

A study of the development of Marathi Science fiction in India

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ABSTRACT

Science fiction is a branch of literature. It deals with the reply of human beings to changes in science and technology. SF is a classification of theoretical fiction that ordinarily manages innovative and cutting edge ideas. The SF story is related to human beings with a human problem and a human solution, means it shows the upcoming problems and possible solution. SF Marathi is an independent genre of literature. It has a rich heritage and boasts of modern complex stories. Marathi has witnessed a galaxy of SF writers. The present study highlights the development of Marathi SF. It explores not only the pre-independence writer and their works but also the post-independence writers and their work. It also shows the effort of Marathi vidyanparishad.

1. Introduction

Regional language is the key for writers. Regional language ought to be learned by each and every individual who lives in that area. Because knowing regional language helps writer to communicate and to keep harmony in society. They can compose appropriately. Marathi has the fourth biggest number of native speakers in India. Marathi has the absolute most established writing of all cutting edge Indo-Aryan dialects, dating from around 900 AD. The major dialects of Marathi are Standard Marathi and the Varhadidialect.Koli, Malvani Konkani has been vigorously impacted by Marathi assortments. The regional language gives you methods for correspondence inside a region, gives work, social acknowledgment, office to execute business and so forth(Narayanrao, 2011).

A SF story is one which pre-accepts a technology or an impact of technology or an unsettling influence in regular request, for instance, mankind, which up to the hour of creating isn't in set up truth been experienced (Heinlein *et al.*, 1959). SF wraps a huge area. It has been called the 'literature of ideas', and often explores the potential consequences of scientific, social, and technological innovations. (Marget *al.*, 2003; Von, 2002).It presents future examples with the whimsical force of the creative writer. The character of SF is multifaceted. Multidimensional lifestyle of contemporary society can make every day a history in the field of Science, Nanotechnology, Biology, Chemistry, Technology, Medical science, Agriculture and others SF presents a daring, solid and courageous legend (Anders, 2019).

2. Pre-independence era

Science fiction (SF) is not a new genre to Marathi literature. The foot print of SF is seen in old era also. SF literature, film, television, and radio have become very famous and significant over much of the world. It is not only providing entertainment but also criticize present-day society, and is often said to inspire a 'sense of wonder' (Prucher, 2007). In Marathi language SF is composed under the title 'Vidnyankatha'. At first some writers wrote biographies of scientists in Vidnyan Katha and a few writers handle contemporary situations and contemporary science. They may

explain the purposes behind drought or they may give an explanation about some powerful infection. But this isn't Science Fiction (Ghate, 2006).

It is said that, SF began in the era of Dnyaneshwar, Tukaram, Ramdas, and Eknath. Specially, in (1275–1296), Dnyaneshwar wrote 'Dnyaneshwari', a 9000-couplets long commentary on the Bhagavad Gita (Pradhan and Vitthal Ganesh, 1987). The great SF epic 'Mahabharata' is translated by Mukteswar into Marathi. And Moropanta's (1729–1794) 'Mahabharata' was the first epic poem in Marathi.

In 1898, Maharaja of Baroda SayajiraoGaikwad, made an announcement that anyone who could compose a decent and helpful book in Marathi, would get an entirety of Rs.3000. So that, many writers was emerged. From 1820 to 1900, total 4719 books were published. But out of these 233 books were identified with science and innovation. None of these had any association with SF (Kulkarni, 2006). During the British raj, the effort of Mount Stewart Elphinston was immortal. He became Governor of Mumbai. He decided to educate peoples in current sciences and technology in their own language (Cotton, 1892).In 1930, the first scientific book in Marathi was printed. Thereafter numerous science books were imprinted in Marathi.

Before pre-independence era the following SF publication appeared.

Name of the publication	Writers name	Year of publication
TarecheHasya	Ranade S. B.	1911
Aprakashith Kiranaancha Prakash	Anonymous	1916
Radium	Ranade S. B.	1916
2018	Dewgirikar T. R.	1923
Mrutyukiran	Kogekar N. V.	1936
SharadLokachi Safar	Dewgirikar T. R.	1936

3. After in-dependence era:

There are drastic changes happen after in-dependence. There are so many innovation occurs in science and

technology. Society also changed. So many new writers are born in Marathi language. Here are examples of notable writers and their work. A great pioneer of Marathi SF, B. R. Bhagwat, has written 'UdatiChhabakdi', in 1965. He was fundamentally known as a writer of children's literature (Dutt, 1999).

Narayan Dharap, who was a chemical engineer, began writing SF short stories and Novels. At first his SF was hesitantly acknowledged for distribution so he directed his concentration toward Horror genre and turned out to be monstrously well known. Dharap wrote 20 SF books and 4 short stories.

A leading Marathi writer of science literature, Dr. JayantNaralikar, is an Indian astrophysicist. He started SF writing in Marathi. Through his close observation, he pointed out that science in its bare form may frighten the reader, but if it is sugar-coated with a story, the information is easily accepted by the reader. His pioneer SF work is, 'The gift of the Yakshas', 'One who was Saint', 'Bhasmasur in Space', 'The Comet', 'Vamanparatnahiala', 'The guest'. His works were published in Diwali issues, Marathwada and Tarun Bharat Deogiri magazines in Maharashtra (Chatterjee, 1991).

The next eminent writer is Dr. BalPhondke. He worked as a nuclear biologist at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. He was serving as the Editor of 'Science Today' magazine and also as the science editor of The Times of India broadsheet (Krishna, 2009). Alongside Dr. JayantNaralikar's science fiction work BalPhondke works had a cult following in a generation of readers in Maharashtra. It Happened Tomorrow, edited by BalPhondke. This is an anthology of 19 select stories in India. It was published by National Book Trust. (Phondke, 1993).

NiranjanGhate also wrote famous SF stories named, 'Space Jack', 'Zoo', 'Supermen and BhavishyaVedh' and other

(Ghate, 2006). M. V. Divekar, a 21th century SF writer wrote famous short stories, named 'Programmed Suicide', 'Living Robot', 'Black Widow' and other (Tasildar, 2015). The other active writers are SubodhJavdekar, Dr. ArunMande, LaxmanLondhe, Dilip M. Salwe, G. Deshpande, Saroj Joshi, D. V. Kulkarni and so on. ShubhadaGogate and MeghashriDalvi are famous SF ladies writers. There are a few SF poets. It is considered that, the first Marathi poem is 'ParamanuncheKaryamahatmya' written by Govindagraj. P. Y. Deshpande & his wife have also, wrote some poetry based on science. There are number of research students working on SF.

Marathi VidnyanParishad also promoting SF writers by holding a yearly competition for SF writers. J.V. Naralikar, SubodhJavadekar, BaiPhondake and many other writers have participated and won prizes in this competition. (Srinarhari, 2015).

4. Conclusion

The above study shows that, regional language plays very important role in writer's lives. It is useful for express idea, thought, creativity, self-direction, self-expression, etc. SF is mainly developed in the second half of 20th century. The main theme of Marathi SF is related to fantasy, horror, and superhero fiction, and contains many subgenres. Mostly the writer focus on space and time machine themes and very few writers focus on Biotechnology and nanotechnology. It is difficult to write SF story. There are many writers whose works are notable. Their stories depend upon past, future and space. But very few critical reviewers boldly point out errors or mistakes of these writers because they were unable to understand what constitutes a good science fiction and they also lack the knowledge about new science and technology.

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