

CONCERNS OF COMMON PEOPLE IN GEORGE ORWELL'S WORKS

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Abstract

George Orwell champions the cause of Common men in the 20th Century. When we talk about ordinary people we usually see it in the society that they are getting mentioned in the statistics often; that so and so much of percent (%) of people are unemployed or uneducated. So regarding this type of statistical mentality one of the prominent writers of 20th century has attacked in the interest of ordinary community.

Key Words: *Common man, unemployed, uneducated, ordinary.*

George Orwell was born in Motihari, Bengal Presidency of British India. His parents were civil servants. They ensured that little George gets education in English. He later did not complete his College level education but he joined Imperial Police Service as a Policeman in Burma. Those days he has written 'BURMESE DAYS' (1934).

The main characteristics of his writings are :

1. Being a Political writer he wrote on contemporary Socio-political issues.
2. He championed the cause of Common folk.

He is talking about Marginal part of the society, He is discussing about that because he thought that no one is getting the human aspect of common man. Everyone is talking about them in statistics and in ratios only. But he wanted to highlight their plight through his pen which gradually changed the social scenario of contemporary period.

It's very ironic that like John Milton who has created his most famous literature '*PARADISE LOST*', '*PARADISE REGAINED*', '*SAMSON AGONISTES*' in his last years of the life the same way George Orwell was coming to be known for his writings such as '*ANIMAL FARM*', '*NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR*', '*POLITICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE*' in this last phase of the life's journey. He born in 1903 and before dying in 1950 he wrote his magnum opus like *ANIMAL FARM* in 1945 and *NINETEENTH EIGHTY-FOUR* (also be mentioned as '1984') in 1949. Through his will to write on a Socio-political topics we literally can see that his last creations have been shipped by his entire life, his entire commitment. So it is important to know about certain aspects of George Orwell.

George Orwell is actually a pseudonym of a person named ERIC ARTHUR BLAIR. As it is known that from his birth in 1903 till his demise in 1950; it is clearly seen that last works of his career getting him prominence of 'Political Writer' though he spent his career for the sake of suppressed community of the society from the very beginning. On his epitaph it is written that "Here lies Eric Arthur Blair!" which indeed reflects his core personality as a simplistic person. He believed that the language of writings should have to be simpler in a way and should not be too flowery in nature. He always talked common man's crisis via his Novels, Essays in simple language.

Intention of Writing:

- 1) He wanted to change the world through his pen, through the literature.
- 2) He wanted to bring the conciliation in the society with the help of the literary elements.
- 3) He wished to be a committed political writer throughout his life.

4) He wanted to make the world Better, Kinder, Wiser and fairer place.

He was actually an essay writer predominantly. When he was studying in English School at Motihari, he got bullied there. From this incident he committed to work for common people's cause very earlier. He did not take any admission to the College but joined the Police service in Burma. Each and every incident that took place in his life there's a work that is coming along with that incident.

He experimented for two years after that job, he had taken menial jobs, working class jobs in both Paris and London. He was trying to look at these working class jobs. He was trying to look at how things were functioning. He really wanted to bring the real image of working community in front of the society via his writings. He repeatedly mentioned that:

- Working class people are less puritanical in their approach.
- They are real liberals.
- They are the TRUE people.

Even in today's World there are actually the working class sensibilities; For instance: Working class make sure to finish disposable income. Making sure to live their lives peacefully, happily, they want to raise their families. They only concern about all such a things. They are actually focused to complete their duties honestly so that they can live their lives fairer. "Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

What he is trying to say via this quote is political writing is such a weapon to bring the truth forth. Political writing also helps media to expose the reality neutrally. Political writing is always capable of ensuring that it can seem, it can make sure that whatever is absolutely incorrect, inappropriate, lie; it is presented to be truthful account which can be denied by the poignant truth.

He is saying through his works that political writing or political language is different and thus he had taken upon writing political narratives against the unfair system which was trying to perpetuate lies in the form of truth. Eric Arthur Blair was very clear about the fact that he wanted to expose the follies of his race; wanted to highlight the problems or hurdles of marginal community. The main area that he was focusing on was the reality of common folk and of the people also who were in the power, who were designing the language in such a way that lies were also sounding to be truthful. "What I wanted to do throughout the past 10 years is to make political writing into an Art. My starting point is always a feeling of partisanship, a sense of injustice."

When I sit down to write a book, I don't say to myself, I am going to produce a work of Art: "I write it because there is some lie I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw the attention and my initial concern is to get a hearing!"

He did not like to be called as a part of Intelligentsia as he was always on the honest side of the truth.

'ANIMAL FARM':

In this work he tried to tell the fact that how revolutions have failed! Revolutions in no part of the World have been successful because the people who were engaging in the revolutions actually were the people who were betraying the revolutions indeed; because the minute they got power they got changed.

As he was living in an age of television and mass communication and he even mentioned that the book was not working for the audiences. And thus he was writing a beast fable to attract the readers' attention. He used to say that his art was useful only when the people will listen to him and therefore he should write in a simplistic manner so that the people will be encouraged to read and to be interested in the change.

'DOWN AND OUT IN PARIS AND LONDON':

In 1928, he worked in menial jobs in English and French capitals, just to experience the problems, to know the livings, sufferings of the common people. He was not happy with what the English Intelligentsia was doing; they were sentimentalizing the common community and he was trying to expose

lies; because he was a great defender of the marginal community.

'ROAD TO WIGAN PIER':

He was trying to talk about the fact that the knowledge of the working class which was genuine and practical. They were committed to their work. Those were the people who were certainly honest with their lives and their duties. They were fulfilling their social contributions by their efforts thus Orwell was having a sense of belonging.

In this work he mentioned the common people as Liberals and not Puritans. Ordinary people were only being represented in newspapers in statistical format whereas he wanted to use 'Literary Journalism'. Literary Journalism is a medium to expose the reality and thus he considered himself to be a literary journalist. He wanted to flesh out the human characteristics behind those statistics and numbers.

- He also tells about the generosity of common folk throughout his work.
- He wanted to correct the prejudices and casual racism that circulated all around.
- He also commented on Neo Colonial attitudes of travellers towards the local inhabitants.

He was absolutely against the trend of the mainstream culture/ English Intelligentsia. He was not happy with their writings at all. He supported CHARLES DICKENS where so called intelligent class thought Charles to be a low brow as they were expecting 'Valuable Content' from the writers. This valuable content meant difficult language or content for them. Thus he criticized this tendency of creating Art/ work in highly sophisticated and tough language. They weren't using simple language of Common People. He outlined a list of rules or how to write in appropriate manner :

- He urged to use short words instead of long and difficult ones.
- He suggested to use Active and not Passive forms where possible.
- He was against using Foreign Words or Scientific Phrases.

He had kind of hatred towards or hybrid words in English language. He was trying to democratize the literature in the interest of ordinary community. He tried to be as simplistic as possible.

'1984 (NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR)':

It's a dystopian or anti-utopian work by Orwell which comments on the pessimistic vision of the society. This work talks upon the constant surveillance of the political system on the Marginal class.

The Big Brother's party is an all-controlling party which has brainwashed the population. They have made their own system in their own interest on the basis of corruption. The protagonist of the '1984' is WINSTON SMITH who belongs to the outer party and who is also interested in *Brotherhood party*; a group of dissenters. Winston is on the side of truth and decency which leads him to go against established system of oppositions.

Novel ends by presenting that how does the Winston get snared by the opposite party and his ethical downfall takes place. Orwell wanted to convey through this work that the people in Power are the brutal and selfish which had been constantly discriminating the marginal class people.

Conclusion:

Orwell's all the works were intentionally written just to make sure that the common people are getting the equal rights and opportunities along with fair educational and respect. He expected from all the people of the society to understand the real meaning of Democracy and to follow the comity. He truly devoted and contributed his life for the sake of Common People from the very beginning which resulted in many positive changes among the people.

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