

## ABSTRACT

The topic of my thesis is “The Abnormal Personality in Urdu Short Story”. Most of Urdu short story writers have studied pathological behaviour as an aspect of an individual’s life in a particular social context. Their treatment of the subject has been from various angles; each writer being led by his own vision of life and interpretation of social conditions. The conclusions and impressions resulting from this have been various. Mostly being in line with and compatible to the principles of Abnormal Psychology.

The thesis mainly deals the internal as well as external forms of abnormality leading to the conclusion that there is similarity in the thoughts drawn by the modern Western Psychologists and the observations of the writers of Urdu short story. In my view the characters from Urdu short story portraying abnormal behaviour are less stereotyped than the actual case histories which become the basis for, obviously, the more scientific study of Abnormal Psychology as conducted by the Western Psychologists. The characters of Urdu short story are more life-like.

The thesis is planned in a way that would facilitate the reader to familiarise himself with the main issue. It is divided into seven chapters each one dealing with a different form of abnormality. In the first chapter the focus is on the way in which various types of abnormal behaviour have been studied by the psychopathologists. An attempt is made to analyse several components of abnormality: statistical infrequency, violation of norms, personal distress, dissolutely and unexpectedness. This chapter also includes a brief history of Abnormality as understood in Psychological terms from the early times to the present era.

Chapter II of this thesis deals with the interpretative study of fiction and the formulations on which this study is based, by the leading psychoanalysts / psychoanalytic critics like Freud, Jung, Adler, Lionel Trilling and Eric Fromm. These critics, through their formulations have influenced the works of several writers of Fiction both in the West and East. Works of several masters of Fiction and Drama from renaissance to the present times have been analysed. These names include Shakespeare, Balzac, Chekhov, Gogol, E. A. Poe, Victor Hugo, Dostoevsky, Gorky, D.H.Lawrence, Thomas Manne, Somerset Maugham, James Joyce, Sartre and Graham Greene. Several characters from the works of these writers can be taken out to portray abnormality of behaviour and various types of it. To quote one example: Lady Macbeth in the famous sleepwalking scene in Shakespeare’s play “Macbeth”. Such instances are found in the

works of all the writers named above, exemplifying abnormal human behaviour. An attempt is also made to study the impact of these writers from the West and the way the writers of Urdu short story were influenced by them through the Urdu translations of Western fiction that were published in Journals like Makhzan, Urdu, Alamgir, Hamayoon, Nigar, Zamana, Murraqa and Aligarh Gazette. Urdu translations of Russian, Turkish, Japanese and English fiction were rendered by writers like Manto, Enaetullah, Prof. Mujeeb, Mansoor Ahmad, Khawaja Manzoor Hussain, Abdul Qadir Sarwari, Syed Bashiruddin, Hamid Ali Khan, Zafar Ali Khan, Aziz Ahmad, Laam Ahmad, Niaz Fatehpuri and several others. The early phase of Urdu short story (1905-40) is important because it was through the translations that the writers of Urdu short story learnt the art of narrative and characterization. It is this period that heralds the new / modern age in Urdu short story.

The third chapter of this thesis is concerned with the study of schizophrenic characters in Urdu short story. Schizophrenia is a severe mental disorder. The writers who took it up as a theme for their short stories are Manto, Majnu Gorakpuri, Akhtar Orinvi and Mumtaz Mufti. These writers treated the problem artistically. Their characters cannot be clinically examined, nor should they be, for the fear that they may lose their artistic charm. Many of these short stories effectively portray political environment, social situation of the times and the personal suffering of the individual characters. This presents a comprehensive picture of life in an important period in the history of the subcontinent. Manto's story "Toba Tek Singh" is analysed in the context of the issues it raises.

Chapter four of this thesis deals with anxiety disorders. Urdu short stories have a wide range of characters who suffer from this debilitating and a very common form of mental disorder. From the scientific point of view this may not be accurate but in themselves the writers of Urdu short story have treated Hysteria, Obsession, Phobia and Depression and the levels of anxiety. Important short stories studied in this chapter include "Mamta", "Yeh Duniya" (Akhtar Orinvi), "Missouri 1953" (Khawaja Ahmad Abbas), "Miss Edna Jackson" (Manto), "Moqa" (Mumtaz Mufti). Asmat Chughtais "Jahan Aur Bhi Hain" deals with Hysteria. These stories present the unsatisfied sexual emotions as the major reason of Hysteria. Moral anxiety becomes the focus of attention Manto's "Paanch Din" and "Sauraj Kay Liye" and Fiaz Mahmood's "Ek Sauda He Sahee". External Phobia is the subject of stories like "Miss Teen Wala" (Manto), "Kali Billi" (Devinder Aesar), "Doob Jane Wala Suraj" (Ghias Ahmad Gidi), "Siah Hashia" (Dr. Saleem Akhtar) and "Bai Key Matam Dar" (Nayyar Masood).

Manto's "Khalid Mian", Karishan Chandar's "Janwar", Mumtaz Mufti's "Sharabi Ka Raz" and Dr. Saleem Akhtar's "Nadeeda", Jeelani Bano's "Scooter Wala", Rasheed Amjad's "Doobti Pehchan" deal with obsession.

The list of short stories portraying mental disorders is unending. In this brief it is not possible to go into the detail. The problem has however been discussed more thoroughly in the main thesis.

In the fifth chapter sexual disorder and its various forms have been discussed. Sadism, Masochism, Fetishism Homosexuality and Lesbianism are the problems that have affected the lives of humanity since the times immemorial and continue to haunt the humans even in the present times. Be it the East or the West, writers of Urdu short story have dealt with the issue in their own way in the context of their peculiar social situation old age sex issues have also been discussed by the writers. The whole range of issues emanating from sexual disorders has been discussed in detail in this chapter.

Peculiar to the Muslims of the sub-continent of India are the problems that are related with their perception of being Muslims; in the context of their relations with members of other religious communities (which are many). The question of religious and cultural identity have more often not created problems that defy solutions. It has created a very complex and confusing situation. The writers of Urdu short story have, I believe, discussed it thoroughly exploring all the possible dimensions of it. The range of such short stories may not be wide enough but whatever is available is commendable. The short stories dealing with this problem have been discussed in chapter six of the thesis.

As has been mentioned earlier the scientific / investigative work of Western Psychologists in the area of abnormal psychology and their psychoanalytic study of the famous works of fiction and drama have influenced the writers of Urdu short story in shaping their literary and creative sensibility. In technical terms the art of characterization, the narrative technique and the willingness to explore the areas of mental activity that has remained untouched for ages are the things that can be regarded as having come from the West. This does not, however mean that the writers of Urdu short story are not original. They are original and they are creative. This in detail has been discussed in the seventh chapter of the thesis.