



EXPRESSION OF FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS OF CHILDREN IN JOHANNASPYRI'S NOVEL, HEIDI - A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Lingamurthy Mukkera

(Assistant professor, Department of English, Methodist College of Engineering & Technology, Hyderabad.)

ABSTRACT



Children's literature is written exclusively for the children to read. Children select variety of books among which comics are favoured by them. Some of the critics opined that, the books written for children may not be considered as a literature in the traditional sense. But, this concept cannot be consented by literary figures because children's books speak on multiple levels besides literature. The term children's literature is used in senses excluding young adult fiction, comic books. Books for children, specifically written even in seventeenth century. Knowledge on children's literature includes professional organizations, dedicated publications and University courses. It is beneficially matched to analyze the novel by using the sociological approach to comprehend the social phenomena of social and cultural pattern of family of a member of society. The present article attempts to understand the role of children and their feelings. It also expresses, understanding how children see life and their feelings.

Keywords: *Children's Literature, Expressions, Feelings and Emotions of Children, Sociological Perspectives.*

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**INTRODUCTION**

The present article attempts to understand the role of children and their feelings. It also expresses, understanding how children see life and their feelings.

Nancy Anderson, defines children's literature;

"As all books written for children excluding works such as comic books, joke books, cartoon books and non-fiction works that are not intended to be read from front to back, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference material"¹

Children's literature consists of literary genres such as picture books, comic books, fiction, non-fiction, biography and poetry. Children's literature can be considered as didactic literature. Since, it tries to make the children better. A scholar views that;

"No one needs to be ashamed to say that children's literature is didactic literature. Its intention is to be make our children better, to instill noble ideals in them and to lovingly mould them into men and women of character"²

J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter is originally written for children and marketed for children, but it was equally popular among children and adults. It was the best seller in 1997 as listed by the New York Times.

There are quite a number of writers who have written books for children they are Johanna spyri, carlocollodi, Robert louis Stevenson, Rudgard Kipling, L. Frank Baum, Beatrix Potter, Kenneth Grahame, J.M. Barrie A.A.Milne, Laura Ingalls wilder, C.S.Lewis, Dr. Seuss Roald Dahl, J.K. Rowling, Eoincolfer and Mark Twain.

HEIDI is one of the well acclaimed tales and well received by children. Heidi is an orphan girl who resides with her grandfather in the Alps. The writer vivid portrayal of the landscape attracts wider number of children. It also expresses, understanding how children see life and their feelings. Her grandfather doesn't believe anybody and wishes to keep the child away from all evils of the world. The grandfather doesn't even send Heidi to school; instead she goes to pastures together with Peter, a shepherd who takes care of goats. The expression

and feeling of joy when she looks at the landscape and goats evidenced in the following lines.

"Suddenly a shrill whistle was heard. Heidi paused in her dancing, and the Grandfather came out. Down from the heights above the goats came springing one after another, with Peter in their midst. Heidi sprang forward with a cry of joy and rushed among the flock, greeting first one and them two of their of her old friends of the morning"³

Later, once her aunt Dete comes to Uncle Alp and takes Heidi to Frankfurt where she stays with clara, the paralyzed daughter of a rich family. Heidi learns something. But, Heidi is frustrated at the strict disciplinarian life of rich class family. There, she expresses her feelings and emotions after having seen and experienced the life of upper class house. Her feelings were identified by Clara's father and returns here back to the Alps. In the ensuing summer, Clara visits Heidi in the Alps. At this sudden change, his terrible feelings of jealousy out of his envious nature for clara, he pushes the empty wheel chair down to the valley while Clara was busy in watching the beautiful flowers in the surrounding areas. There is no alternative for her; rather she is compelled to walk as wheelchair gets smashed. Clara's strong determination and will power, she overcomes her handicap. Finally, Clara is able to walk without assistance and returns with her father and grandmother and promises she will visit the place next summer to spend her time with friends again. Heidi after returning from Frankfurt enjoys life with her grandfather, Alm-onji. He partially repairs a ruined house down in the village. They reside to go to the village in the following winter, so that Heidi can be able to go to school. They developed friendship and acquaintance with the villagers.

The innocent feelings of children are clearly expressed in the following lines. They agree to the opinions expressed by the elders.

"Brigitta ran out. But the children had taken but a few steps before they saw the grandfather coming down to meet them, and in another minute his long strides had brought him to their side."

"That's right, Heidi; you have kept your word," said the grandfather, and then wrapping the



sack firmly round her he lifted her in his arms and strode off with her up the mountain. Brigitta was just in time to see him do all this, and on her return to the hut with Peter expressed her astonishment to the grandmother. The latter was equally surprised, and kept on saying, "God be thanked that he is good to the child, God be thanked! Will he let her come to me again, I wonder! The child has done me so much good. What a loving little heart it is, and how merrily she tells her tale!" And she continued to dwell with delight on the thought of the child until she went to bed, still saying now and again, "If only she will come again! Now I have really something left in the world to take pleasure in." And Brigitta agreed with all her mother said, and Peter nodded his head in approval each time his grandmother spoke, saying, with a broad smile of satisfaction. "I told you so!"⁴

Peter also builds his own sled and receives commendation from the local villagers. Again, in the subsequent spring, they return to the mountain in the Alps and they bid farewell to their new acquaintances to the village. So, they spend their life happily.

CONCLUSION

The novel has a first-rate social story; it is about the events in the life of a young girl in her father's care, in the Swiss Alps. It also tells about her journey to find the meaning of family. It speaks about the values of family. To have a sense of family values is to have good thoughts, good intentions and good deeds, to love and to care for those whom people are close to and are part of our primary social group, our community, such as children, parents, other family members and friends. And to treat others with the same set of values, the same way people wish to be treated. This novel has a character feel, demonstrates a wonderful sense of setting, plot and occasion but what makes this novel so absorbing, and so masterful, is her sense of character. In some magical way, Johanna Spyri manages to make reader feel what it is like to be both a parent and a child, both old and young, both bitter and hopeful. And moreover, this novel is easy to understand for reader. When people read this novel, people are not

difficult to know the meaning from this novel, the story about it also can understand and this novel uses simple words into writing the story. So, people can be enjoyable when reading this novel and can take many messages since this novel also presents the social conflict that must be done.

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