

SUMMARY OF MRP

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCALE IN LITERATURE

A Study in the Light of the works of Ruskin Bond

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Locale and the language of a text have a close relation. It is definitely indicative of the country it is associated with and sometimes it even points at the particular part of the country it belongs to. This re-establishes the fact that locale is concerned with not only the physical but the social environment as well. The typical names like Ram Bharosa, Binya, Bijju, Rajaram chosen and used by Bond in *The Blue Umbrella*, gives them a specific identity of the north Indian hilly regions.

It is necessary to examine the use of language and literary tropes in order to discuss the locale of a literary work because the author's intent in using certain words or tropes to describe the settings is indicative of a lot of other interpretations. These descriptions say much about the settings and / or the characters who inhabit them.

The description of locales includes the senses of sight, smell, touch as well as hearing. Therefore the descriptions are not only rich but have a deep impact. One seems to be related to the other and thereby so intricately attached that the background is made in its entire aura.

When writers describe the world they know through the sights, sounds, colours and textures, all vividly painted in words as an artist paints images on canvas, it impregnates the story with the necessary matter which would otherwise render the story as a mere skeleton without flesh and blood.

A very striking example of the play of colours can be found in the *Angry River (AR)* from the description of the river as Sita escaped the flood with the help of Kishan. In the story *Binya Passes By*, when at the beginning Binya's song mesmerizes the poet, it is the description of the locale which adds to the beauty and grandeur of the song.

A writer imagines a story to be happening in a place that is rooted in his or her mind. A picture is created in the mind of the reader. The pictures created by Bond in his autobiographical works like *The Rain in the Mountains* and *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, makes Dehradun and Mussoorie familiar places for even those who have never been to these areas.

Locale of a suspense story or a thriller is often of primary importance in developing the suspense or the plot. In *Sussana's Seven Husbands*, the description of Sussana's bungalow, especially the garden, hints at some sinister activities and untoward happenings right from the beginning.

Thus, to sum up the locale of a literary creation may seem to be nothing more than the backdrop for what occurs, however, it has immense contribution to the development of the plot, theme and characters, it may have a direct effect on a character's motivation, it may be directly linked to the mood or meaning of the dialogues and the events, it can create an atmosphere that affects the reader's response to the work. Therefore, as amply proved by the innumerable examples from the works of Ruskin Bond, locale has its own merit and importance in the world of literature.