

## Psychological Realism in the Novels of Robert Bausch

Shubhangi Nivrutti Lavate

Research Scholar, Shivaji University, Kolhapur (M.S.) India

### Abstract

Realism was an artistic movement that began in France in the 1850s, after the 1848's revolution. The movement arose in opposition to Romanticism. It has dominated French literature and art since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Realism revolted against the exotic subject matter and exaggerated emotionalism and drama typical of the Romantic Movement. In favour of depiction of real life, Realist painters often depicted common labourers and ordinary people in ordinary surroundings engaged in real activities as subjects for their works. The chief exponents of realism were Gustave Courbet, Jean-Francois-Millet, Honore Daumier and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot.

**Keywords:** Realism, psychology, Robert Bausch

### Introduction:

Realism was an artistic movement that began in France in the 1850s, after the 1848's revolution. The movement arose in opposition to Romanticism. It has dominated French literature and art since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Realism revolted against the exotic subject matter and exaggerated emotionalism and drama typical of the Romantic Movement. In favour of depiction of real life, Realist painters often depicted common labourers and ordinary people in ordinary surroundings engaged in real activities as subjects for their works. The chief exponents of realism were Gustave Courbet, Jean-Francois-Millet, Honore Daumier and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot. Gustave Courbet is known as the main proponent of Realism and his paintings challenged convention by depicting unidealized peasants and workers, often on a grand scale traditionally reserved for paintings of religious or historical subjects. Jean-Francois-Millet for his scene of peasant farmers of which "The Gleaners" is

one of the most well-known due to its depiction of the realities of the lower class."

The term 'Realism' refers to any work to portray life accurately without romantic idealization. It is defined as "the science of exact presentation of many complexities, abstract and concrete factors in the work of art". In fact, realism is an artistic or literary movement characterized by the representation of people or things as they actually are. It is most often associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century literary movement that aimed at honest portrayal of ordinary, contemporary life. In history, realism is usually associated with the genre of the novel because it is uniquely capable of revealing the truth of contemporary life in society. The major characteristics of realism are objectivity in presentation, selective presentation of reality with an emphasis on authenticity, characters appear in their real complexity of temperament and motive. The realistic novel served the interests and aspirations of an insurgent middle class. A character is more important than action and plot.

In short, realism was a movement that represented everyday activities in various contexts, primarily among the middle or lower class society. The major reasons for the emergence of realism in literature in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were the increasing rates of democracy and literacy, the rapid growth in industrialization and urbanization, a relative rise in middle class and readers' interest in understanding the rapid shifts in culture.

There are a few different types of literary realism. Each type has its own distinct characteristics: Magical realism, Social realism, Kitchen sink realism, Socialist realism, Naturalism and Psychological realism. The present research paper deals with Psychological realism. Psychological realism is a literary genre that came to prominence in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Psychological realism is a particular literary method in which a piece of fiction focuses on why something happens and not just the scenario that plays out. It focuses on the interior motives, psychological processes and character's mental narratives instead of simply telling a story. Psychological realism focuses on why something happens and not just the scenario that plays out. It focuses on the mental processes of the characters and often includes their inner thoughts and feelings along with their motives for behaviour. Often on a large scale, Psychological realism is treated as a major theme in the works of Henry James, Arthur Miller and Fyodor Dostoevsky. The psychological realist novels express an opinion on a societal or political issue through the choices of his or her characters. An excellent example of psychological realism is Fyodor Dostoevsky's "**Crime and Punishment.**" American novelist Henry

James also used psychological realism to great effect in his novels. James explored family relationships, romantic desires and small-scale power struggles through this lens, often in painstaking detail. His most famous novels including "**The Portrait of a Lady**", "**The Turn of the Screw**" and "**The Ambassadors**" to portray characters who lack self-awareness but often have unfulfilled yearnings. John Bowlby, a British child psychiatrist and psychoanalyst was the first theorist, describing 'attachment' as a "lasting psychological connectedness between human beings." Bowlby believed that the earliest bonds formed by children with their caregivers have a tremendous impact that continues throughout life. According to Bowlby, attachment also serves to keep the infant close to the mother, thus improving the child's chances of survival. Karen Horney was a Neo-Freudian psychologist known for her 'theory of neurotic needs'. Karen Horney made significant contributions to humanism, self-psychology psychoanalysis and feminine psychology.

The present study relates to the psychological realism in the novels of Robert Bausch. Bausch was one of the prolific postmodern writer in the tradition of American English Literature. His works tend to depict the events that inspired the postmodern movement at the end of the World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Civil Rights Movement. There are nine novels on his record. These novels represent contemporary American life. They are- **On the Way Home (1982)**, **The Lives of Riley Chance (1984)**, **Almighty Me (1991)**, **A Hole in the Earth (2000)**, **The Gypsy Man (2002)**, **Out of Season (2005)**, **In the Fall They Come Back**

(2011), **The Legend of Jesse Smoke** (2012) and **Far as the Eye Can See** (2014).

The first novel **On the Way Home** (1982) deals with anxiety of Michael Summer, a Vietnam POW is presumed dead. He is returned in terribly fragile mental state to his parents, Dale and Anne. They moved to Florida from Chicago after getting the bad news about Michael. Michael is beaten down by expectation and fear. Bausch's first novel is especially good at the delicacy of fearful waiting. There is a scene in which Michael is utterly helpless, working in a small appliance store. Bausch evokes the aftermath and helplessness which may turn out to be the most meaningful Vietnam consequence- in a modesty successful, quietly impressive debut fiction.

In the novel **The Lives of Riley Chance** (1984), the protagonist Riley Chance describes events happened in his life of Chicago and Penn-Sylvania. A man named Benjamin Ezra and his wife Ogra, begins Riley Chance's extraordinary tale of the fortunes and misfortunes of his three lives: first as Kenny Erza, the son of a factory worker at the Demon Match Company in Wilkies-Barre at the turn of the century. Jack Pitt, a boy grooving up with his much loved mother in Washington D.C. during depression and finally as Riley Chance, a "Strange Child" born in 1954.

**Almighty Me** (1991) is a comic fable about the limits of love, even when you have the power of God and a likable chronicled of the dissolution of one man's marriage. Charlie Wiggins is a top car salesman whose wife, Dorothy is having the prototypical American midlife crisis: jogging and feminism, gone back to college for a degree in literature. When a stranger

named Chat gives Charlie the power of God for one year. His unconscious desires set loose by his Godhead can do terrible things. He even realizes that his only course is to let his beloved go. This Charlie does but not before indulging himself with a trick played upon Chet and the Almighty a paradox that aims to take the tragedy of out of human existence.

**A Hole in the Earth** (2000) deals with the controversies of narrator, Henry Porter. He is a scholar history teacher who augments his income by frequenting the race track, an obsession exasperated his wife who left him years ago. He has a young daughter of 18 years old named Nicole. Nicole has guilt of leaving Henry. At last, in a moving denouement Henry achieves a transcendent moment of self-worth and connection. Bausch's profound empathy for his characters shows his wise understanding of life that is composed of ambiguities, failures and guilt feelings.

The novel **The Gypsy Man** (2002) is a mysterious story about the murder of Terry Landon. He is a black student in a school. John Bone is the husband of Penny and the father of Tory Bone. Tory discovers and upright stone marking that may be a grave of John Bone. In a prison Bone saves the life of a guard. He was suffering by heart attack. Bone expects his deed will bring an early release. Despite gets captured to stand trial for the murder of Terry London. He appears headed to conviction. Then the secret of the past accident and the true meaning of the gypsy man are revealed in a meaningful twist.

In order to expound various concerns and to unravel a mind of a

character Bausch exploited a number of techniques such as narration, a stream of consciousness, metaphorical use of the present condition foreshadowing, interchange of situations of the crucial edge for the dramatic intensity.

**Conclusion:**

To conclude the above novels in toto represent contemporary American life.

The novels deal with psychological realism. These novels have various themes such as family relationships, romantic desires, and mental processes of the characters, inner thoughts and feelings of the characters, interior motives, unconsciousness, self-awareness, repression, crime and feminine psychology. All these psychological processes include in psychological realism.

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