

Abstract

The Question of 'truth' in 'War against terror-Literature'

One of literature's fortes is to comment on various issues emerging in a society. It reflects those issues and tries to point out the fault lines and to an extent finds the solution for the problems. After the incident of 9/11 and with the advent of 'War against terrorism', the world had to face a situation which affected human consciousness all over. Globalization and fast media have played their roles in this regard. This war has no boundary and thus the difference between the writings of 'people at front' (The Soldier Poets) and 'at home' (civilians) has been demolished. It is not only the soldier poets who experience war but the civilians are also absorbing the atmosphere of terror after the incident of 9/11. Another important feature of this era is the emergence of a media which is highly influential and used by the influential people. The 'truth' of various incidents has been distorted and made inaccessible by the propagandist media and Jean Baudrillard puts it as 'the loss of reality'. Media is being used as a tool to establish a 'truth' with a purpose and thus leaves a common man into a blind ally. The post 9/11 discourses have influenced the human consciousness a great deal. The speeches, which keep the wars running, made by the leaders have been taken as 'metanarratives'. This research focuses on the poetry which confronts the 'hyperreal' world and tries to find the 'truth' which ultimately leads to the emergence of a 'collective consciousness'. After the incident of 9/11 a large number of poems were written in this context. Most of the poetry was mere versification and thus lacks poetic depth. The research makes analyses of post 9/11 poetry and differentiates the real poetry from the versification. It also includes poetry,

written in context of 'war against terrorism' from Pakistan. A comparison, of poetry from the US and Pakistan, has been made to find common themes and imagery. Thus the research explores the 'collective consciousness' against 'terror' in poetry. This poetry portrays a shared experience across the continents. The 'collective consciousness' helps in establishing a 'truth' which is acceptable and reliable in an age of 'hyperreality'. The dissertation focuses on the 'truthful' quality of language and expression in post 9/11 era.