



Political and Terroristic Concept in Peggy Mohan's Fiction 'The Youngest Suspect'

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Abstract:-This paper is mostly focus on political and terroristic concepts. Today, literature is more effective on human being's thoughts, action, emotions and faiths that form basic themes of literature. In sense of India, political and nationalism has huge become a huge culture force in the world. It has strong influence on the politics of India and reflects an opposition to the sectarian strands of Hindu nationalism and Muslim nationalism. In modern age, terrorism is the broadest sense and use of intentionally indiscriminate violence. Here, political and terroristic is co-relative and defined as political violence. A rising to the political consciousness among the native Indian social elite spawned an Indian identity and fed a growing nationalist sentimental in India the last decades of the nineteen century. 'The Youngest Suspect' is a political novel. In the book's front cover, there is a picture of hand holding wooden railing reminds us or readers of our national father Mahatma Gandhi who was jointed to the several movements during 20th century to get independence. This story is a heart of simultaneously, tragic and redemptive. It was strong communal violence, love story and humanity and also survival of accused.

Keywords: - Political, Terroristic, Nationalism, Communal Violence, Prevention of Terrorism, Humanity.

Introduction:- Political and terrorism are generally used in international level. Political has different sections among the Indian society and religions, and the core value has major role in the politics of India. It has strong influence upon the politics of India and reflects an opposition to the sectarian strands of Hindu nationalism as well as Muslim nationalism. 'The Youngest Suspect' is Peggy Mohan's conscious to embrace one of the elements of Diaspora. It is a transitional work with diasporic elements. It is a Peggy Mohan's second novel. Set against the backdrop of 2002-2003 Gujarat riots and also The Youngest Suspect is a political fiction. However, the prime motif in the story is immigration a prime thematic device in diasporic literature. The Youngest Suspect was first published in 2012 by Harper Collins Publisher India. It was well received by reviewers and readers. Generally, the whole story set in Ahmedabad. Adil Ansari is the central character of this fiction. Here, the narrator is a young linguist and worked upon POTA case, who assigned to transcribe the confessions.

The Youngest Suspect: -

The Youngest suspect is one of the parts of political issue. The control and command of terroristic groups and the recruitment can be located in different countries and that's way terroristic measures will be not effective unless nations definition would be a step under the universal cooperation in POTA. Walter Laqueur uses the simple and broad definition that-

“Terrorism is the illegitimate use of force to achieve a political objective by targeting innocent people” (Laquer. W, 1977 Terrorism London: weildenfeld and Nicholson)

As a linguist, Mohan uses the metaphor of non-equilibrium to convince the birth of new cross breed language within single generation. It is also represents her felling for the study of language and Diaspora writing. This is shown that reach her knowledge of language. She has used her technique of being linguist in portraying the character Deepa, a linguist who is appointed to work on transcribing confessions and declaration of accused. ‘The Youngest Suspect’ is Peggy Mohan’s conscious to embrace one of the elements of Diaspora. It is a narrative of immigrant experiences with Diasporic elements like dislocation, host land, homeland, culture, multiculturalism, assimilation, negation, border, nostalgia, generational conflicts, migratory experience, desire to homeland and so on. She has drawn on her memories as well as the own experiences of her Trinidadian and Indian friends and acquaintances and relied in some cases on newspaper reports. Gradually, she began to see herself as just another Diaspora writer.

‘The Youngest Suspect’ is a transitional work with diasporic elements. It is a Peggy Mohan’s second novel. Set against the backdrop of 2002-2003 Gujarat riots The Youngest Suspect is a political novel. However, the prime motif in the story is immigration a prime thematic device in diasporic literature. Diaspora makes Mohan’s characters to scatter and suffer the minor causes. The Youngest Suspect was first published in 2012 by Harper Collins Publisher India. It was well received by reviewers and readers. She asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this work. On the front cover of the novel, there is a picture of hand holding wooden railing which reminds the readers and reviewers of national father Mahatma Gandhi and to add more the story is set in Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad is the largest city in the state of Gujarat. It is located in western part of India on the banks of the river Sabarmati. It reminds us the history of past and present. The city served as political as well as economical capital of region since establishment. It is also the cultural and economical centre of Gujarat and seventh largest city of India.

The fiction covers 240 pages and 31 chapters and all stories running parallel. Mohan begins her work with an excerpt from a song named the gentle rain-

*We both are lost, and alone in
the world, walk with me, in the
gentle rain,*

*Don't be afraid, I've a hand for
your hand, And I will be your life,
for a while...
- (Luiz Bonfá/Matt Dubey, The
gentle Rain)*

In her second novel, Peggy Mohan has linguistic by profession and drawn upon the picture of young Muslim boy in the after March of Godhara riots. A story is heart touching revolves around eighteen years age Adil Ansari a Muslim Boy from Jamalpur (Ahmedabad). The central character of the novel is Adil Ansari, an ordinary Muslim boy boarding Sabarmati Express to reach Ahmedabad. He is resident of Jamalpur Colony, Ahmedabad. He is preparing for his board exams. Here, Sabarmati express is the name of train, and the name given by Indian government through Sabarmati River. The origin legend is that Shiva brought the goddess Ganga to Gujarat and that caused the Sabarmati to come into being. It is holy river of India. The ancient name of Sabarmati River is Bhogwa. During India's independence struggle, Gandhiji was established Sabarmati Ashram as his home on the banks of this River.

In the context of fiction it seems that it meant for Adil who is lost in the communal riots and Deepa. Thus it was communal. Adil overheard discussion between Vijay and an old man. He was mystery watching them talking. Character who has left a sort of effect on Adil, younger suspects minds an older man who furnishes to other word in place of riots; pogrom. In his point of view, it was perfect to target a particular community; Muslims. It is about communal violence, love story, survival of accused, humanity. The Youngest Suspect has a complex plot, shifting from one story to other and a racy narrative where different stories are interspersed and run in parallel. Though labeled as fiction the victims and suffers of 2002-2003 Gujarat riots can very well relate them with the story.

The Sabarmati Express to Ahmedabad was running late. Adil was waiting at least five hours on the platform at Megnagar. He was preparing board Exam less than three weeks away. When train arrived he found his couch, S6. He mentioned to people that there were number of men travelling without ticketless. They were on their way back from Ayodhya. Peggy Mohan reminds the holy place of Ayodhya, a part of India. Also she leads to readers the back side of her first debut work 'Jahajin' where she talks about this place. In India, Ayodhya was known as the city of temples. Then suddenly Adil heard the loud sound of a bombardment from the platform side. Someone pulled the chain and then train stopped. More Kar sevaks rushed into the coach and Adil recognized the smell of burning foam. The smoke and heat of fire increased, and whole compartments felt burn. The crowd pressed but the door firmly shut so, Adil was sailing out the open door and then he jumped.

Deepa is a young linguist who was assigned to transcribe the confessions, and she wants to know the background of fourteen boys who were arrested. Adil's lawyer Ramya talks her about what happened in Ahmedabad after the riots. She has remembered that a politician found dead in his car near Law Garden in Ahmedabad.

And the bomb happened almost a one year before the politician was killed. The point is that it is a vindictive shot.

Well the Gujarat government was feeling some heat. People were saying that the government had him bumped off. So they went arrested the boys as a distraction. (5, The Youngest Suspect)

Mohan uses her own experience of being an eye witness of Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) trials writing 'The Youngest Suspect'. It was passed by Indian Parliaments on the same year as the Godhra train fire. Under the POTA, a confession made to the police would be treated as an admission of guilt. The suspect would not have the right to deny confession on later in the court. Mohan has written her own experience being linguist in POTA court under the article 'Linguist in a POTA Court'. Under the POTA trials Mohan was assigned to work on transcribing verbal testimony and confession statement. Also this online article has characteristic image of written testimony. She wrote that how she beginning to talking interest in transcribing verbal testimony.

It also allowed law enforcement agencies to withhold the identities of witnesses, and to treat confessions made to the police admissible in evidence. Under the provisions of criminal law in India, a person could deny such confessions, in court, but not under POTA. (Rediff.com its goodbye to POTA Retrieved on 10 July 2007)

Deepa and Ramya had come from Delhi for this case. There are enough lawyers in Ahmedabad but no one case because they have been threatened. For Deepa, the problem is that confessions are not in English but in Gujarati. But she could manage and followed to Gujarati if she doesn't have to talk. She comes Ahmedabad many times, for her experience she had never needed to learn Gujarati because mostly speak in Hindi language. In Ranchi, an old woman talking to Deepa in Sadri, telling something that happened long ago. She was waiting for a sign what Deepa was saying, but didn't want her to switch to Hindi to make it easier for her; Because Deepa had needed the samples of Sadri speech. For this time, the case charge given to woman and she comes from a conservative Hindu family. When Ramya and Deepa reached Ahmedabad it was already dark. As a linguistic, Deepa has compared Gujarati language as Devanagari. She could not read but it reminds her a little old writing system when she was seen as a child. Here, narrator herself reminds the past days of childhood. She recalls her grandfather had old books in Kaithi and how he tried to teach her once to write it. She tells-

And then I remembered that this case was going to be about the work of scribes. And that I was a Kayasth too. (11, The Youngest Suspect)

Then, Deepa arranges to Videotape some mock confessions in Gujarati with the help of Anoop and Jaffer-bhai. Both are trained scribes and help her with confession statements.

The Sabarmati Express train fire in Godhara and the subsequent program, Adil and his family are grappling to come the terms when he finds himself suddenly kidnapped by the Gujarat police. Not only Adil but also seventeen other Muslim boys become the victim of the draconian prevention of terrorism act. All are framed in POTA cases based-upon fabricated also narrator who has helped in proving the lawyer that confessions are not verbatim, but have been scripted.

Maitreyee Choudhury provides a review of The Youngest Suspect on women's web. Title of review is apt enough give an insight into novel.....

“Peggy Mohan’s political fiction, The Youngest Suspect is a gripping story of communal violence set amidst the 2002-2003 Gujarat riots.” (Women’s web, 13 February 2013)

Peggy Mohan strongly weaves a love story with piecemeal process of confessional analysis. Narrator carries out the reader thought Adil’s travelling between his mushes rooming love for love a young Hindu student Megha. In real sense, the story’s import lies in the formic debunking of the confessions. Deepa dissects the nature, form and content of the confessions based on the quantitative indices, which are develop and per excellence. Mohan graphic meditation is facts and based on painstaking research and her various experience in analysis of confessions in terror-cases it all the more gripping.

Through Adil’s eyes and his sister Faiza, we get an insight into their lives. He is saw just another average Indian boy who is reading but suddenly preparing his board exams but suddenly caught by Gujarat police that leads his life in ruin. It was Challenge that acts of riot and another form of terroristic can leave the innocent vulnerable and bludgeoned. Another story is that of Deepa, who is a linguistic enlisted by the defense counsel and challenging the force confession extracting out of the boys, including Adil. The story is gripping as the narrator unveils a scientific enquiry and also how cabal of evidences has bearing on Cases. And this part of narrative is analytical; synthesis, mature and the minuteness of attentions make it highly readable.

Adil younger sister Fiaza is a girl of extra courage and strong and also saves her family on several times. She is slight build but big on courage, beautiful sense, another quality that humans have routinely exhibited during times of great dispute. Generally, weak and soft rise like the phoenix and challenge fate and situations where even the ‘strong’ are known to crumble. In the Godhara riots, it is a well-known matter that the state chose to look the other way when rioters struck. And then there are policemen like Vijay who decide help to Adil and protested against the state machinery by way of non-cooperation. Faiza, is already emerges as a strong person, in this way she present with everything during Bandh gives a semblance of her character. She saved during communal riots with a fighter’s spirit. The way is that her

protection during riots is elaborated well in the fiction. She always looked after her mother and care with love, while Adil was arrested in the case under POTA. Peggy Mohan personally rolled to be a fiction. Her fiction is an interfuse of fact and fiction.

Megha introduced herself as a lady from SEWA during Bandh and her local guardian suggested to do. Having any suspicious Adil introduced himself as Aditya at the depot when policemen asked more questions to him. Also there was not very clearly that where other boys were released to the same day. The idea is that might to have they left town. At the end of riots, Adil was set free and had left effect on his mind. He wanted to leave Ahmedabad. Adil always describes to Megha as a beautiful girl with golden almond shaped eyes, like Cat. In 'The Youngest Suspect' comparison of Megha's eyes with cat denotes strong and fearlessness lady. It was very important to note that 'Cat' is a symbol of Peggy Mohan's first debut novel 'Jahajin'. In her work she shows her peculiar fashion of using cat. Adil and Megha loved each other in deeply well at Law garden where Adil was looking for a story to cover. May be Megha went there to get a story. She spoke to Faiza in Urdu. They had friendly discussion about religion and riots. Riots have not jointed Megha's love for Adil Ansari. Even if he was arrested as a suspect in Godhara riots Megha still writes letter to him. Writing style of fiction is noted by shifts from one to other incidents.

The communal pogrom is that never altered in the course of Gujarat. Set in the tense post-riots years, 'The Youngest Suspect' is story of Adil especially in the sense of Gujarat. Adil and seventeen other Muslim young men are arrested by Gujarat police in Ahmedabad, and charged with terrorism. The confessions are written on record. She is enlisted by Adil's lawyer, the fiery Ramya and to discredit those confessions. Mohan take out to bear her strict research on 'POTA' trials, of those charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act to tell story that is simultaneously, redemptive and tragic. In the ill of POTA and loopholes are in the judiciary which has consumed to the innocent in its wake. 'The Youngest Suspect' can be a primer in linguistic invention when the confessions are taken down verbatim and the mutation when information is falsified under a controlled environment.

Peggy Mohan uses her own experience of eye witness in 'POTA' trial in writing 'The Youngest Suspect'. In 2002, Indian government passed the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) in the parliament. According to the article published by Civil Society online named sifting from novel, she told that in 2003, she has helped as an expert eviction for analyzing confessional statements in terrorism acts in India the parliament attack case in 2002 and also the tiffin bomb trials in Ahmedabad. There are several causes behind enactment of POTA but major reason was 9/11 attack on World Trade Centre. Generally information provided by Wikipedia and other online websites, this act was deduce due to numerous attacks that look place in India especially the aggression on the parliament. Here, author writer of the fiction speaking to the Civil Society Online says that her fiction is presented as 'courtroom thriller and love story' she has adjust her work on real life consequences of Muslim men caught during riots.

On the back cover of the book the novel is described as...

A courtroom thriller and love a story, and a vivid portrait of family and friends ranged against the darkness that clouds their once ordinary lives, *The Youngest Suspect* lays bare the underbelly of a word where 'home' has very little meaning. Peggy Mohan brings to bear rigorous research into 'POTA trials'-of this charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act- to tell a story that is, simultaneously, tragic and redemptive.

Mohan used the same technique for transcribing for transcribing confessions and verbal testimony. Furthermore, she also worked as annalistic as reporter which newspaper had overreaction communal editorial. She set some standards for calculating whether the content is communal or not. For that she took into account phrases and words which assert violence. In 'The Youngest Suspect' Deepa asked five accused boy to narrate in Gujarati what happen a day after a day in Godhra riots.

Conclusion:-

In short, this story is a heart of simultaneously, tragic and redemptive. It was strong communal violence, love story and humanity and also survival of accused. It is a rate novel that can stir up a whirlpool of feelings inside the reader that emotion as diverse as despair, grief, loathing, hope, happiness and courage. The Sabarmati Express and his compartment number of S6 is not just number but a sore which take back memories of the horrific injuries brutality that ensued during the Godhra riots. Mohan's second novel 'The Youngest Suspect' is a racy narrative style where various stories are correlated to each other and run in parallel. It has always challenging to tell a story of disgusting human condition through ordinary lives, as dread to engulf all. All information are course complete to prove the guiltless guilty by exploiting POTA by laws. It is a strong love, and common despite the most harrowing circumstances. Narrator takes across the 'Flash-Over' theory which has scientifically a technical explanation for the build-up. In real sense, the story reminds the history of Gujarat especially in the sense of political.

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