

Assignment-2

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Question 1- नीचे लिखे बिंदुओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए निर्मल वर्मा की कहानी 'परिन्दे' और मंटो की कहानी 'टोबा टेक सिंह' में तुलनात्मक अध्ययन कीजिए।

Subject Matter

1. Parinde by Nirmal Verma explores the emotional and psychological turmoil of two individuals, particularly focusing on a couple who are emotionally disconnected. The story is introspective, delving into the inner worlds of the characters, highlighting their feelings of isolation and inability to express themselves. The characters are introspective, dealing with their own internal conflicts, emotions, and sense of loneliness. We can see that Verma's narrative explores the complexities of human relationships. The author has used the word 'parinde' as a metaphor to symbolize the restlessness in the characters's life. Settingwise the story is set in a hilly area and all the characters are working in a school cum hostel in that locality. The main character is Ms Latika who is experiencing loneliness after the death of her love interest (Captain Negi).
2. Toba Tek Singh by Manto is set in a mental asylum amidst the India Pakistan partition in 1947. The story shows the madness and confusion that ensued, focusing on the plight of inmates in a mental asylum who are to be exchanged between India and Pakistan. Through the protagonist, Bishan Singh, Manto explores the absurdity of borders and the deep psychological scars left by political decisions. The story underscores the futility of the partition and questions the meaning of identity and belonging when entire nations are torn apart. The asylum represents a world turned upside down, where the so-called "madmen" seem more rational than the political leaders who drew the new borders. The ambiguity surrounding Bishan Singh's village, Toba Tek Singh, being on one side of the border or the other, further emphasizes the

absurdity of the situation. The setting plays a crucial role in highlighting the theme of displacement and confusion.

Inherent Questions Raised

1. Parinde- One of the central questions that arises is about the nature of **human existence and emotional isolation**. The characters in *Parinde* seem to struggle with the inability to connect deeply with one another, despite being physically close. This raises the question that what prevents people from forming genuine bonds even when they are longing for a good connection? Another question concerns the characters' **search for meaning and fulfillment**. Their lives seem adrift, much like the birds that symbolize their restlessness. As a reader one might wonder: What constitutes a fulfilling life? Can this fulfillment be found through relationships, or is it something one must discover internally? The tone of the story also shows that **loneliness might be inevitable** part of our lives. At some point in our lives, we may feel like we are internally/emotionally dead but living physically without any emotions and it is very straining mentally.
2. Toba Tek Singh by Manto- One of the main questions raised in Toba Tek Singh is about the **arbitrary nature of political borders**. As a reader, I thought what is the meaning of borders when they can divide people who have lived together for centuries? Does geography truly determine one's identity? This raises questions about the nature of sanity and madness: **Who is truly mad**—the patients in the asylum or the politicians and leaders who drew arbitrary lines on a map, leading to violence and displacement? Through the character of Bishan Singh, Manto raises deep **questions about identity and belonging**. Singh's confusion about whether his village, Toba Tek Singh, is in India or Pakistan symbolizes the disorientation that many people felt during partition. The story is an excellent example to show the **human cost of partition**—the pain, confusion and trauma felt by those who were displaced. The story also raises questions about the **powerlessness of any common man** in front of the government. Bishan Singh's refusal to leave the border, choosing to die in no-man's land, highlights the tragic irony of those who had no control over the events that shaped their lives.

Language

1. Parinde- Nirmal Verma's language in *Parinde* is **introspective, and poetic**. His writing is marked by a subtle and **understated tone**, using simple yet evocative words that **mirror the emotional depth and complexity** of his characters. Verma's use of **metaphor and symbolism** like "**girta hua har pause, ek chhoti si maut ki tarah tha'**". Verma's language also employs vivid imagery, allowing readers to feel the cold, distant setting while simultaneously reflecting the emotional coldness between the characters.
2. Toba tek singh by Manto- Manto's language is **sharp, direct, and often satirical**. His style is known for its brevity and clarity, as he does not dwell on elaborate descriptions but rather uses simple, **straightforward language** to convey deep and complex themes. The dialogue in the story is colloquial, capturing the realistic speech of ordinary people, particularly the inmates in the asylum. The tone of the story is both **tragic and ironic**. His concise prose powerfully conveys the sense of confusion, loss, and disorientation felt by the characters, leaving a lasting emotional impact on the reader.

Style

Nirmal Verma's style in *Parinde* is **introspective, symbolic, and fragmented**, focusing on the **emotional depth** of his characters. He uses subtle gestures and metaphors, particularly birds, to explore themes of alienation and emotional disconnection. The narrative is non-linear, leaving gaps for the reader to fill in, which reflects the internal fragmentation of the characters.

In contrast, Manto's style in *Toba Tek Singh* is realistic, satirical, and direct. He uses irony and dark humor to critique the absurdity of partition, depicting the chaos of the event through the setting of a mental asylum. Manto's straightforward storytelling exposes the irrationality of political decisions and their tragic human consequences.

Question 2-

This statement points out a special feature of Nirmal Verma's writing. The critic suggests that the clear and expressive nature of Verma's prose isn't because he deliberately uses poetic techniques. Instead, these qualities naturally come from the depth and smoothness of his writing. Nirmal Verma's prose combines

elements of poetry and regular storytelling. His writing describes scenes and emotions in such detail that it deeply affects the reader. One of his strengths is using simple words to express complex feelings.

Example: In his story *Parinde*, Verma vividly shows the emotional struggles of his characters. His choice of words and the way he structures sentences create a feeling similar to poetry. For example, when describing the characters' feelings, his writing is as clear and powerful as poetry.

Verma believed that good prose should naturally include poetic elements. This is clear in his stories, where the beauty and depth of poetry blend seamlessly with prose. His writing shows that poetry and prose can work together, enhancing the overall reading experience.

We can illustrate Nirmal Verma's use of poetic elements such as "अभिधा" "लक्षणा" , and "व्यंजना" with examples from his writing:

1. अभिधा :

- **Examples:** "अँधियारे गलियों में", "दरवाज़ा खटखटाया".
- **Explanation:** These phrases use direct, **literal language** to describe everyday actions and settings. For instance, "अँधियारे गलियों में" straightforwardly describes dark alleys, while "दरवाज़ा खटखटाया" simply means knocking on a door. This use of **अभिधा** helps in conveying routine activities clearly and effectively.

2. लक्षणा :

- **Examples:** "लैंप की बत्ती बढ़ा दी", "हँसी की फुहार एक कोने में दूसरे कोने तक फैल गई".
- **Explanation:** These examples use language that goes **beyond the literal to convey deeper meanings**. "लैंप की बत्ती बढ़ा दी" not only describes turning up the lamp's light but also suggests creating a warmer or more inviting atmosphere. "हँसी की फुहार" (a burst of laughter) describes laughter spreading throughout a space, engaging readers and adding a layer of richness to the scene.

3. व्यंजना :

- **Examples:** "लति का ठिठक गई", "दीवार का सहारा लेकर उसने लैंप की बत्ती बढ़ा दी".

- **Explanation:** These phrases **imply more than what is literally stated**. "लति का ठिठक गई" suggests hesitation or a pause filled with emotion, while "दीवार का सहारा लेकर उसने लैंप की बत्ती बढ़ा दी" implies a sense of tiredness or support while adjusting the lamp's light. The use of **व्यंजना** adds depth and nuance to the narrative, enriching the characters and mood with subtle, underlying meanings.