



Shakespeare and His Contemporaries in India

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Abstract

The focus of this research is to determine the contributions as well as works of these contemporaries of Shakespeare in India along with their work and examples. The work contribution of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries in India including Jagannatha Panditaraja, Tulsidas, Bihari Lal, Malik Muhammad Jayasi, and many more have been discussed in this article. The timeline which has been selected for the data analysis was from the 1520s to 1640s, covering the time period of Shakespeare as well. The overall writing pattern focusing on society, love, cultural barriers and economical differential has been found similar in the two types of authors in this article. Through the results of this research it is seen that the period Shakespeare was active was significant for both the English culture and Indian culture. During this period scholars and writers from different language backgrounds contributed to Indian literature and enriched it. From the discussion it is found that during this period the contemporaries of Shakespeare in India made a revolution regarding the use of language in written literature which is very significant for the growth of literature.

Keywords: Shakespeare, 16th Century, India, Literature, Society, Poet

I. Introduction

In the history of English Literature, the contribution of William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is not only considered to be the most important one but also has been visionary which has changed the perspective regarding culture, society and surroundings. The variety of writing which has been analysed by Shakespeare has completely layered the meaning of English literature along with focusing mainly on the love stories and social values in contemporary timelines. The reason for the huge possibility of William Shakespeare writing in each part of the world is because of the creation of tragic stories which are important to critique the

values and brilliant accounts (Pet'ko, Turchynova, and Sokolov, 2020).

The writing of Shakespeare was associated with various external social factors which are not interesting in 16th-century English literature, but also the poet introduced some new ways which directly lead to the understanding of the artistic views of the author. For example, according to the view of Karim-Cooper and Price (2021), the plot and series depicted by Shakespeare are highly associated with nation, race as well as social differences. Therefore, these factors are still influencing academics and people in the 21st century for deciding the lifestyle in the 16th-century world. For example, in the story of "Romeo and Juliet", the two young lovers have faced a huge tragedy due to social obstacles as well as cultural barriers which have restricted their unity and ultimately led to a fatal conclusion (Ghaffary and Alizadeh, 2021). Therefore, from this play, the importance of class, money and power is analysed properly and its requirement in the world for better living is also found.

On the other hand, during the 16th century period, in India, there was the ruling of early Mughal Empires, especially in the majority of the subcontinent. At this time, due to the empowerment of m Mughal empire, industrialisation in India along with its development had a growth of higher GDP than the tenure Europe. Between 1526 to 1858, India was under the rule of the Mughal Empire (South African History Online, 2021). However, at that time, the overall literature growth in India has been taken place and the majority of the poets who have been the com contemporaries of Shakespeare are the part of Mughal Empire and especially form, "Akbar' Navaratna" such as **Abdul** Rahim Khan-I-Khana (" *Baburnama*"), Abul Faizal who wrote "Akbarnama" and so on.

The popularity of Shakespeare has also been received in modern society especially in English pieces of literature in order to improve the quality of the writing. In the current century, there are 4 several



English poets and writers who follow the writing of Shakespeare along with various exploratory factors in order to create more engaging plotting. Therefore, as per the opinion of Halpern, (2018), the modern generation is still associated with Shakespeare and the overall value of the pieces of literature is collected based on the principle of Shakespeare. However, at the same time, in India, which is also called the contemporary time of William Shakespeare between 1560 to middle 1600s, a lot of authors and poets had arisen, which had significant contributions to Indian literature. According to the opinion of Trivedi (2018), the timeline of the 16th to 17 centuries in India, is still considered one of the significant periods of literature development and cultural growth. In current times, in the field of literature, the contribution of the Indian author of that time has been found to be of the same importance as Shakespeare.

The focus of Shakespeare and his contemporaries was to create not only innovative and unique pieces of literature context but also determine a new language, which can later be the perspective of English Literature. In the majority of the cases, societal pressure was associated with religious forms and political instability in all the countries across the world including Western culture and Indian culture. However, at that time, the creations by Shakespeare have been completely different which overshadowed all the religious issues and focused on human lifestyle and love (National Portrait Gallery, 2022). The famous contemporaries of Shakespeare are including "Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlowe, John Donne as well as Sir Walter Raleigh". In the 16th century renaissance, the context and perspective of English literature completely changed. However, on the other hand, Indian literature has been focused on the religious overview as well as political pressure and the contemporary context of king and queen stories. Although the basis of Indian pieces of literature has not excluded such factors which have been done by Shakespeare, the creations of the famous pieces of literature have significantly contributed to new contexts. The context of love, feminism as well as social values has been portrayed in 16th-century Indian pieces of literature which have improved our knowledge of the country and nation cannot be neglected (Rohmatika, 2019). Hence, these pieces of literature have also been found to be part of the Indian education system in current years which portrays the basis of Indian history and languages.

On the other hand, another author and writer in the contemporary period of Shakespeare are Tulsidas. The timeline of Tulsidas was from 1532 to

1623. The focus of Tulsidas was the Hindu religion and he was renowned for his writing as a devotee of Rama. According to the opinion of Sharma, Kumari and Chudhary (2022), the creation of poems as well as writing pieces of literature regarding the Rama has reached the highest popularity due to the excellent visionary and writing capacity of Tulsidas. For example, the whole societal factors and situations have been portrayed by Tulsidas while portraying Rama has been associated with "*Poverty, famine, pestilence, femininity, hypocrisy, crooked earth, crippling policy*" as well as several factors. Therefore, from his writing, it is possible to determine the creation of "Ramcharitmanas" by Tulsidas is considered one of the great Indian literature pieces which have improved the knowledge of the society and culture and is still considered highly important in Indian Literature (Lamb, 2022).

Another great Indian poet and dramatist from the 16th Century were Bihari Lal, which has still known for his writing piece "Satasai in Brajbhasha". The timeline he belonged to was from 1595 to 1663. The focus on this poet's work has been found related to Krishna and his famous worship by Radha and other Gopi, a contemporary famous play in India, religious wise (Snell, 2022). Now while analysing the overall perspective of writing, it has been found, the context of such poems was on love and various shades and sides of love. While comparing the writing price between Bihari Lal and Shakespeare, it has been found the concept of love has the main connection to writing in the 16th and 17th centuries irrespective of cultural differences in Western countries and India. For example, in the case of Shakespeare, the all-time popular play drama, "Romeo and Juliet" shows unfinished love stories due to societal pressure and barriers, which have concluded love and pain in similar terms (Lazzaris, 2019). Based on the same context, the writing piece by Bihari Lal also leads to the understanding of the devotion of Radha towards Krishna along with a painful outcome which is another name for love (Snell, 2022). Despite, the authors not being influenced by each other's writing, the overall concept of love which has been described by both authors has been completely similar and the knowledge gained from the same writing as above was found externally beneficial for analysing the social issues of the time.

Additionally, another significant poet in India who has been found as a contemporary of Shakespeare is Jagannatha Panditaraja (1590-1641). One of the grease creations was "Bhāminī-vilāsa" which is not only associated with several different



emotions in a single piece of literature but also associated with contemporary times, society and cultures that ultimately lead to major historical understanding and knowledge (Cummins, 2020). Now the literature of Jagannatha Panditaraja is still some educational business in Indian schools in order to provide the students with basic knowledge and an overview of contemporary Indian society and culture. Therefore, it can be said, the contemporaries of Shakespeare in India are not only the key contributors who have influenced Indian pieces of literature but also improved the overall education system (Chatterjee, 2020). Hence, the objective of this research article would be to analyse the contributions as well as works of these contemporaries of Shakespeare in India along with their work and examples. The importance of such literature in India, in current times will also be analysed significantly in this research article. The structure of this research article has focused on the discussion of methodology, presentation of the finding as well as discussion of results, which is decided based on the improvement of the whole value of the research. While discussing the results, the overall conclusion by aligning with the research objectives is also given.

II. Methods

The method which is applied for the collection of information as well as reviewing various pieces of literature in this article is a secondary search. For fulfilling the overall demand of the research objective, a collection of 15 pieces of literature has been selected which has not only helped to analyse the important contribution of Shakespeare and his contemporaries in India. As per the opinion of Sherif (2018), the secondary qualitative data collection process not only helped to analyse the in-depth formations but also improved the reliability of the investigation process. Therefore, the choice of secondary data collection in order to complete this research was particularly justified. The sources which are used for data collection, in this case, were *Google Scholar databases*. Some significant journals that the research has used include "*Bayan College International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*", "*Religion and Sustainability: Interreligious Resources, Interdisciplinary Responses*", "*Journal of Indian Philosophy*", "*Gender and Violence in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*", "*Shakespeare*" and many more. The journals have been selected due to the collection of peer-reviewed articles and each piece of information which has been collected from

the journals has been related to the research objectives.

The majority of the focus has been on Indian poets and writers due to the contemporaries of Shakespeare; therefore, the journals are mainly from India. Now, one of the important factors which have been applied in order to complete this research investigation is Boolean Table criteria. As per the findings of Scells, Zuccon and Koopman, (2019), the Boolean table is not only important for determining the specific literature research for any study but also improves the chance of answering research questions properly. Therefore, with the help of a Boolean table, here some keywords have been selected which has improved the overall data collection and information gathering. One keyword was "Shakespeare contribution" which has been collectively used with (AND) another keyword named, "English Literature". On the other hand, some other important keywords for literature search for this article were, "Indian poets of 16th Century" AND "16th Century Indian pieces of literature". As per the view of Clark and Vealé (2018), the quality of the data collection process has been improved due to the principle of qualitative research design. The in-depth analysis has been possible, therefore qualitative principle has been applied while comparing to the quantitative principle.

In this research, another criterion was also used for specifying the literature collection process which is "Inclusion And Exclusion Criteria". In research studies, the quality and reliability of the article can be possibly maintained with the help of Inclusion and exclusion criteria, which have been found extremely important in secondary research (Patino and Ferreira, 2018). The inclusion criteria for this research were: information regarding 16th and 17th-century Indian poets and writers only due to matching the criteria of "contemporaries of Shakespeare", pieces of literature written in the English language and information regarding specific poets and their contribution to Indian and Western cultures. The timeline which had been decided for the data collection was from 2017 to 2022. This timeline has been decided due to undertaking the current perspectives of authors regarding the contribution of Shakespeare as well as contemporaries of Shakespeare in India. The peer-reviewed journals and authentic websites have only been taken as the sources of data collection. Unreliable sources like Wikipedia and Investopedia have been effectively ignored in this case due to biased issues (El Zein and da Costa Pereira, 2022). Another thing which has been excluded while collecting the data was papers which has been



published before 2017 or websites published before that time. Some papers have been found written in different languages other than English which has also been ignored in this case for data collection.

After collecting the information for this article, the information has been analysed by developing some themes, which have been selected in order to enhance the value of this search. According to the view of Finkelstein, Sharma and Furlonger (2021), thematic analysis helps to generate a clear representation of information in the case of secondary research, therefore the credibility of the research also increases. In this case, some themes have been developed based on the keywords of this study which have also been discussed in a detailed manner for improving the overall data analysis credibility. In each theme some Indian poets who were contemporaries of Shakespeare in India have been analysed based on their contribution and their writing similarity ladies with Shakespeare has also been evaluated for better article analysis. As this objective is associated with English Literature, the overall analysis of the theme and in-depth discussion has been highly beneficial for the data evaluation and generation of the conclusion.

Among the 15 sources which have been selected for the information collection 12 are pieces of literature including journals, articles, and papers, whereas the other 3 are websites such as Indian newspaper articles including the Indian Express and World history websites such as "Art UK". the overall sources have led to significant result and information generation which has improved the overall data collection sustainability and the search article has fulfilled the information which fulfilled the research objective

III. Results

The writing style of Shakespeare has been found focused on the social play which is associated with human lives along with portraying the overall needs and demands of the people. Shakespeare has also developed an imaginary pilot which has been

considered real in current times in order to solve any particular situation. Therefore, the overall findings and writing of Shakespeare in English literature have been highly beneficial in current times.

In the majority of the cases, the overall literature basis of the Indian authors has been focusing on the culture and society of that time along with mentioning the contemporary societal values and activities which impact the lives of humans. One of the significant authors and poets of contemporary India was Malik Muhammad Jayasi, who has written one of the great Indian novels come epic poems named, "Padmavaat" in 1540. Although this writing piece of Jayasi before the birth of Shakespeare, the popularity as well as a critique of this poem has been contributed till the 17th century (Mursalin, 2018). In Early India, the writing of society and culture along with focusing on historical events has been found significant and common, which has improved the overall basis of writing. For example, in the case of Jayasi, who has written Padmavat, a brilliant story of love as well as the eternal truth of human love has been portrayed which changed the perspective of Indian authors at that time. When Jayasi has written this epic, he was not influenced by any other Persian writer or literature, he only focused on the current Indian situation and the religious differences between various sectors have been clearly stated in the epic drama (Kaushik, 2019). Now, a clear similarity has been found between the writing of Jayasi and Shakespeare which is feminine side along with brilliantly portrayed symbolic love and relationship decisions. For example, in Padmavaat queen, Padmavati has faced several challenges of contemporary society which has made her take some serious decisions (The Indian Express, 2017). A similar characteristic has also been observed in the character of "Cleopatra" in "Antony and Cleopatra" writing piece of Shakespeare (Sultana, 2021). Hence, it can be said, that societal issues including Western and Indian timelines have been similar at that time.

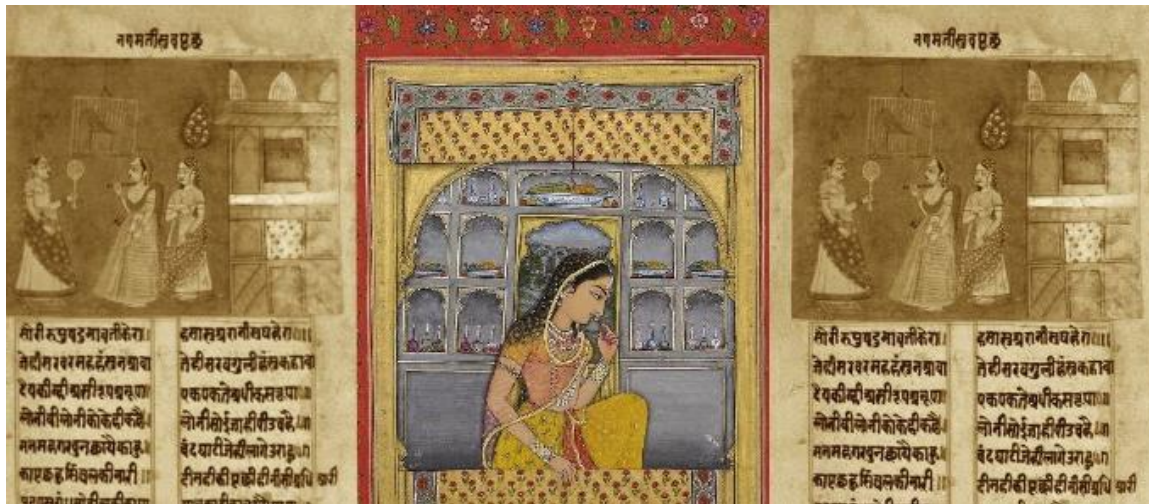


Figure 1: The epic poem of Padmavat by Jayasi
(Source: Influenced by The Indian Express, 2017)

Another significance of the writing piece of Malik Muhammad Jayasi is associated with indicating the different violent activities as well as criminality in colonial India, especially in 16 and 17 centuries. From the literature of Padmavat, the author has portrayed several pictures related to child wives or child marriage, the practice of "Sati" and prostitution, which were common in India at that time. For example, the end of the play Padmaavat directly shows the self-sacrifice of Queen Padmavati, in order to protect her honour from the intruders, which is still considered one of the most significant events in Indian history (Atwal, 2019). On the other hand, similar writing has been found from the writing of Shakespeare, where several the pieces of literature of brothel and sex workers in his play named, "Two Gentlemen of Verona" (Cox, 2021). Therefore, it can be said, the social relationship and conditions of these sex workers in India and Western countries are kind of similar, which has been portrayed by both of the authors.



Figure 2: The conditions of Brothel as per "Two Gentlemen of Verona"
(Source: Influenced by Art UK, 2022)

It is already mentioned that Shakespeare was born in 1564 and died in 1616 and within his lifespan he has penned down some magnificent pieces of literature. During this period in India the Mughal empire was ruling and from the collected secondary data it is seen that almost all the mughal kings were the appreciators of literature. According to Bal, (2022), during this specific period in India, the Mughal king Akbar was ruling and his tenure of Akbar was from 1556 to 1605. From the secondary data, it is found that Akbar was a great appreciator of literature and he had a big library in his palace and in that library, there were over twenty four thousand volumes written in different languages.



According to ul Hossai, (2020), these languages include "Sanskrit, Urdu, Persian, Greek, Latin, Arabic, and Kashmiri". In this context, another thing which is found from secondary data is that Akbar was not able to read or write but his love for literature and art was remarkable. These areas are covered in this study to understand the contemporary social infrastructure of India related to literature and arts. This understanding is helpful in the discussion of the growth of literature in this period.

The secondary pieces of data reveal that in the Royal Court of Akbar there were nine scholars who were known as "nine gems" in Indian history. These "nine gems" were "Abul Fazal, Faizi, Miyan Tansen, Raja Birbal, Raja Todar Mal, Raja Man Singh, Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana, Fakir Aziao-Din and Mirza Aziz Koka". According to Anooahar, (2020), all of them are contemporaries of Shakespeare and all of them have significant contributions to contemporary literature and these pieces of data are collected from secondary sources. Among these nine gems, Abul Fazl wrote the biography of Akbar and that biography was divided into three volumes. Fauzi was part of the Royal Court of Akbar. Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana is famous in Indian history for his "Hindi couplets". Mirza Aziz Koka was the other novelist of this era. According to Hussain, (2021), overall, it can be stated that during this period India was rich in literature and culture. Among other contemporaries of Shakespeare in India, there is Miyan Tansen who was a musician in the Royal Court of Akbar.

From the secondary data, it is found that during this period in India a trend of "translated literature came prominently. During this period, a number of literature that are written in Sanskrit are translated into Persian because that was the mother language of the Mughal emperors. Two of the major pieces of literature Ramayana and Mahabharata were translated into Persian in this period. According to Dasari, Pulagara and Lingala, (2021), in this context, it should be mentioned that this contemporary period of Shakespeare in India is not only about the Mughal emperors and from the secondary data a significant growth of regional literature is also noticed. For example, during this period in South India, there was Jagannatha Panditaraja. He was a famous literary critic of the Telugu language and poet. He has also created some significant pieces of literature including Ganga Lahari, Rasa Gangadharam and others. According to Hakala, (2019), the area of regional and Hindi literature is also explored under these studies as these are done by his contemporaries in India. A

number of regional languages like "Bengali, Gujarathi, Oriya, and Rajasthani" was developed during this period. According to Khan, (2019), during this period, Bhagavad Gita was translated into regional languages by different people. For example, Bhagavad Gita was translated into English language by Sir Charles Wilkins, and into the Persian language by Dara Shikoh. According to Dasari, Pulagara and Lingala, (2021), this trend converted common languages into the languages of literature. Overall, from the secondary data, it is found that during the time of Shakespeare in India a rapid change in literature and art took place.

During this period, Hindi literature was also very prominent in Indian history. The most prominent contemporary of Shakespeare in India who worked with Hindi literature was the poet Tulsidas. The poet was very famous for his work in Sanskrit which is named "Awadhi". He is also famous for his work "Ramcharitmanas" and which was a part of Awadhi. According to Shahbaz, (2020), this version of Ramayana was the most famous version of Ramayana during that era. Another contemporary of Shakespeare in India was Surdas and who was associated with the Royal Court of Akbar and he is mainly famous for his work "blind bard of Agra". During this period a change in language is noticed in the collected secondary data. From that, it is found that during this time a dialect of Hindi was Braj bhasha and there were many pieces of literature that are written in this language. According to Ravaliya, (2022), Surdas the contemporary of Shakespeare was famous for his poems written in Braj bhasha.

Other than that it is already mentioned that the collected data reveals the work of the Sufi saint named Malik Muhammad Jaisi during this period. His creation Padmavat is even very significant in the current Indian literature. According to Bano, (2020), another contemporary of Shakespeare in India Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan, made a beautiful blend of Persian ideas and Bhakti poetry. The secondary pieces of data also reveal that during this period Indian music also improved a lot. From the western part of India, the contemporary of Shakespeare was Tukaram who was a renowned Marathi poet. He was mainly famous in this period because of his devotional poetry and in Indian history, these are known as "Abhanga". Other than that, Tukaram was famous for devotional songs called "Kirtan". He has composed over 4,600 abhangas during his life span. Overall, from the collected data it is seen that the career of Shakespeare lasted for over two decades but the pieces of literature he created during this period



have lasted for over four hundred years. According to Husain, (2021), it is also found that he used to play different roles in his life like a play writer, an actor and many others. Similarly, the Indian contemporaries of Shakespeare also strengthened the literature during this period (Owen and Pollock, 2018). Not only strengthening the literature but also a change in the use of language, especially in written language was noticed in this period.

IV. Discussion

Introduction

This piece of research is focused on exploring the pieces of work of the contemporaries of Shakespeare in India. For conducting this piece of research a secondary research method is followed and pieces of data are collected from existing sources. In the previous chapter, the findings or the results of the research are presented and from that, it is understood that contemporary India of Shakespeare was rich in literature. In this chapter, those findings are analysed and discussed by using the "thematic analysis technique". For conducting this study a total of three themes are framed from secondary data and under those themes analysis and discussion are conducted with references from external sources.

Theme 1: Pieces of work by Shakespeare

In this section firstly the pieces of work by Shakespeare should be explored and analysed briefly. From the results, it is found that Shakespeare has penned down nearly 40 dramatic works in the English language. Among these some famous pieces of work are "All's Well That Ends Well, Julius Caesar, The Merchant of Venice, The Taming of the Shrew, The Merry Wives of Windsor, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, The Phoenix and Turtle, Romeo and Juliet" and many others. According to Sen, (2020), among these pieces, there are comedies, romantic dramas and some other areas that have enriched the English language and these are also relevant in the current times. The first printed work of Shakespeare was two poems named "Venus and Adonis". According to White, (2018), Shakespeare wrote several tragedies and that are highly famous across the world and some of these are "Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth". Now, from the results, it is seen that because of his work Shakespeare was declared as the greatest writer of England. The pieces of work by Shakespeare are criticised many times from different angles. It is considered that the high popularity of these pieces is because of the nature of

Shakespeare of ignoring the classical rules and social standards. According to Sen, (2020), many critics have presented the fact that Shakespeare wrote his pieces targeting the major part of the society which was not properly educated. According to many critics, the creations of Shakespeare were indulged in imagination which did not align with judgements. This is also considered as the main reason behind the ever-lasting popularity of his creations. Overall, it is considered that the era of Shakespeare was the golden era for English literature and the unique style of writing, the nature of excluding social judgements from writing and many other traits have made the writer famous across the world.

Theme 2: Contemporary literature with an influence of the Mughal emperors: Development of literature under Akbar

From the above chapter, it is seen that in the contemporary period of Shakespeare Akbar was ruling India and he was a great patron of literature, art and music and that patronage had a strong influence on contemporary literature of India. According to Owen and Pollock, (2018), during this period as the contemporaries of Shakespeare, many Persian scholars are noticed and this is because of the interests of the Mughals regarding the ancient pieces of literature of India. Other than that in history the patronage of the Mughal emperors towards literature, art and music is remarkable. According to Truschke, (2019), it is considered that because of their patronage the culture got a chance to flourish to the next level. History says if the ruler does not appreciate the culture and its growth then it gets stuck in a place and eventually gets replaced by another culture.

Through the results it is found that in the Royal Court of Akbar there were nine scholars known as "nine gems" and this shows the immense appreciation of Akbar towards literature, art and music. According to Anjum, (2018), another important thing which is noticed during the period Akbar used to have a library filled with manuscripts written in different languages. From the findings, it is clearly seen that those nine gems have significantly contributed to Indian literature. That is why it can be stated that in the contemporary Indian of Shakespeare on literature there was a great influence of the Mughal. According to Feldman, (2018), different stages of the development of literature are discussed under this theme. It is noticed that a huge number of high-quality poetry and prose were produced by the Persians during this period because with the Mughals many common



Persian people entered India and explored the culture and literature of India. According to Farooq, (2021), they successfully blended their Persian culture with the Indian culture. One of the most important creations in the contemporary India of Shakespeare is Akbarnama which is written in some Persian language. Akbarnama and Ain-i-Akbari are the two main creations of this era and in these two Indian cultures, social systems, economic aspects and many others are penned down (Dutta and Mukherjee, 2019). That is why these two are very significant documents of Indian history. Abul Fazl wrote both pieces and he was one of the nine gems of the Royal Court Akbar. The other Persian contemporary of Shakespeare who was present in India during that period is Badauni.

In the contemporary period of Shakespeare in India, a huge improvement in literature written in Hindi and other dialects of Hindi is noticed through the results presented in the previous section. It is seen that the most prominent contemporary of Shakespeare in India who worked with Hindi literature was poet Tulsidas. Other than that the blind poet Surdas was associated with the Royal Court of Akbar. According to Schalkwyk, Bigliuzzi and Lei, (2022), he wrote a huge number of poems in Braj bhasha and these were mainly devotional poetries. The religious belief of Akbar was different but still Akbar used to appreciate every other religious belief through the appreciation of literature. This is the main reason behind an overall growth of literature during this period. Several regional poets are noticed during this period because Akbar encouraged the development process of literature in these languages including Hindi. According to White, (2018), there were many contemporaries of Shakespeare in India who were focused on Hindi literature and these contemporaries include "Bhagwan Das, Raja Birbal, Nagari, Man Singh, Nand Das, Kumbhan Das, Vital Das" and many others. Other than that there is Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana.

In the western part of India there are the Marathi poets and Punjabi poets. From the results it is seen that one of the contemporaries of Shakespeare was Tukaram who was a renowned Marathi poet. Other than that, there were some Punjabi poets also along with the renowned Telugu poet Jagannatha Panditaraja. According to Sen, (2020), the Mughal empire was bound to the middle of India and to some upper-western part of India. From that point of view, a significant trend is noticed, which is in the extreme ends of India for example, in Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, and other pieces of literature the influence of mughals is lower

compared to that in central India. That is why at the same time these regional pieces of literature have grown independently and many Indian contemporaries of Shakespeare are found from these regions and cultures. However, one thing that must be kept in mind is, the influence of Mughals was prominent on the overall growth of these regional pieces of literature and this can be proved by the following fact. The religious volume of India the Bhagavad Gita is originally written in Sanskrit and for the first time, it was translated into another language (Persian) by a Persian scholar Darah Sikoh during this period. After that translation into Persian the religious volume was translated into different regional languages of India including in English.

Theme 3: Regional literature and languages

From the results it is seen that in the contemporary India of Shakespeare there was a revolution regarding languages. This completely started with the patronage of Akbar for translating many Sanskrit epics into Persian. According to Feldman, (2018), in this context it should be mentioned that during that period Sanskrit was the language that was used for writing but across India there were several languages for verbal communication. There were many people who did not understand Sanskrit because of lack of education. In this scenario when the Sanskrit epics got translated into Persian the trend flowed across India because that was a prominent way to facilitate the access of common people to these epics.

From that point, the use of regional verbal languages became familiar as did writing languages. According to Anjum, (2018), this was a significant shift of the cultural background of India that became prominent in the contemporary period of Shakespeare. Because of the improved familiarity with written languages the regional literature improved a lot during this period and most importantly the Mughal emperor appreciated the growth. According to Shahbaz, (2020), during this period the official language of India was Persian but a major number of people used Hindi for their communication purposes. Not only Hindi but many of its dialects were noticed to be used in the development of literature throughout the period. The growth of literature became easy because the contemporaries started writing in regional languages and through common people those creations got spread at a quick pace.

Overall, it can be stated that the scenario of the United Kingdom and India were different, during the active period of Shakespeare, especially the social structure. According to Husain, (2021),



during the period of Shakespeare the common people of the United Kingdom were used to going to theatres and that is why the creations of Shakespeare were focused on those audiences who loved to get entertained through literature work. While the literature of India was very centred on religious beliefs, social standards, education, and many others. Overall, it must be stated that during this period through the work of Shakespeare the English literature has been enriched and at the same time the Indian contemporaries of Shakespeare have enriched the Indian culture and literature.

Chapter Summary

Through this chapter the readers can gather a deep insight about the literature of India especially during the period of 1560 to 1620. The findings are analysed under this chapter and that has helped to reach the conclusion of the research. Through this chapter it is seen that in the contemporary India of Shakespeare the Mughal emperor Akbar was ruling and he was a great patron of literature. That is why, it is seen that in contemporary literature there is a significant mughal influence. Not only that, a prominent development of literature is observed during this period. Among the contemporaries of Shakespeare in India there are many regional scholars and most significantly a revolution regarding the use of written language is also observed during this period.

V. Conclusion

This piece of research is focused on exploring the contribution of the Indian contemporaries of Shakespeare into the literature and culture of India. From the methodology section of this paper it is seen that the entire research is conducted, depending on secondary pieces of data and these are collected from different databases. A literature review is conducted on the topic to understand the extent of research that is already conducted on Indian contemporaries of Shakespeare. From the literature review it is seen that the Indian literature was enriched by many elements throughout a long period. This was because many invaders came to India in different times and later they contributed to the literature of the country. In this case the scenario of the United Kingdom is different and English was the only language for both communication and writing. The result and discussion section presents the evolution of Indian literature during this period.

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