

## Important Trends of Urdu Travelogue Writing

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### ABSTRACT

In these days travelogue is the most popular form of Urdu literature. In the travelogues written earlier the attention was mostly paid to provide the information. Later this trend was changed and along with the supply of information other aims were also put in view. The element of humour and satire was also included in the travelogues. The travelogues were written in the way of story. The travelogue writers began to include their own feelings and emotions. The adventurous travelogues were also written. Religious travelogues also got much popularity. At this time there is a great variety in the trends of travelogues writing.

**KEYWORDS:** Urdu Travelodge Writing, Travelodge Technique, Urdu Travelogue Trends, World Traveling.

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### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. THE TRENDS OF TRAVELOGUE WRITING

In Urdu travelogue writing, many trends got their place. According to these trends travelogues have many kinds these days. These kinds are informative travelogues, adventurous travelogues, fictional travelogues, humorous travelogues and expressional travelogues.

#### 2. INFORMATIVE TRAVELOGUES

The factual aim and objective of the travelogue writing was to inform the people about other countries and give them the information of other lands. In all the travelogues of the early age, this objective is obvious. So there is a lot of information of all nature in them. In the early age of Urdu literature the travelogue writers paid a special attention to the provision of information in their writings (Abbas & al., 2016).

The greater attention was paid to geographical information and history. The traveler explained the situation, physical features, the condition of weather, details of climate, plants and animals of the visited area in detail. Especially when the means of travel were limited and the traveler had to depend on walking on foot or slow speed and the sources of transportation at a slow speed. He traveled along different planes hills, streams and got the geographical information and the condition of natural scene.

Some travelogue writers made the travelogue writing, history writing. When they visited a country, they wrote its complete history in their books. Some travelogues of this kind completely lack the element of travelogue and the travelogue seems to be a book of history. The standard of the history entered in the travelogues is often suspicious. For example the travelers entered the background of different historical places learning from different kinds of guides. It is not certain that the guides who provide information are authentic and their narration is free from exaggeration. In the same way other historical information is also achieved without any regular research which makes their condition suspicious (Sadeed, 1987).

The travelers saw the civilization and culture of the countries of their journey very closely so in the most of travelogues the civilization and the culture of those areas have been described completely.

The way of living of the people, their celebrations, fare, the occasions of rejoicing and mourning have been explained in these travelogues. These travelogue writers have provided full information regarding the buildings of the areas. Architecture, different shrines, detail of graves and the detail of all ancient and modern buildings can be got from these travelogues (Qureshi, 1987).

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In travelogues the information about the politics of different areas can be got. Some travelogue writers have expressed their opinion in detail regarding regional politics. These travelogues have the detailed description of their political parties, the political system, political background and the political possibilities in detail.

The occupation and the practical department to which the travelogue writer is concerned or his objective of the journey has a great effect on the information of the travelogue. And by the same point of view his provided information is assessed. For example the travelogue writer belonging to the educational department travel for gaining educational information and describes the educational system of those areas, their educational activities, educational standard, different educational departments and the educationist there. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan went to study the educational system of England. So that he may arrange education for his countrymen on the same lines and create the path of progress for them. So in his travelogue 'Musfiran e London' there is reference of educational system.

From the reference of religious information, Urdu travelogues are very important. Travelogue writers have described different places of religious importance and their detail in their travelogues. Then the religious beliefs of the people of different areas have also described in detail. The detail of the beliefs of people particularly from the religious reference and their superstitions and their objectionable customs, is very interesting. Such a description is abundantly present in earlier travelogues especially of those areas that belong to backward and wild civilization. From the point of view of religious education the travelogues have an importance. The religious principles have been expressed in details by them. Particularly the travelogues of Hajj have a detailed narration of the way of Hajj. Most of the travelogues of Hajj have the category of guides and there is complete guidance for the pilgrims in them. Complete chapters have been written about the details of the route and the ways of Hajj. In the same way the prayers and wishes on occasion of visiting different places are also there. Islamic history has also been the topic of travelogue writers. And with this reference some travelogues seems to be Islamic books. Travelogues inform of current affairs although the modern sources of communication are the effective and the most rapid way of information regarding current affairs. But the travelogue writers describe the circumstances and the state of the areas traveled by them, in detail. Travelogues of this kind have the position of report. The journalists whenever go abroad, they bring the written circumstance of their and include them in their travelogues. When the journalists accompanied some prominent personality of the country to visit the other countries they described the activities of that personality of that person along with the description of most current political affairs and other circumstances. The experts belonging to agriculture, medicine, education and other departments travel to the other countries to attend conferences, so the proceedings of those conferences are included in detail and then they interview with various experts and their opinions are also written in the travelogue. The first travelogue of Urdu language is considered 'Ajaebat e Farang', the writer of which Yousaf Khan Kambal Posh journeyed to European countries in 1837 and wrote his travelogue on return which is also named 'Tarikh e Yousafi' (Mehmood, 1995). In this travelogue Kambal Posh has accumulated the information of different nature regarding European countries. He has particularly narrated the civilization of European culture and the ways of living of the people there. He watches everything with a feeling of wonder because it was for him, joining a new world. So along with the information regarding the European countries he expresses his emotion of wonder and awe.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan made a journey to European countries in 1869. He had an aim of inspecting the educational method, curriculum of education, principles of teaching, civilization and culture of Europe with his own eyes and wanted to promote the education in his county on those lines. So Sir Syed Ahmd Khan inspected the European system minutely and wrote about the development, prosperity, discipline and educational advancement especially of England. From the point of view of historical, geographical, cultural and social information, the travelogue has a great importance.

In order to collect historical information and matter, Shibli Noumani travelled to Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon in 1896. He inspected the libraries, educational system and schools of these areas. He visited famous historical places and buildings, met different personalities, and studied news papers and magazines, saw the manners, and habits, civilization and society of Arabs and Turks closely and gave place to all of this in his travelogue 'Safarnama e Rome o Misr o Sham'. He has described all his observations in this travelogue in details. Muhammad Hussain Azad traveled to the states of Middle East in 1865. He went to Iran in 1885. His travelogues 'Wast e Asia ki Ser' and 'Sere Iran' are the memories of these travels. He has written the details of his journeys in these travelogues. There is the description of the difficulties of the way, natural landscapes and climate in detail also. Moreover description of the civilization and culture, and important places is also present. There is description of regional history, politics and geography also. The narration of his interview with some literary and religious personality is also there.

The travelogue of Ghulam us Saqlain 'Roznamcha e Siyahat' (1911) consists of the events of the journey of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and Arab countries. In this travelogue the writer has gathered information regarding

the areas traveled. In which the description of the civilization and culture, the habits and manners of the people, political situation, history, finance and the description of different religious places is also there.

In the travelogue of Mehbob Alam 'Safarnama e Baghdad', the information regarding the civilization and society, way of living, business, history, politics, important places, religions and system of Government have been gathered.

Hakeem Saeed made numerous journeys abroad. These journeys were in order to participate different medical conferences or different nature of business abroad. He has saved the details of his travels in the shape of many travelogues. His travelogues have been written in the manner of diaries. In these travelogues, he mentioned his medical engagements there in details, wrote the description of medical conferences and then to wherever he went, he has entered the useful information regarding those areas. For example, during the visit to Australia, he has given complete information about the gold mines. He has highlighted the history, politics, civilization and culture, medical problems, language, education, geography, population, Government departments, and the problems which the people face there (Saeed, 1987).

Hamza Farooqi has written the events and prevailing circumstances of Spain, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Germany, Iran, France and of many other countries in his travelogues. His travelogues are, 'Aaj Bhi Os Des main', 'Zaman o Makan Aur Bhi', and 'Safar Ashob' (Farooqi, 1987). Though Hamza Farooqi has a straight forward style in these travelogues but using his deep observation and research, he narrated the historical background of these areas. There is the narration of civilization and culture also. He had introduced various scholarly personalities. Moreover he has given details of Allama Iqbal's journey to Britain, Italy, Misr and Palestine in his travelogue 'Sfarnama e Iqbal' in which the literary political and social activates of Iqbal have been described.

'Ishtaraqi chin', 'BastiBasti Nagar Nagar' are the travelogues of Irshad Ahmed Haqani which consist of the circumstances of journey to China, Hong Kong, Libya and turkey. He performed these journeys as a journalist. So he assessed the prevailing conditions from the point of view of a journalist. The style of this travelogue is like news paper columns in which important information and facts have been told (Haqani, 1989).

Jamiluz Zaman in his travelogue 'Chistan e Chin' studied the economy of China and expressed it. He visited different industrial institutions. The style of his travelogue is informative in which the educational system of china civilization, culture and politics etc. have been described. There is a lot of statistics also.

The travelogue of Fakhar uz Zaman 'Gardish Main Paon', is the description of travel to America, Russia, Sweden, Canada, Holand, Britain and France. It is like an informative book. It is the story of many journeys. In which the information regarding cultural, social, historical, literary and some other matters have been given.

'Wadi e Soon Skaser' is an informative book of Ahmed Ghazali which has been written by him during the journey of Soon Skaser. In this book he has accommodated the information regarding beautiful places of Soon Skaser, its history, geography, civilization and culture, customs and folk tales and cultural heritage. From the point of view of travelogue, it is an important book, but it lacks the element of travelogue.

'Aik Hafta Chin Mein', 'Safar Hay Shart', 'KohKaf Kay Des Main', 'Naqsh e Rehghuzar', is the travelogues of Kousar Niazi in which he has provided the information regarding China, Britain, Russia and Japan etc. These journeys were mostly of official nature, so he had given the detail of his official engagements in his travelogues. Moreover he has described the history of those lands, their politics, and their system of government, their foreign policy and their relations with Pakistan in details. The review of the international problems of that time is also included in these travelogues.

Kokab Khawja stayed in China with her husband for nearly three years. Her husband was an official of embassy of Pakistan there. She has described the details of the journeys to China and Japan. Her style of narration is interesting. She has introduced China in details. This travelogue gives information about fine arts of China, meals, festivals, religion health and resorts (Khawja, 1994).

The colour of fiction in travelogue: On one hand such travelogues were written which provided information to the readers in the light of facts but sometimes this thing finishes the element of travelogue from the travelogue. In the other hand travelogue writers added the colour of fiction to them to create interest and beauty. The details of journey are narrated in the shape of a story and the different characters give colour to it but the fault occurs when in creating the colour of fiction the travelogue writer neglects the story of journey.

In such travelogues the imagination is ever at work. Such events are included in the travelogue which has no relation with the reality. These journeys are the creation of the imagination of the writer. Giving the original events the colour of fiction, they can be made more interesting which gives them a fiction colour. The events during the journey are themselves so interesting and colourful that they need no other colour in such travelogues. The attention is paid to the beauty of narration which makes the travelogue more interesting. All these techniques are used to make the travelogue interesting, charming and popular. There are many travelogues in Urdu literature regarding which it is difficult to decide whether these are travelogues or novels, for example, 'Green Card' of Dr. Farkhanda Jali and 'Jawar Bhata' of Zulfiqar Ahmed Tabish.

Mustansar Hussain Tarar has written a number of travelogues. His travelogues got great popularity. He maintained an atmosphere of suspense in them and gave them interesting fiction colour. He created some characters in his travelogues that have the qualities of fiction characters in them, so his travelogues seem to be fictions.

The travelogues of Salama Awan 'Yeh Mera Baltistan', 'London Main Phol' of Aziz Alvi, 'Jahan e Digar' of Quratul Ain Haider and 'Yatra' of Muhammad Khalid Akhtar are such travelogues in which fiction colour has been put deliberately and so they can be said a blend of travelogue and fiction .

### 3. THE ADVENTUROUS STYLE

Travelogue of every kind is an adventure itself and the traveler makes a struggle till the achievement of his objective. Some travelogues of Urdu literature have an active adventurous colour in them, which has created an atmosphere of suspense and curiosity in them.

'Tarikh e Afghanistan' is the story of adventure. Syed Fida Hussain was present on the occasion of attacking Kabul by the English in 1839. In this way this travelogue is in the category of war events writing.

Mustansar Hussain comes before eyes in the shape of a pure tourist. All of his journeys are adventurous. In which he is seen watching the destination under the spell of a certain emotion, especially in northern areas of Pakistan. Like an adventurer, he covers the difficult areas. His style of presenting his journey is very impressive. He maintains curiosity in his narration and takes it to the climax (Tarar, 1994).

### 4. IMAGINATIVE STYLE

In the modern travelogue the writer not only narrates the external facts but he makes his own impressions and feeling the part of the travelogue also. He observes the events and the situation not only with the help of his eyes but also by his heart. We not only use the materialistic resources for the travel but also ride the horse of imagination also. In this way with the blend of imaginations and ideals an effort of creating colourfulness and sweetness is felt in the present travelogues.

Mehmood Nizami has with the help of his impressions made his style colourful. Moreover his style is very good in his travelogue, feelings and impressions are in abundance. During the journey of historical places, he is absorbed in a world of ideals and the history comes before him in an active form. In 'Nazar Nama' Mehmood Nizami has successfully tried to convey his feelings and impressions to the reader in a very beautiful way (Nizami, 1958).

In the travelogues of Mukhtar Masood 'Safar Naseeb' and 'Loh e Ayam, there are also the examples of impressionistic style. In these travelogues the own personality of the travelogue writer is clearly seen. In imaginations, he makes a journey of the other countries. His impressions and ideas make the writing more attractive (Masood, 1984).

In the travelogues of Mustansar Hussain Tarar, there are the beautiful samples of impressionistic style of narration. He makes his journey, the journey of an ideal world and with help of his thoughts and dreams gives a magical colour to the narration.

### 5. THE SATIRICAL, HUMOUROUS STYLE

When the travelogue writers made their aim to provide entertainment instead of information to their readers, there occurred a change in the style of travelogues. A wave of freshness came in the modern travelogue. Travelogue writers use the tactic of humour intentionally. They take humour from the circumstances and the events. They describe different events in such a way that they become humorous. In the same way by the play of words and phrases the humour is created in the writing. The element of humour particularly comes at that time when the traveler talks to his chum very lightly. In modern travelogues this aspect of entertainment has importance. Although most of the travelogue have been written in this way but some travelogues are especially very important for their humour and freshness.

The travelogue of Shafiqur Rehman 'Dajala' has a great importance in the tradition of humour writing. Making the events humorous and funny he has made his travelogue interesting (Rehman, 1983). Ibne Insha has a matchless style of humour. He creates humour from every event and everything. Humorous atmosphere seems to prevail over the atmosphere. He is an expert in creating humorous aspects from every scene (Insha, 1985). The travelogues of Karnol Muhammad Khan 'Bajang Amad', 'Bslamat Ravi' are also the example of humorous style. He had a taste of humour in him readin his travelogues it feels that he had not written humour for his travelogue but has written travelogue in order to present humour.

In the writers of fresh travelogues Amjad Islam Amjad, Ata ul Haq Qasmi, Ali Sufiyan Afaqi, and Javed Iqbal etc are carrying that tradition of humour writing ahead.

## SUMMARY

Urdu travelogues have got a lot of modernity. Now the travelogues are being written in different ways. They include informative, adventurous, humourous, and in the style of novel. Other kinds of travelogues have been also included. The travelogue writers have written the travelogue on different topics and trends in their own way. Therefore many elements of interest have been included in the travelogues and their standard has also been raised.

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