



## **Narrative Strategies to Emphasize Uniqueness in the Writings of Amitav Ghosh**

**K. KUGAN,**

Research Scholar in English,  
M. R. Govt. Arts College,  
Mannargudi- 614 001.  
8056290968  
[k.kugan85@gmail.com](mailto:k.kugan85@gmail.com)

**Dr. S. AKASH,**

Research Supervisor in English,  
M. R. Govt. Arts College,  
Mannargudi- 614 00.  
9047505477  
[akashdoss90@gmail.com](mailto:akashdoss90@gmail.com)

**Submission Date:**10.03.2025

**Acceptance Date:**24.03.2025

### **Introduction:**

As a renowned Indian writer, Amitav Ghosh stands for the uniqueness of the writings for his novels to emphasize his narrative strategy which he has handled to attract his readers from every corner of the world. He has received many international prestigious awards and distinguished with many translators have translated his works into many languages. His narrative strategy depicts his ideology of complexities of history, exploring culture and problems in

identity. He belongs to Bengali language but gradually mastered in English. As a traveler, he becomes a polyglot, able to speak many languages including European tongue. From his extensive travel around the world, he is conquered by different kinds of culture and identity. His acquired languages and culture identity influenced in his writings. Henceforth, his novels become worldwide popular from his literary innovations.

### **Narrative Strategies:**

Ghosh has been used many kinds of narrative strategies since his debut novel *The Circle of Reason* to the present. He handles one technique in a novel and immediately changes another technique for another novel. He amalgamates different style of narration to impress his readers. His strategies are blending genres, non-linear storytelling, multiple narrative voices, historical and cultural contextualization, magical realism, inter-textuality, unreliable narrators, and experimentations with language. Ghosh's frequently used technique is 'non-linear narrative' and he has employed it in his novels. This technique of writing is jumping between different time periods and locations, *The Circle of Reason* is written with this strategy. Anjan Kumar says: "Ghosh's use of time deserves special mention. Most of his novels use time in a non-linear manner." (Kumar 9) His technique is 'multiple narrative voices'. His novels often bring multiple narrators with their new experience. *The Glass Palace* is the best example for this technique. Bhakthi Vaishnav states:

Embellished with high seriousness and experiments, his works are not esoteric. An ability to build up poignancy of a tragedy without succumbing to sentimental descriptions is a unique feature of all his writings. (Vaishnav 99)

'Inter-textuality' is his usual strategy, in which, he generally mingles other literary works.

It will be crafted myth, historical events, cultural texts and inserting complex inter-textual connectivity. The blending of genres is the mixture of elements of history and myth to infuse genre classification. Most of his strategy is counted with unreliable narrators. Ghosh's very rarely used technique is 'unreliable narrators' inducing the audiences to arise questions in their mind about truth, reality and the way of storytelling. As polyglot, Ghosh seems as very unique narrative storyteller by using many languages with English. 'Polyphonic narrative' technique is his one of the best strategies, in which, he presents many voices such as international languages, dialects of native language with his writings. Bhakti Vaishnav points out the narrative style of Ghosh as:

His method of narration which keeps on shifting from first person narration to the third person narration is amalgamated with magic realism, linguistic innovations, play with the concept of time, history digressions—all that make his writings postmodern—reveal his awareness of Indian tradition of narrative technique. (Vaishnav 99)

'Historical and cultural contextualization' is another narrative form, where Ghosh employs the treatment of history and culture. It gives a unique strength to his works, *The Shadow Lines* and *Sea of Poppies* are the two novels written with the concept of history and its background. 'Magical realism' is his dream novel technique, he was inspired from this technique from Melville's *Moby Dick*. After reading this novel, he decided to draft another novel to use the same technique and achieved his dream in his *The Shadow Lines*. In the novel, Ghosh amalgamation of ordinary events with the extraordinary which leads his readers to cognize dream like narratives. 'Meta-fiction' is his best narrative technique in which he brings the method of storytelling in the mode of historiographic-meta concept and makes a connection between the reader with writer and text. And finally, he has used the strategy of 'experimentation

with language', in which, he often mingles new dialects, language and narrative styles to develop unique hybrid narrative for his novels. Shuba Tiwari states as:

For a regular reader, the books by Amitav Ghosh provide a delicious feast. Together, they present a way of looking at the world. They provide a perspective. Many things are clarified. Many matters are thought out. So many intricacies of human life have been revealed. As readers, we cannot help admiring the immense capacity of this man to create his own world. (Tiwari 7)

### **Conclusion:**

Thus Amitav Ghosh novels are emphasized as unique and complex narrative structure which mingles the contents of anthropological survey. As an anthropologist, he has given all kinds of historical events in the writings as historiographic meta story. In order to handle these unique narrative strategies, Amitav Ghosh has emerged as a unique writer our time. There is no doubt that Ghosh is a writer of historiographic meta fiction.

### **Works Cited:**

Dhawan, R. K. *The Novels of Amitav Ghosh*. Prestige Books, 1999.

Kumar, Anjan. *The Novels of Amitav Ghosh Major Themes*. Adhyayan Publishers and Distributers, 2013.

Tiwari, Shubha. *Amitav Ghosh: A Critical Study*. Atlantic Publishers and Distributers, 2003.

Vaishnav, Bhakthi. *Amitav Ghosh's Writings: Issues, Ideologies and Craftsmanship*. Atlantic Publishers and Distributers, 2015.