

A Blend of Humor and Cruelty in the Works of Saki (H. H. Munro)

Sushma Patnaik and Sykam Santha Kumari

Assistant Professor, Sir C R Reddy College of Engineering (Autonomous), Eluru

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sir C R Reddy College of Engineering (Autonomous), Eluru

Abstract: *Saki (Hector Hugh Munro) occupies a distinctive position in British literature for his sharp satirical short stories that combine wit with sudden cruelty. At first glance, his narratives appear light-hearted and amusing; however, beneath the surface humor lies a deep critique of Edwardian society and the darker dimensions of human psychology. This paper examines how Saki blends humor and cruelty to expose social hypocrisy, repression, and moral arrogance. By analyzing selected stories such as The Open Window and Sredni Vashtar, the study argues that humor and cruelty in Saki's works are not contradictory elements but complementary forces that strengthen his social criticism. The paper also situates Saki within the broader tradition of British satire and highlights the enduring relevance of his narrative technique.*

Keywords: Saki, satire, humor, cruelty, Edwardian society, short stories