

Epic Narratives Valmiki's Timeless Tale And Amish Tripathi's Modern Mythos

Dr. Sarika Sinha^{1*}, Vinod Kumar²

^{1*}Associate Professor Department of English MATS University, Pandri, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Email- drsarikas@matsuniversity.ac.in

²PhD Scholar MATS University, Pandri, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Email -letsenglishwithvinod@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Sage Valmiki in his ancient Ramayana has used a poetical and lyrical narrative whereas Amish Tripathi in his Ramachandra Series has used a modern and contemporary narrative that is more liked by the modern readers. Valmiki has used frame narrative and Chronological narrative technique and Amish Tripathi has used the non-linear narrative technique with lots of flashbacks. Valmiki Ramayana mainly focuses on the ancient story and the original life journey of Lord Rama on the other hand Amish Tripathi has tried to cover some other characters also and he also permits them to express their views and emotions. He even highlights the good character traits of Ravana and her sister. In the present research we are trying to clarify the basic difference in the narrative style and technique of both the writers Amish Tripathi and Valmiki, as both the writers belong to different time periods their way of story narration is quite different and that's why we are just trying to locate the basic differences in the writing styles of both these men of letters.

Keywords: Epic, Narrative, Metaphors, Mythos.

The ancient Ramayana is written by Sage Valmiki in Sanskrit language, this epic contains slokas in a poetical form. Valmiki has used the technique of frame narrative. The opening frame of Ramayana shows Valmiki sitting with the messenger of God Narad Muni and he was sharing Lord Rama's Story with him. In between Brahma moves to see the grief of a lonely bird whose mate was killed by a hunter, Valmiki felt the grief of this lonely bird and he recorded the whole incident by using a new meter called "anushtubh", Brahma saw this metrical structure impressing and he instructed Valmiki to narrate the story of Lord Rama in this metrical structure. Obeying Brahma's order Valmiki narrates the story of Rama to his two son's Lava and Kusha. By doing so sage Valmiki has preserved the ancient art of storytelling by wandering story-tellers. The use of frame narrative helps the future story re-tellers to construct the Ramakatha correctly. Valmiki has used similes and metaphors in his epic narrative Ramayana. On the other hand if we scan the narrative technique of Amish Tripathi in his Ramachandra Series has used the multi-linear narrative technique. He has not selected the title as Ramayana but he has named his four books of Rama's story as Ramachandra Series that's why he got the liberty to re-modify the old ancient story of Ramayana and he has also added a few new characters and chapters in his series. Amish belongs to new generation who has a deep connectivity in the ancient Indian tradition and culture. He has beautifully blended the ancient mythology with his modern story telling style. Amish gives us a new fictional world with his new innovative technique. Amish characters look more human like as he has created them to be familiar with us. His celestial characters also move and talk like us. He also includes themes related to society, polity and religion. In Ramayana also Valmiki has mentioned very beautifully the incidents with minute details. In most of the places in Ramayana Valmiki has used Alamkara. In the part of Ramayana's Kiskindakanda Valmiki has beautifully portrayed the Season of Viraha when birds rejoice and everywhere the bushes look golden with lots of flowers. In a place in Kiskindakanda Sage Valmiki has mentioned about Lord Rama, he says:

It is the time of rainy season, Sita is absent and everything around Rama reminds him of Sita:

"Ah My beloved! Her voice was as sweet as bird's! How can she use to in our forest hut?

How can she enjoy these golden flowering bushes like she use to when I was by her side?"

[Kiskindha 349]

The descriptions like this let us delve deep into Rama's story. We can even feel the same emotions as felt by Lord Rama at the time when Sita was away from him. The perfect narrative technique of Valmiki, his use of metaphors and Similes and a nice poetic technique let us draw nearer to its characters. We also move with them whenever we read the story. It is India's tradition to transfer the original epics in an oral mode. In the ancient and the medieval times people used to perform the various incidents of the Ramakatha in Ramaleela performances. A group of actors move from village to village and display Ramayana's story through acting. This way the whole epic is just preserved in the minds of Indian people. But the way Valmiki has preserved the whole story of Rama by writing Ramayana is just incredible. Besides writing it he has also preserved the oral tradition by transferring the whole story to Lava and Kusha Lord Rama's two sons. One thing that is most interesting in Amish Tripathi and Valmiki is that both of them have followed broadly the same pattern of absence and return in Ramchandra series and ancient Ramayana. Both the authors have properly provided the traditional and ancient flavors along with the morals, which is one of the most precious gifts to the readers. Amish Tripathi has re-imagined all the set of events from Rama's life journey and he has given us all the details from his modern point of view. Amish has also added some of the very complex characters, new philosophy and intricate plots in his Ramachandra Series. Amish has provided a modern look to the ancient character Ram. Amish has selected powerful words in writing the dialogues of Ram, he has tried to give a positive message to the readers through Ram. Ram has shown by him as a person who carried nicely his duties, honor and when time demands he even do sacrifice. Amish has shown to the readers Rama's leadership qualities through the dialogues. In Ramachandra Series Second book Sita Warrior of Mithila. He has given powerful traits to Sita's character and shown her as strong, courageous and an independent woman. Amish presented Sita as a central character in his book Sita Warrior of Mithila. By creating the powerful character of Sita Amish has tried to give a message of women empowerment. Sita has been presented by him as an awesome warrior, she is strong as well as emotional at the same time, and she handles even the war expeditions very tactfully. Amish has portrayed Sita as modern women carrying her duties and traditions properly. In ancient Ramayana Valmiki has presented the character of Sita as a graceful, pure and a devoted wife. Valmiki has provided Sita the quality of Sacrifice, loyalty and courage. Valmiki has provided us Sita's character as a complex one and he has shown her as a symbol of strength and femininity. Valmiki has portrayed Sita in an elevated style he has showcased her dedication to dharma. In Ramachandra series Amish has provided the transformation of Sita from a princess to a warrior. Sita's bravery is shown in an incident when Sita bravely leads the defense army to protect Mithila. She fearlessly fought the war and she also inspires the other warrior to fight courageously. In the ancient Ramayana there is an episode where Sita is shown demonstrating her love and devotion towards Ram, Ravana abducted Sita and he has kept her in a vatika, from time to time he used to come there and he tried to convince Sita to accept him and become his queen, but Sita faced him very patiently and she never surrendered before Ravana. While presenting Sita's character Valmiki portrayed every minute emotion of Sita for Lord Ram. When we read this portion of ancient Ramayana we got swayed with Sita's grief. Amish Tripathi's Character portrayal is quite impressive, specially he has portrayed women characters with minute details. He has presented his female characters as independent and powerful, his female characters were very supportive to the male characters. Tripathi's Ramachandra series is very inspirational for the inspiring readers and writers. Amish has beautifully blended multiple characters into one web. Amish has focused on three main characters and in his Ramchandra series he has devoted these three characters a single book, he has also tried to provide a particular background story to each character. If we want to understand these characters and their journey fully we need to study each book of the series separately. After reading the first three books when we read the last book that is The war of Lanka gives us a deeper understanding of the Journey of Rama and the details of Lankan war. Amish has described each and every character and the related incidents so systematically that even a new reader can understand the whole story easily. The unique representation of the characters and incidents separately in four books made the story of Lord Rama accessible to many readers, even those who don't know Sanskrit can easily read these series as Amish has written in easily understandable language. The one striking feature of the series is that the story is written not from the writers point of view but it was written from Rama's point of view, in the series each character Ram, Sita and Ravana is the narrator of his/ her own story, here like Valmiki Amish has not taken any other narrator to narrate the whole story. This technique makes the Ramachandra series more acceptable by the readers. Amish has knitted plots as thought provoking and thrilling, it is not at all the same quiet and silent story of Lord Rama as presented in the ancient Ramayana. If we talk about Valmiki's timeless tale which we have received through oral narrations, books, children stories we can say that Ramayana's significance and its importance, its historicity, its religiosity cannot fade. At present time we have many versions and retellings of Ramayana but still the pleasant narrative technique of Valmiki still attracts men of letters to do research on his work. Amish has also given a modern look to the ancient epic. Although his formula of Hindu mythic tradition is employed from his personal experiences, which he got from his religious household. He has tried to connect myth with the socio-political issues of his age. Trying to cover the Hindu mythology and dharma Amish has also provided us the four forms of divinity.

There are many differences in the presentation of the story by the two authors Valmiki and Amish Tripathi. Amish has tried to create an India of the past, his characters Ram, Sita and Ravana are the real people from the past, they are not magical characters. He has also applied some scientific explanations which removed

the religious mysticism. His Ramachandra series is quite different from the ancient Ramayana by Valmiki that is based on the phenomenon of theomorphism and he has given divine qualities to human beings. For example Sita is the avatar of Lakshmi Goddess of fortune, success, beauty and happiness, Lord Rama is the seventh avatar of Mahavishnu. Overall both the writers tried their best to preserve the ancient Indian heritage, only their way of narrating the story is different. It is also because of the time period of both the epics one is ancient Indian epic and the other is modern story narrated by a modern author Amish. The ancient Ramayana by Valmiki and Ramachandra series both are the treasures of Indian Literature and both will continue to attract readers like us to dive deep into its miraculous knowledge.

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