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**STUDY ON THE NOVELS OF R. K NARAYAN:
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NOVEL
“THE GUIDE” AND THE “THE MAN-EATER OF
MALGUDI”**

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Study on the Novels of R. K Narayan: with Special Reference to the Novel “The Guide” and the “The Man-Eater of Malgudi”

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Abstract – R.K Narayan is a renowned Indian author. This paper presents R.K. Narayan as a tragicomic essayist. He features numerous comic and heartbreaking elements in his books. I have picked four of his books to present him as a tragi-comic essayist. They are The Guide, The English Teacher, The Financial Expert and The Man-Eater of Malgudi. R.K. Narayan. In these books, R.K. Narayan gives much significance to human connections and their results. Especially, he focuses on adoration, cash, and magnificence and shows how these outer and internal things influence our lives. He is without a doubt the master of comic composition, and he even demonstrates a genuine subject amusingly in a portion of his books like The Guide, The Financial Expert, and The Man-Eater of Malgudi. Be that as it may, in these books there is a fundamental sadness, which the perusers can undoubtedly understand; truth be told, The English teacher is viewed as the best shocking novel of his vocation. In this way, he is successful both as a comic and disastrous author. The perusers can learn numerous exercises by perusing R.K. Narayan's books, and it very well may be comprehended through the finding of comic and shocking elements. The exposition attempts to clarify these things.

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INTRODUCTION

R.K. Narayan is a standout amongst the most observed Indian journalists in English. He composed books, short stories, non-fictions and retellings of legends. His works have been converted into both

Indian and remote dialects. He isn't just famous among Indians yet in addition is mainstream in Western nations, for example, England. That is the reason V.S. Sankara Rao Chinnam says, "He [R.K. Narayan] has won respects in England and the United States of America, He is predominantly an essayist of sad comedies of mishap and confusion" (40). Accordingly, obviously R.K. Narayan attracts thoughtfulness regarding both comic and unfortunate elements in a considerable lot of his works.

R.K. Narayan is a sensible essayist who realizes that funniness and sadness both are the indivisible parts of human life. He may make the gatherings of people chuckle through his comic composition, and yet, he is fit for making his perusers cry. In this manner, R.K. Narayan demonstrates his splendor by featuring the two grins and tears of human lives. That is the reason this paper focuses on the unfortunate and comic

elements, which are significantly utilized by R.K. Narayan.

I have chosen four noteworthy books of R.K. Narayan that contain both appalling and comic elements. The Guide, The Financial Expert, The Man-Eater of Malgudi, and The English Teacher are these four books. In The Guide, Raju is the focal character whose entire life is brimming with incongruity. He is fixated on a young lady named Rosie. Indeed, he leaves everything due to Rosie. Raju is so urgent to keep Rosie far from her significant other that he even fashions her mark for that. The incongruity is that later he is captured and goes to the jail for a long time. Neither Raju returns to Rosie nor does Rosie come to see him when Raju is discharged from the jail. Afterward, he goes to a town and the villagers erroneously think of him as a holy person! This is diverting no uncertainty, however one day Raju falls into the device in view of this phony personality. He reluctantly begins to quick for the villagers and after that one day he kicks the bucket as a result of the yearning. The entire presentation is by all accounts amusing, however R.K. Narayan demonstrates the fundamental sadness through the heartbreaking ruin of Raju. In this way, he blends both heartbreaking and comic elements in The Guide.

R.K. Narayan utilizes numerous incongruities and parodies in *The Financial Expert*. The hero Margayya is by all accounts a genuine comic character in light of his odd conduct. The perusers can't resist snickering at Margayya's fixation on cash. He even goes to the sanctuary to meet the Priest with the goal that he can get the support of Goddess Laxmi (Hindu Goddess of riches). His association with his child is very comic. The perusers can discover numerous comic elements through the discussion between Dr. Sen and Margayya as well. Be that as it may, Margayya's unfortunate defeat specifically or in a roundabout way happens as a result of these two characters. Along these lines, the perusers can't think about this as an unadulterated comic novel due to the lamentable ruin of the hero. The terrible part is Margayya thoroughly takes care of the solace of his child, yet his child never is by all accounts content with his dad and even acts up with him. I think this is the fundamental sadness of this novel that how the guardians are abused by their children or little girls in these cutting edge days.

The Man-Eater of Malgudi is another novel where the perusers can without much of a stretch discover R.K.

The English Teacher is marginally extraordinary as far as comic and appalling elements. In the other three books, the perusers can without much of a stretch discover comic elements, however *The English Teacher* has just a couple of comic elements. This is R.K. Narayan composed this novel from his very own involvement.

R.K. Narayan lost his significant other simply like the hero of *The English Teacher* Krishna. His [K] spouse Susila kicks the bucket as a result of typhoid. Along these lines, this is by all accounts an unfortunate novel without a doubt. In any case, there are a couple of comic elements in the beginnings of this novel. Afterward, Krishna meets a headmaster of his little girl's school. The headmaster's significant other is constantly pitiless towards her better half and that incites giggling. Krishna has lost finish enthusiasm for instructing to the school after the demise of her better half and later he builds up his mystic capacity with the goal that he can meet his dead spouse. This is the manner by which the story closures and R.K. Narayan features the grievous elements of his own life through depicting the character of Krishna. In any case, even in this outrageous sadness, he doesn't neglect to utilize some comic elements to engage his perusers, and therefore R.K. builds up himself as the author of tragi-comedy.

R.K. Narayan features the appalling and comic elements through the outer and internal sides of human lives. Clearly, a large portion of his composing is hilarious and loaded with incongruity and parody, yet somewhere inside the perusers can feel the hidden sadness. That is the reason; I discover this point fascinating for my paper. Showkat Hussain Dar says in his diary, "His [R.K. Narayan] works are neither simply appalling nor absolutely funny. It is the blend of the

two" (1). My point is additionally to demonstrate him as the author of tragi-comedy.

WRITING REVIEW

Tragi-Comic scholars feature both shocking and comic elements in their composition. R.K. Narayan is one of them the same number of researchers concur.

Kamlesh Singh (2016) says in his examination article that R.K. Narayan featured a major issue entertainingly and he named it as 'comedy of sadness' (357). His article was on the novel *The Guide*. Here, his article demonstrates that R.K. Narayan is a tragi-comic author. Kamlesh Singh says, "Raju's catastrophe in this way, turns into a comedy of sadness, as his demise is a potential disaster. Narayan impeccably consolidates the terrible and the superb and expands humor, incongruity of character, situation and rationale and through whimsical characters" (357). This announcement plainly demonstrates that as per Kamlesh Singh, R.K. Narayan is a tragicomic essayist.

In an exploration article by C.N. Srinath (1981), R.K. Narayan's comic vision is tended to. As per the creator, R.K. Narayan presents a subject entertainingly by discovering human indiscretions (418). Be that as it may, the creator says that from R.K. Narayan's books the perusers discover that they can't underestimate anything. That implies disaster is likewise a piece of human life. C.N. Srinath says, "The English Teacher is an intelligent advancement from *The Bachelor of Arts*, where we discover proof of settled life and the balance of family amicability, which sadly is fleeting. The stream of quintessential comic feeling of Narayan is foiled by the lamentable passing of Krishnan's life, and imaginatively, as it were, the cutoff points of the comic vision end up being abstract in barring the terrible and giving it a chance to remain separated" (418). The creator features the ascent and fall of Margayya in *The Financial Expert*, The treatment of Margayya by R.K. Narayan was unquestionably funny yet the perusers can't disregard the sadness of Margayya. The creator even thinks about the ascent and fall of Margayya with 'the five demonstrations of an Elizabethan disaster' (418). Hence, *The Financial Expert* is another model, which sets up R.K. Narayan as a tragi-comic essayist. The creator demonstrates that Raju's voyage in *The Guide* has both comic and deplorable elements. He says about this novel, "That Narayan has accomplished this as far as comedy, by working out a smooth progress between the comic and the unfortunate, is the value of this novel" (419). Consequently, C.N. Srinath additionally represents R.K. Narayan as a tragicomedy author.

The writer has made an essential comment by saying, "Regularly it ends up troublesome for the perusers to realize whether Narayan's treatment of a given situation is not kidding, or comic, or tragicomic" (45). As indicated by him, R.K. Narayan is by all accounts a tragicomic essayist on the grounds that the perusers get befuddled while perusing his books. They may not

understand whether 'Narayan's treatment of a given situation' is not kidding or funny (45). As indicated by T.C. Ghai, The Guide can likewise be known as a tragicomic novel. He states, "Indeed it may be contended by some that the novel is to be taken as a comedy or a tragi-comedy. The reality anyway remains that Raju is a character whom we can't resist considering important. Narayan subsequent to giving a genuine and significant measurement to the story doesn't satisfy it" (50). The creator says that The Man-Eater of Malgudi is maybe the main Novel of R.K. Narayan, which is simply funny (51). In any case, in The ManEater of Malgudi everybody imagines that the hero Nataraj is the killer of Vasu, and numerous scientists trust that there is a fundamental sadness in R.K. Narayan's work. In this manner, we can't disregard the terrible elements in The Man-Eater of Malgudi in light of the fact that Nataraj is misconstrued by everybody.

THE GUIDE

R.K. Narayan's The Guide is the ideal precedent, which sets up him a tragi-comic author. Here the focal character is Raju. The story is about how Raju changes himself from a tourist manual for a profound guide. Raju, the hero, becomes hopelessly enamored with Rosie, who is the spouse is Marco. Marco is an excavator who is so occupied with his work that he doesn't possess any additional energy for his better half. That is the reason there is no delight in their matrimonial life. Raju sees this and he never passes up on any opportunity to play with Rosie. Rosie feels pulled in towards Raju and later they begin living respectively. The catastrophe is that at this point Raju starts to withdraw from his nearby individuals including his mom. He has a fight with his uncle and that makes an amusing situation. We can discover the cleverness in R.K. Narayan's The Guide when the hero Raju says, "This man assaulting me in my very own home, inside five minutes of entry!" (148).

Be that as it may, as an otherworldly guide Raju's days are well spent until there happens an occurrence, which is comical for the perusers yet lamentable for Raju. Prior I said in my writing audit that Satyanarain Singh (1981) states in his article that R.K. Narayan makes a hilarious situation in The Guide by contrasting Raju and Mahatma Gandhi. The perusers can without much of a stretch locate the comic elements from this examination, yet the hero Raju again falls into a snare that prompts his demise however it isn't sure whether Raju is dead or he has swooned. The villagers are enthusiastically sitting tight for the rain, however tragically, there has no indication of it. In any case, the villagers think Raju resembles Mahatma Gandhi as he should quick for them with the goal that the rain comes. Notwithstanding, Raju does not realize that he would quick for the villagers and again we can discover both comic and deplorable elements from the

situation of Raju. Amusingly, Raju starts to think like a unique holy person, yet at last, he is presumably dead. Likewise, there is additionally a film named

'The Guide' which depends on the first novel The Guide by R.K. Narayan. In that motion picture, Raju is appeared to be dead at last so we consider Raju as a disastrous saint. As I would see it, this is the excellence of R.K. Narayan, that he immaculately keeps up both shocking and comic elements in his novel.

THE FINANCIAL EXPERT

As I would like to think, The Financial Expert is extraordinary compared to other tragicomic books of R.K. Narayan. Margayya is the hero of this novel. He helps those individuals who have money related inconveniences. In Malgudi, he sits under a banyan tree, which is inverse to the Co-Operative

Bank. Margayya maintains his business dubiously that hurts the program of the Co-Operative Bank. Afterward, the head peon of the Co-agent Bank named Arul Doss comes to Margayya to caution him against his business. He says to Margayya that he should instantly close his business; else, they need to make a move against him. Shockingly, Margayya does not feel terrified by the notice by any means. Truth be told, Margayya says to Arul Doss, "Arul Doss, I don't think about you; you can represent yourself. Be that as it may, you require not represent me. You may not see a hundred rupees even following a hundred years of administration, however I figure I will do as such soon-and who knows, if your Secretary looks for any enhancement of his position, he can come to me"

(Narayan 12). Along these lines, he really affronts Arul Doss and the secretary of Co-agent Bank, and that scene summons humor.

THE MAN-EATER OF MALGUDI

Numerous scientists trust that The Man-Eater of Malgudi is absolutely a comic novel, however as I would like to think, this can likewise be portrayed as a tragi-comic novel. The hero of this novel is

Nataraj who is a printer. He has a right hand named Sastri. Sastri encourages Nataraj to run the press. In the principal part, we can pith the basic sadness of the hero. Nataraj says,

"At the point when my grandma kicked the bucket the solidarity of the family was likewise gone" (Narayan 12). This announcement of Nataraj plainly demonstrates that some way or another he isn't content with his present life.

Nataraj meets Vasu who later assumes a major job in his life. Vasu is a taxidermist. He comes to Nataraj to print five hundred visiting cards. Nataraj says to him that whether he extremely needs five hundred visiting cards or not. Be that as it may, Vasu answers, "For what reason do you endeavor to exhort me?" (Narayan 16). He says him that he realizes what number of visiting cards he needs. From this discussion, the perusers can without much of a stretch estimate that Vasu is a pugnacious individual and this is clearly an indication of up and coming threat in Nataraj's life. Nataraj needs to think about taxidermy from Vasu and accordingly they progress toward becoming companions. Be that as it may, Nataraj gets into inconvenience due to Vasu. At some point, Vasu starts to remain in Nataraj's upper room where nobody lives. This is amusing in light of the fact that Vasu does not request the consent from the proprietor Nataraj to live in his storage room! One more day, Vasu condemns a columnist named Sen who is a decent companion of Nataraj. Sen talks about the strategies of Nehru, and after that Vasu taunts him by saying, "On the off chance that he [Sen] is such a great amount of more astute than Nehru, for what reason doesn't he endeavor to wind up the Prime Minister of India" (Narayan 26).

This announcement is unexpected no uncertainty, yet Nataraj feels humiliated by Vasu's conduct towards the columnist. At some point, Nataraj is constrained by Vasu to run with him to a town named Mempi. Vasu takes Nataraj in his jeep without his authorization. Nataraj says that he has misplaced his catches at home and that is the reason his shirt is open at the chest. In any case, Vasu says entertainingly, "Nobody will mind in the Jungle" (Narayan 32).

Accordingly, we can understand the hopeless state of Nataraj and R.K. presents this discussion entertainingly. At Mempi town, Vasu goes to the timberland to chase a tiger. Vasu disregards Nataraj. There Nataraj meets Muthu who is a teashop proprietor. Nataraj needs to escape from Vasu and that is the reason Nataraj leaves that put with the assistance of Muthu. The entire thing is presented humorously, and unmistakably Nataraj is frightened of Vasu. Afterward, Nataraj asks Vasu to free his storage room yet Vasu does not hear him out. Also, he says, "... Do you realize the amount it has cost me to make it decent in? The mosquitoes and other vermin would gobble you up on the off chance that you were somewhat imprudent, the rooftop tiles hit your head, there are webs, smoke, and in summer it is a heating stove. Nobody yet a trick like me would have consented to live there!" (Narayan 58). Vasu is a decent speaker and a debater than Nataraj and that is the reason Nataraj ends up stunned. Indeed, even one day Vasu documents a dissension against Nataraj as a proprietor. The perusers may think that its clever, yet the psychological state of Nataraj progressively deteriorates as a result of Vasu.

THE ENGLISH TEACHER

The English Teacher is accepted to be founded on a genuine occurrence of R.K. Narayan. John Thieme states in his book, "All things considered Rajam's [Narayan's wife] demise was the most horrendous mishap of his [Narayan] life and in the long run his endeavors to grapple with it discovered articulation in The English Teacher" (Contemporary World Writers 52). Along these lines, we can state that Narayan composes this novel from his very own involvement.

Krishna is the hero of this novel. He shows English at the Albert Mission College, Malgudi. Rangappa is one of his associates. At some point, he excitedly advises Krishna to wake him up in the early morning. Be that as it may, when Krishna calls him in the early morning, he answers, "It looks to me like midnight; return to bed my dear individual, don't hang about windows bugging individuals" (Narayan 9). As a peruser, I think that its silly.

CONCLUSION

All in all, it is apparent that R.K. Narayan is a master of tragic-comic composition. The perusers can take in numerous things from these four books as they represent basic attributes of human culture. I think Narayan endeavors to present the major issues of human life by discovering human indiscretions. Along these lines, R.K. Narayan does not utilize cleverness and parody for diversion purposes as it were.

The basic sadness of R.K. Narayan's books can't build up him an unadulterated comic essayist. Regularly, he manages a genuine subject delicately in these books. Along these lines, R.K. Narayan instructs that challenges are a piece of human lives yet they have to handle it with certainty. In doing this examination on these four books, I have discovered that outside and internal factors, for example, cash, love, excellence assume a critical job in our lives. As I would like to think, when we are profoundly fixated on something that can be caused our destruction. In The Guide Raju is fixated on Rosie and that causes his defeat. In The Financial Expert Margayya is fixated on cash and amusingly, at last, he needs to proclaim himself bankrupt.

In The Man-Eater of Malgudi, Sastri reveals to Nataraj that nobody executes Vasu and he murders himself accidentally! Once more, R.K. Narayan presents a shocking episode entertainingly. It encourages that everything has an end and accordingly we ought not be pleased with ourselves.

The English Teacher has numerous appalling elements. Krishna is profoundly disheartened by the passing of her better half yet even in that condition, he takes the duties of her infant little girl. The epic depends on the genuine occurrence of R.K. Narayan's life. Be that as it may, R.K. Narayan utilizes amusingness and incongruities even in this novel. It

instructs us that we should not quit carrying on with our ordinary life since we are as yet a piece of the general public until the point that we pass on.

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Dr. I.G. Purohit says, "Narayan is the professional of "genuine comedy," an exceptionally troublesome artistic expression. His books are comedies of sadness" (n.p.). He additionally expresses that the sadness emerges from the excruciating knowledge of human life.

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