

PREFACE

Comparative study of literature has recently become a favourite area of research in the Indian Universities. This branch of literary research has found special favour with scholars. Such a study really enables people to understand the literature of language other than their own. The main purpose of the comparative study is to discover the common areas, such as the themes, forms or trends, shared by the writers in different countries or in different national traditions and to establish a certain resemblance in some respect between them. One can also recognise the qualities of a work more effectively by comparing it to other works in different languages.

The present research work is designed to cover a specific area of literature. In it I have proposed to work on the treatment of Nature in the poetical works of T.B. Thombare alias Balkavi (1890 - 1918), the Indian Marathi poet, and P.B. Shelley (1792 - 1822), the English poet, who composed poetry under the tremendous influence of the various objects of Nature. Since it is a comparative work, I have selected ten well-known Nature poem/ of each 5 of these two poets, and with the help of analysis, interpretation and comparison, I have tried to show the role and significance of Nature in these selected poems. The major focus in this research work is laid upon the

similarities and parallels in the treatment of the various objects of Nature, such as the wind, the cloud, the birds, the flowers, the moon, the sun, the stars, the night, the trees, the seasons, the streams, the sky, the earth etc. The study examines the role and significance of Nature in the selected poems, the attitude of the poets looking towards Nature, Nature coloured with the subjective elements and human emotions and feelings, Nature myths and certain characteristic features of the Nature poetry selected for comparison. As such the subject of the research work is entitled as "The Treatment of Nature in the selected poems of T.B. Thombare (Balkavi) and P.B. Shelley - A Comparative Study."

In the article " बेचळीस वर्षापूर्वी महाराष्ट्रात होउ न गेलेला महाराष्ट्राचा 'शेले' 'बालकवी' (1960) K.B. Marathe has compared the life, mind and Nature poetry of Balkavi to the life, mind and Nature poetry of Shelley. He says, "Balkavi is the Shelley of Maharashtra". However, no comparative study, as such, of Balkavi and Shelley was undertaken. The present study may be accepted as an attempt to indicate some directions to this kind of comparative study.

Although the present work is mainly related to the specific area of literature, the poems selected for comparison possess personal and social significance. Hence the personal and social significance is also studied. These poems also possess the background of the Movement of romanticism. As both Balkavi and Shelley

were deeply influenced by the doctrine of romanticism, the impact of romanticism on both Marathi and English poetry is also taken into consideration. The nature and motives of the comparative study of literature is also discussed because the comparative method has been used for the purpose of the study. However, the study concentrates on the treatment of Nature in the selected poems composed by Balkavi and Shelley, the great Nature poets in Marathi and English poetry respectively.

The work is divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with the theory of comparative study of literature. In it the nature and motives of comparative literature are discussed. The second chapter deals with the role of Nature in the lives and poetic works of Balkavi and Shelley. In this chapter how Balkavi and Shelley ^{were} attracted towards Nature from their childhood is discussed. In the third chapter emphasis is laid upon the 'Movement of Romanticism' as the literary background to Balkavi and Shelley. This chapter deals with the meaning and features of romanticism, the impact of romanticism on English and Marathi poetry and 'Return to Nature' as the main source of inspiration and imagination for the romantic poets with a special reference to Balkavi and Shelley. The fourth and the fifth chapters are the core part of the research work. The fourth chapter deals with the

analytical study of the treatment of Nature in the selected poems while fifth chapter deals with the comparative study of the various objects of Nature painted in the selected poems. The fifth chapter concentrates on the similarities and parallels regarding the various objects Nature in these Nature poems. The last chapter is conclusion.
