

ISSN : 2395-4132

# THE EXPRESSION

An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

**Bimonthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access e-Journal**



Impact Factor 3.9

**Vol. 5 Issue 4 August 2019**

Editor-in-Chief : Dr. Bijender Singh

Email : [editor@expressionjournal.com](mailto:editor@expressionjournal.com)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

# The Expression: An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132



## **JUXTAPOSITION OF MODERN IDIOSYNCRASIES AND THE EXEGESIS OF ASTRINGENT REALITIES IN BIJENDER SINGH'S *LATE NIGHT POETRY***

**Dr. Budhanath Pratihast**  
Assistant Professor of English  
Bihar Institute of Law, Patna  
Bihar, India

### **Abstract**

Indian English poetry has travelled a long journey since its inception. Many literary luminaries such as Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Sarojini Naidu, Sri Aurobindo and Toru Dutt etc. gave it a concrete shape when there was no any hope that poetry can take birth and flourish in a country like India where the main focus of the majority of the people was struggling only to run their livelihood. After that many poets took this responsibility to serve Indian English literature with poetry. Kamala Das, Dom Moraes, Arun Kolatkar, A.K. Ramanujan, Adil Jussawala, Dilip Chitre, Keki Daruwala, and Jayanta Mahapatra, Rudyard Kipling, Meena Kandasamy, Jerry Pinto, Vikram Seth, R. Parthasarathy, Vihang A. Naik, Tabish Khair, Gieve Patel and many more poets have earned publicity in the whole world through their poetry. These poets have elevated Indian English poetry to a considerable growth and now Indian poetry is chanted everywhere with great enthusiasm. In this context, twenty-first century has produced many great poets and poetry books. Among these poetry books, I would like to take a treasure e-trough of fifty verses titled *Late Night Poetry* composed by Bijender Singh in which he has discussed many themes related to modern world and the idiosyncrasies of the modern people and other realities of human life.

### **Keywords**

Indian English Poetry, Major Themes and Trends, Bijender Singh, *Late Night Poetry*, 21st Century Poets, New Dimensions.

**Vol. 5 Issue 4 (August 2019)**

**Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh**



## **JUXTAPOSITION OF MODERN IDIOSYNCRASIES AND THE EXEGESIS OF ASTRINGENT REALITIES IN BIJENDER SINGH'S *LATE NIGHT POETRY***

**Dr. Budhanath Pratihast**  
**Assistant Professor of English**  
**Bihar Institute of Law, Patna**  
**Bihar, India**

.....

Poetry is called the expression of the human feelings, and sometimes, it expounds the life of the people and sometimes it soars in the world of fancy and imagination which is called a unique world of the poets and is beyond the access of ordinary people. Poetry is a beautiful human creation which pleases both the heart and soul.

Indian English Poetry has gone through three phases: the imitative, the assimilative and the experimental. The first phase of Indian English Poetry can be called "the period of literary renaissance" in India. Henry Louis Vivian Derozio's "The Harp of India", Kasiprasad Ghose's "The Shair or Ministrel", Michael Madhusudan Dutt's "The Captive Lady", Toru Dutt's "Our Casuarina Tree" and Manmohan Ghose's "Love Songs and Elegies" etc. works belong to the first phase.

In the second phase, there were some other eminent poets such as Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu, Harindranth Chattopadhyaya and Aurobindo Ghose etc. These poets also produced a wonderful poetic output.

The third phase of Indian English poetry is experimental and this poetry was written in the pre-independence period and the post-independence period. In the post-independence phase, the poetry was much different from the poetry of the earlier two phases. The theme, style and the content of the twenty-first century has changed to much extent. Now-a-days, contemporary poets are writing their poetry in their own unique style.

Bijender Singh's *Late Night Poetry* is a collection of 45 beautiful verses. The third poem of this book "Words in the World" describes that every person defines life according to his knowledge and belief. In this poem, he poet does a survey on several people, and he wants to know the answer of the question "What is life?" Different people give its answer in their own way. When this question is asked about what is "love" and "where do you rate your mother", the poet says that love is an invitation to sweet sorrows and there is nothing more important than a mother who gives birth to a child:

# The Expression: An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

Asked a lover what's love?  
Shedding tears like a dove.

...

What you say about your mummy?  
Comparing to her everything dummy.  
About the wife someone said. (13)

Poetry gives immense pleasure to him. Poetry is his passion that's why Gazi Tareq Muzamil also writes about him, "Poetry gives him pleasure and that's why he keeps writing lyrical poetry. Language is not a constraint for him as he writes his poems in English, Hindi and his dialect, Haryanavi also" (Muzamil 1).

His poems are just the like rain to those people who are facing the wrath of famine. Every reader should read his poetry because his poetry is a roadmap to real success of life. If his poems are read with keen interest, a human being can learn a lot about the diverse topic of life and can lead a much comfortable and smooth life. His poetry has sometimes nostalgic elements and real or imaginative personal experiences of his life.

His poem "Love Me Not" is also an attack on the modern lovers. In youth, the lovers waste a lot of their time in those activities which bring no any good result for their career, society or nation. In this poem, a young man seems to be giving suggestion to his beloved not to try to cast the love trap on him, instead she should love God and attain salvation in her life. If she does so, she will be his indebted forever just due to the sweet outcome:

O Beloved! Love me not  
But the god  
One then see  
That heavenly abode.  
Take offerings  
And go to temple  
Pure heart with devotion.

...

Then your shadow  
You won't hide  
Rather say with proud  
You've been my guide. (18)

His poem "Death" also solves the riddle of human life that most of the people are so afraid of their death that they do not want to take even inevitable challenge or the bold step in their life to know the true essence of life. They are afraid even from struggle because it can give them immense pain. In this regard, he clarifies that death is nothing but an entry of a new life, which is why people should not be much afraid from death. The poet persona writes in these words:

But death is life is true,  
Giving my words a new hue.  
If the pages of life are torn,  
Forget not, after death one is born. (24)

Vol. 5 Issue 4 (August 2019)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

William Wordsworth writes that “all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Brett and Jones 266). In the poem “Only Today is the Date of Love”, Bijender Singh seems to be giving a message to those people who are excessively engrossed in the materialistic activities and forget that the love is also an essential part of their life otherwise some relationships will get desiccated and such people may face other difficulties in their life. The following lines have been strikingly written about the love and give a message that love demands instantaneous attention:

Will I tell you the rate of love?  
What in the world is fate of love?  
Who start loving, though hate to love  
But remember only today is date of love. (37)

His poem “Old Thinking, New World” is about the pathetic plight of old people. In the nuclear families of modern world, it has become very difficult for them to survive. They are needed only when some work, rite or ritual is to be completed through them; otherwise hardly anybody inside the house or outside the house takes interest to talk to them. The poet indicates that most of the old people especially in the cities face this problem and some of them have to take shelter in the old-age homes also. The poet wants to give message to the young generation to take care of their elders. The poet writes in these words:

They are sometimes most wanted  
Sometimes most rejected.  
Nobody to talk, no room for walk.  
Bad health, good wealth,  
Life on cinders. (44)

His poem “Why not Patience on the Road?” is all about the carelessness of those people who put their life at risk. The content of this poem is also very deep and this poem conveys a very alarming message to each and everybody to follow traffic rules to save their precious life. The poet writes in this context:

We consider ourselves the most advance  
In the mouth of death we dance.  
We are warned, we know the hell  
Then why do we risk for a death bell?

...

On the road don't measure car size.  
Think about loss, won't win any prize. (52)

In the words of D.H. Lawrence, “The great relationship for humanity will always be the relationship between man and woman” (130). Dr. Bijender Singh has written his poem “Love vs. Lust” to show the difference between the pure love and sheer lust. He writes in these words:

I'm going to excoriate the word 'love'.  
Exclusively for the sake of the naked dance  
In the name of love,  
I have my own exegesis on it. (70)

# The Expression: An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

Marriage is one of the purest bonds on this earth. It is not the union of two bodies, it is the alliance of two souls also, but in some cases, either of the life-partner takes undue advantage of this relationship.

To this relationship  
Where both take pledges  
To live and die together  
In their salad days.  
And it becomes a tidbit for the people  
Either the parents thwart  
Or the beloved betrays.  
Everything being fine  
The lover quenches his thirst in the guise of marriage. (69)

Bijender Singh's next poem "Why the Girls in Each Ad" suggests how very entrepreneur or businessman uses girls or their photos for the promotion of their products. The beautiful girls are kept as receptionists in offices so that maximum customers and clients may buy their products. The poet writes in these words:

In all offices, not emphasis on duty.  
In each organization you will find beauty.  
Why the receptionist always kills  
Customers not hesitate in paying high bills. (77)

The last poem of this anthology is also very interesting in which he has shown the relationships between the boss and the employees. The poet has used very beautiful diction to go deeper in the hearts of people. In this poem, he calls boss "a soft stone" who is "Overflowing with luxury/ But hungry more" (83). Thus, his poetry is a blend of humorous and serious elements. His poems are so beautiful that reader keeps reading them again and again and tries to learn them by heart. Here are some more lines of the poem which explain that boss must show anger, false or real, in order to get the work done on time from those people who are not interested to work without pressure. The lines depict the anger of the boss:

Boss is a loaded bomb  
Sure to explode,  
All employees deaf and dumb  
To tear off on the road. (83)

Apart from English poetry, I'm really mesmerized by Bijender Singh's recently published Hindi book "दिलों के दरमियाँ" (*Between the Hearts*) which is a collection of 101 Hindi poems in the form of ghazals/nazms. I like every line of his Hindi poetry as well. I feel surprised how deeply he mulls over the things and his imagination is really beyond the access of an ordinary person. Only a real poet can write from that height of imagination. There are so many touching lines in his poetry such as:

तुझे बिजेन्द्र संग जाते हुए अब कोई देख ना ले,  
अपनी इन आँखों में ही तुझको आज भर लेते हैं। (152)

Vol. 5 Issue 4 (August 2019)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

# The Expression: An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

[www.expressionjournal.com](http://www.expressionjournal.com)

ISSN: 2395-4132

According to Sunil Kumar Sarkar, "Every great poet is a teacher; I wish either to be considered as a teacher, or as nothing" (Sarkar 349). Dr Bijender Singh has also proved that he is a poet who teaches people through his poetry. He is the defender of mankind as his messages behind his poetry are beyond all appreciation and ovation. Lott and Sara Deford hold the view, "The poet is the rock of defence for human nature; an upholder and preserver, carrying everywhere with him relationship and love" (31) and Dr Bijender Singh fits on all the parameters of a good poet. Dr. S. Chelliah, an eminent professor, critic, and dean of Madurai Kamaraj University also writes about him:

The most versatile emerging poet Bijender Singh is a living poet being fired with an ambition to write modern poems or verses, creating a poetic realm in which excess of passion, emotion, imagination and poetic ornament would be found as the order of the day and his poetry is remarkable for its restraint, moderation and the absence of that 'fine frenzy' which the Elizabethans associated with poetry and the 'conceits' which the metaphysical poets associated with. (Chelliah 65-66)

## Works Cited

- Bhola, Aditi. "Study of Human Emotions and Psychology of Modern Man in Bijender Singh's *Late Night Poetry*." *The Creative Launcher: An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed e-Journal in English*. 2.6 (Feb. 2018):490-496.
- Brett, R.L, A.R. Jones. *Lyrical Ballads: William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge*. London: Methun & Co. Ltd., 1963. Print.
- Chelliah, S. "The Poetic Art and Vision: An Appraisal of Bijender Singh's Confusing Poetry". *Setu: A Bilingual Journal of Literature, Arts, and Culture*. (Pittsburgh, USA) November, 2018. 64-69.
- Lawrence, D.H. *Morality and the Novel: 20th Century Criticism*, ed. David Lodge London: Longman, 1972. Print.
- Lott, Clarinda H., and Sara Deford. *Forms of Verse*. New York: Ardent Media, 1940. Print.
- Muzamil, Gazi Tareq. "A Study of Interpersonal Relationships in Bijender Singh's *Confusing Poetry*." *The Creative Launcher: An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed e-Journal in English*. 2.3 (Aug. 2018): 33-44.
- Sarkar, Sunil Kumar. *A Companion to William Wordsworth*. Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, 2003. Print.
- Singh, Bijender. *Late Night Poetry*. Allahabad: Cyberwit.net Publishers, 2013. Print.