

A Critical Analysis of Maithili Novel: Twenty First Century

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Abstract—In the presented article, a critical study of Maithili novels published in the 21st century along with the introduction to Maithili novel-literature has been presented. A general introduction to about two hundred and fifty novels published in the present century is mentioned here, which can prove useful for students, researchers and teachers.

In this article, we can reach the conclusion that on the one hand, practical realism is found in the Maithili novels of the 21st century, while on the other hand, idealism has also been incorporated. Many novels are filled with the supernatural and wonderful flights of imagination. Now in Maithili novel- literature, introverted portrayal is often seen to be prominent. The composition of the period under review seems to be based on social relativity and reality. In some novels, a touch of humour, stylistic uniqueness, existentialist approach and predominance of psychoanalysis are also seen. Progressivism, realism, women's discourse, Dalit discourse, coordination of Indo-European work-culture, sensitivity, social inequality, casteism, women empowerment etc. have been the central themes in the novelistic works of the present century.

Index Terms—Composition, Novelistic, Progressivism, Psychoanalysis, Sensitivity, Supernatural, Women empowerment,

I. INTRODUCTION

A novel is a genre of Maithili prose literature in which a subject is presented completely, in which the entire human life is portrayed accurately by mixing imagination and reality. In other words, a novel is that part of the narrative genre in which connections between many events are established and kept in sequence. Basically, a novel is a large form of narrative genre.

The beginning of the 20th century marks the advent of the Maithili novel under the influence of Bangla and Hindi. To begin with, Maithili imbibes the rich tradition of Sanskrit fables and fairy tales' narratives in the form of 'Akhyanas', 'Upakhyanas' and 'Akhyayikas' and in spite of word translation from other languages. First of all, in 1862, the renowned scholar of Bangla, Bhudev Mukhopadhyay used the name 'novel' in his book entitled 'Aitihasik-Novel' in the Indian language. Later, first of all in 1862, Lala Shrinivas Das published the book 'Pariksha Guru' in Hindi as a novel. With the influx of magazines of Maithili and periodicals, a new era of novel writing was ushered in with the arrival of Janardan Jha 'Janasidan' in Maithili literature. which was the period of the 2nd decade of the 20th century. In this period, Jibachha Mishra, Rasabihari Lal Das, Bhola Jha and Punyanand Jha have also come on the scene. Inspired by the reperforming, they adopted current social themes and produced problems with ease and grace that delighted their readers. The first novel of Maithili is 'Rameshwar'(1915) by Jibachha Mishra deals with the evil of extravagance in the use of Shraddha performance. Similarly, 'Nirdai Sasu' (1914, as dharavahik), 'Shashikala' (1915), 'Kaliyugi Sanyasi' and 'Dhakosalanand' (1921) and Punarvivah (1926) of Janaradan Jha 'Janasidan'(1872-1941) are another feather in Janasidana's cap. Mithila Darpan part -1-2(1914-15) of punyanand Jha has reformed the ethos and hit the mark of social reconstruction. Later, when Prof. Harimohan Jha's 'Kanyadan'(1933) came into light, and the Maithili novel got the height of popularity.

Today almost a hundred years have passed since the development process of the Maithili novel. In the last

century, the subject matter of Maithili novel remained within the confines of Mithila-Maithil-Maithili-- Such as child marriage, widow remarriage, women's education, feudalism, progressivism, dowry system, female feticide, kidnapping, women exploitation, domestic violence, terrorism, famine, flood, earthquake & other natural disasters, child labour, forced marriage, unemployment etc. The above mentioned problem was the subject matter of the Maithili novel. Society is changeable. Therefore, as the social system of Mithila kept changing, the content of the Maithili novel also kept changing.

The tone of change in the subject matter of Maithili novels started being seen from the first decade of the last century. Due to this period, problems like casteism, terrorism, love marriage, love jihad, live in relationships etc. all became very prevalent. Influenced by this, Maithili novelists made these their subject matter. The second revolutionary change was that the mechanical age had now entered into the electronic and internet age. It was propagated in Mithila also. Now computers, mobile laptops etc. have reached the common people of Mithila. Common people started using it. Also, this electronic device proved to be a boon for the writers.

II. THE FIRST FIVE YEAR OF TWENTY FIFTHS CENTURY

During the period under review, the production of Maithili novels decreased in comparison to poetry and stories, but not so much that it was incapable of standing in front of the modern Indian Aryan language. However, during the period under review, only three novels - Usha Kiran Khana's "Bhamati" (2010), Asha Mishra's "Uchat" (2014) and Jagadish Prasad Mandal's "Pangu" (2021) have been awarded by the Sahitya Akademi, which is certainly less in comparison to fiction and poetry, but its composition has not diminished. In this way, more than 300 novelistic works have been published in the last 25 years. Many novelists of the present century had already established themselves in the last century. The main quality of the modern novel is that the novelistic work of this period is filled with romantic feeling, curiosity, diversity, wonder etc., along with this, the embryo of western tradition can also be seen in it. The works of established writers are reflective,

progressive, symbolic, psychoanalytic etc. Among the novels that were available during the five years under review are -- Dhumketu's 'Mode Par'(2000); Amaresh Pathak's 'Tamas' (Trans, 2000); Vijendra Kumar Mishra's 'Pathik Piyas'('01); Ramdev Jha's 'Ram Jori Kagatak Pankhi Par' ('02), and Saketanand's 'Sravasvanta'('02); Prabodh Narayan Singh's 'Patajharak Svar'(Trans., ('02) ; Sudhanshu Shekhar Chaudhary's ' Tar Patta Upar Patta'('03) and 'Angreji Phulak Chitthi' ('03); Ramanand Renu's 'Uttar Janapad'; Manipadma's 'Adim Gulab' ('03); and 'Nanki'('03); Virendra Jha's ' Nirmal Ganga' ('03); Vijayendra Kumar Mishra's 'Kuchakra' ('04); Kedarnath Chaudhary's 'Chameli Rani'('04); Shefalika Verma's 'Nagaphans'('04); Satyanand Pathak's 'Gam Gel Chhalahun' ('04); Mayanand Mishra's 'Suryasta'('04); Lilire's 'Jijivisha'. ('04); Chandresha's 'Khaink'('04); Sarasvata's 'Strinama' ('04); Chaudhary Kaushal Kishore Thakur's 'Hari Iccha Gariyasi' ('05); Manipadma's 'Hunaka Sau Bhenta Bhel Chhal' ('05) etc.

Saketanand's 'Sarvaswant' novel of the critical period has been presented in psychoanalytic and dialogue style by planning many incidents. The subject matter of this novel starts from the natural disaster, till the east part of Dhemura river, where the main stream of the country ends. There are 18 pauses in this 64 Page of the novel. Its main feature is the style of poetic language. Virendra Jha's 'Nirmal Ganga' is an album by Pt. Surendra Jha 'Suman', in which his entire personality and work has been included in a very interesting and well-organized manner, in a novelistic style. In Ramanand Renu's novel 'Uttar Janpad', humans' will to live, oppression, anger, terror, frustration etc. have been expressed. In this, human sensitivity has been raised by highlighting social evils like poverty, unemployment, dowry system etc. Vijendra Kumar Mishra's 'Kuchakra' is a social novel in which poverty, unemployment, fights, arson, high and low, casteism etc. have been depicted realistically. The entire plot of 'Kuchakra' revolves around an educated unemployed 'Shridhar' and the entire conspiracy plan moves forward with the cunning tricks of the female character, elder aunt 'Prema'. The characterization of many male and female characters has been adapted to rural society. The language style is natural, simple, melodious and understandable. The main feature of the novel 'Kuchakra' is the abundant use of typical

Maithili words, double meaning, native-foreign, adjective, proverbs and idioms etc. Kedarnath Chaudhary's 'Chamelirani' is a heroine-oriented novel written on a political basis. The subject matter is based on a new sentiment different from the traditional social problem. Among the various characters – Chamelirani, Baby, Sunaina, Sukorani, Maina, Arjun etc., the novelist has shown the character of the main character Chamelirani as more exalted. Its storyline is contemporary, in which politicians are shown as criminals and the influence of Marx is reflected in this novel. The entire novel progresses like a 'thriller film', in which politics and crime complement each other. Shefalika Verma's 'Naagfans' challenges male power. It tells the story of the plight of a woman trapped in a man's snake's trap. Its main female character is 'Dhara' and the male character is 'Seemanta'. A poignant depiction of women's sentiments is found at many places in the novel 'Naagfans'. Mayanand Mishra's 'Suryasta' is a synthesis of Indo-European culture. Its main male character is 'Manik' and the female character is 'Anicent'. The novel 'Suryasta', written in the environment of England and India, has proved to be a milestone in Maithili literature. In this, on the one hand, the indulgences and luxuries of boisterous love of upper-class boys and girls are described, while on the other hand, the feeling of obscenity towards those who, love from the heart, has been highlighted in a very simple manner. In the novel 'Suryasta', Mayababu has been completely successful in describing the story keeping in mind the civilization and culture of India.

III. MAITHILI NOVEL TILL THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 21ST. CENTURY

By the first decade of the 21st century, the Maithili novel had emerged with its diverse dimensions. Along with the already established novelists, some budding novelists also appeared. From the perspective of the creator of the era, the language of the novels of this period became simple, easy and the poignant satirical style of expression started to rise. Now a revolutionary change has been introduced in Maithili novels. There was a very subtle difference between the spoken language and the language of the novel. Among the novels that could be seen during the review period, Kedarnath Chaudhary's 'Karar' (2006); Nand Kumar Mishra's 'Sujata' (06); Ashok Kumar Thakur's 'Basudhak Sansar' (06); Raja Nand Jha's 'Kalvela'

(Trans. '06); Usha Kiran Khan's 'Bhamati' ('07); Sukant Som's 'Hari Katha Ananta'('07); Lilly Re's 'Ekata Badd Puran Gappa'('07); Madhukant Jha's 'Svedjivi' ('08); Kedar Nath Chaudhary's 'Mahur'('08); Nand Kumar Mishra's 'Gudarik Lal' ('08); Maithili Putra Pradeep's 'Nampat'('08); Vidyanath Jha 'Vidit's 'Manav Kalpa'('08), 'Kosiliya'('08) and 'Mahoday Manvanta'('08); Sudhanshu Shekhar Chaudhary's 'Nivedita' (1996/ '08); Kamal Kant Jha's 'Tuggar'('09); Jagadish Prasad Mandal's 'Utthan Patan'('09); 'Maulayal Gachhak Phul' ('09), Veena Thakur's 'Bharati'('09); Vidya Nath Jha 'Vidit's 'Bahuriya'('09), 'Viplav Basera' ('09), 'Anamikak Chitthi'('09), Matra Tina Ghanta Samaya'('09) and 'Vidhakari'('09); Gajendra Thakur's 'Sahasra Badhain'('09); Mantreshwar Jha's 'Chinbar' ('10); Jagadish Prasad Mandal's 'Jiwan Maran'('10); Asha Mishra's 'Uchat'('10); Vidyanath Jha 'Vidit's 'Karpuriya'('10), 'Prarabdha' ('10), 'Parikrama'('10), 'Sate Bhavtu Suprita'('10) and 'Kakaro Kahabai Nahi'('10)

Nand Kumar Mishra's novel 'Sujata', written in the above-mentioned period, is divided into 13 parts. This heroine-oriented novel has been named after the female character 'Sujata'. The novelist has presented the portrayal of women empowerment through the widow heroine Sujata. In this novel, true events have been depicted based on imaginary places and characters. Sujata provides a new direction to society by fighting against injustice. The novelist has systematically presented the story of Sujata from her birth till she became a widow and became self-reliant after holding a job. The novel ends in the hope of meeting the third birth. Despite the ancient spirit being present in the story of Usha Kiran Khan's novel 'Bhamti', a new environment has been presented. In this, the author has displayed the importance of Panditji with artistic awareness on one hand and has also exposed patriarchy on the other hand. The novel 'Bhamati' is inspired by past history and bright traditions in many respects. The main theme of the story, the author has tried to provide inspiration for present life by making an important incident in history. The story of the novel 'Bhamti' shows the path to contemporary society. Its specialty is the life of the Vedic period and its necessity. 'Bhamti', written in simple and understandable language, is a successful novel. Kedarnath Chaudhary's 'Mahur' is a political novel which is mainly based on changing the system.

In this, social problems, like- poverty, corruption, malpractice, misconduct, etc. have been exposed. Ranjana and Kamini are female characters which show the low mentality of being forced into prostitution by the priest of the temple. The male character Raj, due to his own actions, is being killed by his wife Padma, his son and ultimately himself. The novelist draws attention towards the spreading prostitution in the society, which is maintained by scoundrels, like - Bajrangi. In conclusion, every incident of the novel 'Mahur' is based on a social problem, which is very sensitive and society related. In 'Mahur', the novelist has been completely successful in raising the problems of Mithila society and perhaps his objective may have been the same. Manav Kalp of Vidyanath Jha 'Vidit' is a social novel, in which the lifestyle, food habits, ethics, thoughts, festivals etc. of all the castes of Mithila have been depicted in a very interesting manner. In 'Manav-Kalpa', Kosi province has been depicted in a very realistic manner due to the tragedy of the disaster of the river Kosi. Kamalkant Jha's 'Tugger' is the story of the plight of a child who despite having everything, was orphaned. Dr. Pankaj, the hero of the novel, does not remain silent after accepting defeat due to his problems, deprivation and insult, rather, he finds a way to move forward by taking this as its basis.

Starting from the description of famine, 'Maulayal Gachhak Phool' is a novel based on social concerns written by Jagdish Prasad Mandal. Its language is purely the language of the remote villages of Mithila. This is neither the language of sophistication nor the language of any room (kotha) or mansion (Haveli). This is the language of the laborer, the farmer, the farm-barn, the plowman(Harbaha) - herdsman (Charabaha), the skull living in the remote village of Mithila, where even today the slate and pencil have not reached. This is what makes 'Maulayal Gachhak Phool' special, important and significant. It is different from the character point of view also. The way rural characters have been used by the novelist in this novel is also seen for the first time in Maithili literature. Its main character is Ramakant babu. In the novel 'Sahasrabadhani' written by Gajendra Thakur, the story of the corruption prevalent in the government system and the family fighting against it is told. This is a story between two generations of a family, i.e., father and son. In this, many internal workings of the

government system have been highlighted. The story is developed through the characters of Jhingur Babu, Nand, Naval, Aruni, Kalit, Shashank, Manindra, Buchiya etc. Brevity and simplicity in narration are the main features of 'Sahasrabadhani'. Mantreshwar Jha's 'Chinbar' is a happy novel. 'Chinabar', despite being small in size, is excellent from a novelistic point of view. Another specialty of Chinabar is that as its unique language style and interestingness, it also has small, highly comprehensible syntax and character-appropriate narration. Among the Prominent characters of 'Chinabar' are Mahnath Babu, Chulhai Jha, Pathak ji, Harilal, Musri Jha, Sangeeta Bai etc. Asha Mishra's 'Uchat' is a social novel based on child psychology. In this, human sensibilities have been presented shockingly. The story of 'Uchat' revolves around the author's small character Sonu and the composition of many events has been presented in a sequential manner. The story of 'Uchat' moves forward dancing on Sonu's mind. Most of the characters in this novel are secondary and the events appear scattered and repeated. But, the style of running the story on the wave of memory makes this novel admirable, solid and substantial. The writer has dedicated tradition, culture and her feelings everywhere with decency and defines them in a new form. The pain in the story of Sonu, a small character of Uchat, is not only Sonu's pain; but like Sonu, many children of the society of the entire Mithila are suffering.

IV. MAITHILI NOVELS IN THE PERIOD OF THIRD FIVE-YEAR OF 21ST CENTURY

Among all the novels that were available in this period of the same century, Ramakant Mishra's 'Pretabadha' (2011); Khushilal Jha's 'Uparbasa' (Trans.,'11); Madhukant Jha's 'Krantirathi'('11); Hetukar Jha's 'Parati' ('12); Kedarnath Chaudhary's 'Abara Nahitan'('12); Mahendra Narayan Ram's 'Karmelin' (Trans., '12); Rambharos Kapari 'Bhramar's 'Gharamuhan'('12); Pradip Bihari's 'Shesha'('12); J. P. Mandal's 'Nai Chhoraie' and 'Baraki Bahin'('13); Manipadm's 'Sona Rupa Aa Hira' ('13); Vidyanath Jha Vidit's 'Gram Ganarajya' ('13); Pradip Bihari's 'Jari'('13); Rajdev Mandal's 'Hamar Tola' ('13); Kedarnath Chaudhary's 'Hina'('13); Amalkant's 'Daga'('13); Eng. Nabonath's 'Pavitra Mati' ('14); Indrakant Jha's 'Angliyata' (Trans.,'14); Subhasha Chandra Yadav's 'Gulo'('14); Ramdev Jha's

'Hansani Pan Aa Bajanta Supari'('14); Rajnath Mishra's 'Mogalani'('14); Ramnarayan Singh's 'Malahin'(Trans., '14); Shyam Darihare' 'Ghuri Aau Manya'('15); J. P. Mandal's 'Thuth Gachh'('15); Lilire's 'Patakshew'('15) and 'Upasanhar' ('15); Manamohan Jha's 'Krishnapsarp'('15); Bibhuti Anand's 'Babak Ekata Gam Rahani'(2nd ed. '15); Niraja Renu's 'Ijot'('15); Ramesh Ranjan's 'Sangor'('15); Ajit Mishra's 'Jehane Karani: Tehane Bharani' ('15); Devendra Jha's 'Badali Jaichh Ghareta'(Trans. '15) etc. are prominent.

Ramakant Mishra's novel 'Pretabadha', which came to light in the first half of the second decade of the present century, fascinates the young mind, immersed in the syrup of imagination based on real events. In this novel, Gulten's (Prabhakar) love affair with his first girlfriend Manor did not progress; but his love and domestic life with Manjulika was free from the ghostly hindrances of doubt. The present young generation, in the course of studies, takes indecent and immoral actions by taking shelter from adultery and love interests and later becomes a problem for the society; Through this novel, the novelist presents a moral lesson for the things that disintegrate the society. Madhukant Jha's 'Krantirathi' is a successful novel based on resistance to the ironic industrial and social system that is devoid of sympathy, empathy and respect for the laborers and the neglected class. Its main characters are Mithil, Shubhangi, Usha etc. In the revolutionary novel, the author reveals the story of the plight and struggle of the proletariat layer by layer. The influence of Marx is clearly reflected in this. Hetukar Jha's Parati novel has been written with the aim of increasing the sense of belonging in rural society. It describes the natural mood of the character and insists on reality. The setting of the incident and the characterization of the characters proceed with spontaneity (naturalness). Developed and well-organized narrative objects and dynamics of characters are the specialty of 'Parati'. Gaurinath's 'Daag' highlights the problem created by inter-caste marriage in the society and also gives an insight into the patriarchal inhuman form prevailing in the society. The problem created in 'Daag' is the result of the inter-caste marriage of Subhadra and Narayan Ram. The interestingness of the story, realistic portrayal of characters, creation of a favorable atmosphere,

attractive craft style and problem-based objective prove this novel to be successful.

It is expected to be discussed in the novels that came in the period under review -- Rajdev Mandal's 'Hamar Toll', Subha Chandra Yadav's 'Gulo', Shyam Darihare's 'Ghuri Aau Manya', Lili Re's 'Patakshew', Manmohan Jha's 'Krishnasp', Bibhuti Anand's 'Babak Ekata Gam Rahani', Niraja Renu's 'Ijot', Ajit Mishra's 'Jehane Karani Tehane Bharani' etc. In 'Hamar Tola' a glimpse of the social and cultural situation of the Dhanuk caste of Mithila has been presented. The depiction of superstition, social reform, love, hatred, hope-despair etc. prevalent in Mithila is found in it at one place. This is a tragic novel, which the novelist has presented through the struggle of Ajay, a scientifically thinking young man. It remains interesting even after various types of the struggles of life. This novel is completely successful in depicting the fragrance and history of Mithila's soil and water. 'Gulo' is a novel based on the life of Dalit. It tells the story of the crisis arising from land fragmentation and the displaced lives. Its main feature is the use of the "Pachapaniya language". Novelist has been completely successful in presenting the most profound psychological thoughts and social and political messages in a short number of words. The main characters are Gulo, Munnilal, Riniyan, Rajinder, Inara, Thakna etc.

'Ghuri Au Manya' is a religious, spiritual and faith-based novel. In this, details of mystery, adventure and miraculous incidents have been presented at many places. While describing the beautiful beauty of Mithila, it depicts the research and demarcation of spirituality, science, philosophy, etc. Such use and interpretation of scientific approach and terminology is its basic characteristic. The main characters of this female-oriented novel are Soumya, Shakuntala and Manya.

In 'Patakshew', the progressive trend sympathetic towards the spirit of Maoist revolution has been analysed. Its importance, in Maithili literature, is to present the new and vivid political ideology in a new and interesting style. In the novel 'Krishna Sarp', despite the abundance of female characters and the presence of boisterous lust, there is no violation of dignity. The use of figures of speech, simile, Metaphor and the figure of imagination are the main features of

'Krishna Sarp'. Pt. Chandrasheshar and female characters 'Nimi' and 'Dimi' are its main characters. The story of Niraja Renu's novel 'Tjot' is very sensitive. Its plot focuses on female foeticide. When Aparna, who survived feticide, became a doctor and started doing social service, she became an inspiration for the women's society. Due to the successful life of Aparna, the title was kept as 'Tjot' which is completely meaningful. Vibhuti Anand's novel 'Babak Ekta Gam Rahani' is a novel in the genre of memoir and autobiography in which the events described connect the past with the present. "Jehne Karni: Tehne Bharni" is a children's novel by Ajit Mishra. In this, the fantasy story has been created in a well-organized and entertaining manner. Its basic characters are Dhanush and Dilchan (Kathak folk). The novelist wants to explain through this novel that those who have no one in the world are protected by God himself.

V. MAITHILI NOVELS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS OF SECOND DECADES OF THE 21ST. CENTURY

Among the novels that were available during the review period, Mani Padma's 'Bharatik Vilari' (Trans. 2016, ed. Premshankar Singh); Ramlochan Thakur's 'Kathaputari Nachak Itikatha' (Trans. '16); Tarakant Jha's 'O Samay' (Trans. '16); Pankaj Parasar's. 'Herayal Arth (Trans. '16) ; 'Ushakiran Khan's 'Pokhari Rajokhari' ('17); Madhukant Jha's 'Satta Tandav' ('17); Hetukar Jha's 'Kakara Le Arajb He' ('17); J. P. Mandal's 'Ijjat Gama Ijjat Banchelau' ('17); Surendra Nath's 'Usaragal Lok' ('17); Rajdev Manfal's ' Jal Bhanvar' ('17); Pankaj Parasar's ' Jalprantar' ('17); Shyam Darihare's 'Jagat Sab Sapana' ('17); Amaledu Shekhar Pathak's 'Lal Gachhi' (Children's literature, '17); J. P. Mandal's 'Thuth Gachha' ('18), 'Lahasan' ('18) and 'Amak Gachhi' ('18); Vidyanath Jha 'Vidit's 'Sate Bhavatu Suprita' ('18); Vijendra Kumar Mishra's 'Salama Vegam' ('18); Kumar Padmanabh's 'Papua Dhapua Sanpatua' ('18); Jyoti Raman Jha's 'Rani Roopvati' ('18); Kamalesh Premendra's 'Pathar San Karej' ('18); Yogendra Pathak 'Viyogi's 'Hamar Gam' ('18); Dilip Kumar Jha's 'Du Dhap Agan' ('18); Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Namastasyai' ('18), 'Maharaj' ('18) and 'Lajakotar' ('18); Kedarnath Chaudhary's 'Ayana' ('18); Mayanand Mishra's 'Khonta Aa Chirai' (re-printed, '19); Direndra Kumar Jha's 'Uttarardha' ('19); Rishi Bashishtha's 'Kalash

Yatra' ('19); Bhavesh Chandra Mishra 'Shivanshu's 'Sonchiraiya' ('19); Shyam Darihare's 'Hamar Janam Kie Bhelai Ho Rama' ('19); Kumar Manish Arvind's 'Micchami Dukkaram' ('19); 'Jyoti Raman Jha's 'Mayuri' ('19); Virendra Jha's 'Sihakait Basat' ('19), Lal Dhadhara ('19) and 'Shilapat' ('19); Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Seemak Ohi Par' ('19), 'Matribhumi' and 'Swapnalok' ('19); Yoganand Pathak 'Viyogi's 'Chulhichan Puran' ('19); Bhaveshachandra Mishra 'Shivanshu's 'Vishvajit' ('20), 'Bhauragadhi' ('20) and 'Ganga Godhin' ('20); Revati Raman Jha's 'Maina' ('20); Pradip Bihari's 'Kokhi' ('20); J. P. Mandal's 'Suchita' ('20); Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Shankhnad' ('20); Dhahait Debal ('20); Durgesh Mandal's 'Kacharwali' ('20) Deepa Mishra's 'Aryama' ('20); Jayadev Jha's 'Shiv Vijay Pataka' ('20); Mukta Mishra's 'Hamar Beti Chhi Ful Babu Ke' ('20); Sunila Nana Jha's 'Ahan Rahab Ne Hamara Lag' ('20) and 'Perfect Crime' ('20); Bibhuti Anand's 'Paraji Aparaji' ('20); Virendra Jha's 'Anharia Chan' ('20); Shyam Darihare's 'Bati Kona Jarau' ('20); Ushakiran Khan's 'Manmohana Re' ('20); Sacchidanand Sacchu's 'Allah Ho Rama' ('20) etc. are prominent.

Most Maithili novels were published in the five years under review period. Among the novelists of this period whose work I got the opportunity to read and see from a bird's eye view, the first one is Ushakiran Khan's "Pokhari Rajokhari". 'Pokhari Rajokhari' is the coincidence and disintegration of the life of the entire Mithila society symbolizing the era's consciousness. In this, not only has there been a contemporary portrayal of the society, but also the internal conflict and expression of sentiments of the characters has been presented in a very touching manner. The reality of human life along with scientific research can be seen in the works of Ushakiran Khan, and this is also what enriches contemporary creativity. In this, an attempt has been made to connect the proletariat people with the mainstream of society from the traditional social and scientific point of view. Along with being concerned about the existence of women, the society has been inspired to behave sympathetically towards the feelings of women, their situation, daily life and problems in the rural life of Mithila. While Paghariwali or Champa plays the role of an ideal woman, Jaglok Thakur's professor son Mahinder teases inhuman sensitivities with his educated wife Paghariwali. The author, who is

completely familiar with the lifestyle of Mithila, its small and big problems, presents the story in the form of a regional novel. Hetukar Jha's novelistic work 'Kakara Le Arajab He' appears to be an experienced reality written in the style of autobiography. In this novel, the created atmosphere is completely successful, and it makes one realize the importance of mutual support and love between Jaya and Manorama when Jaya is unwell. At many places in the novel, emphasis has been laid on breaking the caste barriers and love of the heart. The driving element of the novel is that the most important thing in life is love and mutual harmony. Earning money is a second level task, which is useful in increasing the speed of life. Rajdev Mandal's 'Jal Bhanwar', while marking the bittersweet activities of human life through various characters, presents an accurate portrayal of the ugliness prevailing in the society like superstition, hypocrisy, helplessness, social maladministration etc. and the reality of affection and love for the village and society in the heart of the proletariat class 'Jal Bhranvar' is a historical document with its form. Rajesar, Jagesar, Neeta, Jhapsu etc. are the main characters. The horrifying landscape of Kosi river has been depicted in Pankaj Parasara's 'Jalpantar'. Regarding this Hitnath Jha's opinion is as follows: -

"Jalpraantar is a story-journey of the entire Mithila along with the Kosi courtyard, which, like a flowing stream, does not stop anywhere and is capable of telling everything in its flow."

'Pangu' is the eleventh novel by J. P. Mandal and it is especially famous for its detailed and realistic depiction of Mithila. In this, the tragic story of paralysis of the peasantry from 1930 AD to 1975 AD has been arranged in the economic, social and political perspective. In 'Pangu', the story of three generations of Mithila is told through Devcharan, Haricharan and Radharaman. 'Hamar Gam' written by Yogendra Pathak Viyogi is a historical novel which has been presented through humour and satire by combining many incidents of the ancient rural system with a view to make it entertaining. The basic tone of Dilip Kumar Jha's novel 'Du Dhap Aagan' is reformist and didactic. Many women-oriented novels of the 21st. century which are strong in creativity; But it does not have the purpose of capturing the special characteristics of the present times, its compensation has been made in the

novel 'Du Dhap Aagan'. In this, the struggle of Sudha and Radha has been presented in a very interesting manner. The story of the novel 'Uttarardha' is inspired by personal experience. Novelist Dhirendra Kumar Jha tells the story of the plight of a lawyer's life through a lawyer named Naren. In 'Uttarardha' the conflict between the thoughts of two generations has been expressed in a very lively manner. The directionlessness, moral decline, disbelief, lack of duty etc. prevalent in the present era have been portrayed in realistic form. The novel 'Uttarardha', painted with the brush of experience on the paper of reality, is completely successful in depicting the real Mithila society. Divided into 28 parts, 'Sonchiraiya' by Bhavesh Chandra Mishra 'Shivanshu' is a heroine-oriented, complicated love story of human life, which can also be called unusual. In the novel 'Sonchidaiya', the psychoanalysis of an unusually complex relationship has been done very skillfully. Its main feature is that it forces the reader to read it in one sitting. Its characters include Son, Manas, Meethi (daughter), Mayank, Dukharan Das (servant), Sanjhatiya, Shakambhari etc.

"Hamar Janam Kie Bhelai Ho Rama" is a woman-oriented novel written by Shyam Darihare. In this, the sorrow, pain, agony, struggle of women's life and their ability to be strong have been depicted. The main female character Sangeeta, who shows her indomitable courage, sows the seeds of women empowerment. Pradeep Bihari's novel 'Kokhi' opens a new chapter. Its story has been constructed by making a borrowed womb the central theme. Apart from surrogacy, topics like 'live in relationship' and foeticide have been given prominent place in it. The traditional thinking prevalent in the society towards childless women has been engraved in it and a new thinking has been generated. In conclusion, "Kokhi" is purely a novel of the 21st century, which is completely proved by the dialogue of the orphanage director described in it. Revathi Raman's novel "Maina" is a progressive and modernist novel. Sachchidanand Sachchu's 'Allah Ho Rama' tells the story of the plight of women prevalent in the upper caste society, which has a patriarchal flavour. The main characters of 'Maina' are Babalu and Babita.

VI. MAITHILI NOVELS IN THE THIRD DECADE OF THE 21ST. CENTURY

The third decade of the present century also seems to be very fertile for Maithili novelistic work. Among the available works of this period, Dilip Kumar Jha's 'Siraur' (2021); Ashutosh Kumar Jha's 'Mithilak Macha' (21); Subhasha Chandra Yadav's 'Madar' (Reprinted, '21); Vibhuti Anand's 'Laya' ('21); J. P. Mandal's 'Mor Par' ('21), 'Sankalp' ('21), 'Antim Kshan' ('21), 'Kuntha' ('21), 'Bhadabak Ath Anhar' ('21), 'Sadhava Vidhava' ('21), 'Sunayana Beti' ('21); Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Ham Abi Rahal Chhi' ('21) and 'Pralayak Parat' ('21); Pradip Bihari's 'Mrityulila' ('21); Ashok Kumar Singh's 'Samadhan' ('21); Shyam Darihare's 'Na Jayate Mriyate Va' ('21); Virendra Jha's 'Niramal Ganga' ('22); Subhasha Chandra Yadav's 'Bhot' ('22); Vibha Rani's 'Kaniyan Ek Ghungharuawali' ('22); Kanchi. Nath Jha Kiran's 'Abhimanini' ('22); Deepa Mishra's 'Diha' ('22); Bhaveshchandra Mishra's 'Shivanshu's 'Gango Godhin' ('22) and 'Sharshayyapar Pitamah' ('22), Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Biti Gel Samay' ('22), 'Pratibimba' ('22), 'Badali Rahal Achhi Sabh Kichu' ('22), 'Rashtra Mandir' ('22) and 'Nachi Rahal Achi Vasudha' ('22); Kamala Chaudhary's 'Monak Pauti' (Trans., '22); Avadhesh Kumar Bacchan's 'Vilatal Gam' ('22); Madhukant Jha's 'Ohi Tolak Ramtahal' ('22); Gangesh Pathak's 'Antim Sindur' ('22); Bijayendra Jha's 'Parosia' ('Trans. '23); Shantanu Singh Thakur's 'Grahanmala' ('23); Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Deep Jarait Rahae' ('23), 'Patakshep' ('23) and 'Theha Parak Maulayal Gacha' ('23); Bhavesh Chandra Mishra 'Shivanshu's 'Yuddhabija' ('23); Rameshwar Pd. Mandal's 'Bagavar' ('23); Amarnath Jha's 'Vasanti Priyamvada' ('23); Munni Kamat's 'Matik Suvas' ('23); Sarasvat's 'Ukapat' ('23); Sunita Jha's 'Moh' ('23); Rameshwar Pd. Mandal's 'Bauki' ('24); Bhaveshchandra Mishra 'Shivanshu's 'Meghmala' ('24); Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Jayatu Janaki' ('24) and 'Yajnaseni' ('24), Keshav Bharadwaj's 'Chefari' ('24); Sailendra Kumar's 'Chalis Number: Pandrah Talla' ('24); Uday Chandra Jha Vinod's 'Kusum Dai' ('24); Sarswat's 'Darra' ('24) and 'Kuchakra' ('24) etc. are important.

Agriculture has been shown as an industry in the literary novel "Siraur" written by Dilip Kumar Jha. The work culture and role of Aditi, a female character

of Indian origin, gives strength to women empowerment. But, if this novel had been presented amidst the conflict, the novel would have become more sensitive and excellent. Ashutosh Kumar Jha's "Mithilaak Macha" has been completely successful in depicting the horrors of floods. In this novel based on a natural disaster like flood, a disorganized governance system has been exposed. Its main characters are Baua Jha, his wife Sugandha, elder brother Pintu Jha, and Jyoti etc. In Subhash Chandra Yadav's "Madar", the novel has been created on the basis of extreme love, meaning and mental disorder. Vibhuti Anand's "Laya" is a new experiment on lovemaking in the form of an autobiography. Novels of this genre are almost an exception in Maithili literature. This novel seems to be successful from all points of view like narration, artistic style, atmosphere, linguistic awareness etc. The main feature of this novel is the use of character-appropriate language. The heroine of the novel "Laya" is Pihu, around whom the entire story dances.

Subhash Chandra Yadav's short novel "Bhot" of only 68 pages, written in narrative style, contains a detailed description of the MLA election of Pipara assembly constituency of Supaul district. In this, the novelist blames the country's main political party BJP for the massacre of Muslims. The country's famous Prime Minister Narendra Modi is blamed for the Godara incident in Gujarat, which is completely baseless, because such a decision of the judiciary has not come till date. Therefore, the storyline of "Bhot" seems to be one-sided. A litterateur should think with due respect and not be biased. Vibharani's novel "Kaniyan Ek Ghungharuawali" is a true mirror of the rise of women's struggle. In Maithili novel literature, the voice of struggle of such characters - Genama in Prithaviputra, Aparna in Upasanhar, Bhaskar in Raja Pokhari Me Katek Machhari etc. is of that class, which has been exploited and oppressed since ages. Similarly, in this novel by Vibharani, the struggling life of dancer Tara presents a vivid example of women empowerment. Psychological analysis of female beauty and social behavior is the specialty of Vibharani's writings. Women's struggle, patriarchal teeth and most importantly female sexuality have been discussed openly in this novel. There is a detailed discussion in this novel in the context of Mithila's

excellent folk dance "Domkacha", which creates great joy and excitement.

Kanchinath Jha 'Kiran', an advocate of labor power, is passionate about married life and that is why he has tried to break Suprabha's pride through her friend in his novel "Abhimanini". The main characters of the novel Abhimanini are Suprabha, Vinod and Vidya. On the one hand, due to the pride of the heroine Suprabha, her married life fails and on the other hand, the hero Vinod, despite being poor and ugly, is known as an ideal hero due to his character traits. Despite the ending of the novel being like a film script, the story has become natural. Bijayendra Jha's "Padosiya" is a translated form of the Malayalam novel 'Aiyalakar', the original author of which is the famous Malayalam writer P. Keshavdev (1904-1983). In this, a realistic picture of the contemporary social, cultural, religious and political turmoil of Kerala has been presented. The conflicts of 'Nair-Ishava', which originated from the feud started by the Pacchasi family, sinking into the depths of decline, takes the form of a social movement. The personality of Vasu and Divakaran, son of Kuyyuvan, the main leader of the movement, his friend Bhaskar Kurup and Sukumaran Nair is commendable. Sumati Amma, who maintains the pride of the Mangalsheri family, is successful in gaining the sympathy of the readers despite doing poor work. "The sadness expressed in the story of Parosia is indicative of the entire Indian society of that time. The character of each character in the happy novel Parosia shocks the reader's psyche. The purity, seriousness of the story and character-wise dialogue style are the main features of the novel Parosia, which makes it stand in the category of the original novel. Shantanu Singh Thakur's "Grahanmala" is a historical novel full of amazing flavor, in which historical facts have been presented in an interesting and new form by molding them into a novelistic format. In this, the story of the merits of the Kharoray dynasty of Mithila, the importance of power, sacrifice and penance and the glory of knowledge and science have been presented in a systematic manner. Ravindra Narayan Mishra's "Thehapharak Maulayal Gacha" is a peculiar novel based on lived reality. This novel leaves its own unique mark among Maithili literature in terms of situation, environment, characters, plot, dialogue and language style etc.

Amarnath Jha's novel 'Vasanti Priyamvada' is children's literature written in conversation style, in which the rural environment and rural characters have been presented with amazing originality. The subject matter of the novel is so interesting that it compels the reader to read continuously. On one hand, "Vasanti Priyamvada" is a source of inspiration for the younger generation and on the other hand, for the older readers, it is a catalyst for preserving the golden future of the future generation.

Rajdev Prasad Mandal's "Bauki" is a women-oriented social novel. Its story revolves around the female character Vidya Kumari. In this novel, through the character of Bauki (later Vidya Kumari), both the plight and empowerment of women have been highlighted with utmost vividness. In Kamlesh Premendra's "Vachan", the changing social structure and ideological differences and changed beliefs of the new generation have been accepted and presented. But in this the "Line of Lakshman" (Lakshman Rekha) seems to be broken in the discharge of parental responsibilities. Also, natural logic and creation of the proper atmosphere could not be achieved in the dialogue between the characters. At many places in this novel, the reader will experience the creation of a 'cinematic' like atmosphere. But in terms of language craft, dialogue style and character portrayal, it has a special place among Maithili literature. There are many characters in it, like Anish, Dolly, Manish, Jayanti, Bhairav, Jitendra etc. In descriptive style, Deepa Mishra's "Diha", written on a dream basis, repeatedly goes into flash-backs, which is why there is a lack of contemporary events in it. In the novel "Diha", the story of a woman has been presented in the form of an interpolation. The permanent feeling of this novel is mystery, adventure, sensuality, etc. There is a visible lack of sequentiality in its story, which is punctuated by various incidents; Also, a good story has been made uninteresting by adding more salt and pepper than necessary. However, the simple and flowing language of the novel "Diha", published in pocket-book size, gives it uniqueness among Maithili literature.

Apart from this, there is also information about some other novels published in the 21st century, including Namonath's 'Tesar Yuddha' ; Munni Kamat's 'Matik Suvas' ; Umakant's 'Prasthan' ; Chitralekha Devi's

'Kathak Mahadev'; Shubhendu Shekhar's 'O Je Kahio Gam Chhalai'; Ushakiran Khan's 'Anuttarit Prashn', 'Durvakshat', 'Hasina Manjil'; Ashok Kumar Thakur's 'Nishant'; Ramanand Renu's 'Kaljayi'; Pradip Vihari's 'Visuviyas'; Shyam Darihare's 'Jagat Sab Sapana'; Ramlochan Thakur's 'Ayachi Sandhan'(Trans.); Navonath Jha's 'Chaturtha Ayam'; Vibhuti Anand's 'Prem Rag'; Yashodanath Jha's 'Swayamprabha'; Vidyanath Jha 'Vidit's 'Khand-Khand Shrikhand', 'Valohang'; Chandramani's 'Gulari'; Kamalesh Premendra's 'Kiriya'(Children's novel); Virendra Jha's 'Pran', 'Sankalp'; Ushakiran Khan's 'Bal Mahabharat'; Amalendu Shekhar Pathak's 'Jadubala Dhakan'; Maithil Prashant's 'Agnii'; Bandana Jha's 'Pijara'; Nana Kumar Mishra's 'Swarn Kamal'; Ravindra Narayan Mishra's 'Pratibimb', 'Deep Jarait Rahay'; Verna Thakur's 'Hat Bazar' (Trans.); Sachidanand 'Sacchu's 'Lalten Gang'; Vibhuti Anand's. 'Madho Nahi Parinam Nirasa' etc

In the above-mentioned novelistic work "Swayamprabha" by Yashodanath Jha, all three qualities of the story – interestingness, naturalness and dynamism are present. It also shows the spontaneity and originality of the female nature in today's fast-paced life, its specialty is the desire to overcome every obstacle with skill and strong willpower. In "Swayam Prabha", an accurate portrayal of women's struggle has been presented through the sorrow, pain, suffering of the married life of Ranganath and Urmila and the conflict in Urmila's life. Vibhuti Anand's "Madho Nahi Parinam Nirasha" presents new research in Maithili literature. In this, one can easily see the various forms of love. "Madho Nahi Parinam Nirasha" is the first novel in Maithili literature which defines life and culture in its own way. A new discussion of love has been created in this. By analyzing the impact of love on various aspects of life in a new way, opening a new chapter, a new exploration has been invented.

VII. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, we can reach the conclusion that on the one hand, practical realism is found in the Maithili novels of the 21st century, while on the other hand, idealism has also been incorporated. Many novels are filled with the supernatural and wonderful flights of imagination. Now in Maithili

novel- literature, introverted portrayal is often seen to be prominent. The composition of the period under review seems to be based on social relativity and reality. In some novels, a touch of humour, stylistic uniqueness, existentialist approach and predominance of psychoanalysis are also seen. Progressivism, realism, women's discourse, Dalit discourse, coordination of Indo-European work-culture, sensitivity, social inequality, casteism, women empowerment etc. have been the central themes in the novelistic works of the present century. In conclusion, in the 21st century, Maithili novel- literature is continuously increasing its stature, enriching Maithili literature and indicating a bright future. Therefore, the Maithili novelistic work of the period under review can be considered satisfactory.

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