

Travelogues of America in Urdu Language: Trends and Tradition

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ABSTRACT

There are various trends in American travelogue writing in Urdu language. Travelers visited this country and described their experiences and traveling routines in their own styles. Main focus of traveling was at cities of New York and Washington. They included their traveling reports of meetings, conferences courses and their activities in America. They also described history and interesting features of this country. All this information is interesting and useful for the readers of these travelogues.

KEYWORDS: Urdu short story, Urdu fiction, Urdu short story technique, Urdu short story history, Urdu Novel

1. INTRODUCTION

America is an important country of the world and it always influences world politics and economy. Due to its importance, travelers from all over the world showed their tendency to visit this country. These travelers write their experiences in the form of travelogues after their tours. Writers of Urdu language have written very interesting and informative travelogues of America.

2. URDU TRAVELOGUES OF AMERICA

In a large number of American travelogues in Urdu there many travelogues which contain information purely about America, while many of them are combined travelogues of America and other countries. Here is a description of the Urdu travelogues about American cities.

2.1. SEAT BELT BY AFTAB IQBAL

It is travelogue of light mode in Urdu language. Aftab Iqbal has written this travelogue for the purpose of pure entertainment and refreshment. This travelogue is about the visits of city of Washington of America and city of London of England. He went there for the purpose of education. He also studied the life of and culture of these cities by his observation and experiences and included this in his travelogue. There is a light touch of humor and in his writing. He has also given an introduction of culture and civilization of America and England and described history and politics of these areas (Iqbal, 1990).

2.2. DUNYA GOL HAY BY IBN E INSHA

Ibn e Insha is a famous travelogue writer of Urdu language which is known by his humours style of writing. He has written many important travelogues in Urdu which are: 'Nagri Nagri Phira Musafir', 'Dunya Gol Hay', 'Chaltay Ho Tu Chin Ko Chaliey', 'Ibn e Batota Ky Taaqub Main', 'Awara Gard Ki Dairy'. He traveled in these countries during 1966 to 1970. American city of San Francisco was visited by him. Other countries of world visited by him in this tour were Philippine, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, England and France. He has written his traveling daily routines and staying information in this travelogue. Administrative and political situations of these countries are also included. Cartoons and pictures of different events are also published in this travelogue (Insha, 1985).

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2.3. SAHIL AUR SAMANDAR BY SYED EHTASHAM HUSSAIN

Syed Ehtsham Hussain traveled in America and England during the year 1952. This visit was for fellowship of Rockefeller foundation. He described the events of his visit and difficulties during his travel. He described in detail the situation of libraries in America and England. He there visited educational institutions and educational system and included in his travelogue the information and his comments on it. He had written about visit to different places there briefly (Hussain, 1954).

2.4. MUSAFIR KI DAIRY BY KHAWJA AHMED ABBAS

Khawja Ahmed Abbas visited many countries of the world in 1937. These countries are: Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Canada, America, France, England, Germany, Turkey and Iraq. It was a recreation visit. He visited there places containing natural beauty, night clubs, cultural places, political events, historical places. He also described international political influences on the politics of these areas (Ahmed Abbas, 1940).

2.5. DHANAK PAR QADAM BY BEGUM AKHTAR RIAZ UD DIN

Begum Akhtar Riaz ud Din has written two important travelogues of Urdu Language i.e. ‘Saat Samandar Par’ and ‘Dhanak Par Qadam’ (Akhtar Riyaz ud Din, 1976). She is writer of her own style. She has visited countries of this travelogue with her husband and children. Visited countries are Hawaii, England, America and Hong Kong. This not the story of a single visit but they went to these countries in different times for the purpose of education and job. She has created humor in this travelogue by presenting different events in her interesting style. She has also presented social life and culture of these areas, especially daily routine of the people of these places is included. She has given psychological analysis of the people and their relations with one another. In her travelogue ‘Saat Samandar Par’ (Akhtar Riaz ud Din, 1983), she has also presented details of her visit of America, Japan, Russia, Egypt and England. Writing style of her second travelogue is same as in her first travelogue.

2.6. SER O SAFAR BY BAGUM AKHTAR RIYAZ SHEIKH

She visited with her husband many countries of the world for the purpose of business. She traveled with him as his secretary. They visited china, Hong Kong, East Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Switzerland, France, Western Germany, England, Turkey, Iran, Syria, Poland, Yugoslavia, Italy, America and Canada. Period of this visit was 1968. They visited different rubber factories and attended business conference there. This travelogue contains description of the visits and conference reports. She has written in the form of diary the daily routine of this business trip. They also visited important public places and places of natural beauty there (Akhtar Riaz Sheikh, 1981).

2.7. AJAIBAT E AMERICA BY MUNSHI ALLAH DAT

It is travelogue of America containing details of the Munshi Allah Dat’s visit to this area. He was a hunter, so his field of interest was the life of forests and animals living there. He described his hunting in the forests of America and had given details of hunting points in these forests. He also described lifestyle of hunters and their hunting techniques. It is a very useful travelogue for those who have got interest in hunting and want to know about hunting techniques and forest life. Especially American forest life no more remains strange after reading this travelogue (Afaqi, Ajaibat e Farang, 1995).

2.8. SHEHR DAR SHEHR BY AMJAD ISLAM AMJAD

It is traveling report of two different literary tours of many countries. In first tour Parveen Shakir and Jamil ud Din Aali were with the writer, while in second tour Atta ul Haq Qasmi accompanied him. They took part in literary meeting there and included reports of these meetings in his travelogue. He met different literary personalities of these areas and described discussions with them. Visited countries were: France, Canada, America and India. Writer’s sense of humor also reveals in this travelogue (Amjad, 1988).

2.9. AMERICA MAIN 90 DIN BY DR. A.R. KHALID

He visited American areas of Virginia, Florida and Washington. He criticizes on the life style and behavior of the people of these areas. This visit was due to invitation of American Government. He had written introduction of different universities of America. He described his meetings with the personalities from the different fields of life. He also discussed American politics and its pros and cons. He studied American life and living styles with his deep sense of observation and made it a part of his travelogue (Khalid, 1992).

2.10. BARAH E RAST BY BUSHRA REHMAN

Bushra Rehman is a well known literary personality of Urdu. Her travelogue 'Barah e Rast' has an important literary travelogue of Urdu language. She visited Rome city of Italy, Paris of France, Washington of America, London of England and Toronto of Canada. Her style of writing is very interesting and heart touching. She visited these cities with a pure tourist point of view. She highlighted social and cultural values of visited countries. Her beautiful writing style attracts the readers (Rehman, 1983).

2.11. BEHR E ZULMAT SY AGAY BY BILQEES RIAZ

She visited Scotland, Paris of France, New York and Washington of America and Canada, with her husband and children. Her style of writing is simple, clear and straightforward. They stayed with relatives in this tour, so she discussed her relations with them. She visited beautiful natural and historical places with her family there and described details of this visit in her travelogue. A unique aspect of this travelogue is this that she has writing in detail about her shopping activities during this tour (Riaz B. , 1994).

2.12. SAFAR GASHT BY PARTU ROHILA

It is a light mode travelogue of Partu Rohila in which he has given the details of his visit to America. He visited Washington and Los Angeles there. His style is humorous and he attempted to create interest by presenting the events of his travel in a humorous way. He discussed American culture and life style. He visited different universities there and has given information about these universities in his travelogue. He also reviewed problems of American society in travelogue (Rohila, 1991).

2.13. MODERN COLUMBUS BY JAVED IQBAL CARTOONIST

Javed Iqbal is a famous cartoonist of Pakistan. His cartoons are regularly published in different news papers. In his cartoons he criticizes behavior of society and politics in a humorous way. This style can also be seen in his travelogue 'Modern Columbus'. This is the travelogue of Kuwait, France, England, Canada and America. He visited public, historical and natural places there met people from different fields of life and described all these events in his own style. It is very interesting travelogue and gives a lot of entertainment to its readers (Iqbal Cartoonist, 1989).

2.14. AWARGI BY JEVED DANISH

Javed Danish traveled to America, England and France in 1982. He has written his observations of visit in a simple and informative style. He gives information about politics, administration, history, culture, education and daily life of visited areas. He also gives his own point of view about society and its behaviors. In his travelogue we see domination of his eastern thought (Danish, 1987).

2.15. TAMASHA MERE AGAY BY JAMIL UD DIN AALI

This travelogue is about the visit of the countries, Western Germany, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, France and America. Its writer is famous personality of Urdu literature, Jamil ud Din Aali. In his travelogue has included information of different kinds with his simple and interesting style. He introduced the culture of these areas and literary life there. A touch of humor and lightness is also present. He described his visit in detail. It is really a good literary travelogue of Urdu language (Aali, 1954).

2.16. DHOOP KINARA BY JAMIL ZUBAIRI

He visited America and other countries along with her wife. They went to London city of England, New York and Atlanta of America and Montreal, Toronto and Niagara of Canada. Writing style of this travelogue is very light and heart touching. He described the details of this visit and his experience in an interesting way. He stayed with many people in these countries, so he also narrated the behavior of those people with them. He also included different information about these countries (Zubairi, 1981).

2.17. DES BADES BY G ALANA

G Alana traveled to America to participate in International Labour Organization annual conference. He was a part of a large delegation visiting for the said conference. He visited American cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. This travelogue is a detail report of the conference but he has also included his visit to different places beside this conference. Especially he mentioned the activities of night clubs, cinema halls and different public gathering places in interesting style. The part of this travelogue is more interesting in which he mentioned his company with his friends, especially girl friends (Alana).

2.18. DUNYA KI SER BY HAJJI HAIDER ALI KHAN

Hajji Haider Ali Khan traveled in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, China, Japan, South Africa, Germany, England, Hawaii and America. This travelogue is a commentary of this travel. He went to beautiful natural places and described them in his travelogue in such a way which really catches reader's emotions. He also described history of historical places visited by him (Ali Khan, 1963).

2.19. SHOQ MERA HAMSAFAR BY DAOD TAHIR

It was a study tour in which travelogue writer participated in a training course of Los Angeles Institute for Tax Administration. He also visited other countries and their main cities during this visit. Year of his visit was 1989. He included information about his course as well as different areas he visited. He also described his visit of important places and detail of his company with friends during this visit (Tahir, 1996).

2.20. BAR SABEL E SAFAR BY RIAZ AHMED RIAZ

Riaz Ahmed Riaz visited New York, Niagara Fall and London along with his friend Ch. Muhammad Hussain. His style of writing is very beautiful. He especially worked to select beautiful words for his writing style. His narration style is clear and obvious. He describes environment of visited places beautifully (Riaz A. R., 1982).

2.21. HAEY AMERICA BAEY AMERICA BY REHAN AZHAR

He visited New York City in 1980 for the purpose of his job. It is information and entertainment bearing travelogue. He described in detail the problems of the people going to that country for job and business in America. He included many real stories of such persons. There are many cartoons in this travelogue which explain the situation of foreigners in that country (Azhar, 1993).

2.22. LINCOLN KY WATAN MAIN BY SHARIF FAROOQ

Sharif Farooq visited America on the invitation for Leadership Program. He also went to London during this visit. His visit duration 1958. He has written his traveling experiences in this travelogue. He highlighted lifestyle, educational system and foreign policy of America in detail. He also introduced economical situation of the country, economical trends and condition of different institution in this respect. Reports of different press conferences are also a part of this travelogue (Farooq, 1960).

There are a large number of travelogues of America which are important to understand this country. These are: 'America aur Americi' by S. Zia Haider (Haider, 1988), 'Ser e Farang' by Khawja Abdul Rashid (Abdul Rashid, 1983), 'Aik Sanwla Goron Ky Des Mian' by Arsh Temori (Tamoori, 1962), 'Yeh America Hay' by Aziz Beig (Beig), 'Shoq e Awargi' by Atta ul Haq Qasmi (Qasmi, 1994), 'Ajaebat e Frang' and 'Daikh Lia America' by Ali Sufian Afaqi (Afaqi, Dekh Lia America), 'Dunya Mera Gaon' by Khawja Ghulam us Syedain (Ghulam us Syedain,

1985), 'Niklay Shouq e Safar Par' by Ghulam Abbas Wariech (Waraich, 1994), 'Gardish Main Paon' by Fakhar Zaman (Zaman), 'Credit Card' by Dr. Farkhanda Jali (Jali, 1992), 'Safar Hy Shart' by Kousar Niazi (Niazi, 1992).

SUMMARY

America is the most important country of the world. This is why a large number of Urdu speaking travelers visited this country for different purposes. Many of them have written travelogues in Urdu language. These travelogues have a great importance to understand civilization, politics, educational system, history and other aspects of America. Every writer has his own style of writing, so this the cause of versatility in these travelogues.

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