societal Values

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### Abstract

Mulk Raj Anand is extremely outstanding as an Indian novelist, reformer, recognized essayist, craftsmanship commentator, editorial manager, a short story author, columnist, and political lobbyist. He opened another area of scholars of fiction alongside Raja Rao and R. K. Narayan by creating a lot of English literature and his dominance in the reasonable and thoughtful depiction of the misused and lower class of Indian society denotes his virtuoso as a socially dedicated novelist. Painted with the colors of social realism Mulk Raj Anand's some selected novels *Untouchable*, *Coolie*, *Two Leaves and a Bud*, *The Old Woman and the Cow*, and *The Road* mirror the in-your-face reality of the Indian society of early many years of twentieth century. Composed with a reason these novels censure the cutting edge free enterprise Indian society and medieval framework for the bold and lamentable exploitation of poor and below class people and underdog as there is only a genuine and unpleasant impression of the society in the novels managing a comparable focal topic of social exploitation. The exploitation of the discouraged and the under-special on account of the scourge of untouchability, child work, poverty, social governance, hunger, social set up of society, , religious conviction, traditions, preferences and the suffering of the Indian masses by the powers of private enterprise, expansionism and industrialism. The present examination demonstrates the real nature of social realism in *Untouchable*, *Coolie*, *Two Leaves and a Bud*, *The Old Woman and the Cow*, and *The Road*. The epic like novels of Mulk Raj Anand strikes a string in the hearts of the conscientious Indians through an excellent and genuine to life depiction of the abused masses of the Indian society.

**Keywords:** Untouchable, Indian Society, Child Work, Social Governance, Social, Society, Traditions, Religious Conviction

Today Indian literature came to at the summit of creation with the commitment of territorial and national journalists. Mulk Raj Anand (1905-2004) was first to his name among current Indian creators who have picked the English dialect as their medium of articulation. Mulk Raj Anand was one of the most seasoned specialists in the field; he has sixteen novels, a novelette and nine

accumulations of short stories surprisingly which rank him the most productive essayist of Indian English composition. Novelist, short story essayist, craftsmanship commentator, workmanship student of history, writer of children's literature, educator, Mulk Raj Anand's commitment to culture and literature is gigantic. As books it is around 100 volumes of exceedingly imaginative, and also significantly academic, works, all in English. Mulk Raj was a way breaker. He, in organization with Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan, initiated the time of what is marked the Indian English - or the Indo-Anglian - Novel.

The term humanism is something questionable and exhaustive to signify. It is teaching that stresses particularly human intrigue and goals. Humanism is a lifestyle which depends on human limits and regular and social sources. It is a demeanor which requires the acknowledgment of duty regarding human life in this world, accentuating regular regard and perceiving human autonomy. The humanist holds quick and fundamental and certified values of life. Different humanists maintain or decipher it with various ways. Generally, humanism was a renaissance principle which stretch the fundamental worth, respect and capability of men. The renaissance humanism raise human respect by learning and human salvation dragged legendary component out of spotlight.

Anand is a serious and a moral writer because he sees the salvation of mankind as dependent on the humane, compassionate, loving, and lasting fulfillment of this single purpose and his viewpoint or ethical base, is cosmopolitan. Anand is not stuck up in his socio-political materials as he is a great humanist. His insistence on the dignity of man irrespective of caste, creed and wealth, his plea for the practice of compassion as a living value, his conception of the whole man, the profound importance he attaches to art and poetry as instruments for developing whole men, his crusade against superstition, feudalism and imperialism are some of the chief characteristics of his humanism. As a true humanist he rejects fate, religion, past and the future, and he believes in the supremacy of man. Anand's heroes always fight against the society for their rights and equity. This work intends to analyze the theme of exploitation and social realism of the underprivileged in the novels of Mulk Raj Anand , for the purpose of the present study, We have limited the study to five novels of Mulk Raj Anand, namely *Untouchable* , *Coolie* , *Two Leaves and a Bud*, *The Old Woman and the Cow* and *The Road* .

Power and solidarity are the factors in the novels of Mulk Raj Anand and the people who are in power make use of derogatory expression and on the other hand the powerless people make use of honorifics to address their masters. *Coolie* is a devastating account of the poverty and exploitation faced Anand shows how the racial and class hierarchies imposed by British colonialism have intersected, or overlaid, the existing caste system to make life impossible for 'coolies' and the coolies as a class belong nowhere as Anand points out even the lower caste rejects and casts away the coolies and it illustrates Anand's conviction that the British Empire not only has exploited India's natural resources, it also degraded and debased the character of the Indians who were serving it. It created a group of native flatterers who looked up to the English sahibs, cowering before them and becoming easy prey for exploitation in the hands of their masters.

*Untouchable* is not only Mulk Raj Anand's first novel but it is his most popular, and most compact and well knit novel. It is a slim but powerful novel which is about the life of underdog and downtrodden. The novel deals with caste and class oppression an age old ideology of untouchability, which has deep roots the Hindu hierarchy. It centers on an outcaste, a sweeper and he is a victim of the societal discrimination caused by the caste hierarchy. The marginalized finds central place of the protagonist in Anand's novels.

Mulk Raj Anand considered literature and art as the instruments of humanism. His purpose of spreading humanism is fulfilled in his novels like *Two Leaves and A Bud* and he has presented social evils in myriad manifestations and has unveiled many different layers of human experience in this novel. The story contrasts the silent tragedy in the lives of the poor coolies with tawdry self-complacency of the British tea plantation owners, as well as the greedy grasping of the Indian merchants and money lenders.

*The Road* is a symbol of progress, a symbol of sympathetic gesture of the low caste downtrodden towards the high caste Hindus, a symbol of friendship offered by the exploited to the exploiters and the completion of the road symbolizes the advent of modernization but the humiliation of the character displays rigidity of the orthodox caste system and it is a symbolic protest against the concept of Karma and Fatalism and it represents a period of transition where the old order of the Hindu beliefs in untouchability will change yielding place to a new vision of human unity and cooperation and it looks to the time gap needed for the change in human mind for the vision of the coming together of the Dalits and the caste Hindus.

*The Old Woman and the Cow*, is Anand's only novel with a woman protagonist and the theme includes bitterness; violence and exploitation which make our blood boil about the injustices done to the poor women and his writing is full of disgust and hate. *The Old Woman and the Cow* is the only one of Anand's novels to have a woman as its central character; it is also his only novel to present women's problems and sufferings. The principal character is Gauri, who during the course of the story is transformed from an obedient, gentle and meek person to one "with a will of her own". Anand's great concern for the oppressed sex finds emphatic expression in this novel. Though a woman, Gauri the heroine, falls in line with Anand's suppressed heroes.

The book titled *Mulk Raj Anand: A Messiah of the Poor and the Downtrodden* written by N. M. Nigam (2006), focuses Mulk Raj Anand an Indian English novelist who portrays the lives of poor and oppressed people in his novels and shows that chauvinism was uncontrolled in society which was weakening the country. But in the work, it is revealed that the art of Mulk Raj Anand was not only for the sake of art only; it was for the life of the deprived and downtrodden. Anand addressed the difficulty of cast system, poverty, unpleasantness, backwardness, ignorance and false notion in his works.

The book entitled *Mulk Raj Anand* (2006), written by B. R. Aggarwal highlights the fact that Anand's social criticism was sustained by his trust that an artist can contribute immeasurably towards social transformation. The various essays included in the mentioned anthology are an effort to bring out Mulk Raj Anand's humanitarian concern, his social dream, prevailing social evils, and economic contradictions, which break and conflict within the wholesome steadiness of social structure. Anand's social commitment and the misery towards the untouchables the peasants, the coolies, the serfs, and the inferiors is the humanistic chords that touches the reader's heart with a message that only community communal love can remedy the exploitation and dehumanization of the poor.

M. K. Naik in his book entitled *Mulk Raj Anand* (1973) explained that Mulk Raj is on certain grounds, as he is rejecting feature of customary Hindu Society in the novel, *Untouchable*, which justifies extensive denunciation. The faith that the goods are unhygienic as well as bodily

unlikable and those who hold them away or otherwise help to organize of them are outcastes from the society. Actually it obtains the individual intellect to develop something so devilish.

K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar, in his *Indo –Anglian Literature*, has devoted a chapter to Muik Raj Ananad, (1943) remained as Indian Writing in English (1962), Iyenger starts with a brief life sketch of Anand where he traces the craftman’s industry and meticulous attention of Anand to his father, who was a copper smith turned solidier. He devoted that *Coolie* is the most extensive in space and time and *Two Leaves and a Bud* is the most effective as a piece of sarcasm and satire. In this paper it is revealed that all the characters are real and full of flesh and blood.

Margaret Berry has published a full lenth study of Aanad and his works in her book, *Mulk Raj Anand: The man and the Novelist* (1970). She focuses her attention on the novels as a product of Anand,s socialist and humanist persuasions and therefore as reflective of oppressive mechanism underlying the unjust social reality and the iniquitous relationship.

Balarama Gupta has to his credit a voluminous work entitled *Mulk Raj Anand: A Study of his Fiction in Humanist Perspective* (1974). The central interest of the author is riveted on the humanism of Anand. Balram Gupta winds up his study by stating that Anand as a humanist has surpassed Bankim Chandra Chaterjee, the first Bengal novelist, and even Tagore, his mentor and model, in respect of psychological approach in fiction, as Tagore’s interest was confined to the genteel upper middle class and affluent society.

Ekta Panwar and Rajneet Singh (2012), in their research paper entitled *Social issues in Mulk Raj Anand’s Novels ‘Untouchable’ and ‘Coolie’ in Pre-Independent India* explained various social issues of Anand’s novels. Ekta has chosen two novels of Mulk Raj Anand to focus on the burning problems of pre-independent Indian society.

The paper titled *Caste and Class Conflict in Mulk Raj Anand’s: Coolie* (2013) written by B. Balaji Reddy, M. M. Gopi, and C. Raghavendra Reddy, illustrates the class and caste struggle in Mulk Raj Anand’s novel, *Coolie*. They depict in the paper that from the point of time immemorial race difference has been one of the major subjects of writings. Race difference is an expression long-used commonly by communists, socialists, and various anarchists, who explain a race by its involvement to the means of manufacture such as land, factories, and machines. This

work exposes that Anand's narratives depict a practical and sympathetic depiction of the underprivileged in India and Anand highlights the race fight between higher- class people and poorer- class people in his novels.

The novelist Mulk raj Anand pictures the states of discouraged people. The casteism was extreme amid that period. The Indian rank system is the customary association of South Asia, especially Hindu Society into chain of importance of innate gatherings called stations. Hindu religious standards underlay the station progressive system and farthest point the ways that standings can collaborate. Riches and influence for the most part ascend with standing status; however people might be rich or poor. For the most part anyway Brahmins are the most astounding standing, and at the base of the society are those related with occupations considered to a great degree unclean, for example, taking care of junk, fertilizer or carcasses in light of the fact that their touch dirtied. Mulk Raj Anand was excessively strong, making it impossible to show his legend Bakha, from the above untouchable. He has picked this character as the legend of the story *Untouchable* and he composes to a great degree lovely about his poignancy and distresses.

Anand has made a unique place as a writer of Indian writing in English. The class – novel is very new and undeveloped up to the season of Anand however Anand has contributed a ton in the advancement and sustenance of Indian English Literature. From the time Indo-Anglian literature, Indian novel thrived in its fullest at the season of Anand and his peers. We have given brief history of Indian writing in English. The concise history itself shows that the Indian experimental writing thrived in the hands of Anand, Raja Rao and Narayan yet it was Rabindranath Tagore who lifted Indian literature at world level and picked up for present day India a place on the world scholarly history that won Noble Prize for 'Gitanjali' and influenced India on worldwide to scale. In the rundown of awesome benefactors, Sri Aurobindo additionally remains at top. Mulk Raj Anand was a writer as well as a social reformist. He has social concerns and humanity for the oppressed which made him a reformist. He has concentrated on the social reality of stifled people. The social reality which Anand has displayed in the entirety of his real novels made him a socialist and humanist. His first novel - *Untouchable* (1935) is a record of an average day for its hero Bakha, an untouchable sweeper kid. Mulk Raj Anand's delineation of the act of untouchability is basically a matter of grandiose religiosity and exploitation. By an exceptionally

very much worked out system of emotional incongruity and by comparing the predicament of Sohini with that of Bakha, the novelist has strengthened the delegate character of the figure of the untouchable. Mulk Raj Anand in *Untouchable* uncovered the social realism in contemporary Hindu society. The delineation of social treachery to the untouchables in Hindu society made the work generally prevalent. Here Anand can be viewed as a genuine pragmatist and reformist.

This research work intends to reveal Anand as a social realist and humanist and to show he has deep concerns for the victims. Through the work of art he wants to change the society. His great zeal is what his protagonists have been living for. After the profound investigation of Anand's major novels we could prove that they are written for the betterment of society, particularly the downtrodden, suppressed untouchables and all the sufferers at the hands of the social design. For the exploration of such society, Anand has presented social reality in his novels. He is truly a social realist at the same time we should not forget to mention his other aspects which we have found in the process of our research work. These include Anand as a great visionary of life, novelist of human beings, master of literary crafts, ideal of philosophy, religiously humanist, hats social evils, performer as socialist, realist in narration and tried to wipe the tears of the poor by presenting his passionate echo against existing evils in society through the great novels *Untouchable*, *Coolie*, *Two Leaves and a Bud*, *The old woman and the Cow* and *The Road*.

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