

## A Critical Study of R.K. Narayan s Novel Swami And Friends

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### Introduction

**R**asipuram Krishnaswami Narayan is highly acclaimed as a detached observer of life. R. K. Narayan was born on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1906 and passed away in 2001. He was born in an upper Middle class Brahmin family of Madras, Narayan sees South Indian as a fundamentally Conservative Hindu society which he realistically presents in most of his Novels and Stories with The lower middle class common man as his base. The imaginary town that he creates and calls Malgudi has all the qualities of a society Narayan dwells in, and he depicts it with a keenly observant eye. As William Walsh asserts:

R.K. Narayan is neither a social critic as such nor is he interested in propagating any Ideas. But the stories of his Malgudi novels and characters reveal the simplicity of Narayan's Writing. Narayan's contribution claims serious attention which it has not so far received in the Measure it deserves. Narayan's individuals moving under the prevailing social customs and Traditions revolting and accepting defeat in the end with the sense of resignation is thus, the Subject of the present study.

Narayan was not a brilliant student as such. He somehow from Maharaja College, Mysore managed to pass his B.A. His further education being discontinued, Narayan had to Become a newspaper reporter to support his family. His business was to gather Mysore city news And send it to a newspaper called, The Justice published in Madras. Its aim was to promote the Cause of the non-Brahmins who suffered from the domination of the minority Brahmin class in Public life, government service and education. He then turned to compose novels.

### Research Objectives

- (1) To study of the style and method of R.K.Narayan's works in general.

- (2) To understand the plot of R.K. Narayan's novels especially of the selected novels.
- (3) To study of R.K.Narayan's language aspects.
- (4) To study the depicted Indian tradition in the novels of R.K. Narayan.
- (5) To understand the importance of Malgudi town (imagined town) in the selected works of R.K. Narayan.

### Methodology –

the study of the methods involved in some field, endeavor, or in problem solving

### Scope of Research Work

1. In the present research, I have selected only three novels so there will be a huge scope for the new scholars to focus on rest of the novels of R.K. Narayan.
2. The selected novels are analysed on the basis of themes, plot, characters, settings etc so there will a scope for the emerging researchers to discuss the other literary elements of the same novels and rest of the novels too.
3. The selected novels and rest of the novels can be studied by applying new theories of the criticism such as Formalism, Structuralism, Post Structuralism etc.
4. New researchers can also focus on the short stories of R.K. Narayan.

### Conclusion

To conclude it can be said that Narayan is highly spoken of as a detached observer of the Frailties and follies of human nature and action. Narayan too admits this in an interview that the Writer is a spokesman of the community in which he lives and of himself, and to him absolute Freedom of spirit matters most. A well known critic V. Pandurang Rao is therefore absolutely Right when he observes:

What Narayan aims at in his expression is grace and ease rather than artificial glow and

Picturesqueness. His style is lucid, and as is said of Thackeray, words seem to flow from his pen Without any effort like snow water upon the mountain sides. Narayan has the gift of healthy, Refreshing invigorating humour, compassionate, sympathetic and even profound. He entertains us With the pure mirth of the lower middle class comedy in contemporary South Indian life.

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