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Journalistic Discourse

ENG - 304

Murder of Metropolis...

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Eقبال احمد (Introduction):

Eقبال احمد (1933 - 11 May 1999) was a Pakistani political activist, writer and academic known for his anti-war activism, his support for resistance movements globally & academic contributions to the study of Near East. Born in Bihar, British India, Ahmad migrated to Pakistan as a child and went on to study economics at the Forman Christian College. After graduating, he worked briefly as an army officer and was wounded in the First Kashmir War in 1948. He participated in the Algerian Revolution, then studied the Vietnam War and U.S. imperialism, becoming an early opponent of the war upon his return to the U.S.

Dervez Hoodbhoy said, warrants of arrest and death sentences were put on Eقبال during successive martial law governments in

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Pakistan. He was indicted in 1971 on charges of conspiring to

Kidnap Henry Kissinger (who was then President Nixon's National Security Advisor), the famous case of Harrisburg Seven. Kabir

Babu called Ahmad "one of the most outstanding thinkers ever to column, for Dawn newspaper."

Eقبال Ahmed was the founding chancellor of the then newly established Textile Institute of Pakistan, a textile-oriented science, design and business-degree-awarding institute.

About Egbal Ahmed.

Egbal Ahmed was a Pakistani political activist, scientist, writer and intellectual known for his insightful analysis of global issues. He was deeply committed to social justice, anti-colonialism and peace activism. Ahmed's writings and speeches often challenged established power structures and advocated for marginalized communities. He was a prolific scholar whose work spanned various topics, including colonialism, imperialism, and Third World Liberation movements.

What is Metropolis?

A metropolis is a large and bustling urban area, typically the main city or hub of a region or country. Metropolises are characterized by their significant population, diverse cultural activities, economic opportunities, and vibrant social life. These cities often serve as centers for commerce, industry, education, and government, attracting people from various backgrounds and contributing to their dynamic nature.

What is Murder of Metropolis?

The murder of metropolis is a figurative concept that represents the destruction or deterioration of the essential qualities that make a city vibrant and livable.

It refers to the decline or degradation of a metropolis due to various factors such as environmental degradation, social unrest, economic collapse or political instability.

It suggests the loss of city's vitality, culture, & quality of life, leading to a decline in its attractiveness & functionality as a thriving urbanity.

Introduction to "Murder of Metropolis".

by Eqbal Ahmed.

Murder of Metropolis was written by Eqbal Ahmad & published in the Pakistani newspaper "Dawn" on 17th July 1994. It delves into the challenges of rapid urbanization in developing countries. It explores how cities, like Karachi, grapple with issues such as environmental degradation, socio-economic inequality and infrastructure shortcomings. The article sheds light on the struggles faced by urban residents & the complexities of managing modern metropolises. Ahmed's work highlights the urgent need for sustainable urban development strategies to address these pressing issues & create livable cities for all.

Summary of the Article:

The article "Murder of Metropolis" by Eqbal Ahmad, describes the deteriorating state of Karachi, Pakistan's

largest city, due to various man-made problems, increased by rapid urbanization upon arrival at the airport, visitors are greeted by foul smells and encounter numerous issues such as stagnant rainwater, uncollected garbage and open manholes, turning the city into a massive sewerage network. Despite the challenges, locals like Mr. Hasan Jafri display resilience amidst the city's atmospheric disaster.

Instances of electrocution, flooded roads and power outages exemplify the city's infrastructure shortcomings & the resilience of its residents. Professionals face significant obstacles in their daily lives, including prolonged power failures hindering work productivity. Despite being a hub for talented individuals, Karachi's potential remains untapped due to systematic inefficiencies & government neglect.

Foreign investors, such as American businessman, express doubts about investing in Pakistan due to infrastructural shortcomings, frequent holidays, & law enforcement issues. Amidst Karachi's challenges, the city's cultural & social dynamics come to the fore. Despite its vibrant diversity, Karachi grapple with sectarian violence, political instability, and cultural erosion, complicating efforts to foster social cohesion and unity.

Themes of the Article:

Following are the main themes observed in the article.

1 Urban decay & infrastructure challenges:

Karachi like many rapidly growing cities, faces issues within its infrastructure. This includes flooded roads, open manholes, and uncollected garbage. These problems make it difficult for people to move around and live comfortably in the city.

2 Poor Sewage system & environmental degradation:

Karachi's inadequate sewage system contributes to environmental pollution & public health hazards. The city's struggle with waste management and water pollution poses significant challenges to its residents' well-being.

3 Socio-economic struggles & inequality:

In Karachi, there is a big gap between rich and poor. Some people live in nice neighborhoods with good schools and hospitals, while others live in crowded and polluted areas with few services. This inequality makes life harder for those who are less well-off.

4 Resilience & Adaptability of Residents:

Despite the challenges, people in Karachi show resilience.

They learn to live with the problems and find ways

to keep going, like Mr. Hasan Jafri, who remains positive despite the city's issues.

5 Governance and Systematic Failures:

Karachi problems are not just bcz of bad luck. There are also issues with how the city is managed. The govt doesn't always do a good job for providing services or fixing problems like flooding and garbage collection.

6 Perception & Doubts of Foreign Investors:

Foreign investors, like the American businessman in the article, are hesitant to invest in Karachi bcz of its problems. They worry about the city's infrastructure, govt. stability, and whether their investments will be safe.

7 Literacy Rate and Educational Infrastructure:

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Karachi's literacy rate and educational infrastructure play crucial role in shaping its social and economic dynamics. Access to quality education and opportunities for skill development are essential for addressing socio-economic disparities and fostering inclusive growth.

8 Public Health and Healthcare Access:

Karachi's healthcare system faced challenges related accessibility, affordability, and quality of care. Adequate healthcare services and infrastructures are essential for addressing public health.

concerns and improving over-all well-being.

Rhetorical Devices used in the Article:

Following are rhetorical devices used in the article.

1 Imagery: The author utilizes vivid descriptions to paint a picture of Karachi's environmental degradation, such as "foul and pungent smell" and "knee-knee flooded roads". This imagery evokes a sensory experience for the reader, emphasizing the severity of the city's challenges.

2 Anecdote:

The anecdote about Mr. Hasan Jafri's resilience in the face of Karachi's environmental disaster serves to humanize the narrative, and highlight the adaptability of the city's residents amidst adversity.

3 Hyperbole (Exaggeration):

The author employs hyperbole language to emphasize the magnitude of Karachi's problems, such as referring to the city as the "world's largest sewage network", and "One hundred and twenty-nine days". This exaggeration underscores the severity of the environmental issues plaguing Karachi.

4 Irony:

The article employs irony to highlight the discrepancy between

Karachi's potential & its current state of neglect. For example,

The article discusses how Karachi, despite being a magnet for talented individuals, remains plagued by systemic inefficiencies and govt. neglect.

5. Dialogue:

The inclusion of dialogue b/w characters, such as the

conversation with Mr. Hasan Jafri and the American

businessman, adds depth and authenticity to the narrative.

These dialogue provide insight into the perspectives of

various stakeholders and contribute to the overall narrative

6. Alliteration:

The repetition of consonant sounds in phrases like Siagnani

rainwater, uncollected garbage, and disgorging open manholes

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adds rhythm and emphasis to the description of Karachi's

environmental challenges

7. Analogy:

The comparison b/w Karachi's struggle and chocolate issue

facing Pakistan serves as an analogy to underscore the

city's significance as a microcosm of the country's

socio-political landscape.

8 Understatement:

The author employs understatement to downplay the severity of Karachi's challenges at times.

For Example: when Mr. Hasan Jafri mentions the pervasive smell, he relaxedly remarks **One gets used to it.** This understatement contrasts with the reality of the situation, emphasizing the resilience and adaptability of Karachi's residents.

Analysis:

In this writing Egbal Ahmad talks about the issues of Karachi. He stated that the govt. and other organizations have made Karachi a hell on the earth. Karachi is the biggest city and economic hub of Pakistan. It was formed as the capital of the country in 1947 after independence. Due to its charm, advance structure and sea port, people from all over the country migrate to Karachi to get quality education and employment. As everything is available in the city. As Karachi is the city of huge population, there are numerous problems exist. We will discuss few of them below.

1. Traffic and Transport issues:

The number of the buses in the city are very low as compared to the population. As a result, people face severe difficulty in traveling from one location to the other. Apart from this, traffic police does not play its role with honesty and not found in areas while traffic jams issues are common.

2 Water Shortage Problem:

This is one of the biggest issue. Karachites have to wait even for a month to get the water from Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB). Even KWSB charges people every month but the quality of service is very bad. There is no way to lodge a complaint against the KWSB and its staff. People are helpless in the city.

3 Power Breakdown:

K Electric is the sole power supply company in Karachi. Due to its monopoly, it does not take care of the people. Power Breakdown is very common due to inefficiency of the management. People face several hours of load shedding despite they pay heavy amount of bills every month. The bills are sent mostly in average basis. This is totally injustice with the people of Karachi who already pay a huge amount of tax every year on their income.

y Broken Roads: The roads and bridges are not in good situations. You will find several cracks on the roads. This causes a lot of accidents every day. Govt levies various type of tax such as vehicle tax, property tax and provincial taxes but their usage for the public is almost zero. The corruption in Govt department is high. As a result, how quality raw material is used in the construction of roads. When rain comes, all constructed roads get demolished within few hours.

Conclusion:

Ahmed's analysis is both a warning and a call to action, urging policy makers, urban planners and citizens to recognize the intrinsic value of the metropolis and fight for its survival. Through his essay Ahmed challenges us to recognize the city not just as a space for living and working, but as a shared project of collective hope and resilience.

✓ Themes

✓ Analysis

✓ Rhetorical Devices