

MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

FINAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO U.G.C- BANGALORE

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BRIEF REPORT

“Humour in the short stories of Puthumaippithan and Vaikom Muhammed Basheer- A Comparative Study”

The minor research project comprises of the following chapters .

1. Great Writers
2. The background of Humour Sense in the short stories of Puthumaippithan and Vaikom Muhammed Basheer
3. Humour related to family and the society
4. Humour related with social values
5. Humour in the society of writers
6. Humour in Politics
7. Humour in Belief's and traditions
8. Said and not said

Importance of the project, Significance of comparative study, Comparative Literature, Pioneer research work done in the comparative study are discussed in detail in the introduction chapter.

The first chapter gives a brief idea about the biographies of Puthumaippithan and Vaikom Muhammed Basheer . The literary works of both the prolific writers are listed .The awards and honour received by them from various institutions are also mentioned in the first chapter.

The second chapter depicts the importance of the comparative study of the short stories of Puthumaippithan and Vaikom Muhammed Basheer . The unique heritage of Tamil and Malayalam languages and relationship between both of them are highlighted. It also showcases the Indian society during the era of the freedom struggle .The similarities and dissimilarities of Puthumaippithan and Vaikom Muhammed Basheer short stories are also discussed.

The third chapter “Humour related with the family and society” is classified into various subheads like family life, lifestyle , relationships within a family, habits of children, bad habits, paraplegia, poverty, theft etc. The following conclusions are made

1. Both of them gave importance to dialogues in the short stories.
2. Puthumaippithan gave equal importance to the richer and the poorer sections of the society.
3. Basheer gives priority to the socially, educationally and economically backward classes of the society.
4. Both of them criticized the society satirically.
5. Both of them criticized the unfaithfulness in family life.
6. Puthumaippithan criticized the unfaithfulness of the children towards their parents.
7. Basheer criticized the unfaithful husband and wife of the domestic household.

The fourth chapter discusses the Humour related with social values like chastity, kindness etc. Puthumaippithan and Vaikom Muhammed Basheer discussed about the chastity of women. But both of them never gave importance to the concept of chastity. Due to poverty women were compelled to adopt prostitution.

With poverty as the theme, Puthumaippithan wrote five stories whereas Basheer wrote two stories. Circumstances were the reason for their plight. Poverty and inequality within the society forced the people to become criminals.

The female characters in Puthumaippithan stories had a revolutionary outlook. For him chastity was a humbug.

Both of them had a feeling of kindness. Puthumaipithan paid kindness only to human beings. But Basheer loved and showed kindness to animals like mouse , snake etc.

Fifth chapter describes our own community in a satirical manner.Puthumaipithan wrote the life history of a writer like an epic, in a satirical manner. His writings threw light upon the poverty struck life of writers.

Basheer wrote a story about the poverty struck life of a writer. The writer on his birthday had no money that he did not eat food for the whole day. Several people wished him in connection with his birthday. He couldn't tolerate his hunger that he stole food from his neighbour's home.

"Humour in politics", the sixth chapter discusses the period of freedom struggle satirically. Puthumaipithan wrote four stories connected to Indian freedom struggle. On the other hand Basheer wrote five stories in the same respect. But the common thread connecting both of their stories was the humour in the life of certain people who pretended themselves as freedom fighters. The stories showcased the British rule in India. The British army men used heavy weapons to suppress the freedom struggle, which is being highlighted in the stories.

The seventh chapter deals with the religious customs and superstitions of the people. Puthumaipithan concentrated more on Hinduism and Christianity and discussed about the habit and lifestyle of the Hindu's and Muslims satirically.

Basheer criticized his own religion. He also pointed out the customs, superstitions, beliefs etc prevailing among Muslims.

Puthumaipithan criticized the Hindu gods. Hindu gods and Yeman (The Deity of Naraka) are the main characters of his short stories. He satirically explained the traditions of the Hindu religion and Hindu Gods. He also mentioned about the invasion of other religions to India.

The last chapter "Said and not said" discusses the matters told by Puthumaipithan and not told by Basheer. It also discusses the matters told by Basheer and not told by Puthumaipithan.

Both of them lived in the Gandhian period and therefore were influenced by Gandhian thoughts. Puthumaipithan mentioned about the practice of untouchability. The irregularities and corruption of the Government servants were also discussed by them.

Basheer gives more importance to love. A man would do anything for being loved by a woman.

Through this research we can conclude that both of them were great writers in Tamil and Malayalam language respectively.

Puthumaipithan adopted poetic language in his works. Basheer adopted the language of common people. Both of them discussed the life style of people, culture, history, art, Gandhian thoughts etc. Basheer wrote from his own experiences.