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ARCHETYPAL STUDY OF GIRISH KARNAD'S SELECTED DRAMAS



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ABSTRACT

Literature is part of humanities and humanities include philosophy and history also. These two branches of knowledge provide a kind of pattern for understanding literature. Philosophy and history are two major tools of interpretation of literature and archetypal criticism is based on philosophy and history of a people. Archetypal criticism is synthesis of structural criticism and historical criticism. Archetypal approach is the interpretation of a text in the light of cultural patterns involved in it and these cultural patterns are based on myths and rituals of a race or nation or social group. The archetypal ideas have always been present and defused in human consciousness. Plato was the first philosopher to elaborate this concept as ideal forms. It was Jung who applied term archetypes what he called 'primordial

image'. Archetypal criticism is a synthesis of structural criticism and historical criticism. It dissects and analyses symbols, images and mythologies used by a writer in his works, and these symbols, myths and rituals have their origin in primitive myths, rituals, folk-lore and cultures. Such primitive factors according to Jung lie buried in the "collective unconscious" which may be called "racial memory" of the people. Archetypal study of dramas of Girish Karnad shows that he has re-created and reinterpreted ancient myths, folk-lore, legends and tradition. His dramas are replete with instances of Indian life in its truest essence. He has used tradition, myths, legends and folk-lore and history extensively.

KEYWORDS

Girish Karnad, archetype, literature, drama, Jung