

14

3262

The aim of the present study is to analyze the artistic genius of two writers from two different worlds: Mark Twain from America and Mulk Raj Anand from India and see how and why they differ in their portrayal of life. Mark Twain shows his boy heroes winning against all odds while in the novels of Mulk Raj Anand the boy protagonists are exploited and defeated. For the purpose of this study two novels of Mark Twain *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and two novels of Mulk Raj Anand namely, *Untouchable* and *Coolie* have been taken.

Mark Twain and Mulk Raj Anand both bring to the centre of their works characters who had been relegated to the periphery. Both deal with children who are protagonists in these novels. They also deal with the burning issues of their period. Mark Twain talks about slaves and Mulk Raj Anand talks about untouchables, characters who had always been marginalized and had never even been considered to be human beings. They have taken children as the protagonists in their novels to portray issues close to their heart. Mark Twain wanted to portray his ideal of an American hero and Mulk Raj Anand wanted to portray the problems of the Indian society.

In both the novels of Mark Twain *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* a child is taken as the central character and his adventures are presented against a realistic social background. Both *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* are written by a man who could recall at will what he had been when he was a boy. Huckleberry Finn epitomizes the archetype of the American Adam.

Mulk Raj Anand depicts a day in the life of a boy who is an untouchable in his novel *Untouchable* and the misery of a boy who is from the poor class in *Coolie*. It is for the first time that not only these classes but also children belonging to these classes, who had been relegated to the periphery, have been brought to the centre of the stage. For the first time the problems faced by these children and these people have been brought to the notice of the readers by an Indian novelist writing in English. Mulk Raj Anand tries to make his reading public aware of these conditions so that something can be done to improve these conditions. *Coolie*, written by Mulk Raj Anand, is another example to study the exploitation of poor children. It is also called an extension of *Untouchable* by some critics. In *Untouchable*, Anand has shown his protagonist as both a victim of the caste system and also a rebel against the caste system but in *Coolie*, Munoo is only a victim of the class system.

Isha Tyagi

8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2021

Ry

Both the writers portray different types of exploitation. Mark Twain deals with the problems of slaves and slavery during his period. In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, primarily, he shows that blacks can be good human beings, lovable and loving.

Mark Twain in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and Mulk Raj Anand in *Untouchable* and *Coolie* have brought to the centre of their narratives children who had been relegated to the periphery more often than not. Novels usually deal with the realistic world of the adults from the perspective of the adults except for literature meant for children. Here society and its problems have been looked at from the eyes of children. Both Mark Twain and Mulk Raj Anand are realistic writers and deal with the major contemporary problems of their society. There is a true picture of America in the novels of Mark Twain and a faithful depiction of India in the works of Mulk Raj Anand. Yet there is a great difference in the way that they approach their subject. The child protagonists of Mark Twain have learnt the art of survival even in adverse circumstances. They not only wriggle out of a tight situation themselves but they are also ready to help others who are caught in a problem and the readers admire them. While the protagonists of *Untouchable* and *Coolie* are just victims of their circumstances and the readers feel pity for them. Mark Twain uses humour, irony and satire in his novels and has an imaginative and comic approach while Mulk Raj Anand uses pity, irony and satire in his novels and uses a tragic approach. One is a great American writer and one a great Indian writer.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Untouchable* are set in just one place while *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Coolie* are picaresque novels and provide a panoramic view of the respective countries of the two writers. But Mark Twain writes in a comic vein while Mulk Raj Anand writes in a tragic vein. But both make a deep impact on the mind of the readers.

Gisha Tyagi

8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2021