

RE-PRESENTATION OF ROMANTIC IDEALS IN TAUFIQ RAFAT'S ARRIVAL OF THE MONSOON

Kinza Arshad

Ms., Kinnaird College for Women, Pakistan

Kinza.arshad91@hotmail.com

Abstract

Writing from Post-Independence period to the early nineties, Taufiq Rafat is considered as the pioneer of English Poetry in Pakistan. His remarkable contribution was that he relieved English language of the colonial baggage and used it to express emotions and sensibilities rooted in the indigenous milieu. Earlier, Pakistani literature in English was subjected to prejudices and biasness for being written in the former master's language. It was from Taufiq Rafat that the language was used to express the sensibility of the local people. He called it the Pakistani Idiom.

This practice of employing Pakistani idiom is evident in his first collection of poetry Arrival of the Monsoon. Rafat has innovatively used language to communicate the Pakistani culture. Local fauna and flora, idioms and cultural practices are common in Rafat's jargon. Through language, he creates a romantic aura seeped in local practices and lifestyle. In comparison to the widely established and historically renowned British Romanticism, Rafat's romantic ideals are Pakistani in nature. The basic tenets of nature and individuality of man are kept intact by Rafat, who described them in a completely local setting, totally aloof from the conventional British setting.

This study will specifically explore the re-presentation of the already set notions of Romanticism in a localized version and how his use of English language does not reflect the foreign flavor, but rather a traditional mode of expression. The research will analyse the first section of Arrival of Monsoon, named, "Arrival of Monsoon 1947 -1969". This section comprises of 35 poems with diverse themes and topics for analysis. The paper will present that Rafat's expression creates an atmosphere of romantic ideals that have Pakistan's original sensibility

Keywords: Romanticism, ideals, local, culture, Pakistan.