

Pietism and Credence in T. S. Pillai's *Chemmeen*

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Abstract

Translation studies have become the need of the hour and its development will take place as programmes in world. The etymology of the word translator suggests that meaning is picked up bodily from one culture transported across a frontier. This paper seeks to explore transcendental ideas in *Narayanan Menon's English* translations of acclaimed Malayalam writer T.S. Pillai's *Chemmeen* as Transcendentalism. It explores the theme of culture, tradition, eco criticism and faith through the relationship between the characters in novel. In this novel the relationship between many characters are discussed. *Chemmeen* is the realistic fictional tragedy which focuses on the lifestyle of early fisherman folk in Kerala, in southern part of India.

Keywords: Etymology, Frontier, Transcendentalism, Eco Criticism.

Pietism means *religion*. There are many religions based on their gods. Credence refers to *Beliefs*. There are many religious practices followed by the people of their own gods. Morality means the belief in god and worship of superhuman controlling power, especially a personal god or goddess.

In one's personal life they face troubles by other religious people. Religion is about the conversation between god and the human, there is no space for public opinion or criticizes. *Chemmeen* is also about how Karuthamma is treated by the ostracism from our society and fear of religion are used to restrict people's choices and how superstition became a weapon to those who want to fulfil their pleasure.

Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai was born in Thakazhi, Kerala, India. He was popularly known as Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai which took place the name of his birthplace. He was an Indian novelist and short story writer of Malayalam Literature. He focused on oppressed classes in his writings. During Sivasankara Pillai's days in Thiruvananthapuram he spent for his writing career. Then, he met Kesari Balakrishna Pillai who helped Sivasankara Pillai's writing career. Daridran was the first short story of Sivasankara Pillai which was published in 1929. Pillai's literary work portrays the society of Kerala in the mid-20th century. *Thottiyude*

makkan [scavenger's son] a story was published in 1947 and is known to be the first realistic novel in Malayalam literature. His political novel *Randidangazhi* projected the evils of the feudal system.

Vallathol Narayan Menon was one who translated the *Chemmeen* Novel into English from Malayalam Language. He was one of the triumvirate poets of modern Malayalam. He was a nationalist poet and wrote a series of poems on various aspects of Indian freedom movement.

In the novel *Chemmeen*, Karuthamma the daughter of Hindu fisherman falls in love with a Muslim trader Paree Kutty. However social prejudices seem to ruin their life and pulled them into the wrath of communities. This story proclaims that premarital and after marriage relationship of Karuthamma. Karuthamma's mother Chakki is a very religious person. She condemns her daughter's love with a man of other community and arranges for a marriage with a man belongs to their own community. Palani is an orphan discovered by Chembankunju. The novel serves as an important instrument of moralizing and advocating traditionalism. Chakki is completely against Karuthamma's idea of converting herself into Muslim. Loving her mother more, Karuthamma leaves Paree Kutty, her beloved one and marries Palani. For the sake of her mother, Karuthamma accepts the new life and leads happily leaving Paree Kutty behind.

Family relationship is bounded with people who are related to each other's and shares an emotional bond and similar values. Karuthamma lives her life with Palani peacefully. She loses sight of her beloved one Paree Kutty. She accepted Palani as her husband and suddenly her mother was ill. So, Karuthamma leaves Palani and went to look after her mother. The reason for broken of love between Karuthamma and Palani was Chakki.

The man's weak struggle against the ruthless powerful dusting and nature are discussed in this novel. *Chammeen* is a unique tale of devotion, greed, and sacrifice. Palani and Karuthamma had a daughter. Parrikutty delivers the sad news that Karuthamma's mom Chakki passed away. People make scandal of their meeting. During their Childhood days Parrikutty and Karuthamma played together. People found that they love each other when they are grown. So, Chakki and Chemban want to settle her marriage with the boy of their community. Karuthamma's heart flame of love burns out for Parrikutty. One night Palani went out for fishing. Using this opportunity Karuthamma and her lover Parrikutty had a secret meeting at beach. They express their love to one another, and they still remain with their love. After seeing Pareekutty Karuthamma forget about her husband and child. Palani went for fishing and there was a giant storm rages in the sea. Karuthamma puts his husband life in hands of *the goddess of the sea* and eloped with Pareekutty. This novel *Chemmeen* shows how fisherman

depends on nature for survival. The lovers decide to sacrifice their lives for pure love but Palani being on hope that *the goddess of sea* might save him from that storm rages in the sea. The lovers decide to end their life, which makes them united after their death. She only focused on her fulfillment and she doesn't consider her baby. Her love towards Palani was fake. Water plays a central role symbolically and literally of all societies. T.S. 'Pillai uses the element of water at a literal level. The female body becomes an important sight of signification for upholding the communities' sense of self-respect.

Chembankunju is a dishonesty person because he married Pappikunju after the death of his first wife Chakki. This incident affected the Panjami younger sister of Karuthamma then she hates her father and leaves the house and lives with Karuthamma for a few days. Everyone must suffer once in their life because of their sins. People talk about the death of Karuthamma and Palani and stroll of their night meetings. They talk that *the goddess of sea* should punish them for their sins. Chembankunju behavior towards his little daughter Panchami was bad. "*She did not stand alone, but what stood behind her, the most potent moral force in her life, was the love of her father*". In every girl's life father is the first hero but in *Chemmeen* Chemban being a good father later after marrying Pappikunju a widow he want to satisfy his dream of enjoying the life like Kandankoran who had money and physically attractive wife.

Chemmeen is about chastity. Throughout the novel there is a conflict between traditionalism and modernism. Traditionalism is regard to tradition beliefs or practices. Traditionalism involves respecting and upholding traditional values. Morality norms and practices of one's own social group. Traditionalism is broadly concerned on the past of one's group. Traditionalism can refer to both economic and social conservation. Traditionalists often focused on culture, ethnicity, national and religious group. In *Chemmeen* the author focused on religious belief. The society and family rejected Karuthamma's and Pareekutty's love because of their tradition. In the novel *Chemmeen* the author uses religious belief in "chakki forced Karuthamma to marry Palani because of their religious belief".

Modernism is both a philosophical movement and an art movement that upholds the culture, trends and changes arose from wide scale and for reaching transformation in society. During the late 19th and earlier 20th centuries of enlighten and thinking. Many modernists also rejected religious belief. In *Chemmeen* T.S. Pillai used modernism when Karuthamma eloped with Pareekutty after her marriage but parents have the rights to choose the life partner of their children. But it should be convenient and should give satisfaction to the person who is going to get married.

The novel *Chemmeen* is a clash between traditionalism and modernism. The characters in the novel are all transgressing the traditional beliefs and customs. T.S. Pillai explores realism with the new romanticism. In this novel T.S. Pillai gives several examples in terms of giving descriptions of traditional beliefs and customs portrayed by characters that transgress them. Karuthamma and Chemban are the significant characters in the novel as the symbol of transgressor of social taboo, traditions and customs.

According to all religion it is a real fact if a woman marries a man, she should be a trustworthy to her husband. This is our culture and tradition being followed by our people. Here, Karuthamma's character was not considered as chastity. Because she was infidelity to her husband Palani, and she doesn't take care about her daughter. But, Palani is genuine and true towards Karuthamma, and because of his genuineness *the goddess of sea* would save him from the storm. No one should cheat their partners for the sake of love and don't spoil one's life for one's fulfillment and selfishness.

One thing we liked in this novel is that the way the characters are drawn. *Chemmeen* novel is rich and multilayered. On the other hand it proves that true love recognizes no religion, cultural or geographical boundaries. The article reaffirms the required commitment to relationship, it also shows that how a true love can save and destroy man. It tells that people can change with greed and jealousy and portrays the deep rooted idea of superstitions in the Hindu psyche. The novel deals with the disintegration of tradition, social and religious belief in fisher folk.

Reference

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