

THE MODERNIST POETRY OR MODERNIST SENSIBILITY: ITS IMPORTANT FEATURES

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The modernist sensibility is an emigrant sensibility. An emigrant poet is one who leaves his motherland and settles down in a foreign country or foreign land. Eliot and Pound both were Americans but they settled down in England. The rootlessness caused their migration and they started searching for their own roots. These poets made efforts to find out their roots in the English poetry and European poetry as well. They also tried to study the Greek and the Latin poetry.

Moreover, T.S. Eliot was influenced by the French poetry while Ezra Pound exhibited special interest in the Italian culture and poetry. As it was not enough, they also turned to the Asian poetry in their search of roots. T.S. Eliot took great interest in and studied the Indian Sanskrit poetry and Ezra Pound tried his hand at the experiment of Chinese poetry.

Thus, modernist poetry or modernist sensibility adopted an international standpoint. Indian writing in English also has a mark of this expatriate sensibility. An eminent Indian novelist in English, Raja Rao, has settled down in America. A.K. Ramanujan, the Indian poet in English, left India and settled down in America. The poet Dom Moraes, who is Indian by birth, lived in London.

The modernist sensibility is a metropolitan sensibility. The term metropolis is

a big and chief city of a country. For example, London is a metropolis, so is Paris. In India, Mumbai is a metropolis. So T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound were city poets. Eliot's poetry mainly deals with the problems and complications of the modern mankind who are living in a large number in a big city or who are city dwellers. Modern man finds his life insecure and unsafe in big cities. We come across and find great crowds everywhere and everybody seems to be in a great haste, forgetting Nature, it can save our life.

In big cities, man is bound to face the problem of housing and food. Everything appears costly and the common man falls victim to exploitation here and there and it results in wide disillusionment and a feeling of tediousness and solitudeness. We can't help to avoid the dull and the mechanical daily routine.

The human sympathy is lacking to a greater extent in the modern age. The modernist poetry especially deals with such type of themes. So the modernist sensibility is mostly urban. In this sense, modernist sensibility differs from the romantic sensibility which celebrated the rural only. We are familiar with the happy picture of a village life that can be found in William Wordsworth's poetry. Like Eliot and Pound, there are many Indian poets in English who are living in big cities. They are losing their roots in their native villages, finding it difficult to adjust with the city life which is becoming more and more inhuman.

Work Cited:

1. Indian Poetry in English
2. T.S. Eliot
3. Ezra Pound
4. Indian Poets and Novelists in English

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