

Travelogues of Iran in Urdu Language: Trends and Tradition

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ABSTRACT

Iran is an important neighbour country of Pakistan. It has many old traditions. This country has many ups and downs in history. This is why it has very rich cultural background and also there are many historical places in this country. Many visitors from Pakistan visit this country every year for different purposes. Because of this many travelogues are being written in Urdu about Iran. These travelogues are informative, adventurous, religious, for entertainment, invitational, fictional and humorous trends.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

Iran has gone through many political and religious ups and downs. This country has faced a wave of total liberty from all moral and ethical values and followed culture like western societies. After revolution its mode of life was totally changed and a religious society came to exist there. In Urdu travelogues writers observed both of these trends of life and expressed them in their travelogues. Travelogues before and after revolution have different trends and styles of expressions. Iran has close relations with Pakistan. Iranian language Persian has a great influence on national language of Pakistan. People of both countries have also relations on cultural and religious basis. On Governmental basis exchange of different delegations frequently takes place. The people of both the countries travel in the countries of each another. Due to a very short distance, traveling expenses are very small. Because of religious places in Iran, a large number of travelers visit these places. This gives the travelogues a religious touch and passions of love and respect.

2. URDU TRAVELOGUES OF IRAN

In Urdu language there is a reasonable number of travelogues about the visit of Iran. Some of these are partial travelogues of this country and visit of other countries of world are also included in these travelogues, while others are complete travelogues of Iranian visits. Here is a description of these Urdu travelogues.

2.1. SER E IRAN BY MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN AZAD

Muhammad Hussain Azad visited Iran in 1885. He started his journey from Karachi and spent 10 months in Iran. Purpose of his visit was to arrange books for Persian Dictionary. He wrote notes during his travel and wanted to write a travelogue but due to some reasons he could not do so. After his death his notes were published in the form of 'Ser e Iran'. This travelogue reveals his love for books and knowledge. He has to face many problems there for achieving his goal. This travelogue has an adventurous touch in it. Muhammad Hussain Azad visited cities of Tehran, Bushehr, Shiraz, Isfahan and Mashhad. He included information about culture, civilization, important places and persons of Iran. He has a beautiful style of writing in this travelogue. This travelogue of Muhammad Hussain Azad has importance due to its informative as well as literary nature (Azad).

2.2. 'IRAN' AND 'SARZAMEEN E HAFIZ O KHYAM' BY MIRZA MAQBOOL BAIG BADAQSHANI

Mirza Maqbool Baig Badkshani has written two travelogues of Iran. His first travelogue of Iran is 'Iran' and the second is 'Sarzameen e Hafiz o Khyam'. In his first journey to Iran, members of 'Anjuman e Farsi' of Govt. College Lahore, were with him. This is an informative travelogue. He gave social, political, geographical and historical

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information in a very simple style. The Visit of his second travelogue comprises the journey of Mashhad, Qum, Tuos, Tehran, Quzwan, Shiraz and Karman cities of Iran. In this visit his wife was with him. He described visit of the holy places and the history of cities of Iran. He also discussed education, art and literature of Iran in his travelogues (Badakhshani, 1979).

2.3. ARZ E KHYAM O HAFIZ BY MANZOR MUMTAZ

In this travelogue Manzor Mumtaz writes the story of his seventeen days visit to Iran which was during the year 1963. He visited the Iranian cities of Zahedan, Mashhad, Tucs, Nishapur, Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz. He described his visit briefly but beautifully. He discussed Government system, behavior of public, living styles, geographical situations and everyday life of Iran. But at every point he remembers his country and compares that place with his motherland. The writing style of this travelogue is simple. It is a short travelogue but contains elements of interest in it (Mumtaz, 1964).

2.4. JAB MAIN NAY SHAH KA IRAN DAIKHA BY SYED WAJAHAT ALI

This travelogue describes the visit of cities of Iran: Mashhad, Zahedan, Tehran and Isfahan. He visited these cities in 1964. Syed Wajahat Ali described events of his visit in a very light way. The only purpose of visit was entertainment. He collected information about the traveled areas and included this information in his travelogue. He also created humour at many points of his travelogue. He also narrated his love stories of his visit in it. Its language is simple and has no literary touch (Ali).

2.5. YAD E YAR E MEHRBAN BY SYED ZULFIQAR ALI

Syed Zulfiqar Ali visited Iran with 36 professors for the purpose of Persian learning in 1975. This was the period of the rule of Shah Iran which is the period of vulgarity and nudity in Iran. He described romance of young generation in Iran. He visited Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan and Shiraz. Writer's emotions are also present at different steps of the travelogue. He mixed with the local public and described his relations with them. He has written dialogs with them and described their habits and behavior briefly. He also included reports of literary and cultural events in an interesting style. Colours of humour are also found in this travelogue. He described historical places and natural scenery of Iran very beautifully. For giving literary touch he cited verses at many points of travelogue (Ali Shah S. Z., 1994).

2.6. DEKH LIA IRAN BY AFZAL ALVI

Afzal Alvi traveled with twenty six teachers to Iran. This visit was due to invitation of Iranian Government. The purpose of the visit was to learn Persian language. They stayed there for four months. In the mean while, what he had seen there made it the part of his travelogue. They visited Mashhad and Shiraz. He showed the social and cultural life of these areas in his travelogue. He included history, social life, language and literature, religion and economic condition of this country. He discussed policies of Shah Iran in a very ridiculous way. He maintained simplicity and beauty of the language very successfully. This travelogue has all the characteristics of a literary book (Alvi, 1982).

2.7. LOH E AYAM BY MUKHTAR MASOOD

Mukhtar Masood visited Iran as a member of RCD and stayed there for four years. He had seen Iran revolution with his own eyes. His observation was very deep and he saw the life changing there. It is a beautiful travelogue and made a record of selling its four additions in a short period of six months. In fact it is a story of Iranian revolution which is narrated in his own words. He included his feelings and emotions also in it. The historical buildings of Iran are also the topic of this travelogue. He also discussed diplomatic relations of Iran with Pakistan. Meetings with politicians and Government high rank personalities were also included. A blend of personal feelings and general information makes the travelogue more interesting (Masood, 1996).

2.8. SAFARNAMA E IRAN BY SYED ASAD GILANI

He visited Iran two times, first time in 1980 and second time in 1983. Both visits were arranged on Government level. He participated in functions in connections with the Iran revolution and other activities. He visited Qum, Tehran, Mashhad, Khuram Shehr, Ahwaz, Sosangard cities of Iran. He narrated full story of Iran revolution in his travelogue. He analyzed the impact of Iran revolution on common life of the country. He also reported Iran Iraq war

and its horrible effects in both countries. He explained the Islamic Movement in Iran and its objectives. Writing style of the travelogue is simple and fluent. He also included speeches of leaders of Iran revolution in this travelogue. In the end he included comments of different people about this revolution (Gilani).

2.9. INQLAB E IRAN BY IRSHAD AHMED HAQANI

He visited Iran in 1983 as a journalist on the invitation of Iran Government. He deeply observed the political and administrative situation there and commented on it as an impartial journalist. He participated in Government meetings and also visited important public and natural places. This travelogue provides a large amount of information about Iran and the daily life of its people. Writing style of this travelogue has simplicity and interest in it.

2.10. IRAN YATRA BY ALI SUFIAN AFAQI

Ali Sufian Afaqi is an important travelogue writer of Urdu language. He has written many travelogues which are: 'Paris Ki Galian', 'Khawbon Ki Sarzameen', 'Doran e Safar', 'Zara Inglstan Tak', 'Ajaebat e Farang', 'Talisamat e Farang', 'Europe Ka Kohqaf', 'Europe Ki Alf Laila' and 'Dekh Lia America'. This Travelogue 'Iran Yatra' consists of his experiences of visit to Iran. He belongs to film industry of Pakistan and visited different countries for the purpose of movie making. He is a film writer and knows the art of good literary writing. He describes details of his visit in a very light style and creates humour from simple events of his visit. He included basic information about visited places but his light style remained present there. He highlighted Iranian living style in a totally different way and showed the colours of Iranian society.

2.11. GARBAD BY MUNIR FATMI

Munir Fatimi has written two travelogues, of which 'Khawb Safar' is the travelogue of his visit to India and 'Garbad' is travelogue of Iran. Afterwards, these both travelogues were published in a book named 'Diwaron Kay Os Par'. In Iran he visited Qum, Tehran and Isfahan and described beautiful scene of these cities in an interesting style. Especially he narrated beauty of historical palaces in a fantastic way. He has written his company with friends during the visit which creates an interesting environment. He also discussed literary and intellectual life of Iranian society. He also included information about culture and civilization of Iran. A light touch of humour also makes this travelogue interesting.

2.12. KHUMANI KY DES MAIN BY AFZAL SHAHID

This travelogue of Afzal Shahid has a journalistic style. He visited Iran in 1988 to participate in an International conference. He participated in this conference as a journalist. Due to his activities in conference he got very less chance to visit different areas of Iran. This is why; there is very less information of Iran in it. Most of the portion of this travelogue is about reporting of that conference. This conference was about strategic planning, so he discussed strategic matters in the travelogue. We find a little knowledge of Iranian society and culture in it. Journalistic style is dominant on literary style in this travelogue (Shahid, 1989).

2.13. IRAN MAIN CHODAH ROZ BY DR. AGHA SOHAIL

'Ufaq Ta Be Ufaq' and 'Iran Mian Chodah Roz' are travelogues of Dr. Agaha Sohail. The first travelogue is about the visit of England, Mutahida Arab Emirates and Turkey and the second is about visit to Iran. In the visit to Iran, Dr. Rafique Ahmed, Intizar Hussain, Anwar Sajad and Ashar Nadeem Syed were with him. They visited Iran on the invitation of Iran Government for 10th anniversary of Iranian revolution. They participated in different functions and also visited important historical and natural beauty places. Along with the details of his visit to these places he also described history of Iran and its social and cultural background. He also compared Iranian life with that of Pakistan (Sohail, 1993).

2.14. 'SAEED SIYAH TEHRAN MAIN' AND 'SAEED SIYAH SHIRAZ MAIN' BY HAKEEM MUHAMMAD SAEED

Hakeem Muhammad Saeed has written a very large number of Urdu travelogues. These are: 'Aik Musafir Char Mulk', 'Germany Nama', 'Daroon e Roos', 'Reg e Rawan', 'Switzerland Main Mere Chand Shab o Roz', 'Korea Kahani', 'Mah e Saeed', 'Mah o Roz', 'Europe Nama'. 'Saeed Siyah Tehran Main' and 'Saeed Siyah Shiraz Mian'

are travelogues of his visit to Iran. These travelogues were written in the form of diary. He included information about his health profession in these travelogues. He participated in two international conferences in Iran and included reports of these conferences. He has given detailed information about Iran and its cities. His writing style is simple and has objectivity in it.

2.15. AAJAIL BY KOKAB KHAWJA

Kokab Khawja has written a travelogue about her visit of China named 'Ni Hao'. Her travelogue about Iran is 'Aajail' which has importance due to its unique style. This travelogue has the expressions and sentiments of a female travelogue writer about culture and civilization of Iran. She went to Iran with her husband in 1994 and worked as a teacher there. She watched life style of Iran and expressed her feelings about that. Household life of Iranian society, their ways of living, eating habits, marital customs, functions and different colours of life are discussed in a beautiful manner in this travelogue. There is a touch of light humour and feelings of love which makes this travelogue interesting and pleasant. Writing style of the travelogue is fluent and interesting.

2.16. SARZAMEEN E FARS BY SHAFI HAIDER DANISH

There is an abundance of beautiful scenery of Iran in this travelogue. We find a beautiful imagery in this travelogue of Shafi Haider Danish. In this travelogue there is the beauty of Iranian mountains, rivers, fields, natural places, streets and markets, historical buildings. He has also given the details of historical places and their history. Culture of Iran shows its full bloom in this travelogue. Touch of humour also makes this travelogue interesting. He intentionally made writing style of the travelogue beautiful. It has a lot of literary characteristics in it.

2.17. DUNYA MERE AGAY BY JAMIL UD DIN AALI

'Dunya Mere Agay' is travelogue of Jamil ud Din Aali in which he described his experience of visit of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, India, Russia, France, England and Egypt. Episodes of this travelogue were published in daily Jang. Writing style of this travelogue is light and humourous. We see glimpses of Iranian culture and civilization. He included information about Iran in a very interesting style. This travelogue has a literary importance due to its writing style and interesting attitude of writer towards events of his visit (Aali, 1985).

2.18. IBN E BATOTA KY TAAQUB MAIN BY IBN E INSHA

Ibn e Insha has written many famous travelogues of Urdu language. Total number of his travelogues is five which consists of 'Nagri Nagri Phira Musafir' (Insha, Nagri Nagri Phira Musafir, 1989), 'Dunya Gol Hay' (Insha, Dunya Gol Hay, 1985), 'Chaltay Ho Tu Chin Ko Chaliy' (Insha, Chaltay Ho Tu Chin Ko Chaliy, 1973), 'Awara Gard Ki Dairy' (Insha, Awara Gard Ki Dairy, 1987), 'Ibne e Batota Ky Taaqub Main'. In his travelogue 'Ibn e Batota Ky Taaqub Main', he visited Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thai Land, Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Turkey, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, America, England and France. His travelogue comprises the information about traveled areas in a very interesting and humourous style. He is known as a pure humourist in Urdu literature due to his travelogues (Insha, Ibne Batota Ky Taaqub Main, 1986).

Other travelogues of Iran are: 'Kitab e Iran' by Shuja Naeemi (Shuja Naeemi), 'Iran Jaag Utha' by Inaam Ullah Khan, 'Chhey Mahinay Iran Main' by Dr. Muhammad Baqir, 'Islamabad Sy Yasrab Tak' by Fazal ur Rehman Chishti, 'Mera Iran Ka Safarnama by Sheikh Hashmat Ullah Chishti, 'Sohbat e Yar Akhir Shud', by Dr. Shoab Azmi, 'Hazar Dastan' by Dr. Aftab Alam Sadiqi, 'Atish Kadah e Iran' by Akhtar Kashmiri, 'Jahan e Islam Iran' by Yaqoob Ali Razi, 'Sarsabz Inqlab' by Khadim Hussain laghari, 'Safarnama e Iran' by Syed Naseem Ali Raza, 'Dekh Liay Iran Main Teen Haram', 'Mashriq Ka Geneva' by Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Awan.

SUMMARY

A large number of travelogues have been written in Urdu language. In these travelogues a lot of information about religion, culture, civilization, education and economy, is found. Writers included in these travelogues old history of Iran as well as modern civilization. Especially Islamic revolution of Iran is the main topic of these travelogues. There is a blend of information and emotions in these travelogues of Iran. Basic knowledge about Persian language is also a part of them which has a great influence on Urdu language.

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