



## Topic : Interrelation of Experimentalism and New Poetry

Jayashree Kakati, Lecturer, Govt. Hindi Teachers' Training College, North Guwahati

**Abstract:** The publication of *Tarasaptak* edited by Agyeya in 1943 initiated modernist experimentalism as a reaction against progressivism. The dogmatism of communist philosophy, modes of social realism and collectivism had lent to Hindi poetry a tedious repetitiveness. There was hardly any respite for articulations of subjective feeling in poetry and this triggered a stream experimentalist poetry grounded on individualism.

With the publication of '*Second Saptak*' (*DusraSaptak*) in 1951, experimentalist poetry metamorphosed into 'new poetry' a term coined by Agyeya. Even as there is no significant difference between experimentalism and the tendencies of new poetry, yet the form and nature of the latter distinguished it from the conventional poetry.

**Keywords:** experimentalism, progressivism, 'new poetry'

### I. INTRODUCTION:

#### 1. Preface:

The publication of *Tarasaptak* edited by Agyeya in 1943 initiated modernist experimentalism as a reaction against progressivism. The dogmatism of communist philosophy, modes of social realism and collectivism had lent to Hindi poetry a tedious repetitiveness. There was hardly any respite for articulations of subjective feeling in poetry and this triggered a stream experimentalist poetry grounded on individualism.

With the publication of '*Second Saptak*' (*DusraSaptak*) in 1951, experimentalist poetry metamorphosed into 'new poetry' a term coined by Agyeya. Even as there is no significant difference between experimentalism and the tendencies of new poetry, yet the form and nature of the latter distinguished it from the conventional poetry.

#### 2. Importance of study:

Both experimentalist poetry and new poetry are in themselves significant topics for study, and without them any study in Hindi literature will remain incomplete. Especially any analytical survey of modernist period of Hindi literature without considering the above developments is impossible.

3. Study Title: The title of the study is the *interrelation of experimentalism and new poetry*.

#### 4. Objective of the study:

There are many differences between experimentalism and new poetry. While some people refuse to draw any line of demarcation between them, some others consider both of them as separate trends. Although as there is no significant difference between experimentalism and the tendencies of new poetry, yet the form and nature of the latter distinguished it from the conventional poetry. The objective of this research paper is to present the interrelations of between them.

#### 5. Limitation of the Subject:

Both experimentalism and new poetry are quite broad topics. It is not possible to conduct any complete review in a single research paper. This research paper only presents the interrelationship between these subjects.

#### 6. Study Methodology and Practical Measures:

The study basically resorts to critical-analytical method. The paper follows the research methodology of MLA (MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION). Texts relating to experimentalism and new poetry, history of Hindi literature, dictionary and the resources available on the internet have been consulted for the study.

#### 7. Analysis and interpretation of the topics of study:

The experimental poetry in Hindi is generally held to have emerged with the publication of a collection of poetry titled '*Tarasaptak*' in 1943 whose editor is Agyeya. Agyeya in the preface of the anthology mentions the word '*prayog*' (meaning experiment) and this raised among critics a new debate. In the preface of '*Tarasaptak*', Agyeyawrites -

... we are not the plaintiff, not we. Experiment by itself is never favored or practicable, so calling us experimentalist is as meaningless or meaningful as calling us 'poetistic'. (Singh 2003: 22)

But such disclaimers from Agyeya remained inconsequential and the term 'experimentalism' came into vogue. While Marxist thought was a potent influence on progressive poetry, Freud's influence was similarly marked in experimental poetry. Experimental poetry depicts the life of middle class society and these poets were more open to new experiments. They dared to resort to experimentation departing from the values and ethos of tradition. Predominance of intellect and interest in fresh symbols distinguished their poetry.

It becomes clear from the observation of the historical background of experimental poetry that in the aftermath of the World War II, there was a rapid disintegration of human values, and loss of significance of religion and God. Poets of our country were aware of their political subordination and resorted to experiments of various kinds in poetry. Basically a three-fold trend was visible in the poetry of this period -

1. Longing for social transformation and the spirit of rebellion.

2. The predominance of intellectualism.

3. Interests in new/ fresh symbols.

Experimental poets explored with great intelligence the suffering, frustrations, faith, defeat, mental struggles as well as the finer and subtler feelings of middle class life.

Thrust for transforming conventional modes of poetry was felt in the post-impressionistic period. New poetry is the new trend that emerged from 1950s. If we look at the historical background of the new poetry, we will find that it was the early stage of experimentalism. Girija Kumar Mathur considers new poetry as part of post-impressionistic poetry while Dr. Ramvilas Sharma and Dr. Namwar Singh accept the new poetry as a pseudo form of experimentalism, on the other hand, Naresh Mehta and Shrikant Verma consider the new poetry as distinct from experimental poetry. New poetry is free from any isms. It is not ready to be trapped within any rigid doctrines, opinions, norms of community or points of view; large poetic vision and the creative credo constitute the salient aspects of new poetry. Two basic elements that inhere in new poetry are authenticity of feeling and intellectual realistic vision. It is a poetry expressive of modern thought and sense and imbued with humanism, intellectualism is its only an additional aspect. New poetry puts into poetic idiom the familiar language of everyday talk. It is new phase after experimental poetry which was established as new poetry, while the founders of the letter were mostly experimental poets.

8. Achievements:

8.1 The new poetry is a modernistic, enlightened and humanistic in its spirit, intelligence is its additional quality.

8.2 Experimental poets considered experiments as practicable.

8.3 In experimentalism, the emphasis was more on experimentation and in the new poem there was experimentation but not as an urge.

8.4 The attachment of new poetry to folk life is not in theoretical form, but in a natural form.

## II. CONCLUSION:

Experimental poetry had a lot of intellectualism and practicality. The new poetry was saved from this redundancy and gave importance to the new craft. The new poem is associated with every aspect of life. In experimentalism, the emphasis was more on experimentation and in the new poetry there was experimentation but not as an urge.

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