

The Study and Development of Patriotism in the Plays of Modern Dramatist Shantinath Ghosh

Partha Pratim Mishra¹, Dr. Nikhiles Chakrabarti²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Sanskrit, Seacom Skills University, Kendradangal, Bolpur, Birbhum, PIN 731236, India.

²Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Seacom Skills University, Kendradangal, Bolpur, Birbhum, PIN 731236, India.

Abstract:

This essay analyzes the practice and development of patriotism in the plays of the modern dramatist Shantinath Ghosh. He is an important figure in modern Sanskrit drama. The practice and development of patriotism appears as a central theme in his works. In this essay I will analyze the plays 'Subhasbhasam', 'Vasanthodayam' and 'Utsarjanam' respectively by modern Sanskrit dramatist Shantinath Ghosh based on self-sacrifice in the freedom struggle of Subhash Chandra Bose, Kshudiram Bose, and Vasant Viswas. A feature of Ghosh's plays is a far-reaching discussion of the country's history, culture, and social problems. The purpose of this research is to highlight the process of development of different aspects of patriotism in his plays. After discussing the theoretical definition of patriotism and its role in drama, the essay analyzes the context of Shantinath Ghosh's drama and its impact on his life. How patriotism is reflected in the plays of Shantinath Ghosh is discussed in detail, where the concept of patriotism is also shown through the characters. How the various aspects of patriotism are portrayed through the use of language, music etc in the plays is revealed. Another important part of the essay is the development of patriotism through the plays of Shantinath Ghosh. His three patriotic plays are instrumental in changing the attitude of the people. An analysis of the practice and development of patriotism in dramatist Shantinath Ghosh's plays proves that his work occupies an important place in the history of modern Sanskrit drama and has contributed significantly to the development of cultural thought in the country. Many foreign powers came to India with different languages and different ideologies and attacked Indian socialism. Even though India is free today due to the sole efforts of the revolutionaries, there are many problems in solving which the young society has to take the leading role. It should be remembered that above all, the people should follow the life of the great men who were the pioneers in the overall development of the true society.

Keywords: Patriotism, Modern Sanskrit Drama, Renaissance, Human Welfare.

Introduction:

Shantinath Ghosh's contribution to the history of modern Sanskrit theatrical literature is very important. The practice and development of patriotism in his works can be seen in the context of the spirit of liberation against British rule. Shantinath Ghosh's plays have played an important role not only in the appreciation of literature but also in the awakening of patriotism. This essay will analyze the practice and development of patriotism in Shantinath Ghosh's plays.

Patriotism is a sense of responsibility towards one's country. Generally, religion refers to salvation, but one of the Ashtanga Yogas mentioned in Patanjali's Yoga Sutra is Yama, where Ahimsa- Satya- Asteya- Brahmacharya and Aparigraha are mentioned¹. In ancient India, there was an atmosphere of peace among the people in order for the education of ethics to prevail in human society. As the Sanskrit language which carries ethics is neglected by the people of India, people today are deprived of proper knowledge due to the lack of experience of educational books on ethics. In exchange for the priceless lives of the revolutionaries for the freedom of India, the country gained independence by realizing true solidarity or unity, but after independence, the people of India did not realize the true value of freedom, due to which the national unity is deteriorating. India became independent as a result of the constant movement of freedom fighters. Due to the efforts and leadership of revolutionaries such as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Rashbehari Bose, Kshudiram, Mahatma Gandhi, Vasant Viswas and the self-sacrifice of many Indians, even though the country became independent, there has been no overall progress in the current society. Improving the quality of education, eliminating the problem of unemployment, and in every case, a patriotic approach is necessary. His plays have a deep appreciation of the culture, tradition and history of India. These plays instill respect and love for the country's culture, which is helpful in developing a sense of patriotism. Shantinath Ghosh's patriotic plays highlight the basic concepts of patriotism and will help inculcate a sense of nationalism in the young generation. Playwright Shantinath Ghosh has demonstrated his expertise in drama by recording the story of the unique bearer and bearer of patriotism and strong man Kshudiram Bose, leader Subhash Chandra Bose and Vasant Biswas in the struggle for independence in classical language. He composed the play 'Utsarjanam' based on the story of Kshudiram Bose's freedom struggle, the play 'Basantodayam' based on the story of Vasant Biswas' freedom struggle and the play Subhasbhasam based on the story of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's freedom struggle. How these three plays inspired the readers with the smooth movement of the playwright Shantinath Ghosh, his analysis and the bravery of the revolutionaries as well as the book written according to the rhetoric rules of the three dramas will enrich the essay. These three freedom fighters are the shining stars of the freedom struggle like other freedom fighters who participated in the freedom movement of India. Their contribution to patriotism is undeniable. This is the first time that a modern Sanskrit drama based on these three heroes is available in Sanskrit language. In fact, through this discussion, the sense of nationalism will increase among the youth. Apart from great men like Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa Deva, Swami Vivekananda, in this era we have got great men like Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Kshudiram Bose, who have dedicated their lives for the welfare of the country. Although physical diseases can be cured by medicine, people are now plagued by mental diseases. So that this mental disease cannot spread far, it is necessary to cure it by medicine called nationalism and patriotism. Therefore, Shantinath Ghosh, one of the playwrights of the modern level of Sanskrit literature, tried to convey the message of nationalism to the citizens of the society through these three plays. These dramas help in developing a sense of patriotism and social responsibility among the audience and establishing social justice.

Method of Essay Writing:

To present this essay properly I have followed Upanishads, Srimad Bhagavad Gita, Seventh Chapter of Manusmriti called Rajdharma, Kathopanishad, Sankaracharya's Vivekachuramani, Ramakrishna Kathamarita, Indian Philosophy, also biographies of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Shaheed Kshudiram

and Vasant Biswas, three patriotic manuscripts of dramas written by Shantinath Ghosh namely 'Utsharjanam', 'Subhasabhasam' and 'Vasanthodayam' plays respectively.

Context of Shantinath Ghosh's Plays:

Birth, Education and Career of Shantinath Ghosh:

On 29th January, 2024 playwright Shantinath Ghosh has entered his 84th birthday to celebrate his great vow to promote Sanskrit language all over the world and spread the message of world peace all over the world. The youngest child of late Shitalchandra Ghosh and late Sindhubala Ghosh was born in Akabpur village of Midnapur and had his education from "Notuk Vivekananda Vidyamandir", "Veera Singh Bhaggarati Vidyalaya", "Scottish Church College", "Sanskrit College" and "Uni Calcutta University". He was also qualified with B.ed and LLB.

During his works of life he became the founder of the world peace mission with the strong determination of spreading the Indian ideology worldwide through the Sanskrit language. He has written 13 plays in Sanskrit, language, three in Bengali, and presenting them through the artists of "Surabharati Sanskrit Institute". Out of these 16 dramas, 15 dramas were telecast from Akashvani Kolkata Centre. Not only that his dramas have been presented in prominent stages Kolkata like Rabindra Sadan, Shishir Mancha, Mahajati Sadan etc. and in Sanskrit Drama conference in Tripura, Indore, Varanasi, Rajasthan etc. On foreign stages like Nepal, London, Paris, Venice, Rome, Bangladesh etc. and special appreciation was received. On May 22, 2013, Professor Shantinath Ghosh was selected Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of London. He tried to spread Indian ideology globally by spreading Sanskrit language all over the world.

Prof. Shantinath Ghosh's Dramatic Achievements:

performance of plays telecast from Aakashvani as director and actor, director and actor in the place at the separate performances at Kalidas academy Ujjain felicitated by Dr Radha Ballabh Tripathi at the Sanskrit not to conference in Tripura, and he is magnificent stage performance in Sanskrit Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan internationally renowned linguist professor Dr Sumit Kumar Chattopadhyay and other dignitaries. On September 18, 1997 Netaji Indore Stadium, professor Ghosh enthralled the entire world by reciting scriptures such as Upanisad, Gita as the sole representative of Hinduism in front of the Statesman of all the countries of world the world at the Mahaprayan of Mother Teresa in International prayer meeting.

Playwright Shantinath Ghosh's writing practice:-

Professor Ghosh's Sanskrit plays are - 'Atmanivedanam' based on the anecdote of Ekalavya, 'Dharmasokam' based on the acceptance and propagation of Buddhism of Emperor Ashoka, 'Bhagavibandhanam' based on the anecdote of Valmiki, 'Ramakrishnaya Namah' based on the story of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa Deva, 'Driptapaurusham' based on the legend of Karna in the Mahabharata, 'Bhaktavigraham' based on the story of Taranisena's killing in the Ramayana, 'Jishu Jivanam' based on the biography of Jesus, 'Ajatashatru' based on the story of Emperor Ajatashatru, 'Utsarjanam' based on the story of martyr Kshudiram Bose, 'Vasantodayam' based on the story of martyr Vasant Viswas, 'Subhasabhasam' based on the biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. From 1966-2010, the "Surabharati Sanskrit Institute" of Kolkata, under the leadership of Shantinath Ghosh, has been

continuously performing Sanskrit dramas. Almost every drama has been aired and staged successfully from “Aakashvani Kolkata Centre”²

Bengali Dramas:

1. Sri Sri Durga, Netaji Subhash from akashvani. Playwright Ghosh delivered a speech in Sanskrit from Akashvani Kolkata Center on the following topics-

1. 'Prohibitions in Sanskrit drama' broadcast on 1.9.86
2. Sanskrit and national integration' on 24.02.86
3. Lord Buddha as realized by Rabindranath' on 1.5.90
4. Contributions of Bengali in Sanskrit literature
5. Bengali New Years day on 13.4.01
6. How leisure time was spent in Vedic period on 13.4.07
7. Communication in Vedic period' 13.4.07

Sanskrit Ekanka Drama:-

1. Shivaratrivratham (based on the story of Shivaratri)
2. Jeevanavasana (based on Sirajuddaula's death scene)
3. Nirvanavanam (based on Jataka story)

Context of patriotic drama

In ancient Sanskrit literature based on mythological, historical content such as epics, dramas, novels were written, in the modern era, literature has been written in all those genres with political and social content. Again, the history of freedom struggle in India, non-violent movement, political situation in India after independence etc. have been presented in modern drama literature as the subject matter of modern Sanskrit drama. Modern dramatists have presented many dramas based on the stories of immortal brave martyrs whose names are written in golden letters in the history of freedom struggle. After independence, a lot of literature was written in Sanskrit based on the struggle of leaders like Gandhi, Nehru, Subhas, Indira Gandhi and their role in national politics. For example, the poet Jatindra Bimal Chowdhury wrote the play 'Deshbandhudeshapriyam' based on the life and achievements of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, the play 'Subhash-Subhasam' based on the life of Subhash Chandra, Nityanand Mukhopadhyay Smrititirtha, the five-act play called 'Vangakirtividhanam' based on the life of West Bengal's plastic artist Bidhanchandra Roy *etc.*³

India is free today due to the tireless efforts of the freedom fighters. Before independence, there was British rule, whose tyranny and oppression have been portrayed by modern Sanskrit writers in their works. The patriotism of characters such as Subhas, Kshudiram, Tilak, Gandhi, Nehru or social reformers Ramakrishna, Aurobindo, Vivekananda have been recorded in the books of Sanskrit dramatists with the help of poets in modern Sanskrit literature. Playwright Shantinath Ghosh wrote 'Subhashabhasam' based on the story of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's self-sacrifice in the freedom struggle, 'Utsarjanam' based on the story of hero martyr Kshudiram and 'Vasantodayam' based on the story of freedom fighter Vasant Viswas.

Representation of Patriotism in the Works of Shantinath Ghosh:

In this essay three patriotic plays of Sri Shantinath Ghosh, one of the Bengali dramatists are discussed in detail. Playwright Ghosh composed plays based on the patriots Khudiram Bose, Subhash Chandra

Bose, and Vasant Viswas respectively. Almost all his dramas are biographical. The language of his dramas is simple and understandable like Bengali language. Three historical dramas belonging to the modern Sanskrit dramas are respectively the unique bearers of patriotism and the great men Kshudiram Bose, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Vasant Viswas have recorded the contribution of freedom struggle in classical language and have shown an expertise in drama writing.

'UTSARJANAM'

In 'Utsarjanam' dramatist Shantinath has made the play heartwarming by blending the historical account of Khudiram's self-sacrifice in the freedom struggle. The hero and main character of this play is Khudiram. The central character of the play Khudiram is one of the heroes of the independence movement of India. In this play written based on the holy life of Khudiram, who is famous in the freedom movement, it can be observed that under the leadership of revolutionary Satyen Basu, the plan to oust the British rulers was carried out secretly. Khudiram went to Muzaffarpur to kill Kingsford, a cruel English ruler. Brave, strong-willed and loved by Satyen Basu, Khudiram was enthusiastic about revolutionary work. Khudiram had great efforts in the service of helpless and poor people. Accused of being involved in the plot to kill Kingsford, the fearless teenager died smilingly chanting the 'Vande Mataram' at the age of nineteen. The whole play is based on historical events and is written in the background of patriotism. Khudiram, the main character of Uthsarjanam play, has occupied a special place among modern Sanskrit plays.

'SUBHASHBHASAM':

Playwright Shantinath Ghosh's play "Subhashbhasam" portrays the contribution and patriotism of Subhash Chandra in the freedom struggle. The dramatist has presented some important and significant events of Subhash's student life and political life in the seventh number discussion play. Playwright Ghosh has presented the themes of Subhash Chandra's desire to take monasticism, the slapping of Mr. Otten during his education at the Presidency College, the influence of Benimadhab Das, the headmaster of the school, on Subhash's life, Vivekananda's thoughts on India, Subhash's life philosophy, Subhash's social service, and spirituality. Subhash Chandra Bose was an Indian nationalist with extraordinary leadership skills. He was the nationalist who initiated the armed struggle for India's independence from the British Empire by seeking the help of Germany and Japan. Swami Vivekananda's teachings inspired him from childhood⁴. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose wandered from place to place to gain the knowledge of Brahman. Finally, following the path shown by a Swamiji named Brahmananda, he made certain sadhanas for the renaissance of India and sacrificed himself for opening the chain of patriotism.

'VASANTODAYAM':

The revolutionary Vasantakumar's independence struggle takes place through the bloodline of Digambara Biswas, the hero of the Blue Rebellion. He despised his own life and joined political meetings for the abolition of Indian subjugation from the age of eleven, leaving school at the age of fifteen or sixteen and marched on the path of revolution. Vasant proceeded to Dehradun after meeting Rasbihari Bose. As a worthy successor of Kshudiram, Vasantakumar devoted himself to the cause of the revolution. Rasbihari Bose knew that Vasant Kumar had learned the art of making bombs under the revolutionary Amarendranath, yet he taught him again. At the end of the training Vasant Kumar was sent by Rasbihari Bose to work in Lahore. Embarrassed by the extremist movement in Bengal, the British

government decided to withdraw the partition of Bengal and arranged for the transfer of India's capital from Calcutta to Delhi. On the day of the transfer of the capital, the organization decided to throw a bomb at Baralat Hardinge. Vasant Kumar himself was responsible for throwing the bomb. On December 23, 1913, Vasanth threw a bomb at Hardinge. However, Hardinge's director Mahabir Singh was killed in the explosion, Hardinge was injured. Vasant Kumar covered his body. Basant was arrested and interrogated by the British police. Basant was found guilty and hanged on 10 May 1915.⁵

Relevance of patriotism in present times:

We are Indians. Patriotism, sense of nationalism is not only relevant in past times but also in present times. For the formation of a developed state, not only the head of state, but every citizen of the state must fulfill their direct and indirect duties. From the head of the state to the members of the lower level of the state, everyone contributes to the progress of the state. Just as it is impossible for a single king to run the state, every citizen of the country has a small role to play in the overall progress of the state. On August 15, 1947, India was freed from the shackles of subjugation. Behind India's independence, there was a long history of revolution. Ramamohan, Rabindranath, Vivekananda etc. created a stir in the hearts of the kind hearted readers by conveying the mental thoughts of great men through literary works. Patriots like Subhash Chandra, Mahatma Gandhi, Khudiram, Vasant Biswas, Vinay-Badal- Dinesh sacrificed their lives for the love of the country. However, the overall progress of the present society has not been made. Despite the expansion of education, the lack of education can be noticed in the present society- that is why social development is possible in the society only through patriotism. Keeping this in mind, the dramatists in Sanskrit literature wrote patriotic dramas to present the revolutionary activities of the revolutionaries to the public. By realizing this, the sense of patriotism will be awakened among all the people living in the society and the overall development of the society will take place.

Conclusion:

Subhash Chandra is known to all as the commander of the freedom struggle. His outstanding talent is found in his active political activities. Khudiram is still remembered by the people of India for his sacrifice in India's freedom struggle. Special qualities like deep patriotism, bravery, generosity and uncanny ability to take right decisions at the right time made Khudiram a great character. As a worthy successor of Khudiram, he devoted himself to the revolutionary work of Vasant. Even though our nation has been hit many times, the social reformers and revolutionaries have freed India from the chains of subjugation by being initiated by the mantra of patriotism, similarly it is our duty to solve the various problems of the present society. Therefore, for the overall development of the society with confidence, nationalism and patriotism are necessary in our own workplace from today.

References:

1. Bhattacharya Samarendra, Indian Philosophy, Book Syndicate Private Limited, Reprint 2020, Kolkata, page 294.
2. Chattopadhyay Rita, Modern Sanskrit Literature 1910 to 2010 Short Stories and Dramas, Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, 2019 pp. 213-214.
3. That – page 75-90.
4. Chaudhuri Nirad C (1953), Subhash Chandra Bose his legacy and legend Pacific Affairs, vol 26, 4th December 1953.

5. Mandal Swapan Kumar, Spring in the fog of oblivion, Bangiya Sahitya Samiti magazine, Murshidabad district branch, January, 2002.

Bibliography:

1. Desai AR, Social Background of Indian Nationalism, KP Bagchi and Company, Kolkata, 1992.
2. Mallick Samar Kumar, The Transformation of Modern India, West Bengal Publishers, Kolkata, 2011.
3. Sen Shuchibrat and Ghosh Amiya, Modern India, (1885-1964) Mitram, Kolkata, 2008.
4. Dash PG, Western Political Thought and Indian Political Philosophy, New Central Book Agency Private Limited, Kolkata, 1997.
5. Raja Yoga, Swami Vivekananda, Inauguration Office, Kolkata, 1964.
6. Words and Writings of Swami Vivekananda, Third Edition, Opening Office, Calcutta.
8. Swami Gambhirananda, Upanishad Texts, Part One, Inauguration Office, Kolkata, 2017.
9. Srimad Bhagavad Gita translated by Swami Jagadiswarananda, Opening Office, Kolkata, 2017.
10. Philosophical Approach to Service, Swami Ranganathananda, Inaugural Office, Kolkata, 2014.
11. Spirituality in Real Life, Swami Lokeswarananda, Opening Office, Kolkata, 2020.
12. Shatarupa Subhash, Alok Krishna Chakraborty, Anandam, Kolkata, 2001.
13. Samant Shishtosh, Vahnibalak Basant, Samant Publishers, 2016.