

Trends in Kannada Literature and its Development

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Abstract: The present paper analysis the trends in Kannada literature and its development. It has survived the forging trends from historical period to modern period. Literature in Kannada today is a big initiative, with bustling centers like the University of Mysore, Bangalore, Mangalore, Hampi , Dharwar, Gulbarga, Kuvempu etc are striving towards amelioration of literature .Kannada sahitya perished is organizing many programs to recognize a good scholastic temperament along with promoting literature.

Key words: Literature, development, trends

Introduction: Kannada literature has lengthened protuberance. The stage of expansion of Kannada literary & scholastic concepts has survived since ages. Several dynasties, which held sway in this region, have facilitated the growth of literature thorough plenty supports. The scholars & poets always envisioned an imminent tenure of forging trends in Kannada Literary field. They acted as catalyst to enliven an atmosphere of scholastic freedom & constant support. There was a mature literary productivity because of the congenial support extended to all spheres of literature. This paper probes in detail about the new trends in Kannada literary development through the ages by focusing on the important compositions in vivid styles. The paper addresses several incumbent issues connected with the progression of these trends in current context.

Trend of Champu Style: The premature segment of Kannada literature is insufficient to lay claims to the literature's origins. The oldest existing book is king Nripatunga's literary assessment Kavi Raja Marga. Jainism being a popular religion at the time, there were some Jain poets like Srivijaya and Guna Verma. A new scholastic inclination began with the 'Three Gems' of Kannada literature, Pampa, Ponna and Ranna in the 10th century, where prose and verse were mixed with the Champu style. The three poets extensively wrote on episodes from the great epic Ramayana and Mahabharata and Jain legends and biographies. The Jain Theerthankaras & their life teachings were highlighted in these writings. Chavunda Raya, Ranna's elder contemporary then came up with an elaborate work on history of all the 24 Jaina tirthankaras.

Trend of Renovation of Vaishnavism: During the early 12th century, with the dominance of the Hoysalas there was a new change in the literary compositions. The kings of the dynasty entertained imperial ambitions. King Vishnuvardhana wanted to perform Vedic sacrifices befitting an emperor, and surpass his overlords, the Western Chalukyas, in military and architectural achievements. This led to his conversion from Jainism to Vaishnavism. Around the same time, the well-known philosopher Ramanujacharya sought refuge in Hoysala territory and popularized the Sri Vaishnava faith, a sect of Vaishnavism. Although Jain scholars continued to dominate culturally in southern Karnataka region for a while, these social changes would later contribute to the decline of Jain literary output. The growing political influence of the Hoysala kings attracted many bards and scholars to their court, who in turn wrote panegyrics on their patrons.

Trend of Effects of Political Conflict: The literary & scholastic atmosphere in Tamil region was pathetic. The kings of this region were hit by the political turmoil & strife. They got too aggressive. This meant a lean phase in literary activities except for the works of a few writers like Naga Chandra, known for his Jain version of Ramayana, the Jain poetess Kanti, the grammarian NagaVarman II who wrote Karnataka Bhasha Bhushana in Sanskrit aphorisms, and Kirtti Varman and Vritta Vilasa.

Trend of Repetition of Hindu Concepts: During Vijayanagara period there was a rejuvenation of Kannada literature which took a strong Hindu curvature with the orthodox Vijayanagara kings prompting several Kannada scholars to pen their best accomplishments. Some eminent names were Bhima Kavi, Padmanaka, Mallanarya, Singiraja and Chamarasa who contributed to the literary arena.

Trend of the Bhakti literature: The growth of Bhakti movement during & after the rule of Vijayanagara dynasty also affected Kannada literature¹⁶. The Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas were translated afresh using the folk meters. Devotional songs of Dasas or singing mendicants were compiled, which formed an important part of accepted literature. The Impact of Vachana literature was assumingly very great even after 12th century.

Trend of Ignition of New Trend in History of Literature: The next two centuries were a busy period with many rulers and kingdoms such as the Wodeyar kings, Bijapur Sultans and later Mughals which ignited customary literary activity to scale a new high. Bhattakalanka Deva's Karnataka Shabdaushasana a work of 17th century on grammar, Sakdakshara Deva's romantic champu- the Rajshekhara Vilasa (1657AD), the historical compositions of the Wodeyar period (1650-1713AD), Nijaguna Yogi's Viveka Chintamani of Shaiva lore (mid-17th century), Nanja Raja's Puranic works the Shiva Bhakti Mahatmya and Hari Vamsa (1760) were some of the notable conventional writings.

Trend of Intensification in Poetic Compositions: There was a great augmentation in poetic compositions inherited through people from all walks of life. The popular singing called Yakshagana, which was the dramatization of Puranic tales combined with singing, was an innovation of the late 18th century. This form of singing & tale depiction became very popular. A good mass of folk poetry thus came to be written.

Trend of Recent Literary Compositions: Modern education made a late entry in Karnataka as compared to other parts of India. Works based on Sanskrit models, like Shakuntala of Basavappa Shastri, continued till the late 19th century. With a little initiation from the Christian missionaries, the Academy of Kannada Literature was set up in Bangalore in 1914. Gradually modern literature gained tempo and translations were made from English, Bengali and Marathi. Kerur and Galaganatha attempted the first novels in Kannada, followed by a host of novelists like Shivarama Karantha, K. V. Puttappa, G P Rajarathnam, Basavaraja Kattimani, Nanjanagudu Tirumalamba and others. The short story too made its advent with Panje Mangesha Rao and Masti Venkatesha Ayyangar.

Trend of use of colloquial language: A new trend in drama began with the use of colloquial language. Poetry, too, wasn't left behind; B. M. Shrikanthayya took Kannada poetry to great heights with innovations.

Conclusion:

Kannada literature has survived the forging trends from historical period to modern period. Literature in Kannada today is a big enterprise, with bustling centers like the University of Mysore, Bangalore , Mangalore, Hampi , Dharwar , Gulbarga, Kuvempu etc are striving towards amelioration of literature .Kannada sahitya parishad is organizing many programs to perceive a good scholastic temperament along with promoting literature.