

Travelogues of Egypt in Urdu Language: Trends and Tradition

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ABSTRACT

Travelogues in Urdu language about Egypt are in great number, which fully inform the readers about many aspects of this country. Travelers from nineteenth century took interest in this country and described their traveling experience in Urdu travelogues. Most of the travelogue writers visited this country along with the visit of the other Muslim countries and observed their political, economic and moral conditions and compared it with that of European life. Feeling of love and respect are obvious in these travelogues.

KEYWORDS: Urdu Literature, Urdu Travelogue, Urdu Travelogues of Egypt, Urdu Travelogue trends,

1. INTRODUCTION

Egypt is the largest country of Africa. Most of its population lives in the surroundings of Neel River and the agricultural land is also in this region of Egypt. Cairo is the main city of this country. It is a Muslim country and has got a great historical background. Due to its importance in the world especially in Muslim world, many travelers visit this country every year. These visits become a part of travelogues written in many languages of the world. Urdu language travelogues have a significant part comprising the stories of the visits of Egypt.

2. URDU TRAVELOGUES OF EGYPT

Egypt and its civilization is an important topic of Urdu travelogues. Many individual and partial travelogues have been written in Urdu which describes cultural, educational, political, religious and historical information about this country. Important travelogues of Egypt are as under:

2.1. AWARA GARD KI DIARY BY IBNE INSHA

Ibne Insha is a famous humourist of Urdu language. He has written many travelogues which are important due to their humorous and informative nature. This travelogue of Ibne Insha 'Awara Gard Ki Diary' is about his visit of England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. He maintained his style in this travelogue also. His duration of visit is from 6 September 1967 to 5 December 1967. He visited different countries on the invitation of UNESCO. He created humour from simple events of his visit. He intentionally made his writing style beautiful by different tools of language. This travelogue of Ibne Insha includes 101 cartoons and different pictures of visited areas (Insha, 1987).

2.2. ROZNAMCHA E MUQADAS BY HAJJI S. IBNE ALI

Hajji S. Ibne Ali visited Egypt, Tripoli, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. In his travelogue 'Roznamcha e Muqadas' he expressed his feelings of love and respect for holy places of these countries. He described his journey of Hajj in an emotional style. He narrated the events of his traveling in a serious but interesting way (Ibne Ali).

2.3. SAFARNAMA E HIJAZ O MISR BY HAJJI AHMED HUSSAIN KHAN

It is the travelogue of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Hajji Ahmed Hussain Khan described in detail the story of his journey of Hajj and his visit to Egypt. Events of Hajj are described with emotional touch in a beautiful style. He also described the problems, he faced during this visit. Personality of the writer is dominant on all other events of the visit. He exposed himself all over the travelogue (Hussain Khan, 1904).

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2.4. SAAT SAMANDAR PAR BY BEGUM AKHTAR RIAZ UD DIN

Begum Akhtar Riaz ud Din is a Urdu travelogue writer having a beautiful writing style. She has written two important travelogues, 'Saat Samandar Par' and 'Dhanak Par Qadam'. Her travelogue 'Saat Samandar Par' is about the visit of Russia, Japan, America, England and Egypt. Her husband and children were also traveling with her. He included information of political, geographical and cultural nature about visited areas. They visited places of tourism importance and she described them in a very beautiful style. There is a touch of humour in his writing (Akhtar Riaz ud Din, 1982).

2.5. MERA SAFAR BY AMEER KHANAM

Ameer Khanam visited many countries for the purpose of her medical treatment. She went to Egypt, England, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium and Saudi Arabia. She had written the events of her visit in the style of diary. She described her daily routine of traveling, her stay in hotels and the everyday events. Household kind of details is present in this travelogue. She became astonished by seeing strange things of these countries. She explained the life style of these areas with an expression of surprise (Khanam).

2.6. SERE HAMADI BY NAWAB MUHAMMAD HAMID ALI KHAN

Nawab Muhammad Hamid Ali Khan visited China, Singapore, Hong Kong, America, Japan, France and Egypt. He started his journey on 3 March 1893. He described geographical features of these countries. He included information about social life, culture, industry and trade activities of visited countries. He also described worth seeing places of his visit in an interesting style (Hamid Ali Khan).

2.7. SAFARNAMA E MISR, PALESTINE, SHAM, HIJAZ BY KHAWJA HASSAN NIZAMI

Khawja Hassan Nizami is an Urdu language writer of beautiful literary style. His travelogue 'Nazarnama' is the most famous travelogue of Urdu language. In his second travelogue 'Safarnama e Misr, Palestine, Sham, Hijaz' he described the story of his visit to Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Saudi Arabia. He visited these countries during the months of May to September 1911. He observed the ways of living of the people of these countries very deeply and described them in his travelogue. He also included his meetings with political and religious personalities in his travelogue. Instructions about the tour of these countries are also the part of this travelogue (Nizami, 1994).

2.8. PARDES KI BATAIN BY MIRZA HUSSAIN AHMED BAIG

'Pardes Ki Batain' is a travelogue of Sri Lanka, Egypt, Switzerland, Palestine, Syria, Germany and France. Duration of traveling is May 1930 to September 1930. He visited these areas with his age fellows, Saleem Baig and Rafique Baig. They traveled for the purpose of climate change. He described the scene of natural beauty in a beautiful style. We find a wave of happiness in his writings (Ahmed Baig, 1983).

2.9. MANZALAIN BY AHMED BAKHSH

It is the travelogue of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt countries. He visited Cairo city of Egypt. Ahmed Bakhsh included his experience of military training in his travel story. He briefly described his visit details and mostly included his surrounding scenic beauty's description. He visited Islamic historical places there. His poems about these places are a beautiful part of this travelogue (Khuda Bakhsh).

2.10. AUR NEEL BEHTA RAHA BY RAFIQUE DOGAR

Rafique Dogar visited Cairo city of Egypt in his visit. He also visited cities of Paris of France and London and Manchester of England. This travelogue contains humourous style of writing. He included his chit chat with the people meeting during journey. He visited historical and other places of tourism importance and provided information about these places in this travelogue (Dogar, 1990).

2.11. MUSAFIRAN E LONDON BY SIR SYED AHMED KHAN

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was a great reformer of India. He and his companions also contributed to Urdu language and literature. His travelogue 'Musafiran e London' has value as an informative as well as a literary book. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan visited countries of this travelogue during 1869 and 1870. He went from Hindustan to Egypt, Italy, Sisley, Marcel, France and England. His sons, Syed Hamid and Syed Mehmood were with him. Purpose of his journey was to observe educational system, syllabus, teaching techniques of Europe and to get help for improving the education system of his own country. In his travelogue he admired progress of Europe and feel sorrow for his own nations. His style of writing is very simple (Ahmed Khan, Musafiran London, 1961).

2.12. AROOS E NEEL BY SULTANA ASIF FAIZI

She stayed in Cairo Egypt for two year with her husband from 1949 to 1951. Her husband was ambassador of his country in Egypt. Main focus of Sultana Asif Faizi's travelogue is on the life style, habits and culture of the people of Egypt. In her stay at Cairo, she visited the city and its surrounding areas and included her observations in the travelogue. He also described her visit of important places and her activities during her stay (Faizi, 1952).

2.13. SAFARNAMA E ROME O MISR O SHAM BY ALLAMA SHIBLI NOMANI

Allama Shibli Nomani started his journey in 1896 to the countries of Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon. He visited educational institutions and education system of traveled areas. He described historical and Tourist location in a simple but interesting and informative manner. He also described habits and ethics of the people, their culture and customs, history of Egyptian civilization and their educational institutions and libraries. This travelogue has its literary and informative importance (Noumani).

2.14. KALEED E JANNAT BY ABDUL HAMEED KHAN

Abdul Hameed Khan traveled in the countries of this travelogue during 1934 to 1936. He traveled through sea route and described problems and attractions of this kind of journey. He visited Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. This travelogue contains important instructions for travelers for sea journey. He described estimated expenditures for the visit of these countries at the time of his visit. He analyzed the economic, political and historical situation of these countries. He visited the religious places during his journey (Khan, 1949).

2.15. SAFARNAMA E BILAD E ISLAMIA BY HAFIZ ABDUL RAHMAN AMRATSARI

Hafiz Abdul Rehman Amratsari traveled in Islamic countries of Egypt, Italy, Turkey and Syria. He started his journey on 8 March 1898. He described places worth seeing in a simple writing style. He also discussed military and administrative position of these countries. Habits, culture and education of the native people are also discussed. He observed development in these countries and included his review about that (Amratsari).

2.16. SAFARNAMA E SARAM BY QAZI ABDUL SAMAD SARAM

'Safarnama e Saram' is about Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq. He started his journey in 1938 and lived there for two years. He visited Archaeological places there and described their history. Educational institutions and libraries are especially discussed in this travelogue. Information about health, festivals, customs and life style of people of visited countries are also included (Saram, 1950).

2.17. ZANGIBAR SAY MASHRAQI PAKISTAN BY ALI GHULAM HUSSAIN ZANGIBARI

This is an adventurous travelogue of Ali Ghulam Hussain Zangibari. He traveled in many countries of the world as a scout. He started his journey in 1959 and in the last part of his journey, his wife also joined him. Visited areas were Zangibar, India, Kuwait, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Western Pakistan, Afghanistan and Eastern Pakistan. He described hurdles, dangers and problems of the way in an adventurous style which attracts reader's attention completely. He included different kind of information about these countries which makes this travelogue interesting as well as informative (Hussain Zangibari, 1965).

2.18. NEEL KAY SAHIL BY QAMAR ALI ABBASI

He visited cities of Cairo and Alexandria of Egypt. He visited many important places there and described them in a very light and entertaining style in his travelogue 'Neel Kay Sahil'. His humourous style is very charming and attractive for the readers of travelogue. He is a social person and he established relations with many people during his journey and described the stories of these relations in his entertaining style (Abbasi, 1994).

2.19. NEEL SAY FARAT TAK BY MUHAMMAD IQBAL ANSARI

Muhammad Iqbal Ansari visited Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Israil in 1954. He traveled as a representative of 'Hindustani Majlis e Amoor'. His feeling can be felt throughout the travelogues for the Muslims. His observations and experiences of the tour are the part of his travelogue. he felt sorrow and pain for his Muslim brother hood (Iqbal Ansari, 1962).

2.20. SAFARNAMA E ARZ E QURAN BY MUHAMMAD ASIM

Muhammad Asim traveled with Moulana Mododi in Islamic countries. They started the journey in October 1959. The visited countries were Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria, Kuwait and Egypt. He narrated events of the visit, especially the meetings of different people with Moulana Mododi and his question answer sessions during the visit. Description of the visit of historical places is also included (Asim, 1963).

Other Urdu travelogues of Egypt are: 'Jadeed Safarnama e Palestine, Sham, Misr' by Muhammad Waris Ali Waris (Waris), 'Nazarnama' by Mehmood Nizami (Nizami M., Nazarnama, 1958), 'Khana Badosh' by Mustansar Hussain Tarar (Tarar M. H., Khana Badosh, 1983) and 'Gulgasht e Farang' by Mehdi Hassan Khan (Hassan Khan, 1889).

SUMMARY

There are a large number of Urdu travelogues about the country, Egypt. Many famous writers have also written these travelogues. These travelogues have information about Egypt. Most of the travelogues have a simple descriptive language. Some writers used literary language and made their writing style interesting with humour and entertaining resources. Travelogues of Egypt are a great asset of Urdu literature.

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