

Picaresque Elements in Mark Twain's Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

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Abstract:

Mark Twain was famous writer in American Literature. He used and followed Picaresque Element' in his works. Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn are the Genre of satire, Folk, Children's Literature, Literary Psychological, Moral growth of Protagonist from youth to Adulthood, Bildungsroman.

Keywords— Picaresque element, American Literature Literary Psychological, Bildungsroman.

INTRODUCTION

American Literature refers to works of Literature written in the English Language in America. The post civil war period saw writings by Mark Twain and Henry James. This Period was Considered realistic in its emphasis on truthful depiction. Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876), Life on the Mississippi (1883) and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884) were important fictional works of this Period. 20th Century American Literature saw an emphasis on naturalism.

Mark Twain is the Pen – name of one of the most famous of American humorists. His real Name was Samuel Clement. Mark Twain's Life was Colorful. In the Course of Seventy – Five years he did many wonderful things. He was born poor. He never attended a school. But he become such a Powerful Speaker and writer that the university of oxford made him a Doctor of Literature.

PICARESQUE ELEMENT

Traditionally, the Picaresque hero is always moving towards a destination both

topographical and metaphorical, there is the optimistic implication that arrival will bring Success, a resolution of Problems. Picaresque dealing with the adventures of a dishonest but appealing hero. A Chronicle, usually autobiographical, Presenting the Life Story of a rascal of low degree engaged in menial tasks and making his living more through his wit than his industry. The Picaresque novel tends to be episodic and structure less. Romantic in the sense of being an adventure Story, the Picaresque novel nevertheless is strongly marked by realism in petty detail and in uninhibited expression.

PICARESQUE ELEMENT IN THE ADVENTURE OF TOM SAWYER

Concerned with Tom's Personal growth and quest for identity. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer incorporates Several different genres. It resembles a roman, a novel that follows the development of a hero from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood. The novel also resembles novels of the picaresque genre, in that Tom moves from one

adventurous episode to another. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer also fits the Genres of Satire, frontier Literature, Folk narrative and comedy. The

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Tom and Huck Perceive their biggest struggle to be between themselves and Injun Joe. Whose gold they want and whom they believe is out to kill them. Conflict also exists between Tow and his imaginative world and the expectations and rules of adult Society. Moral and Social Maturation, Society's hypocrisy, freedom through Social exclusion, Superstition in an uncertain World.

PICARESQUE ELEMENT IN THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

In a Picaresque novel, there is always one central character whose adventures are Presented against a realistic Social background. Such a central character is both a Part and apart from the contemporary society. Being a Part he knows the Society, being apart his adventures highlight the absurd and ugly ruts of society. The Picaresque novel is always written in satirical strain. Critics have called Huckleberry Finn, as the Picaresque novel, because it, Like its English Predecessors, Presents a Series of adventures of one Central Character, Huck. He is a Mirror Which reflects the society. Huck, Mark Twain Satirizes the Cruelty, Greed, hypocrisy and the Criminality of the

People. Huck is central to all the episodes which make up the adventure of the novel.

Critics have called Huckleberry Finn, as the picaresque novel, because it, like its English predecessors, presents a series of adventures of one central character Huck. He too is a mirror which reflects the society. Through Huck, Mark Twain satirizes the cruelty, greed, hypocrisy and the criminality of people. Huck is central to all the episodes which make up the adventure of the novel. Like all picaresque novels. Huck Finn has loose plot, no scheme or design. In fact, in the notice he gave a warning to his readers. It is quite interesting to read the warning.

The problem of the plot is really baffling for it has no plot on the traditional or conventional sense. It consists of a series of episodes not related, nut similar for all those episodes are different slides of the society, representing or showing its various aspects. Again, like the earlier novels in the tradition of the picaresque novels, an extravaganza of fantasy and romance. Like the traditional picaresque novels. Mark Twain takes a central character in the person of a child. He is not a romantic here, nor is he a rogue, he is a child in his teens, and an innocent child. His origins are quite obscure. He is abandoned child, coming from the lower strata of the white American society. All the same, he is a part of the contemporary culture, but destitute of education and the so – called high –brow, aristocratic official culture. The causal factors which generate a note of protest are not in him, but they lie outside and in the society itself. He develops hatred and contempt for priggish and hypocritical ethical codes of civil conduct and behavior and refuses to be 'civilized'. He runs away in search of freedom, he meets time, who is similarly 'on the run' in quest of personal liberty from the clutches of

Miss Watson. Thus, both are joined in one cause.

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CONCLUSION

Mark Twain use Picaresque element in his both novels. He highlights Tom and Huck from their adulthood in their Society and Life. American Literature as a canon encompasses a long Period of history and the evolution of various Literary genres uniquely American in its culture. Literature also expanded its social Spectrum to include high and low Life.

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