



Feluda As Indian Sherlock Holmes

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Citation: B. Suma Priyanka, (2024). Feluda As Indian Sherlock Holmes, *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(4) 11346-11348

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i4.10241

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Whenever readers imagine about detective genre every person visualises of Sherlock Holmes, world's famous and acknowledged private investigative detective, the character which was portrayed by Sir Arthur Canon Doyle. These adventures were inspired by many other writers in various parts of the globe. In the same way India also has Sherlock Holmes named, Feluda which was fictionalized and reimagined by the popular Indian Bengali author, Satyajit Ray who is well-known for his mysteries, suspense, and adventures of Feluda and recognised for his films in the Indian cinema. Ray recreated Feluda's character as Sherlock Holmes of Bengali literature which was widely translated into English and many other Indian and foreign languages and had been made into films also.

Keywords: Sherlock Holmes, Feluda, sleuth, Satyajit Ray, Sir Arthur Canon Doyle, amateur, exotic adventures, macabre, and sidekick characters.

Introduction:

In Indian writings in English usually short stories are implanted in social, aesthetic, and political backgrounds of India. They often analyse rural life, caste, poverty, partition, gender issues and traditions. The writers mostly concentrate on combination of realism, symbolism and oral storytelling traditions and some other themes. Short story writers like Rabindranath Tagore, R.K.Narayan, Premchand, Saadat Hasan Manto, Ismat Chughtai have contributed many works for Indians readers with themes like social inequality, partition and its outcome, family and tradition, urban verses rural life, women's roles and rights.

In the same way there are many authors in British literature, had motivated by the colonial history, industrialisation, class distinctions, individual psychology. They have strong narrative structure with psychological insight. Their themes incorporate gothic, horror, mystery or satire aspects. There are numerous remarkable writers like Charles Dickens, Katherine Mansfield, D.H.Lawrence, H.H.Munro (Saki), Sir Arthur Canon Doyle and others. The significant subjects in their achievements revolve around status, class system and social ranking, industrialisation and transition, psychological involvement, colonialism, morality and individualism.

There are so abundant and extensive areas of genres in short stories like fantasy, science fiction, horror, historical fiction, realistic fiction, humour, drama, allegory, parable, and others these are some of the well-known genres in short stories. In the same way there is an additional genre named detective genre which is

unfolded and began in 19th century by Edgar Allan Poe, an American writer, believed as one of the primary short story writers in literary history. He is acclaimed of producing the short stories in the detective genre. The first detective short story in English language is *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* by Poe in the year 1841.

Essentially this genre has deeply occupied the mind's eye and interest of readers beyond cultures, providing stirring descriptions and narratives focussed around logic, mystery and the hunt of truth and investigates about crime, horror, suspense, thriller, murder and the macabre. Poe's works laid setting up to another entertaining and nail-biting genre which is till date conspicuous in literature and not only youngsters but also adults are intrigued towards this detective fiction where the story take turns and follow in suspense around a murder or crime and it is examined either by a professional sleuth or amateur and he/she has a narrator to narrate the whole story to the readers also he aids as an assistant to the detective consistently in first person narrative. This set a standard example to other writers and they dawned writing short stories in this fiction.

This article talks about the two leading short story writers and their detectives who are identical at the same time have contrasting identities and assessment progress in the detective genre from Indian writings in English and Britian literature. The two special figures who work in the same profession and are sharing almost same

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qualities as professional private investigators. The first person is Sherlock Holmes, one of the most commemorated detectives till date in English literature whom every reader longs to read his stories. This character which was created by Sir Arthur Canon Doyle, the most renowned author in British literature for his dominant detective works. He has paved ways for many other writers in literature who were encouraged by his spy personality and visualisation. In the same way there are many authors in India, justified themselves as the elegant detective writers and were touched by Holmes character and developed their own investigative works. In them, one of the authors is Satyajit Ray, the most reputed story teller, publisher, writer, legendary filmmaker and screen writer famous for his films and books. He is honoured for his films and writings, one of his works from that is *The Adventures of Feluda* for which he had raised more familiar writer over readers not only adults but also from children. He had drafted these adventures by the idea of the representative character "Sherlock Holmes", and with this work his series became the mark for detective novels and his detective character, "Pradosh Chandra Mitter" also known by his epithet "Feluda" became figure for detectives in India. This name consists of "Felu" and "Da", which means "Felu" – protector of the world and "Da"- is a term of respect used for an elder man and brother in Bengali. So, literally means the "protector of the world, elder brother."

Resemblance uniting Feluda and Holmes:

Feluda can be seen as the Indian equivalent to Sherlock Holmes exactly to their shared standards and superiority in logic, observation, and narrative arrangement yet he stands out through his apparent Indian existence and artistic environment and location. Both of them imagine in the same way like Holmes's judgement in *A Study in Scarlet* is often juxtaposed with Feluda's examining skills and exposition in short story *The Golden Fortress* and *Incident on the Kalka Mail*, he has interpretation with profound awareness of history, culture and human nature to unwind mysteries and his monitoring skills are acute and subtle as if he can gaze at an article or thing for 3 minutes and 15 seconds without blinking even once. He sketches out accurately anyone by perceiving or spotting just for a minute. Holmes has Dr. Watson as his ally and recorder, narrator in most of his cases, for his detection as Feluda has Tapesh Mitter aka Topshe his cousin and companion, illustrates every scene in his own words and sometimes reads Feluda's mind also. Both the narrators are young and admirers of the detective. He is also first-person narrative as Watson this shows Ray's respect towards Conan Doyle and Feluda often quotes Holmes in works. Feluda has conflicts with Maganlal Meghraj seen in some of his novels like wise Professor James Moriarty for Holmes. Feluda administers the condition with composed and operates problematic scenes with peace of mind as if Holmes. In case of emergency he knows martial arts like jujitsu and karate and always carries revolver with him for safety purpose but never used anywhere. He is committed to justice and ethical behaviour and ensures that innocent is protected and guilty are exposed, his main motto is seeking truth and puts his life at stake for that as if Holmes has his moral integrity.

Ethnic Surroundings and Stylistic Variations:

Satyajit Ray's detective fiction and his nature is precisely a meaningful part in Indian literary history and features an incentive for young generation authors. These adventures are set in urban and rural spaces like London, Kolkata, Nepal, Allahabad, etc., Feluda is origin in Bengali middle-class culture with Indian values, where ever he visits he makes sure he eats only Bengali or Indian food. In all his stories Indian history, mythology, customs, traditions are broadly considered. He uses idioms and phrases as formal credentials written by English authors and from Sanskrit shlokas and Indian philosophy books which are useful for readers to learn new words and idioms. Holmes uses western culture and literature, words taken from Latin references and scientific books. He has intelligence in forensic science and logical reasoning. He inspects events and incidents from a far-away kinds of clients covering Scotland Yard. He holds citizenship of Britain so he speaks English fluently whereas Feluda lacks English fluency because he is from India. Feluda is more understanding and mannered, avoids guns and brutality most of time but Holmes is aloof and unemotional, doesn't even stutter to use bloodshed when unavoidable.

Ray's Transformation and Uniqueness:

Ray revealed Holmes as his motivation and impact for his character but also highlighted generating a detective for the Indian sphere. Feluda stories are penned for youngsters and adult unlike Holmes, the initial works were absolutely written for adults even though these adventures of Holmes are later abridged and prescribed as text books for school children for English knowledge and entertainment. Feluda is completely an Indian detective purely pictured for Indian readers. He uses rational Bengali prose (later translated into English) whereas Canon's complicated, Victorian English and both explain subjective lectures to readers and are mouth gripping stories. Ray included a special character named Lalmohan Ganguly for comic relief as grave diggers scene in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. These stories are made into films by Ray for viewers who are unable to read the books linking with literature and Bengali culture is displayed fully in all the stories where ever Feluda goes it may be India or in other countries at least one character is introduced as Bengali. This article explores how Feluda can be seen as India's translation to Sherlock Holmes, while representing on the ageless impression on the detective genre. Ray adapted and transformed them to suit an Indian context through language, setting, character, and values. Feluda is complimented as an ageless hero and a man who never has presented significance on women

where as Holmes personally appreciates and addresses Ierne Adler on her brilliance and calls her “the woman” out of respect. There are no women characters in Feluda stories which are broadly spoken because it is totally written for youngsters we can go through only some minor characters. The inheritance of these two authors pursue to mould detective genre establishing its position as a crucial and progressive shape of literary delivery. The contrast discloses not only the literary and racial descent Feluda shares with Holmes but also the transformation Ray presented to make Feluda a fresh and brave symbol and pictures him as a special investigator in his individual task.

Conclusion:

There are so many detective writers in English literature but Sherlock Holmes is greatest of all time detective works and coming to India Ray's Feluda series is glorified and translated into many other Indian languages. Feluda has been utterly made for Indian readers, viewers and changed him into Indianizing detective prototype. He has been role model many readers and has fans all over the country. Ray is an inspiration for many contemporary writers and because of him detective characters are formed. Feluda is not only an Indian version of Holmes but also received as devised of Holmes in Indian detective fiction and as a detective image exceptionally adapted for Indian audience and readers. Feluda is overall displaced in the Indian outlook historically, geographically, and linguistically, brought out detective who is related to India instead of solely imitating the West. Ray's narrative style and humour are specific and the made-up story is distantly various contrasted to the Western style and narrative customs. So, Feluda ranks currently not in the shade of Sherlock, but alongside him as a testimony to how international ideals can be renewed through regional creativity.

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