

P R E F A C E

It is always fascinating to trace out the beginnings of the quest for a topic for one's critical inquiry. From the day I was admitted to the M.Phil. Course, this quest became for me a constant source of unrest combined with a feeling of undefined expectancy.

The area of studies was restricted to Indian comparative literature because that happened to be the paper we studied at the centre as a part of our syllabus for the M.Phil. Course. In the course of the search for the topic I came across "Comparative Indian Literature"¹ a volume ed. by Prof. K.M. George. In this volume there is an article by Prof. M.D.Hatkanangalekar "Experiments - Sporadic and Feeble" which I read initially, as a matter of routine, reading which gradually got developed into a keen interest. It was pointed out by Prof. Hatkanangalekar that there have been some sporadic experiments in Marathi literature at practising the stream of consciousness technique in the writing of novel. He specifically refers to the novels (1) रात्रीचा दिवस (2) तांबडी माती (3) पाणी written by B.S. Mardhekar (1909-1955). The reading of this article is perhaps in a way responsible for the selection of the present topic for comparative study.

1. Hatkanangalekar, M.D. - Novel - Experiments : Sporadic and Feeble in Comparative Indian Literature (ed.) K.M. George, Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Trichur and MacMillan India Ltd., Madras, 1984, p. 659.

After discussing the relevance of a comparative study of the style in which the stream of consciousness technique has been used by one of the early proponents in English literature and B.S. Mardhekar in Marathi literature, with Prof. Hatkanangalekar first and then with Prof. Dr. C.S. Jahagirdar of the Department of English, Shivaji University, I was emboldened to finally fix up the topic of research for this M.Phil. dissertation as "A Comparative Study of V. Woolf and B.S. Mardhekar with reference to the stream of consciousness technique used in their novels."

The objective of this study is to make a comparison of Virginia Woolf's To The Lighthouse and B.S. Mardhekar's Ratricha Divas in the context of stream of consciousness style of writing. This necessitates a review of distinctive features of stream of consciousness novels on the background of features of traditional novels. It was also inevitable to examine briefly the developments in the fields of philosophy, psychology and some other sciences with a definite influence on literature. An attempt is also made to briefly review the major writers and their works written in the stream of consciousness style in English. Similar attempt is made to review B.S. Mardhekar's multifaceted literature to trace out the adoption of stream of consciousness style. In this process, evolved a framework of critical comparison between B.S. Mardhekar and Virginia Woolf regarding the use of this style in their novels selected for this study.

In consultation with Prof. Hatkanangalekar, it was decided to approach this problem on the following lines.

Chapter-1 : Form and features of the traditional novel
Stream of consciousness novel as distinguished from the traditional novel.

Chapter-2 : The philosophical basis of the stream of consciousness technique.

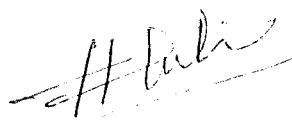
Chapter-3 : Major stream of consciousness Novelists in the English language : Dorothy Richardson, Virginia Woolf and James Joyce.

Chapter-4 : The nature of Mardhekar's poetry and his use of stream of consciousness technique in his poetry and his novels.

Chapter-5 : Critical comparison between Virginia Woolf and B.S. Mardhekar in so far as their use of stream of consciousness technique in their novels To The Lighthouse and Ratricha Divas respectively is concerned.

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