

Tradition vs. Modernity in Girish Karnad's Drama

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Parashari

Govt. Degree College, Raza Nagar, Swar, Rampur (U.P.)

Abstract: *The article investigates how traditional heritage conflicts with present-day values which exist in Girish Karnad's theatrical works, who serves as a key figure of India's "Theatre of Roots" movement. The study establishes that Karnad uses myth and history and folklore to develop his artwork because he wants to express present-day human problems and post-colonial tensions instead of showing historical traditions. The article compares three foundational plays, which are Tughlaq and Hayavadana and Naga-Mandala, to demonstrate how theatrical productions progress from common social understanding toward individual modernistic behavior. Theatrical works by Karnad examine power relationships while displaying Indian social development through their depiction of intricate human connections. The fusion of ancient and modern elements in Karnad's works creates a distinct viewpoint regarding how Indian culture combines traditional elements with contemporary practices. His work investigates identity themes along with gender dynamics and political power, which helps him create stories that connect with diverse audiences. Theatrical works of Karnad function as strong social criticism about how Indian society transforms while people experience ongoing personal difficulties.*

The analysis depends on Karnad's method which he describes as modernizing the myth because he transforms traditional elements like transposed heads and the supernatural cobra through Brechtian alienation and Camusian existentialism. The study investigates how Karnad's protagonists grapple with the self-disintegration and political idealism collapse which occurs when ancient social structures cease to provide protection in their environment. The article studies how Karnad combines Yakshagana folk traditions with Western theatrical methods to create a "Third Space" which enables him to challenge established patriarchal customs. The study demonstrates how Karnad achieved his permanent impact on world literature through his work because he showed that tradition and modernity exist as ongoing creative processes which shape Indian cultural identity in modern times...

Keywords: Girish Karnad, Tradition vs. Modernity, Post-colonial Theatre, Myth-making, Existentialism, Hayavadana