

# Critical analysis of R.K. Narayan and his creation Malgudi Days

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## Abstract:

Critical analysis generally refers to a thorough examination and evaluation of a subject. In the field of literature, the writer's own ideas and methods of work are also connected with it. A precise systematic and thorough analysis of a subject through extensive reading and thinking. In other words, the function of analysis is to judge good and bad. It allows for greater clarity and unadulterated information. Experimentation is essential in literature because creative writing combines imagination with reality. R.K. Narayan is a leading name in pre-Indian English literature. He is the author of the South Indian fable called Malgudi Days. He is equally adept at writing both short stories and novels, but he is especially efficient at writing short stories. The characters in his works can still be observed realistically. The social, economic and political conditions of that time can be seen in his works. In the social, economic, political, religious and cultural environment of that time, his writings are protest oriented in many areas. R.K. Narayan as a writer is famous not only in India but also all over the world. His stories rarely feature a female character. R.K. Narayan through his short stories of Malgudi Days has highlighted the social values, manners, customs and lifestyle of Hindu society in the society of that time.

**Keyword:** Critical Analysis, R.K. Narayan, Malgudi Days, Realistically, Social Values, Manners, Customs, Lifestyle, Hindu Society.

## Objectives:

1. To intimate with writer R.K. Narayan and his fictional literature specially Malgudi Days.
2. To acquire the socio – economic concern of Malgudi Days.
3. To gather the concept of political, religious and cultural environment of Malgudi time.
4. To gather knowledge about social values, manners, customs and lifestyle of the Malgudi people.
5. To acknowledge the educational system of Malgudi region.
6. To gather the knowledge of teacher student relation at the educational Institution of Malgudi region.

## Introduction:

An ‘**Astrologers day**’ is a suspense short stories by R.K. Narayan which was written in 1947. The story is about a man who runs away from home and pretends to be an astrologer after imagining that, he has committed a murder. Follen in the strange situation the man runs towards another man whom he thought he hadkilled and advises the man to go home immediately for self protection. It is an Ironic Twist of Fate. The theme of fear, freedom, appearance, desperation, guilt and relief. After seeing the man the astrologer realised that, he was not the murderer and feels relieved.

‘**Under The Banyan Tree**’ celebrates the life and art of illiterate story teller, Nambi. The storyteller is a simple and tranquil man presents the maker of magician who dreams of Fantastic tales number leves in the front portion of a little Temple extremely detailed verbal pictures of every aspect of story living the listeners’ for more.

‘**A Horse and two goats**’ is another story which is a collection of short stories by R.K. Narayan published in 1970. The central theme of this work is the clash of cultural theme specially the clash of Indian and western cultures. In thios story the main character is muni. The conflict in this story surrounds munis’s poverty and then the very awkward conversation between muni and the rich American. Here muni is poor but understands

the value of the horse as an important religious symbol. So, the misunderstanding between them are symbolic of their two cultures. Thought the story with culture clash as a theme doesn't portray any real harm .

'The talkative man' is one of R.K. Narayan novel first published in 1986. The story is about a man™ and came in contact with a mysterious man called Dr. RANN and his adventures of life.

**"Swami and Friends" (1935)** which was mocked by R.K. Narayan uncle and repeatedly refused and rejected by the publishers in India. Then Narayan sent it to one of his friend in London who took it to an Oxford acquaintance and shown it to Graham Green, an established author who took responsible and recommended to his publishers. Ultimately it is published in 1935. The novel is based on several incidents from Narayan's own childhood. Most of his writings are based on "Malgudi" an imaginary town where realistic characters in a typical Indiansetting lived amid unpredictable events. Green advised moto shorten his name so that, it will be more appreciable and recognisable to an English speaking audience. So he started to write his namesas R. K. Narayan. He met Green only once in 1964 but they became close friends for decades.

**"The Bachelor of Arts (1937)"** which is mainly dealtwith Narayan's college experiences. The theme of this novel is of a rebellious adolescents transition to anadult one.

**"The Dark Room (1938)"** is dealt with marital strife of an oppressor husband and his wife as the victim inside a marriage.

**"The English Teacher (1945)"** is all about his own life, although with different names for the characters and different settings in Malgudi.

During 1942 R.K. Narayan's first book of short stories 'MalgudiDays' was published in 1943 by *Indian thought Publications*. The book was republished outside India in 1982 by Penguin Classic. His 'Malgudi Days' includes 31 stories, all set in the fictional town of Malgudi, located in South India. His shortstories are compared to those of guy De Maupassant.

In 1947, He wrote Screen play for the Gemini Studios- "Miss Malini". ridiculed aspects of life in Madrasduring the World War II period, and was the only story written by Narayan for the screen that came to fruition.

**"The Printer of Malgudi (1949)"** This novel has two parts. The first part is about the publication of a newspaper with Mr. Wealth as the central character and the second part is about the production of a movie with Mr. Srinivas as the central character. The first part deals with the publication of a journal called The Banner of which Mr. Srinivas is the editor. Mr. sampath is the publisher of that journal. Both of them were doing a good job together. Both of them were very good hearted people and their work style made The Banner famous in Malgudi region. The journal was temporarily closed due to a special situation in Malgudi region. In the second part, Srinivas and Samada set up a film production company. They prove that their friendship is still intact. In this film he wants to see wealth, he is ambitious and his life becomes difficult as his love affair develops with the heroine of the film. Srinivasa's character on the other hand deals with the problem of the burden bearer. Some sour incidents in the studio force Srinivas to quit and revive his Banner with another printer, a thing that doesn't seem to bother Sampath caught entirely in the charm of the heroine. But Sampath comes back after the loss of the lady, his wealth, fame, and peace.

**"The Financial Expert (1952)"** is widely regarded as one of the most original works of literature whichis preceded by 'Mr. Sampath'.

**"Waiting for the Mahatma (1955)"** which is looselybased on Mahatma Gandhi's fictional visit to 'Malgudi'.

**"The Guide (1958)"** describes the transformationof the main character of the novel Raju from a tourguide to a spiritual guide and then one of the greatest holy man of India. It is a philosophical novel (Genre). This novel brought me SahityaAkademy Fellowship Award 1960 for English. Narayan wasawarded Padma Bhushan in 1964 and Padma Vibhushan in 2000 and Benson Medal by Royal Society of Literature in the U In 1961, He wrote "The Man-eater of Malgudi" usingthe historical reference of Bhasmasura. Later that year,he travelled to England where he received the first of his honorary doctorate from the Universityof Leeds.

His first mythological work "Gods Demons and Others" a collection of short stories was published in 1964. It was illustrated by his younger brother R.K. Laxman who is the famous cartoonist, humourist and illustrator.

"The Vendor of Sweets" came in 1967 which is the biography of a fictional character named Sri K. V. Jagan who is a sweet vendor of Malgudi. His conflict with his estranged son and how he finally leaves for renunciation, overwhelmed by the sheer pressure and monotony of his life.

In the meantime Narayan moved to USA and Australia and gave lectures in Sydney and Melbourne on Indian literature. He also started writing columns for The Hindu and The Atlantic.

He translated Kamba Ramayanam to English which he promised to his dying uncle.

In 1980 he was chosen as the member of Rajya Sabha, the upper house of India Parliament and throughout six years term he focused on the education system. He walked towards school curriculum. During this time the Government of Karnataka requested him to write a book to promote tourism and the book with the title "The Emerald route" was published in 1980. The same year he was chosen as the honorary member of American Academy of Arts and Letters. His works during this time include - "The Malgudi Days" in the year 1982, "A Tiger for Malgudi" in the year 1983. "Under the Banyan Tree and Other Stories" in the year 1985, "The Talkative Man" in the year 1986 and "A Writer's Nightmare" in the year 1987, In 1990 "The World of Nagaraj".

"Grandmother's Tale" in the year 1992 - An Autobiographical Novella which is about his great grandmother who travelled far and wide to find her husband who ran shortly after their marriage. The story was narrated to him by his grandmother, when he was a child.

"The Grandmother's Tale and Other Stories" in 1994.

He said that, he would be quite happy if no more is claimed from him. If readers read more significance into his creations than was meant originally then that is the Reader's understanding of things. If his creations are in tune completely with the truth of life, truth as he perceives it, then it will be automatically significant.

### **Conclusion:**

Narayan is a true writer to his readers who amuses them immensely. Not only that, contemporary thought has been found in his works. Like Hardy, the Wessex author, Narayan Malgudi is immortalized in novels and short stories. Actually the people of Malgudi are simple straightforward and easily deceived. Malgudi's female characters are different in terms of ideologies, manners, beliefs, religious practices etc. compared to other contemporary writers. Women of middle class society express their identity unity and individuality. The teachers and professors of the schools and colleges in Malgudi were really educated. Narayan was indeed a pragmatic and humanitarian personality. Narayan was not only a propagandist in Malgudi writing but also had practical prestige. The reality of disposition runs throughout Narayan's fictional setting of Malgudi. Hence, Malgudi Days is Narayan's incomparable literary work through which he is immortalized even today.

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