



Mark Twain's the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: A Study of Expressions, Feelings and Emotions of Children

LINGAMURTHY MUKKERA

Assistant professor

Department of English

Methodist College of Engineering & Technology

(Hyderabad) India

Abstract:

Children's literature is written exclusively for the children to read. Children select variety of books among which comics are favoured by them. Some of the critics opined that, the books written for children may not be considered as a literature in the traditional sense. But, this concept cannot be consented by literary figures because children's books speak on multiple levels besides literature. The term children's literature is used in senses excluding young adult fiction, comic books. Books for children, specifically written even in seventeenth century. Knowledge on children's literature includes professional organizations, dedicated publications and University courses. It is beneficially matched to analyze the novel by using the sociological approach to comprehend the social phenomena of social and cultural pattern of family of a member of society. The present article attempts to understand the role of children and their feelings. It also expresses, understanding how children see life and their feelings.

Keywords: *Children's life, Expressions, Feelings and emotions of children, Social phenomena*

1. Introduction

The present article attempts to understand the role of children and their feelings. It also expresses, understanding how children see life and their feelings. Nancy Anderson, defines children's literature;

“As all books written for children excluding works such as comic books, joke books, cartoon books and non-fiction works that are not intended to be read from front to back, such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias and other reference material”¹

Children's literature consists of literary genres such as picture books, comic books, fiction, non-fiction, biography and poetry. Children's literature can be considered as didactic literature. Since, it tries to make the children better. A scholar views that;

“No one needs to be ashamed to say that children's literature is didactic literature. Its intention is to be make our children better, to in still noble ideals in them and to lovingly mould them into men and women of character”²

J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter is originally written for children and marketed for children, but it was equally popular among children and adults. It was the best seller in 1997 as listed by the New York Times.

There are quite a number of writers who have written books for children they are Johanna spyri, carlo collodi, Robert louis Stevenson, Rudgard Kipling, L. Frank Baum, Beatrix Potter, Kenneth Grahame, J.M. Barrie A.A.Milne, Laura Ingalls wilder, C.S.Lewis, Dr. Seuss Roald Dahl, J.K. Rowling, Eoin colfer and Mark Twain.

Mark Twain, the pen name Samuel Langhorne Clemens was one of the best humorous writers in America who wrote two books 'THE ADVENTURES of TOM SAWYER' & 'THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN' which attracted both children and adults equally. Mark Twain wrote adventures of HUCKLEBERRY FINN were originally intended to write for adults but it is widely read as a part of children's curriculum. Since its first publication in 1884, Mark Twain's masterpiece The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn has proven to be one of history's most controversial novels; especially recently, the novel has often been banned by schools and censored by libraries. Characters in the book are constantly using disparaging language toward slaves, and the repeated use of the word "nigger" makes many sensitive and offended. Critics denounce the novel and Mark Twain as racist for this word being insulting and politically incorrect and for its depiction of black people and how they are treated.

Huck & Jimm were young boys, this novel is a sequence of earlier novel 'The adventures of Tow Sawyer' , at the end of which two boys find a treasure trove, a tidy sum of twelve thousand dollars, each of them share six thousand dollars.

Huck's father was a confirmed drunkard. Huck was treated as an outcaste of the village, clothed in rags and sleeps in hogsheads. A sudden change comes among the villagers when they come to know that Huck is a owner of six thousand dollars. One widow Douglas comes forward to adopt the boy in order to civilize him. Meanwhile, the boy invests the money with Judge Thatcher which provides him one dollar a day. The widow neatly dresses the boy, sends him to school and teaches him manners. This kind of environment doesn't sui9t Huck. So, he thinks of enjoying, he used to do it earlier In order to get some relief, he wishes to join Tom'[s gang once again, when he was explained that they are going to undertake certain adventures, Huck's expression of joy is boundless. He feels elated, when Tom unfolds his plan to rob the caravan of Arabs and to keep their men and women imprisoned till they are 'ransomed'. These adventures are purely the activities to be done by the children. The whole business of robbing the Caravan appeared to be a Sunday school picnic of children, chasing the little boys and girls. Other feet that Huck tried to get a genie by rubbing an old lamp but nothing happened. He comes to a conclusion that Tom's adventures had 'all the marks of a Sunday school' children so, he decided to quiet childish adventures.

His father comes to know about the wealth of Huck. So, he tortures him to extract money from Huck. Pap tries to get the custody of boy. Even as a father he criticizes Huck's going to the school. The cruel mentality on the child like Huck is reflected here one day; his father drags him to a far-off place & imprisons him in a log cabin. Mark Twain perhaps intended to curb the ill treatment of children by the parents by narrating such incidents. The parent should try to comprehend the mindset of the children. Huck is in trouble and planned to escape. Due to his childish mentality, he contrived the drama of 'Self- murder', stained his clothes with the blood of a pig he had killed and made an escape in a canoe to the Jackson's island. There he meets Jim who is a slave, he runs away from Miss. Watson who tried to sell him for 800 dollars. Jim is also an innocent boy and they are good friends. Jim is a Negro who is illiterate and Superstitious. He is domesticated, docile and highly skilled in manual tasks. Jim believes that white men are superior to him. Jim & Huck resort to many adventures in the Jackson's island. Mark Twain advocates for the rights of Slaves and one should have mercy towards others. Once Huck says that:

"Necessary for everybody to -----
feel right and kind toward the other "⁵

2. Conclusion

Mark Twain pleases for humanistic attitude of the people towards children. The novel dramatizes man and deals directly with a virtue and depravity of man's heart. The writer introduces vision of an ideal society. Mark Twain attacks the evils of society and he is a social rebel who could not stand hypocritical models of conduct and behavior. He rejects the social morality so cruelly formalized that it had lost all touches of human values. Especially towards children and he tries to uphold individual morality.

“a particular moral reference to the United States in the period after the civil war”⁶

He attacks all kinds of institutionalisms and evils of contemporary society. The activities of Tom & Huck appear to be romantic illusions for the children as popularized by Scott. Mark Twain fights for the rights of the slaves. Mark Twain however exhibits sympathetic attitude towards children like Huck & Jim who are required to be taken care of not only by the parents but also by the Society in general. Compassion and pity should be showered on the children. Because they are the future citizens who can shape the country into a moralistic society.

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