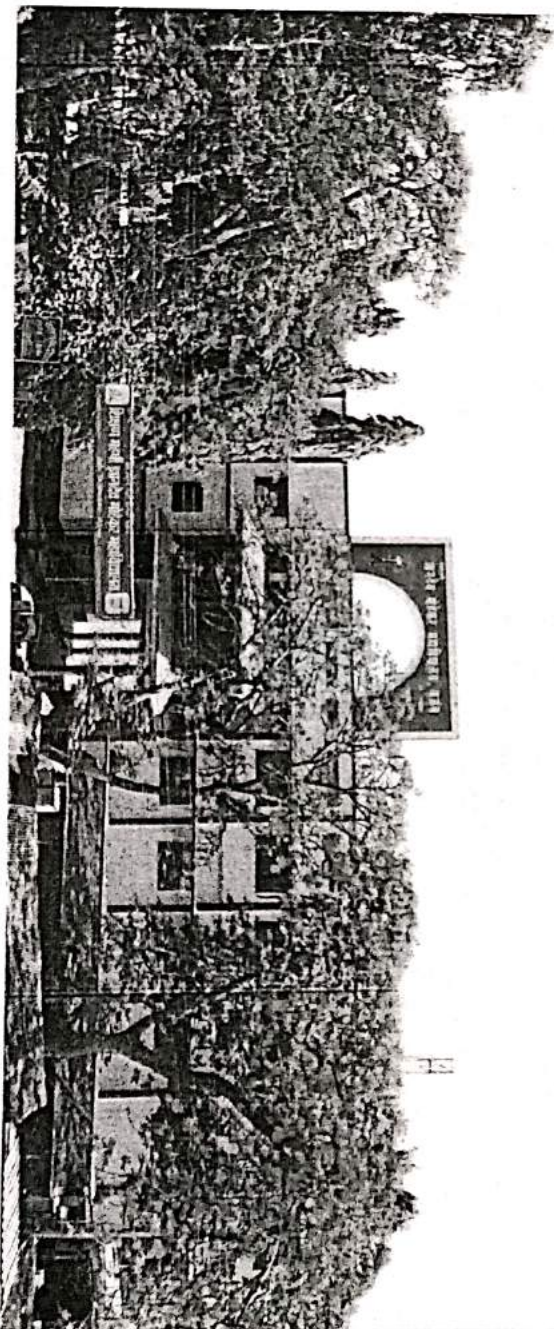




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SATIRE, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE

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Satire has a long tradition right from the beginning of ancient period of the Great Masters, Horace and Juvenal. Satire as a literary genre is as old as literature itself. In another words, we can say that the existence of satire is as ancient as literature. To be frank, satire and literature are two sides of the same coin. It can't easily be separated from each other because when a writer composes a work, the thoughts and issues he puts forth are closely connected with society and people. Society contains plenty of issues concerning with society, economics, culture, politics, science, technology and psychology which a writer's critical eyes catch easily and throws light on both positive and negative aspects of the society. However, the problems are differs from society and country to country. For example, the problems which Indian society is facing are quite different from African society or European society, or even American society.

Society is a group of humans. Arjun Dubey accurately remarks in his scholarly research paper named '*Literature and Society*'. He observes:

'A society is a group of people related to each other through their continuous and uninterrupted relations. It is also a group of likeminded people largely governed by their own norms and values. Human society, it is observed, is characterized by the patterns of relationship between individuals who shares culture, traditions, beliefs and values' (197)

What Arjun Dubey wants to tell is that society is a group of people who belong to different religion, culture, caste, creed, its norms and values. But when these two different elements come across to each other, there may be a crisis to which we witness in our modern society. It is natural rule that where there is action, there is reaction to it. Literature depicts these human thoughts, attitudes, beliefs, customs, social conventions of human society; and not only focuses problems and issues but also concentrates on values and morale. Moreover, Literature demonstrates the whole scenario, projects the accurate picture of the society. Every human society contains the layers of relationship among the members of the society communicating thoughts and emotions continuously. If we take into account of the history of society from the Palaeolithic (Stone Age), we come to know that society is not constant or stable thing; rather it has been changed in the course of time at every stage and period. To quote Arjun Dubey once again:

'If one looks at the history of society, one will find that the nature of different societies has gone through changes from the Palaeolithic period to the present age of information and technology. The people's living style, faiths, beliefs, culture etc. have never remained uniformly consistent. With the passage of time, owing to changes taking place in environment and with emergence of new technologies, we observe that the societies have not remained stubborn with regards to their norms and values, the reflections of which can be found in different forms of literature'. (ibid)

Being two sides of the same coin, if one changes, another doesn't remain stable. It has to change in relation to style, theme, issues, technique concerning with humans action, attitude and behaviour. A great writer notes all these things and represents them in his literature. The writer holds up mirror in front of our face and makes us to introspect and create awareness about various problems in the readers. He not only makes us to introspect and create awareness but also tries to bring out improvement and radical change in the society. As a result, I would not hesitate to say that literature is not only a mirror but also it is to be reformative mirror believing in welfare of the society. Radical changes are brought out from ancient period in the society and Rousseau's *Confessions* (1782) and *The Social Contract* (1792) are the witness of social change in France. Plenty of writers have contributed to change the society, for example, Plato's *The Republic* (380 B.C), Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), Thomas Paine's *The Rights of Man* (1791), Niccolo Machiavelli's *The Prince* (1532), John Mill's *On Liberty* (1859), Channa Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1958), George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* (1949), Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859) etc. It is the society which is a source for their writings. Skim rightly comments on society and literature in research paper named '*Literature and Society: A New Reading of Senhene Ousmane's Mandate*': 'the society is situated in literature and arts'. (124) Concentrating on society, literature and reality, the writer forms his views and attitude. Krieger Murray observes:

'The general resemblance to reality is what makes art recognizable to the rest of us. But what makes art artful is the fact that artist impose his own matter upon these forms in a way that gives them another responsiveness to another inevitability, a new necessity and probability'. (57)

The writer is motivated by reality and produces a work of literature based on society.

In short satire, society and literature are closely connected to each other. It has been said that literature is the reflection of society. To correct the society is a basic aim of the writers. So as to achieve the goals, the writers undertake the task of writing a satire which is little bitter in taste. Basically, the satirist is a social reformer. So, for improving the society, he uses satirical devices and techniques like exaggeration, understatement, invective, sarcasm, caricature, irony, wit etc. in his work and expect change and improvement in the society.

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References should be cited in MLA parenthetical style. (Name of the author and page numbers in the parenthesis in the text and list of the works cited arranged alphabetically at the end of the paper)

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Contributors are advised to check spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and the mechanical elements of arrangements, spacing, length, and consistency of usage in form and descriptions before submission.

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