

Salient features of the Writing of M'asumi

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ABSTRACT

Arabic language developed in India owing to the business relation with Arab nationals before Islam. After Islam religious aspect was added to enhance the spread of Arabic in India. With the flourish of these relations, large numbers of Indians have adopted Arabic language, culture and literature in their daily practices with due amalgamation of their traditional ones. Now, there are lot of people who have attained expertness in and stood as resource person Arabic. Abu Mahfuz is among them whose life and work is the main subject matter of research works.

Abu Mahfuz Al-Karim Ma'sumi, the vigorous writer, poet, columnist, journalist and litterateur was born in Bihar (India), in 1931. He was a genius, got both conventional Islamic and modern knowledge from India and abroad. He also got mastery over Arabic, English, Urdu and others. He taught in numbers of Schools and colleges and became a man of high profile with his teachings and writings He firstly, was appointed as the additional lecturer in Aliah Madrassa (Aliah University).

He wrote lot of articles in Arabic, English, Urdu and others in different journals and magazines which attracted scholars from native and abroad. He has one and only published book Buhuth Wa Tanbihah, compilation and assemble of his Arabic articles.

Keywords: Abu Mahfuz, Aliah Madrassa, Arabic language, Conventional Islamic

Introduction

Arabic literature, like others is one of the tools that human being uses to reveal own feeling, passion, taste and revenge in different situations. The outcomes of literature are found in different forms; sometimes in prose and sometime in poetry. The feeling of human being displays through literature and its components which may sometimes be written and sometimes oral. Different languages have difference in literary styles, thus Arabic also has its specific and unique literary features and styles.

Arabic language and literature is popular for its unique characteristics, specific themes, styles, rhymes, prosody, rhetoric, objectives and others. Arabic literature has a long history of development, started before the birth of Prophet Muhammad (MPBUH). In fact, Arabic is one among the Semitic languages and the most ancient living language of the World. The word *Al-Arabiah* is derived from *Al-E'rab* or *Al-Arubah* which means perfectness and well discussed. Y'rab Ibne- Qahtan is considered to be the father of Arabic language. Arabic developed in

ancient period through Dewans, Narrations and Histories that was presented at Ukkaz, Zul-Majaz and other fares and markets by the then litterateurs.

Before the advent of Muhammad (MPBUH), i.e. during paganism there had been a good number of popular litterateurs who had been masters in Arabic language and literature. Mention may be made of; Imra'ul Qayes, Qus Ibne Sa'yeda Al-Ayadi, Amr Ibne Kulthum and Zuhair Ibne Abi Salma. The vigorous writings of the pre-Islamic Arabic writers along with Quran and Hadith are still considered as ideal guide to the modern masters and scholars of Arabic literature.

Arabic developed more rapidly after Islamic owing to the incarnation of Holy Quran and Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (MPBUH). These two assets of Arabic are considered as the mother of Arabic language and literature. In modern age, a large number of Persian, Hindi, English, Urdu and other words have been adopted in Arabic with due modifications.

Arabic has become the most sophisticated language, talked by around 10 millions of people in the World as their mother tongue and around 150 million as their religious language. Arabic has been adopted as official language in no less than 10 countries. Arabic has a high and prestigious position among other worldly languages. It is also one of the languages of UNO and UNESCO. Arabic has become a living language. It is the language of culture, civilization, business, politics, administration and researches.

This language developed in India owing to the business relation with Arab nationals before Islam. After Islam religious aspect was added to enhance the spread of Arabic in India. With the flourish of these relations, large numbers of Indians have adopted Arabic language, culture and literature in their daily practices with due amalgamation of their traditional ones. Now, there are lot of people who have attained expertness in and stood as resource person Arabic. Abu Mahfuz is among them whose life and work is the main subject matter of this research work.

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He wrote lot of articles in Arabic, English, Urdu and others in different journals and magazines which attracted scholars from native and abroad. He has one and only published book *Buhuth Wa Tanbihat*, compilation and assemble of his Arabic articles. The book made him more popular to the prominent scholar of this age. This book was published in 2001, in two volumes from Beirut with the help of Ajmal Ayyub al-Islahi. The book is divided into three sections. Every section contains more than 10 articles each. These articles have their individual title, features, themes, objectives and styles.

Salient features of Masumi's writing

Most of the researchers have pointed out certain features M'asumi's literary writings that are in fact render the ideal aspects of modern Arabic literature. Here in below some of the features are discussed in brief.

Grammatical concern: Like most of the writers Ma'sumi had a good deal with grammars, say it Arabic, English, Urdu and Persian. He used the grammatical terms in both prose and poetry with all suitability that is appreciated by Abd al-Aziz al-Maymuni and many others.

Brilliance in his translation: His translation works itself proves his mastery over Urdu and Persian languages also as he translated poetry of Persian poet Al-Khasru, Urdu poetry of Galib and others. Ma'sumi's concept of transformation of certain masterpiece to another language was very sharp. If someone addresses one, who is willing to translate a range of *Badaa'i* masterpieces of Ghalib, the Persian poet with the complexity of sensitivity, emotions, meaning in few words and introversion. He sometimes remains in the folds of the methods and expressions, and at other times within stylish peeps and precision signals. So it is not surprising to play without metrical maps and rhymes of previous version.

Application of scientific methodology and Authenticity of his writings: He always searched the source of any information; he never allowed anything in his research without proper investigation about the concept. His articles are abundant of foot notes and references. He continued to search for resources

He revived manuscripts: Ma'sumi revived a large number of Arabic scattered manuscripts that were preserved in different places. Among them there were many complex scripts he edited that even could not read by Arab manuscript-experts, like Hamd al-Jasir. These editing, compilation, revival and publication of manuscripts made him famous in Arabic atmosphere.

Use of Artistic Arabic language: His writing emphasizes more on language pattern. He cared much for linguistic beauty, prosodic attributes, rhetoric meters, suitable word patterns. His works are reviewed severally to be artistic and ideological. He rarely uses same word pattern in the same paragraph.

Distinction in biographical literature: He seems to have a keen desire in writing short biographies of literary figures that indicates his abundant knowledge in historical aspect of literature. He wrote about Ibne-Sina, Ibne-Khajim, Hamid Ibne-Thour al-Hilali and many others.

He was storage of word meanings: His writings are proof to reveal him the man who knows synonyms of a word in sophisticated way. He rarely used the same word for same meaning rather preferred synonyms for a better artistic script.

Ma'sumi took advantage of libraries around him to quench his thirst for knowledge in different languages and literatures. School-libraries could not satisfy Ma'sumi's demand for reading; therefore he went to different libraries and academies, and studied lots of books there as much as he desire. Ma'sumi was mostly benefited from the libraries, as: The library of Aliah Madrassa,

Kolkata, which contain huge number of important books, magazines, newspapers and journals and others.

His longing towards poetry: He memorized lots of poetry of different languages. Ma'sumi proclaims that; poetry is the universal message as well as the heritage of human survival. It is shared by the human being without caring difference tongues, castes, creeds, colors and countries. They also share it in the light of the sun, the light of the moon, the waves, the breeze and the rain. In celebration with the seminal anniversary it offers the peoples of the Arab countries excerpts from his colloquial poetry in their own language and translated Paschal. In the view of Ma'sumi a translator as we know, has a lot of translated works (from Urdu, Persian and others); prose and poetry with original artistic beauty and splendor. It occurs especially when metrical poetry got transferred from one language to the other with the commitment of translation-rules.

Ma'sumi's book *BUHUTH WA TANBIHAT* represents literature of twentieth century. It is not based on a single topic or theme such as general books and binoculars, but the themes and contents of the book are multidisciplinary. The book is the compilation of maximum Articles of Ma'sumi published in magazines and journals in India and abroad. These Articles are on mutual and varied topics including poetry and prose. Ma'sumi engraved sources and references under each article that is from the verses of Quran, phrases and conversations.

Conclusion

His unique contribution to Arabic language and literature brought him Indian Presidential award in 1991. He is more acknowledged for his prolific articles compiled in a book form *Buhuth Wa Tanbihat*. The book is seemed to be one of its kinds; it has a rare resemblance with other book of his contemporaries like Abdul Aziz Maymuni, Abul Hasan Ali Nadawi and others. The book consist of valuable unique articles of Ma'sumi that bring forward individual themes, styles, articulation, prosody, rhymes, topics and others. These articles in *Buhuth Wa Tanbihat* in major concern deals with Islamic, Arabic, linguistic, philosophical, juristic, logical subject matters. This research accumulates portrayal of Abu Mahfuz al-Karim Ma'sumi as a man of literature, culture, piousness, language and divergent thought.

Suggestion

Writing of M'asumi are multidisciplinary, informative and value based literary book that made it a good example of Indian Arabic writings. This book includes numerous articles addressing variety of topics. They carry lots of rich and valuable materials about Arabic language and Islam. It benefits students of modern history, philosophy, language and literature, criticism, and the matters concerned with comparative literatures. Each of these research-Articles adds something new to Arabic as well as Islamic literatures. In addition to these, this book also includes critical studies and translations which expanded something new and great in Arabic, Urdu, Persian and English languages and literatures. The works and studies of Ma'sumi are not limited to fix the

mistakes that occurred in some old and modern books, but it included critical appreciation, threatening's, reviews and many more discussions on different issues.

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