

Travelogues of Russia in Urdu Language: Trends and Tradition

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ABSTRACT

Russia is an important country of two continents, Asia and Europe. It was the second most powerful country of the world in past times. Because it is a nearby country of Pakistan so many travelers visit it for educational and other purposes. In Urdu language there are a large number of travelogues about Russia. These travelogues have numerous trends of writing style. Most of the travelogues have a stock of information about different fields of life. Some have a literary touch and interesting elements for the entertainment of the readers. Travelogues about Russia add their importance to the tradition of Urdu travelogue writing.

KEYWORDS: Urdu Literature, Urdu Travelogue, Urdu Travelogues of Russia, Urdu Travelogue trends,

1. INTRODUCTION

Russia is a neighbour country of Pakistan. It has a great influence on the politics and economy of this region. Pakistani delegations visit Russia every year on official and private basis. Many individuals also visit this country due to business and educational purposes. It's relation with Pakistan fluctuates by the passage of time. Many of the Urdu travelogues describe these relations and foreign policies of both the countries. These travelogues help people of these areas to understand life style, culture and social life of Russia.

2. URDU TRAVELOGUES OF RUSSIA

Russia remained an attractive country for Urdu travelogue writers. After visiting this country travelers described their experiences in the form of informative and literary travelogues. Most of these travelogues are completely about the visit of Russia, while some have details of other countries visit also. Detail of important travelogues of Russia in Urdu language is being given here.

2.1. NAGRI NAGRI PHIRA MUSAFIR BY IBNE INSHA

.Ibne Insha is a famous writer of Urdu language. Ha has written many important travelogues in Urdu. His travelogues are: 'Ibne e Batota Ky Taaqub Main', 'Nagri Nagri Phira Musafir', 'Chaltay Ho Tu Chin Ko Chaliey', 'Awara Gard Ki Dairy', 'Dunya Gol Hay'. He visited a large number of countries of the world. In his travelogue 'Nagri Nagri Phira Musafir', he described the details of his visits of Japan, England and Russia. His writing style has uniqueness and is totally different from the other travelogues of Urdu. His travelogues have complete information about visited places but his style of information writing is not boring. He gives humour touch to every event and every sentence of his writing, which makes his travelogue very interesting for its readers. In this travelogue most of the part is about the visit of Japan but the Russian part of visit has also its importance due to information about this country and its writing style (Insha, 1989).

2.2. ROOS MAIN AATH DIN BY EHSAAN B.A.

In this travelogue he described his visit to Russia with the President of Pakistan Ayoob Khan in April 1965. His toured sites were Masco, Leningrad and Tashkent. He described in detail the relations of Russia with Pakistan. He also discussed the causes of the progress of this country and the role of its system in this progress. Politics of Russia is also major part of this travelogue. He visited historical places and described their historical background in his

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travelogue. He has given a detailed report of the tour of the President of Pakistan and highlighted the warm welcome given to him during this visit (Ehsaan).

2.3. SAAT SAMANDAR PAR BY BEGUM AKHTAR RIAZ UD DIN

Begum Akhtar Riaz ud Din visited Russia and other countries with her husband and children. In this visit, their visited cities were Masco and Leningrad of Russia, Tokyo of Japan, Cairo of Egypt, London of England and New York of America. She discussed cultural, moral, social and ethical background of the visited areas. She also included political information in her travelogue. She visited important tourism points with her family and included their description in a very light mode of writing (Akhtar Riaz ud Din, Saat Samandar Par, 1983).

2.4. SAMARQAND O BUKHARA KI KHONEIN SARGUZASHT BY AZAM HASHMI

He traveled in Russian areas during 1931. It is his story of migration. He traveled in the regions of Samarqand and Bukhara and observed very worse situation and bloodshed in the territory. This travelogue has a style of fiction and story writing. He faced very sever circumstances during his journey. This travelogue is a terrible adventure of a certain period of Russian history (Hashmi A. , 1970).

2.5. DUNYA MERE AGAY BY JAMIL UD DIN AALI

This travelogue of Jamil ud Din Aali was published in Daily Jang in many episodes. He visited many countries of the world and described his visit's detail in a simple and literary manner. He visited Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, India, England, France and Egypt. His visit to Russia comprises visit of cities Masco, Leningrad and Ashkhabad. He included in it information of historical, geographical, social, political and cultural nature. His writing style is light and humourous. He has narrated cheap manners of European civilization in a very bitter tune (Aali, 1984).

2.6. HARAY SAMANDRON KA SAFAR BY HASSAN RIZVI

It is travelogue of Russia, England, Norway and Germany. Purpose of this travelogue was the participation in different kinds of activates related to literature, culture and art. His style of writing is very simple. He introduced public life of visited areas. He has also written the reports of his participation in different functions and conferences. He met poets and other literary personalities. His talks with the people of different fields of life are very interesting and informative (Rizvi, 1995).

2.7. DEYAR E SOBHE BAHAR BY HUMAIR HASHMI

Humair Hashmi visited cities Masco and Leningrad of Russia along with regions of Tashkent, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan. His wife Munaza was with her, which is the daughter of Faiz Ahmed Faiz. They traveled for making movie on the life of Faiz Ahmed Faiz and stayed there for a month. They visited places worth seeing, of these areas. They arranged meetings with the literary personalities and friends of Faiz Ahmed Faiz and noted their expressions about this famous poet of Urdu language. The detail about educational system of Russia is also included in the travelogue and writer's comments about this system are valuable (Hashmi H. , 1989).

2.8. MAIN NAY ROOS MAIN KIA DEKHA BY ENGINEER SHAH MEHMOOD KHAN

He went to Russia and spent there about six years for educational purposes. Beginning of his journey was in 1970. The writer of this travelogue belongs to Afghanistan. He described social evils of Russian society with courage. Cultural and social background of these areas is also included in the travelogue in detail. He also discussed religion and politics of visited territories. We observe feelings of a true Muslim in his writing (Mehmood Khan, 1988).

2.9. QISA MERE SAFAR KA BY DR. SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

He visited Russia as a head of Urdu department. His main interest in traveling remained Urdu literature, so mostly he has written information about literature and art. He included introductory sketches of different personalities related to art and literature. He introduced 'Firdausi library' and its organization. This travelogue has great importance as a literary and historical document (Shakeel ur Rehman, 1976).

2.10. MERI ROOS YATRA BY SHOUKAT USMANI

He traveled towards Russia, when he was not permitted to stay in Afghanistan. He covered this journey from Afghanistan to Russia on foot. He faced many problems during his journey and remained in prisons of different areas. He described social life and life style of women and formers of these regions. He has a negative attitude about leaders of India (Usmani).

2.11. SAFAR E MASCO BY TUFAIL AHMED KHAN

Tufail Ahmed Khan traveled to Masco and Leningrad cities of Russia in April 1952 with a delegation of Pakistani personalities. They participated in International Economic Conference at Masco. In his travelogue Tufail Ahmed Khan described about culture and civilization of Russia, its arts and literature and economic condition. Activities of the said delegation are included in the travelogue (Ahmed Khan, 1953).

2.12. LENINGRAD TA SAMARQAND BY ISHRAT ALI SADIQI

The visited cities of Russia were Leningrad and Masco in this travelogue. He described daily life routine of the visited cities. Russian administration system has also been discussed. He put a philosophical and social light on the system of Russia. Every day life of Russia is discussed in detail (Sadiqi).

2.13. GARDISH MAIN PAON BY FAKHAR ZAMAN

This travelogue consists of writer's different visits of many countries. He visited Sweden, Russia, America, Hungary, Canada, Holland, Austria, England and France. He described social, cultural and political conditions of the visited areas. It is an informative travelogue containing information about different aspects of life of Russia and other areas of the world (Zaman).

2.14. MAHO SAAL ASHNAI BY FAIZ AHMED FAIZ

This is the story of different journeys of Faiz Ahmed Faiz to Russia. He has written his experiences and feelings of these visits in a very beautiful style. He participated in international conferences of writers and wrote his conversation with different writers of the world in his travelogue. Poetry of Faiz Ahmed Faiz and translation of the poetry of Russian poets is also included in it. Pictures of different areas of Russia are also present there (Faiz, 1981).

2.15. KOH QAF KAY DES MAIN BY KOUSAR NIAZI

He visited Russia on the invitation of Nodasti Press Agency and Muslim Religious Board. He highlighted culture, geography, history, religion of the visited areas. He also described life style and behavior of the people of Russia. He also analyzed the politics and foreign policy of Russia and discussed relations between Russia and Pakistan and their opinions on Afghan issue (Niazi, 1988).

2.16. MAVRA UL BAAR BY HAKEEM MUHAMMAD SAEED

Hakeem Muhammad Saeed has written many informative travelogues of Urdu language. In this travelogue he described his visit to America, Russia, Canada, England and Germany. His duration of visit was 30 May to 25 June 1988. In the style of diary writing he included his daily routine of journey, detail of his participation in medical conferences and his meetings with different personalities. Description of medical, educational and scientific institutions is also included (Saeed, 1990).

2.17. KHUL JA GUM SUM BY NAJMA IFTIKHAR RAJA

She traveled Masco, Bukhara, Tashkent and Kremlin in Russia with her husband and children in 1991. The visited different historical and natural beauty places. In the travelogue she also narrated her conversation with different people. She described political situation of the country. She also discussed defects in ruling system of Russia. It is an informative travelogue (Iftikhar Raja, 1994).

Other travelogues of Russia are; ‘Siyahat e Roos’ by Pandat Jawahar Lal Nehro (Nehro), ‘Jab Main Nay Lenin Ka Roos Dekha’ by Syed Wajahat Hussain (Ali, 1969) and ‘Soviet Union Main Chand Roz’ by Waqar un Nisa Begum (Waqar un Nisa, 1967).

SUMMARY

Russia is included in some of the most visited countries by Urdu language writers. Although it is a very vast country but most of the travelers visited some main cities of this country out of which Masco and Leningrad are very favorite among visitors. The purposes of their journeys were different but most of the travelers discussed politics, social life and administration system of this country. Literary activates are also found in the travelogues and reports of international conferences are also presented.

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