

Course - XIV INDIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (Fiction & Prose)
M.A. IVth Sem (English)

Topic - Regionalism in the R.K. Narayan Novels

Introduction

The Regional novel is a derivative of the social novel that focuses on specific features - including characters, dialects, customs, history or topography, of a particular region. Literally, the term means 'a fairly large area of a country, usually without exact limit, a part of a country that is away from the capital city.'

Further more, the regional novel is essentially democratic. It expresses a belief that the Ordinary Man and the Ordinary woman are interesting and worth depicting.

⇒ features of the Regional Novel:-

- The regional novel is a genre of fiction that is set in a perceptible region.
- It illustrates the features of life, social relations, customs, language, the culture of that area and its people.
- Fiction creates the sense of geography, landscape or topography is also covered by the region.
- Regional culture illustrates an aspect of life in general or the effects of the environment on the people living in it.
- They are shown carrying on the profession and occupations, as well as following the customs and traditions, that are peculiar to that region.

Narayan's Regionalism: Malgudi: —

- Narayan is an Eminent regional novelist. His novels his novels are known as Malgudi novels. In fact he deals with the physical features, people, life, customs, habits, manners, traditions, language and life style of Malgudi.
- Malgudi is associate degree. Unreal, South Indian city spherical that Narayan has woven the advanced pattern of the lives of his characters. The readers are taken to this imaginary land to laugh sympathize and share the vicissitudes of its inhabitants.
- Narayan in Malgudi represents India in microcosm. He has successfully transformed a particular limited region into a symbol of India and Indian life. Narayan's treatment is so convincing and vivid that we begin to feel that whatever is taking place in Malgudi, happiness everywhere.
- Malgudi is the comic projection of Narayan it is associate. National city within which nationalists and nationalism are unit treated with identical comic irony.
- Most of his major characters, like Mangayya, Raju, Rosie, Harro, Bahu and others defy the traditional norms of life, prevalent in Malgudi.
- This place has comparable standard to the other writers of English literature. It is compared to 'border counties' of Sir Walter Scott, 'Lake district' of William Wordsworth, "The Wessex" of Hardy or 'five downs' of Arnold Bennett.

