



Depiction of Children by Indian Short Story Writers

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Abstract : *Indian English literature refers to the body of work by writers in India who write in English language and whose native or co-native language could be one of the numerous languages of India. It is also referred to as Indo-Anglian literature. It is rich in variety, form, style and language.*

The topic of our research project is “Depiction of Children by Indian Short Story Writers”.

The first story dealt with is “Kabuliwala”, written by Rabindranath Tagore. It basically focuses on the psyche of a five-year old child, Mini and her relationship with Kabuliwala. Psycho-Analytic Theory has been applied.

The second story is “My Father’s Trees in Dehra”, written by Ruskin Bond. The story is very suited for the application of the

theory of Ecocriticism. The protagonist is Bond himself and the father-son relationship is showcased beautifully. Thus, the story has an autobiographical touch.

The third story is “The Silver Lining”, written by Chaman Nahal. It is analysed using a Psycho-Sociological Approach. The story revolves around a physically challenged girl named Promodini and it explicitly shows how she is at the periphery of the society.

All the three short stories effectively depict children and their childhood with variations in setting and plot.

Key Words: *Psycho-Analytic Theory, Ecocriticism, Short story.*

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Introduction :

The concept of **psychoanalytic criticism** has developed from the scientific and therapeutic methodology of psychoanalysis which means to cure the mental disorder by investigating the interaction of “conscious and unconscious elements in the mind”.

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) an Austrian psychologist, is the first to develop the techniques of psychoanalysis in his work ***The Interpretation of Dreams*** (1900). In this work we find the first example of applied psychoanalysis with Freud’s interpretation of William Shakespeare’s play ***Hamlet***. One of the key terms used by Freud was