

## **Postmodern Techniques in the Select Plays of Badal Sircar**

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Badal Sircar is a renowned postmodern writer who used collage technique in his theatrical as well as the literary texts. He says that by using collage he could relate various socio-political and economic issues at a one stretch that haunt the Indian society. Moreover, he has not only created awareness but also invented his own theatre company called *Satabdi* in 1967. He coined the term “third theatre” and he took his insights from Safdar Hashmi, the pioneer of street theatre movement and also from Western theatre practitioners as well. He is not only a well-known playwright; he is also performer and directed many numerous plays. Being a Bengali middle class, he got his scholarships from University and with that scholarship he visited many foreign countries and with that insight, he came to India and formed his own theatre for the welfare of the subalterns in India. Apart from the tall claims he run his theatre with free of cost. He is not only a simple man in his altitudes and also insisted his performers to use simple costumes and considers human body as the vital source of his plays.

**Keywords:** Badal Sircar, Postmodernism, Collage, Third Theatre, Performance, Costumes.

Badal Sircar is a renowned postmodern writer who used collage technique in his theatrical as well as the literary texts. He says that by using collage he could relate various socio-political and economic issues at a one stretch that haunt the Indian society. Moreover, he has not only created awareness but also invented his own theatre company called *Satabdi* in 1967. He coined the term “third theatre” and he took his insights from Safdar Hashmi, the pioneer of street theatre movement and also from Western theatre practitioners as well. He is not only a well-known playwright; he is also performer and directed many numerous plays. Being a Bengali middle class, he got his scholarships from University and with that scholarship he visited many foreign countries and with that insight, he came to India and formed his own theatre for the welfare of the subalterns in India. Apart from the tall claims he run his theatre with free of cost. He is not only a simple man in his altitudes and also insisted his performers to use simple costumes and considers human body as the vital source of his plays.

Badal Sircar in his introduction to the Two Plays: *Indian History Made Easy* and *Life of Bagala*, says that the readers have to catch the connecting thread that lies between the play to comprehend his plays. A close reading of the text is needed and each and every play there is a social message for the audience. Even more some of his plays are open-ended. Sircar's *Indian History Made Easy* the title itself is vivid it narrates the history of India, in between the narration of colonial struggle, Sircar introduces the Hindu carnivals which took place in Bengal. This seems to be uncanny for a reader who reads Sircar.

His next play *Stale News* is the best illustration and one could witness Sircar's artistic skills of using collage. The play portrays the predicaments of Santhals (tribes) at the hands of colonial powers. While the narrating the revolts of Santhals, he discusses of the famous Hindu revolutionary leaders and patriots of Bengal like the great Raja Ram Mohan Raj, Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore to highlight their contribution towards nation's progress. In between he gives a statistical data of those who are under poverty line and also of bond labour who works for a four rupee a day. The play starts with the character One teaches a nursery lessons to a child then followed by the child's adulthood where the man/women learns their own courses and finally followed by the old age where the person becomes sick and dies. At the end of the play, he gives the message that until unless there is a revolution change could not come towards the progress of the nation.

Sircar's *Evam Indrajit* depicts the life of Indrajit who is born free but everywhere he is in the chains. Some Men are born free and caught up by the taboos of the society. In the play, the writer says that life is routine that is School- College- Job- Marriage- Children and again the process is repeated. This is play is not an example of collage but a perfect illustration of a Bengali middle class who struggles to come up in life beyond all the social evils. Hence, Sircar make use of collage technique is unique in Indian drama. He not only proved his artistic skill in literary texts but in through street theatre performances also.

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