



JOURNAL OF INDIAN LANGUAGES AND INDIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Journal of Indian languages and Indian literature in English, 03(01), 273-278; 2025

Art Of Characterization In The Novels Of Aravind Adiga

Dr.DINESH.R

PGT ENGLISH TEACHER VELAMMAL BODHI CAMPUS .

ERODE.INDIA,

doomdineshr@gmail.com

8608503937

APACitation:

Dr.Dinesh.R,(2025)Art of characterization in the novels of Aravind adiga, Journal of Indian languages and Indian literature in English, 03(01), 273-278; 2025

Submission Date:29.02.2024

Acceptance Date:24.03.2025

Abstract

This paper explores the art of characterization in the works of Aravind Adiga, one of India's most acclaimed contemporary writers. Aravind Adiga has won awards for his books, and his works are known for their powerfully unique characters. Through this study one can analyze and discuss the various techniques Adiga uses to create complex, realistic, and heart breaking characters. Aravind Adiga is a brilliant writer who has mastered the art of characterization. He beautifully portrays his characters and their struggles in a realistic manner. Adiga presents his ideas in the characters that are not only relatable but exploring the society they belong to. His skill and depth in the use of characterization empowers his novels, which make them not only interesting but also incredibly thought-provoking. This paper highlights the geniusness of Adiga in his artistic techniques of characterization and gives a new beginning to the era of Indian writing in English literature. His works reflect his deep understanding of the society and the human condition. Adiga has excelled the art of characterization and used it to develop some of the most memorable iconic characters in contemporary Indian literature.

Keywords:-Aravind Adiga, Characterization, Indian Literature, Corruption.

1.Introduction

1.1 Literaturereview

Aravind Adiga is a writer from India who was born on October 23, 1974, in Madras (now Chennai). He attended school at Columbia University in New York City. In 2008, he won a really big prize called the Man Booker Prize for his book called 'The White Tiger'. His writing is all about what's happening in India right now, like the politics and how people are living. Before he started writing books, Adiga was a journalist for a bunch of different newspapers like the Financial Times, Time, and The Wall Street Journal. The White Tiger is his first book and it's about a guy named Balram Halwai. The book is all about how messed up the caste system is in India and how people with power can be really corrupt. His characters are really interesting because they're not just good or bad, they're complicated like real people. Adiga is really good at making you feel like you're right there in India with his characters.

1.2 Researchquestions

2.Discussions

The primary objective of the art of characterization in Aravind Adiga's work is to provide his characters plunged in realism. Adiga's characters are complex individuals with multifaceted personalities and motivations, rather than one-dimensional caricatures. Through his use of characterization, Adiga explores issues such as social class, power dynamics, cultural identity, and personal ambition. His stories often feature characters from marginalized communities who struggle to find their place in a society that favors the wealthy and powerful. By presenting these characters in depth and detail, Adiga challenges stereotypes and prejudices that are often held by mainstream society.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Character development is distinct part of literature as it allows readers to meaningfully correlate to and connected with a story. Developing distinct characters creates opportunities for them to grow, change, and face conflict in believable ways that impact the narrative. By creating three-dimensional characters, authors can give readers insight into how people react to situations they may never experience themselves. This emotional connection is critical as it immerses readers in the story and allows them to empathize with the characters' journeys. Well-developed characters also

aid in exposing themes and underlying messages within the text, helping readers connect on a deeper level with its purpose. In short, character development is valuable because it combines realism and empathy to create compelling stories that resonate profoundly with audiences.

Aravind Adiga is a renowned Indian author who has made a significant contribution to the field of literature. He has written several major works that have gained recognition and accolades from around the world. His stories often depict the harsh realities of life in India, exploring themes such as poverty, corruption, and social inequality. In this essay, we will discuss the primary characters in each of Adiga's major works and their significance to the overall story.

Adiga's debut novel, *The White Tiger*, tells the story of Balram Halwai, a poor driver from rural India who rises to become a successful entrepreneur in the city. Balram is portrayed as the anti-hero of the story, engaging in morally questionable actions to achieve his goals. His character is a reflection of the societal and political corruption prevalent in India and serves as an allegory for the country's struggle with poverty and inequality.

In *Last Man in Tower*, Adiga explores the theme of urbanization and role of capitalization and its impact on the working-class community in Mumbai. The protagonist, Masterji, is an elderly teacher who lives in a building that is scheduled to be demolished to make way for a new development. He leads a group of residents who are fighting to keep their homes and resist the temptation of the developers' bribes. Masterji's character represents the struggle of the common man against the cruel capitalism.

Between the Assassinations is a collection of short stories set in the fictional Indian town of Kittur. The stories are a reflection of the town's social and political landscape and explore themes such as caste, religion, and gender. The characters in these stories are a diverse group of individuals who come from different backgrounds and socio-economic classes. They are a representation of the complexities of Indian society, and each story serves as a microcosm of life in India.

Selection Day is a novel that revolves around the lives of two young cricket prodigies, Radha and Manju, and their domineering father, Mohan. The story explores the pressures and expectations imposed on these young boys as they navigate the competitive world of cricket. Mohan's character is the driving force behind the story.

Adiga's recent novel, *Amnesty*, tells the story of an illegal immigrant, Danny, who works as a cleaner in Sydney, Australia. The story revolves around Danny's decision to reveal his status to the authorities after witnessing a crime. Danny's character represents the struggle of the thousands of undocumented immigrants who face exploitation and discrimination in a foreign land.

Aravind Adiga's characters are complex and multi-dimensional, with motivations that are often shaped by their social and economic circumstances. In his novels, Adiga explores the lives of individuals who are struggling to survive in a world that is marked by inequality, corruption, and

violence. One of the most striking aspects of Adiga's characters is their personalities. They are often flawed and imperfect, with a range of strengths and weaknesses that make them feel real and relatable. Some of his characters are driven by ambition and a desire for success, while others are motivated by love, loyalty, or a sense of duty. As the stories unfold, Adiga's characters undergo significant evolution. Impact of character's role in the story and relationships with others on plot construction.

Aravind Adiga's characters are not just mere players in the story, but they play a crucial role in shaping the plot. Their relationships with other characters have a significant impact on the direction of the narrative. For instance, in "The White Tiger," Balram's relationship with his employer, Ashok, and his family members shapes his decision to escape from servitude and become an entrepreneur. Similarly, in "Last Man in Tower," the residents' relationships with each other and their conflicting interests affect their decision to sell their apartments to a builder. Adiga's characters are not one-dimensional; they have complex personalities that evolve throughout the story.

Aravind Adiga is a master of using dialogue, setting, and symbolism to develop his characters. Through the use of dialogue, he is able to reveal the inner thoughts and motivations of his characters. This allows readers to understand their actions and decisions on a deeper level. Adiga's choice of setting is also crucial in character development. He often sets his stories in India, where social class and economic status play a significant role in shaping people's lives. By placing his characters in these environments, Adiga is able to explore how their circumstances impact their personalities and choices.

Symbolism is another tool that Adiga uses to develop his characters. For example, in "The White Tiger," the white tiger represents Balram's desire for freedom and escape from his oppressive life as a servant. The car that Balram steals also symbolizes his desire for upward mobility and success. The themes in Aravind Adiga's novels have a significant impact on the growth and trajectory of his characters. Adiga's works explore complex themes such as social inequality, corruption, and the struggle for power. These themes are intricately woven into the fabric of his stories, shaping the experiences of his characters and influencing their development.

For instance, in his debut novel "The White Tiger," Adiga examines the harsh realities of India's class system through the eyes of his protagonist, Balram Halwai. Balram's journey from a poor village boy to a successful entrepreneur is marked by his struggle to break free from the constraints of his social status. The theme of social inequality is a driving force behind Balram's character arc, shaping his decisions and ultimately determining his fate.

Similarly, in “Last Man in Tower,” Adiga explores the corrupt underbelly of Mumbai’s real estate industry. The novel follows the residents of a dilapidated apartment building as they are offered a generous buy out by a wealthy developer. The theme of power and greed is central to the story, as the residents grapple with the decision to sell their homes and the consequences that follow.

INTEGRATION OF CULTURAL CONTEXT AND CHARACTERIZATION

Aravind Adiga’s works are deeply rooted in the cultural context of India, exploring themes such as social inequality, corruption, and disillusionment with modern society. Adiga’s writing is shaped by his understanding of the complexities and contradictions inherent in Indian culture. In *The White Tiger*, for instance, he challenges the traditional Indian narrative of success through hard work and persistence by portraying a servant who resorts to murder and deceit to escape his impoverished life. Similarly, *Last Man in Tower* depicts the conflict between tradition and modernity in Mumbai through a group of residents who are offered an exorbitant amount of money to vacate their old apartments for redevelopment purposes. Adiga’s deep insights into Indian society are evident in his use of language, symbolism, and characterization – allowing readers to gain new perspectives on contemporary India. Overall, exploring the cultural context of Adiga’s works is crucial for understanding his unique voice as a writer and gaining insights into complex issues facing India today.

3. Conclusions

Aravind Adiga's literary works have been lauded for their incisive exploration of complex issues surrounding race, class, and power. In novels such as "The White Tiger" and "Selection Day", Adiga offers a nuanced critique of the Indian social system, highlighting the deep-rooted biases that plague it. He examines the inter sectionality of identities to reveal how multifaceted discrimination operates in India’s caste-ridden society. By digging beneath surface-level notions of hierarchy based on wealth or prestige, Adiga brilliantly portrays characters who are acutely aware of systemic oppression and its implications for their individual lives. His writing is notable for its unflinching examination of societal imbalances while giving voice to those typically silenced by marginalization. Thus ,Adiga proves to be an author for the reflection of contemporary realities.

4. Reference

1. Adiga, A.(2020).*The White Tiger: A Novel*. Free Press.
2. Khan, M.(2010).*The White Tiger :A Critique* .*Journal of Literature, Culture and Media Studies*, 1(2).

3. Adiga, A.(2017). Selection Day: A Novel. Simon and Schuster.
4. Adiga,A.(2021). Amnesty: A Novel. Scribner.
5. Adiga, A.(2011). Last Man in Tower. Atlantic Books Ltd.
6. Adiga,A.(2010). Between the Assassinations. Atlantic Books Ltd.
- 7.Dharakrswari, S."The Effect of Mindfulness Meditation On Stress Levels Among Working Men In Tamil Nadu." JOURNAL OF SPORTS, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (2025)
- 8.Dharakrswari, S."The Impact of a Yogic Program on Low-Density Lipoprotein Levels in Trained Handball Players of Tamil Nadu." Journal of Sports, Health and Physical Education (2025)
- 9.Dharakrswari,S."Effects Of Combined Pranayama And Meditation Practices On Self-Confidence."Effects Of Combined Pranayama And Meditation Practices On Self-Confidence(2025)
- 10.Dharakrswari, S. "Examining the Impact of Combined Yoga and Naturopathy on Triglyceride Levels in Stressed Individuals in Tamil Nadu ." JOURNAL OF SPORTS , HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (2025).