

A Study of the Narrative Techniques of Ruskin Bond with

Special Reference to

The Night Train at Deoli and Other Stories



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A

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled The study of the narrative technique of Ruskin Bond with special reference to The Night Train at Deoli and other stories is a record of first-hand research work done by me under the guidance of Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Verbal, Ability, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab. No part of this dissertation has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

Date:

Signature of the Candidate

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the dissertation entitled The study of the narrative technique of Ruskin Bond with special reference to The Night Train at Deoli and other stories by Sai Krishna Prakashini Singh for the award of M.A. degree is a record of research work done by the candidate under my supervisor during the period of her study (2017-2018) and that the dissertation has not formed the basis for the award of any other degree, diploma, Associateship, Fellowship or another similar title and that this dissertation represents independent work on the part of the candidate.

Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sharma

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Date:

This work is dedicated to my beloved parents for their love, endless support and encouragement. _ Sai Krishna P. Singh

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ABSTRACT

Ruskin Bond is a notable Indian short-story author in English, who wrote in the light of his own encounters and the impressions he found about things and individuals he experienced are reflected in his works. He takes up genuine subjects for his stories yet they are not dull, in light of the fact that he makes them fascinating to drag in the reader. His stories are a result of his, own encounters and in this manner, he speaks to the society. Ruskin Bond's *The Night Train at Deoli and other stories* is a collection of thirty short stories. The stories depict innocence, internal longing for something or someone and about love that never expect anything in return. The characters are constructed in such a way that the readers are able to comprehend the human mind, character, attitude and behaviour. The stories are related to the life of common people. In the preface of the collection of short stories, Bond mentioned that he has presented the stories with autobiographical elements in it. The readers can connect to their own life. The purpose of the work is to explore the narrative techniques used by Ruskin Bond in *The Night Train at Deoli and other stories*. Further, it is to evaluate the stylistic devices used in the collection of short stories. The dissertation is divided into two chapters. The introduction deals with the biography of the author, his achievements and brief introduction to the collection of short stories and reviews. The first chapter deals with the evaluation various narrative techniques used by Ruskin Bond in the collection of short stories. The second chapter presents the stylistic devices used to convey Ruskin Bond's thought to the readers. The conclusion will finally evaluate the various techniques used by Ruskin Bond in the collection of short stories *The Night Train at Deoli and other stories*.

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INTRODUCTION

Ruskin Bond (19 May 1934) is a well known Indian Writer in English. He was born on 19 may 1934 in Kasauli, Punjab, India to a British couple, Edith Clarke, and Aubrey bond. He has an intimate relationship with nature as he stayed in the foothills of Himalayas. He played a vital role in promoting children's literature in India. He is a renowned writer who has written over 500 short stories, essays, and novels. Mostly his books are for children. He is a keen observer of children's mind and activities. Most of his stories contain the theme of children and nature. His most famous book :the blue umbrella' was made a movie and in 2007 won National Film Award for best children movie. He wrote his first short story at the age of sixteen. In the beginning, he earned his living by writing stories and poems for newspapers and magazines. The penguin books later published his work and made him as an established author in India. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999, the most prestigious civil award in India. He won Sahitya Akademi Award for his book :Our Trees still grows in Dehr~ in 1992 for English writing in India. He was honoured by the title `Padma Bhushan_ in 2014, for his lifetime contribution to Indian literature.

Bond did his schooling from bishop cotton school in Shimla. In school, he owned many prizes in the literary field, especially in writing. He also won Irwin Divinity prize and Hailey Literature prize. His first short story :Touchable~ was written when he was sixteen years old in 1951. For better education, he went to the UK. In London, he started writing his first novel :The Room on the Roof.~ The novel is a semi-autobiography in nature which won John Llewellyn Rhys prize in 1957, which is awarded to a British Commonwealth writer under 30. He moved to London in search of a publisher and worked in a photo studio. When he earned

money, he returns back to India and stayed in Dehradun. He started his career as a freelance writer, penning short stories and poem for various newspapers and magazines. By the time he became popular, his articles were published in numerous magazines and newspapers such as :The Tribute~ and :The Telegraph~. About what he prefers the most about his life, he stated, `That I have been able to write for so long. I started at the age of 17 or 18 and I am still writing. If I were not a professional writer who was getting published I would still write. _ In his article, `On being an Indian_, he clarifies his Indian personality; `Race did not make me one. Religion did not make me one. In any case, history did. What's more, over the long haul, it's history that matters. _

The foothills of Himalayas were his main inspiration for writing about nature in most of his stories. His stories reflect his love and attachment towards nature. His novel :The Flight of Pigeons~ has been adapted into a film named Junoon in 1978. It is based on an episode of the Indian Rebellion of 1857. It was produced by Shashi Kapoor and directed by Shyam Benegal. His Rusty stories have been adapted into a Doordarshan TV series named Ek Tha Rusty. The Room on the Roof has also been adapted into a BBC produced TV series. Some of his novellas act as a mirror of his life and experience.

He is considered as a symbol among Indian scholars and children's creators. He has written more than hundred short stories, six novels and thirty books for children. He strengthens himself financially by writing short stories and poems for newspapers and magazine. His stories are celebrated and he writes to a great degree of charming dialect and style which even holds a child throughout the entire narrative. Ruskin Bond cannot be compared to any of his counterparts. His works are neither questionable nor hypothetical. In his essay, `On being an Indian_, he explains his

Indian identity; `Race did not make me one. Religion did not make me one. But history did. And in the long run, it's history that counts. _

A major producer of children's stories, Ruskin Bond has modified the Indian writing in English. He is fond of children. His choice of subjects, situations and the description of child characters are very heart touching. An acute observer of child psychology, he has created exotic scenes in his melodious poetic style. His description has a universal appeal. After reading his books, especially stories for children, one can finally conclude that Bond is child-like from a heart. Being a writer for more than 50 years, Bond tried different things with various kinds; early works incorporate fiction, short stories, the novella with some being self-portraying. He views himself as a `visual author_ in light of the fact that for short stories, he first imagines it like a film and then writes it down.

Ruskin Bond is mainly a writer for children. According to the Times of India blog, `Ruskin Bond is one of India's most loved children's writer_.. The main characters of his writings are young boys and girls. He mainly focuses on the childhood activities, the adventurous spirit; the brave approach of children to new things attracts him. He acutely absorbs children's minds and understands their childhood innocence. When he narrates his own experiences, he is very free, truthful and straightforward. He presents his childhood experiences very honestly. He writes the truth and not hides anything. His heart is like an open book, and he conveys all his feelings without any imitation. The simplicity of his language connects him directly to the children's heart.

Bond has been inspired by many towering writers of the time. He has great respect for Dostoevsky, Gorky, Tolstoy, Charles Dickens, William Saroyan and A G

Bates. The novels of Charles Dickens had great appeal for him. The book that shaped his life was David Copperfield. It has been his favourite book. It inspired him to write and think about children. In his 'Introduction_ to :The Night Train at Deoli" and Other Stories', Bond writes about the qualities a writer for children should possess:

In writing for children one has to adopt a less subjective approach; things must happen, for boys and girls have no time for mood pieces. So this kind of writing does help me to get away from myself. At the same time, because I have so strong an empathy with children, I can enter into their minds, when I am writing about them. As children, we are all individuals; it is only as we grow older that we acquire a certain grey similarity to each other.

Bond has been writing for more than 5 decades. His works are mostly based on describing the mesmerizing flora and fauna of Himalayas. His works are mostly inspired by the hill station at the foothills of Himalayas as he spent most of his childhood there. His autobiographical work named :Rain in the Mountains' is about his life spent in Mussoorie. In an interview in the Indian Express, Ruskin Bond speaks about his lonely childhood which is reflected in his writings. Ruskin Bond possesses a remarkable position among the contemporary Indian English essayists. He isn't substance to depict the things as they happened. He inspects his characters from within and investigations how their psyches work.

The Night Train at Deoli and other stories by Ruskin Bond is a collection of thirty short stories. The short story not only describes character's mood and action but

also vividly describes the places. All the stories reflect the journey of Bond's nostalgic memories. Nature is being celebrated in the stories. The stories truly reflect Bond's intimate relationship with nature. It also contains all the people he met and had experience within his childhood. Various themes like love, attraction and hatred are corporate in the stories. Recalling and enjoying memories played a vital role in The Night Train at Deoli and other stories. The short stories portrait the life of people in the Himalayan foothills. According to Pioneer, Ruskin bond is : A living legend in the world of literature. Child's psychology is keenly observed by Bond. Children can make a bond with even with a stranger if they receive the love and affection from them. How love and trust can change a bad mind to a good person is also depicted in the stories. Railway stations and life on a train journey attracts the readers to react to their own life. Bond writes for children. All the stories are related to nostalgia memories of children. One can enjoy and reflect them on their personal life. So Bond is very famous among the teenagers.

The present dissertation entitles `The study of narrative techniques in The Night Train at Deoli and other stories by Ruskin bond_ explores the various methods and techniques employed by bond to convey his mind to the children directly. Some of the stories contain autobiographical elements in it. Ruskin bond is marked as nature lover as he mingles himself with nature. Simplicity in his language attracts the children towards him. He truly reflects child's psychology so children enjoy while reading. He has also used various images to compare child's mind and the effect of same on them. His stories are humorous, adventurous and regional in nature.

According to Ruskin Bond, writing is a means of mingling with the world. He writes to relieve his soul. He believes that writing is an art, which requires devotion

and love as an artisan need for creation. Bond believes, 'Nature nurtures children who become adults who nurture nature. _

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUE:

Tzvetan Todorov coined the French term :Narratologie~ in a book name Grammaire du :Decameron~ in 1969. He used this word parallel to biology and sociology, to denote :science of narrative.~ Narratology is the collection of theories of narratives, narrative texts, images, events that :tell a story.~ This theory is used to evaluate, explore and understand better. This theory is like a machine, in which a text is inserted at one end and at other end comes with ample description. This theory is also used as an intellectual tool for interpretation. Finally, this helps to understand the text better and to look at the text from different perspectives. M. H. Abrams defines narrative as 'A story, whether told in prose or verse, involving events, characters, and what the characters say and do ũ are explicit narratives that are told by a narrator_ (1999: 173). According to Doctorow, narratives eliminate the borderline between the two (fiction and nonfiction) by an admission of the functionality of reality (qtd. in Telling the Truth: The theory and Practice of Documentary fiction 10). In a Dictionary of Stylistics compiled by Katie Wales, Narratology is defined:

A term that has come into favor since the 1960s from French under the influence of STRUCTURALISM referring to the theoretical study and analysis of NARRATIVE and its structures. It embraces the manifestation of narrative in language and MEDIA, eg., film; and also covers a wide range of approaches. It is, commonly applied to those studies which concentrate on PLOT structures, as in Narrative Grammar. (315-316)

Narrative theory or Narratology is defined as the study of narrative as a genre. Traditionally, narratology has been used for the study of literature. Narrative theory deals with the distinctions between lyrics, drama and epic but it also focuses on the typological, historical and thematic issues in relation to narrative subgenres such as the gothic novel, the novel of consciousness, the fable, the anecdote, the short story, etc. A narrative text is a text in which it conveys a message to the readers through a story using a medium such as imagery and language. The relationship between narrative theory and interpretation is controversial. Narrative theory analyses what and how of narration whereas interpretation means to look at a text from a different angle. Narratives are based on cause and effect relationships that are applied to sequences of events. Mieke Bal has listed among the most important theorists of narrative in *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative* (1985). She defines a text as

Finite, structured whole composed of language signs. A narrative text is a text in which an agent relates a narrative. A story is a fabula that is presented in a certain manner. A fabula is a series of logically and chronologically related events that are caused or experienced by actors. (8)

Wellek and Warren's *Theory of Literature* during the zenith of the New Criticism helped to shape Anglo-American formalist literary theory and also developed research on narrative fiction. The theoretical examination of narration was done by Friedrich Schlegel and Otto Ludwig's research on a novel. In the early twentieth century, Kate Friedemann (1910), Percy Lubbock (*The Craft of Fiction*, 1921), E.M. Forster (*Aspects of the Novel*, 1927) provided a contribution to narrative research. German narrative theory in the 1950s reached the highest point

which is studied till dates such as Eberhard Lammert's *Bauformen des Erzählens* (Forms of Narrative, 1955) and Kate Hamburger's *The Logic of Literature* (1957/1993). During this time, Norman Friedman's article on Point of view (1955) was published in America. Formalists founded the Russian :narratology~ which became influential through the work of Roman Jakobson, Boris Uspensky, Jury Lotman. Czech literary theorist Jan Mukarovsky, an important figure of the Prague school of Structuralism which later became narratological Structuralism.

The classical phase of narratology developed from structuralism in France and includes the work of Claude Bremond, Algirdas Julien Greimas, Tzvetan Todorov, Roland Barthes and Gerard Genette. Gerard Genette, a specialist in rhetoric, played an important role in the development of narrative theory. The third volume of Genette's trilogy *Figures*, including *Discours du recit* (1972) focused on the narrative discourse of the novel. His model became famous when the post-structuralism in English studies and literary theory developed. In German, Stanzel, Lammert, Helmunt Bonheim and Wilhelm Fuger made a contribution to narratology. In the United States, a narratological school developed *The Rhetoric of Fiction* (1961) by Wayne C. Booth which he linked narratology to narrative rhetoric.

In general, a narrative theory developed after the World War II, separated into three primary strands. The first strand is, :narrative is the sequence of events~, and the scholars concentrate on the account itself autonomous of the medium utilized. These pursue the formalist Vladimir Propp (1968) and the structuralists Claude Lévi-Strauss, Tzvetan Todorov (1977), and early Roland Barthes (1977). The second strand comments :narrative as a discourse~, represented by the successors of Gerard Genette, Mieke Bal (1985), and Seymour Chatman (1978). The last strand presents :narrative as a complex artefact~ which is a mind-boggling ancient rarity. It has been upheld by

the later Roland Barthes (2004), Umberto Eco (1979), and Jean Francois Lyotard (1991), who utilized poststructuralist approach.

Narrative technique is the method that is used by the writer to give artistic and emotional effects to a story. The term 'Narrative' has various meanings. The word 'Narrative' is derived from the Latin terms 'narrate'(to relate) and 'gnarus'(knowing). The word 'gna' in Sanskrit is 'to know'. So 'Narrative' means to relate in order to know. Some use story as the synonym of a narrative. Barbara Hardy defines it as a 'primary act of mind_ and he observes that 'we dream in narrative, remember, anticipate, hope, despair, believe, doubt, plan, revise, criticize, construct, gossip, learn, hate and love by narrative_ (31).

Gerald Prince defines narrative as:

The recounting (as product and process, object and act structure and structuration) of one or more fictitious events communicated by one, two or several narrators to one, two or several narrates. (Prince 4).

The narrative technique provides a special effect on the novel. Writers use proper technique to convey their thoughts to the reader. In the opinion of Mark Schorer, the significance of narrative technique is:

When we speak of technique, we speak of nearly everything. Because, the technique is the tool or means by which the writer's experience, which is his subject matter, compels him to attend to it; technique is the only means he has of discovering, exploring,

developing his subject, of conveying its meaning and finally of evaluating it.(249-250).

According to T.S. Eliot technique is a "convention-any selection, structure, or distortion, any form, or rhythm imposed upon the world of action; by means of which- it should be added that- our apprehension of the world of action is enriched or renewed" (qtd in Kumar 251).

The elements of narrative techniques are noted below:

Narrative Point of View is the viewpoint from which the occasions in the story are evaluated and related. To decide the perspective, distinguish who is describing the story, that is, from whose eyes the readers can see the events taking place. A point of view is the most critical element of a novel. This deals with the perspective or angle in which the novel is narrated. The point of view describes the narrator's position in relation to the novel. The point of view of which the story is told is many such as first-person, second-person and third-person. Second person perspective is used occasionally but first person and third person are commonly used. The first person point of view is also called as 'internal' or 'figural' focalization. In the first- person narrative the story is narrated by the narrator who is also a character in the story. The narrator can be the protagonist or minor character. The narrator tells the plot by referring to his own viewpoint character as 'I'. The first person narrative puts a direct impact on the reader's mind which provides internal or unspoken thought of the narrator. In some stories, the narrator may be the protagonist. All the incidents, decisions, opinion are from the narrator's point of view only. In autobiographical fictions, the first person narrator is the writer himself. A rare form of the first person is first person omniscient in which the narrator is a character in the story but at the

same time, he reveals the thoughts and feelings of all other characters. The third person narrative provides suppleness to the author so it is commonly used. In this, the characters are referred as 'he', 'she', 'it' or 'they'. The third person omniscient is a commonly used in classical novels. It is mostly used in psychological novels. In this case, a distance is created between the reader and the author.

The setting is an important part. It provides the time and place of the event. It depends on the theme. The place is the "physical" condition where the story happens (the portrayal of this condition may recommend its significance to different parts of the fiction, for example, subject and "message."). Time incorporates the greater part of its dimensions. What was going ahead around? What, assuming any, significance has the period or potentially time-traverse of occasions as to the topics, themes, portrayals, climate, tone? What is the period (century, decade, year) amid which the activity happens? Over how long, days, weeks, months, years, decades, and so forth does the move make put? The impacts of the setting may incorporate a specific climate, knowledge to the characters as well as their inspirations, and a key or association with or impression of different parts of the story.

The plot is the important element of the novel. According to Aristotle's Poetics, a good plot must contain a proper beginning, middle, and end. The beginning should be such that the reader gets interested in further reading. The middle should satisfy the reader and the end is such that the reader must deeply think about it again and again. To conclude plot must consist of inciting action, climax and the final suspense. A writer must keep in mind sequence to make the novel effective. Flashback is a narrative technique that provides the past event from where the story begins. It is mostly used to deliver character's memory. Flash forward is another technique used to convey the incidents which will take place in the future.

The next element is the character or characterization. Character advancement is the change that a character experiences from the earliest starting point of a story to the end. The significance of a character to the story decides how completely the character is created. Characterization is the process by which subjective characters are introduced. There are different types of character such as follows: flat: a one-dimensional character, normally not vital to the story. Two-dimensional characters might be utilized as vessels to complete the plot. Round: a complex, completely created character, typically inclined to change. Stock: "acquired" personage or original or stereotype. Universal: characters with issues and qualities regular to all mankind.

Atmosphere (Mood) is the prevailing feeling that presents a story. It is not so much physical but rather more representative, cooperative, and suggestive than the setting, however frequently similar to the setting. The tone is the storyteller's behaviour toward his subject and reader. Storyteller's tone may appear, for instance, adoration for the subject or a character. On the other hand, the story tone can propose pity or threatening vibe; then again, the storyteller might be "folksy" with the reader. The narrative tone might be exhibited by the coordinate remark, by portrayal, or by the decision of words, images, symbols or other literary devices.

Style means the qualities that recognize crafted by one creator from another's, including diction: word choice: formal/casual. Sentence Structure is of two types: basic or complex. Imagery: sensory information such as similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia such as images related to sight, smell, sound etc. The style is an instrument which is used by the author in a technical way to provide proper symbol and meaning. Style contains three components: diction, sentence structure, and sound pattern. As expressed by George Saintsbury "style is the choice and arrangement of

language with only a subordinate regard to the meaning to be conveyed."(Richard 115). According to John Middleton Murrey "Style is a quality of language which communicates precisely emotion or thoughts or a system of emotion or thoughts peculiar to the author" (Richard 115).

The irony is a term with a scope of implications, every one of them including a type of error or incoherency. It ought not to be mistaken for mockery which is essentially dialect intended to insult or to cause passionate agony. The irony is utilized to recommend the contrast amongst appearance and reality, amongst desire and satisfaction, the multifaceted nature of experience, to outfit by implication an assessment of the writer's material, and at the same time to accomplish pressure.

SCOPE:

A lot of research work is available on Ruskin Bond as he is a famous author. Most of the critics concentrate on thematic and autobiographical elements used by Ruskin Bond. Only a few works are devoted to the study of narrative techniques used by Bond. Mostly these works concentrate on the famous novels of Ruskin Bond. Study of narrative and stylistic devices with reference to the story collection *The Night Train At Deoli* and other stories is the relatively unexplored area. A systematic research will propel researchers to look into this ignores the aspect of authors works.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Deciphering various narrative techniques used by Ruskin Bond.
2. Establishing the functional and decorative value of narrative techniques used by Ruskin Bond.

3. Inferring various stylistic devices and highlighting functional and embellishing aspect of Ruskin bond's craft.
4. Establishing link between the narrative techniques and thematic corpora used by Ruskin Bond in selected short stories of The Night Train At Deoli and other stories.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

This research will be conducted by applying the theory of narrative technique used in the novel. This theory states that to study how a story is written and in what form.

This research requires gathering relevant data from specified articles and journals in order to analyze the material and arrive at a conclusion about the narrative techniques used in a novel.

This research paper shall be a quantitative research which includes gathering materials by visiting library studying various books. Also collect information by reading various articles, research papers, and journal using the internet.

Visiting library regularly for reading various books and also using the internet to read various research papers related to the topic. The first step is Reading various research articles and collecting a rough draft. After collecting all the information the final draft is prepared.

The primary source of the research paper is the book "The Night Train At Deoli and other stories" by Ruskin Bond. The secondary sources are reading various research articles and critics views to get more information.

This research paper will follow the format of MLA seventh edition for citation and formatting.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Dr.Samina Azhar remarks that the dominant theme of bond's collection is longing for the past good days that are nostalgic. His stories come from his experience. According to Azhar, "one can't overlook the presence of bond in most of his stories." His stories reflect child's innocence, care and kindness even to strangers. This shows that child is like modelling clay, who are good to them they also respond in the same way. In this article, Azhar wrote that bond usually writes about people and places which is very common .so reader gets connected and real.

Ruskin bond's greatest strength lies in his art of characterization as observed by Geetu Saini. He is a keen observer of the society. His characters are real and lifelike. He is an acute observer of human nature, psychology, and activities. As written by Geetu Saini, "After R.K.Narayan, it is bond who has related himself so naturally to the innocent world of children." Bond has a universal appeal to his characters. His characters are a most common man like farmers, traders, vendors, chaukidars and school teachers.

K.Latha Reddy in his research paper borrowed about bond from an article where bond writes "Race did not make me an Indian. But history did and in the long run, it is history that counts." He claims that bond's autobiographical writings gave him the title of Indian Charles Lamb.

D.Sravana Jyothi writes "Copperfield in the Jungle" is an autobiographical story which deals with childhood innocence and humanity. In his story :love is a sad

song' reveals bond's pessimistic experience of life. As marked by Amita Aggarwal in the fictional world of Ruskin bond' "Bond has not created a single couple enjoying happy conjugal life in his stories. Perhaps, the trauma of his parent's separation does not allow him to conceive of a pair of lovers living in blissful matrimony."

Dinesh A. Borse in his research paper talks about Ruskin Bond's short stories in the light of eco-criticism. Eco-criticism is the study of nature in literature. Bond is closely connected to nature. As remarks by Borse from a recent interview, bond says, "I don't always write professionally or for money. It is something I feel I have to do to relate my impression in the day to day life that I see around me." Bond presents the true picture of the relation between man and nature.

Dr.H.K.Jha remarks that bond has presented the reality in his stories. From the study, Jha founded that bond has presented the stages of human life in his most famous book "the room on the roof" which is a young adult novel. Bond presents that teenager seeks for the company. At this age, the teenage does not bother about caste or religion. Next is adolescence which is lonely. In this stage, the young feel they are perfect and the whole world is against them. The youngsters have no faith in anyone. A youngster gets a sense of consciousness in him in all spheres like talk, look, attitude, etc. Friends become the inspiration for them.

Nargis Khan in the research attempts the role of literature in moral development. Bond presents sensitivity which provides the moral imagination. Literature provides examples and incidents which are related to our life and also provide a solution. So the readers can relate and change their life. Bond's stories provide a mere moral which can help readers to apply and change their life. Nargis also focuses on the narrative technique used in fiction. It has an impact on the readers.

Keshav Singh Sisodiya focuses on the various narrative techniques in works of Ruskin Bond. As found by Sisodiya, Ruskin bond has developed his own style of narrative. Bond's narrative focuses on simple tone and deep meaning. Sisodiya remarks, "Bond is the master storyteller of the present age because he has developed his individual style of narration. His narration is marked by the simplicity of tone depth of meaning. He is a conscientious writer. For him, writing is a means of conversing with the world."

CHAPTER - 1

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUE IN THE NIGHT TRAIN AT DEOLI AND OTHER STORIES.

This chapter is to discuss the narrative technique applied by Ruskin Bond in his collection of short stories. The plot, setting and characters of 'The Night Train at Deoli and other stories' are heavily based on Bond's experience and his childhood memories. His plot is well built and his characters are lively.

The woman on platform 8 is narrated in the first person by Arun. All the events in the story are from his point of view. The story is about the unconditional love of adolescence. Who gives affection and care, they love them. This story depicted the love between Arun and a stranger lady whom he calls mother at the end.

Arun is a twelve years old boy. He travels alone by bus to Ambala. There he waits for the train at platform no. 8. To pass his time waiting he looks at the activities around him. Soon he felt lonely and got bored of the continuously repeated things. Here he presents the tone of frustration and digestion. Suddenly he hears a soft voice from behind asking, 'are you all alone, my son?' Women in white saree with dark eyes and pale face. The women symbolize motherly feeling. Arun with respect stood up and told he is going school. she offered him food and Arun could not refuse out of shyness. This shows love and affection can provide familiarity with the stranger. The women enjoyed watching Arun eating. Later Arun became franker and started sharing his likes, dislikes, school, and friends. The bond between the lady and Arun became close.

Satish, Arun's school friend arrived on the platform with his mother. Satish mother could guess the lady as Arun's mother. Before Arun could speak anything, the stranger lady replied, : yes, I am Arun's mother.' The concern and the relation made a few minutes back make them feel attached. Satish's mother warns them about the strangers hanging around:

It's such a nuisance having to wait for the train right in the middle of the night. But one can't let the child wait here alone. Anything can happen to a boy at a big station like this, there are so many suspicious characters hanging about. These days one has to be very careful of the strangers.

She further advises not to talk to strangers in his mother's absence. Arun contradicted and replied, : I like strangers'. This contradiction reflects the bond between the stranger women and Arun. They were strangers but with time they maintain a family bond. The train finally arrives. Satish and Arun board on the train. Satish waved his hand and said, :goodbye, mother'. Arun also said the stranger lady, :good-bye ~ mother.. ~ Arun gazed at her till she disappears into the crowd.

Bond presents a contract between the train and the women. Like in a platform train moves on from the station in the same way the relationship between them will move on after they are separated from here. The setting of the story is in a platform which depicts the busy and monotonous life of human being. We wait for the train in station and board on one train still life goes on. We meet strangers and they pass by but sometimes meet someone with whom we form a relationship but afterwards, it goes on and life moves forward. The theme of the motherly bond is reflected in the story. Arun also seeks for the motherly love and care. The women also got child's

love and affection from Arun. The story is narrated in first person narrative which directly reflects the protagonist's inner feeling. Amita Aggarwal reflects Bond's view:

There are no strangers in India. People meet they exchange pleasantries according to their age, a son, daughter, sisters, grandmother and grandfather. Their address in itself is sufficient to remove their alienation and strangeness. (The Fictional World of Ruskin Bond. 75).

:The Window~ is another short story in the book which is narrated in first person narrative. The story is about the innocent bond of love between a young boy and a little girl of ten and the refreshing and restoring effect which nature convey to them. The narrator had rented a room during the spring. He met Koki when the mangoes were ripe. His room was on the roof. From the window of his room, he could see the world. All the daily activity used to take place from his window. He could find everything going and coming through his window.

A new girl along with elderly lady came into the house. Next morning the girl saw him through the window. The relation of companionship is formed between the protagonist and the girl. They started their conversation through the window and later he asked him to come up and meet him. He asked him to look into the window and see the world. Then they became friends. both of them enjoy the world from the window and also experienced rain. The window gives them the power of detachment. They are busy in observing the life of people. Koki remarks, :It is like a cinema. The window is the screen, the world is the picture.~ Later Koki planned to build a garden on the roof. They built it but due to heavy rain, everything flows away. Now the time comes for the return of Koki. With the departure of Koki, the narrator closed the

window forever stating that, : it would be opened only when the spring and Koki came again.'

Bond used the tone of affectionate between the characters. They enjoy each other's companionship. The atmosphere is loneliness as he is alone in the rooftop room. The setting of the story is in the room which is a closed world. The setting is in a circulatory manner. In the beginning, the boy was alone in the room which reflects his loneliness. Then comes the girl, a bond of attachment developed between them and again, in the end, the girl went back and loneliness came to his life. The story is presented in a flashback where Bond recalls his childhood days. Bond also has a lonely childhood which is presented as an autobiographical element in the story.

:The Photograph~ is a short story in which the plot is constructed in first person narrative. It is a flashback of old memories when the protagonist was ten and he was with his grandmother. The setting is the garden where the narrator and his grandmother are looking at an old photograph. :The Photograph~ is a story in which grandson finds the photograph of his grandmother's childhood with which she recalls the old memories in her mind. The story begins with the narrator recalls when he was a boy of ten. He describes the nature which is full of sunflowers as it was summer. His grandmother started knitting a woollen scarf for winters. After returning from playground he looked into an old box and found nothing interesting than a book containing colourful pictures. There he found a very old faded photograph between the pages. The photograph was not so clear but a girl was in it. He ran to his grandmother and shouted, " Look at this picture! I found it in the box of old things. Whose picture is it?" She got disturbed and lost her count on stitches. In the photograph:

The girl had long, loose hair, and she wore a long dress that nearly covered her ankles, and sleeves that reached her wrists, and there were a lot of bangles on her hand; but, despite all this drapery, the girl appeared to be full of freedom and movement.

Again he asked granny, whose picture is it? In anger, grandmother threatens to complete the knitting of the scarf by him as she lost the count of the stitches. Granny replied, of course, a little girl. Granny further replied knew the girl. She was a very wicked girl and shouldn't tell him about her. But granny told him about the photograph. It was taken in grandfather's home, about sixty years ago in the garden wall where there was a way to town. There were hands in the picture. :So whose hands? ~ Granny was also surprised to notice it for the very first time. She told in the confusion that may it be his grandfather's or the sweeper boy. Granny started describing the wicked girl who would play with boys and even would fight. She could recall her childhood. She also remembers what is not there in the photograph. She vividly recalls the surrounding:

It was a spring day, and there was cool breeze blowing, nothing like this. Those flowers at the girl's feet, they were marigolds, and the Bougainvillea creeper, it was a mass of purple. You could see these colours in the photo, and even if you could, as nowadays, you wouldn't be able to smell the flowers or feel the breeze.

Finally, the narrator would find the girl was his granny but pretended as if he knew nothing. He could recognize her from the smile. the girl in the photograph and

his granny smile in the same way. Still, he was staring at the photograph to find out more similarities between :the old lady and the little pig-tailed girl.'

Ruskin bond through his creative writing reflects in spite of flaws and limitations, humans are the beautiful creation of God. Love, affection, faith, and trust can change an evil character into a good person. :The Thief~ is a story which examines the change of the personality of a thief.

:The Thief~ is a story told in first person narrative narrated by the thief himself. The story begins with a description of a thief when he was fifteen years old. It is a story of flashback describing how a thief turned into a good human being with love, trust and care. The narrator is a thief, started this as a career early in his life. He introduces himself to Arun as Deepak which is a lie. He has many names. he asked Arun for a job. Arun asked him to cook for him. The thief agreed to cook, which is again a lie as he can't cook. Arun in return would give him room as he has no money. Arun found that Deepak does not know to cook and teaches him not only to cook but also to read, write and count money. Arun had some money and hides it under the mattress. Suddenly, Deepak decided to rob and run away but he was in delamma. he could not decide what to do. One part of his mind says.' He was the most trusting person I'd ever met', but on the other hand, Deepak also thought to rob Arun and ran away. deepak utter the following words:

It's easy to rob a greedy man because he deserves to be robbed. It's easy to rob a rich man because he can afford to be robbed. But it's difficult to rob a poor man, even one who really doesn't care if he's robbed.

Finally, Deepak chooses to steal some of the money that Arun has hidden and would run away from town. When the train arrives, he was to board he decided to go back to Arun. Something hurts him and all the old memories flashed in front of him. The friendship of Arun became more important rather than money. Deepak realizes that this is absolutely wrong to take advantages of innocent Arun. He felt very bad and this hurts his conscience :

I have made a study of men's faces when they have lost something of material value. The greedy man shows panic, the rich man shows anger, the poor man shows fear. But I knew that neither panic nor anger nor fear would show on Arun's face when he discovered the theft; only a terrible sadness not for the loss of the money but for my having betrayed his trust.

He goes back to Arun and admits the mistake. But Arun did not question anything to him. The trust of Arun changes narrator's life. This story highlights the significance of trust which can change the world. Faith place an important role in the rebuilding of a character. A mita Aggarwal rightly observes:

The story aims to reveal that even a thief can discriminate panic-stricken on the face of a person robbed of the shocking reaction of his friend towards the abominable act. The thief fails to enjoy his accomplishment because the target is not a sufferer at all. The story presents a drama of complex human psyche. The moment thief realizes that it is he who has been robbed of trust, the most valuable thing in

life, he repents and returns to regain it. The story indicates that the line that divides a man as good or bad is very thin almost indiscernible and one can dodge it easily.

The thief as a paradoxical study reveals that both Arun and Deepak have no parents to take care of. If the society is responsible for Deepak's theft, then Arun is responsible for transforming of Deepak into a good human being.

:Chachi's Funeral~ is an outstanding example of Bond's understanding of child's psychology and realization of mistake. Children are very innocent in their approach towards others. Anger is temporary and spontaneous but love is permanent and true is the main theme in the story. The story deals with three characters: a ten years old boy Sunil, a dark slim girl of twelve Madhu and their relative. the relative is mami for Madhu and Chachi for Sunil. The story begins with the fascinating revelation that " Chachi died at 6 pm on 5th April and came to life again exactly twelve minutes later." The whole story describes how it happens. This announcement welcomes the readers to experience the story and find out how children respond in a certain circumstance.

As children are naughty, Sunil too is a naughty boy. As Sunil's parent work outside, he has to live with his Chachi all the day. Her chachi has a lot of works to do such as looking after her children, cooking food and especially handling mischievous Sunil. An incident occurs which leads to hatred for Chachi in Sunil's mind and heart. One day Sunil was so hungry that nothing could stop his hunger. He went to the kitchen to get some honey for him. As he could not reach the shelf but with fingers, the bottle fell down with a clash. Before he could escape Chachi caught him and blows with slippers on head and shoulder. This hurts Sunil. He went to the rooftop

and tries to console himself. Holding the knife whispers violently: 'I will kill her! I will kill her! I will kill her! I will kill her!'

Suddenly Madhu came and tried to find out the reason behind his anger. She is mature enough to handle this situation. The conversation between Sunil and Madhu reflects the women's mentality and intellectual growth to handle any situation.

Who are you going to kill, Sunil?' 'Chachi', said Sunil, 'She hates me, I know. Well, I hate her too. This time I'll kill her.' 'How are you going to do it?' 'I'll stab with this', he shows her the knife. 'Three times, in the heart.' 'But you'll be caught. The C.I.D. are very clever. Do you want to go to jail?' 'Won't they hang me?' 'They don't hang small boys. They send them to boarding-schools.' 'I don't want to go to a boarding-school.'

The above conversation is a spontaneous reaction to the situation. Sunil was hurt so much that he wanted to kill his chachi. To make Sunil feel better, Madhu draws a picture of Chachi on a paper and him to stab on that. He stabs three times in excitement and she declares Chachi is dead. Then they decided to set fire to the dead chachi. The picture turns into ashes and blows away in the drain. The story does not end here.

Bond begins the anti-climax of the story. Madhu turns to Sunil and finds that he is crying loudly. Sunil now realizes the mistake and the reality is that he loves Chachi. 'What are you crying for?' 'Chachi. I didn't hate her so much.' 'Then why did you want to kill her?' 'Oh, that was different.' Sunil went to Chachi and hugged him. He told Chachi that he loves her very much and requested not to leave him. Chachi

could feel the innocence in his eyes. Through this story Bond presents the innocence of adolescence. How the anger is temporary and soon after realization how guilt turns realize the true importance. Adolescence is truth and innocent. This story contains a proper beginning which leads to an interesting climax and finally ends with a moral.

Love is truth and natural in children. :The Night Train at Deoli~ is a story about dream and love. Life is like a movie. Losing, gaining, dreaming and hoping is a part of life. Dipan K ulsi notes in this :

Romanticism is defined by S.T. Coleridge. "as an addition of strangeness to beauty" and Ruskin Bond has wonderfully analyzed the term of illusive romanticism in The Night Train at Deoli. The story begins from infatuations but finally, it leads to an ardent love of the narrator towards the basket seller. It cannot be denied that adolescence is a period of storm, turbulence and finally it leads to a conclusion. A period of psychological and physical transit.

Trains play an important role in Bond's life and his works. This story describes the love, dream, and hope developed during a train journey to Dehra when he was eighteen. He spends his summer with his grandmother in Dehradun .In the journey, a small lonely station named Deoli which is located between the jungles and nobody goes on or off the train. The train stops and the narrator look at the platform. He saw a girl selling basket. Her eyes attract the narrator. He describes his first meeting with the girl:

When she came to my window, she stopped. She saw that I was looking at her intently, but at first, she pretended

not to notice. She had a pale skin, set off by the shiny black hair, and dark, troubled eyes. And then those eyes, searching and eloquent, met me.

The girl offers to sell the baskets to him. Initially, he refused but later bought a basket. They both looked at each other as if there is some relation between them. The first meet makes his desire strong to meet further. On their second meeting, both were pleased to see each other. They were happy as if meeting an old friend.

I was looking out for her as the train drew into the station, and I felt an unexpected thrill when I saw her walking up the platform. I sprang off the footboard and waved to her. When she saw me, she smiled. She was pleased that I remembered her. I was pleased she remembered me. We were both pleased, and it was almost like a meeting of old friends.

Both of them separated in a hope to meet in next summer holidays. In the next summer holiday, he went to Dehra, anxious to meet her. This time he couldn't find her. This makes him sad. He returned after vacation and he could not find her. He enquired to the tea stall and found that the girl has stopped coming and nobody knows about her. He decided to stop at Deoli and find the girl. In the next summer, he couldn't find the girl again. He was terribly in fear to discover about her. He doesn't want to destroy his sweet memories about her. Finally, he decided to stop searching and cherish the memories in hope and dream to meet her in future.

Bond here reflects the reality of life. The life goes on with ups and downs. Only memories are carried with passing time. Life is more appealing in searching of

love rather than getting. There is a chance to lose the charm if you get what you desire.

Bond's stories are the true reflection of the society. The story : Panther's Moon presents the struggle for education in Indian society. Still, there are places in India where education is alien to them. Bishnu, the small in the story has to walk ten miles every day from his village, Majari to another village ,Kemptee as there was no school in his village. This story presents the picture of pre-independent India. :In the entire village, he was the first to get up.' This reflects Bishnu's struggle. He would wake up early and get ready for the school. This also shows his responsibilities towards his family. The narrator describes his daily journey :

Bisnu shouldered his school-bag, kissed his mother, pinched his sister's cheeks, and left the house. He started climbing the steep path up the mountain-side. Sheroo bounded ahead; for him, too, always went with Bisnu to school. Five miles to school. Every day, except Sunday, he walked five miles to school; and in the evening, he walked home again. There was no school in his own small village of Manjari, for the village consisted of only five families. The nearest school was at Kemptee, a small township on the bus-route through the district of Garhwal. A number of boys walked to school, from distances of two or three miles; their villages were not quite as remote as Manjari. But Bisnu's village lay right at the bottom of the mountain, a drop of over two thousand feet from Kemptee. There was no proper road between the village and the town.

Bisnu dreams to be educated. bonds describe the journey of Bisnu with nature relating to his own life. This depicts the autobiographical element in the story. Bisnu would enjoy the company of hills, trees, rivers in his way. Here bond also presents the affection and faith of a dog with a human. The bond between Vishnu and Sheroo, his pet dog is unbreakable. After he walks for three miles, he meets his friend Surru on the way. Surru also faces the same problem of education as Bisnu. He has to carry two big milk cans on his shoulder to school. He sells one can to the school and other to Mrs. Taylor, a doctor at a small mission school.

Bond makes conscious and feeling of threat in the story through these two companions discussion about panther. The title Panther's Moon of this story is taken from this creature. Surru informs Bisnu about the panther. These are hilly region animals who don't harm anyone. But in winters they attack the dogs and goats as there prey. He also makes Bisnu about the fact that Panthers can also be the man-eater. But Bisnu rejects this fact. They reached school at eight o'clock.

With the advancement of the story, the threat also increased. The first incident takes place in Sheroo. Bisnu finds Sheroo's collar with blood. He feels intense pain on losing his pet. He returns home with tears in his eyes. His elder sister, puja tries to console him :

Bisnu was not a very sentimental boy, but he sorrowed for his dog, who had been his companion on many hikes into the hills and forests. He did not sleep that night, but turned restlessly from side to side, moaning softly. After some time he felt Puja's hand on his head. She began stroking his brow. He took her hand in his own, and the clasp of her

rough, warm familiar hand gave him a feeling of comfort and security.

Bisnu's mother was concerned about his schooling. He advised him to be more careful and return early in the evening. Next day he went to school without Sheroo . he narrated the whole incident to his teacher and friends about the man-eater panther. The next is nine-year-old Sanjay, child of Kalam Singh. He is assaulted quietly around evening time by the panther and dragged him out of the door. Luckily, the child cries raucously and his father approaches there to battle with the beast. The kid is liberated however in terrible condition. He is severely injured and his head drains. He is moved to the doctor's facility and saved after a great deal of battle. Bisnu had to stop coming to school. but he was worried as final exams were near.

After some days he got a chance to go school along with Sanjay and his father who were going the hospital. His teacher advised him not to take the risk and come. After few days Bisnu started going school as usual. One day due to rain, he could not return early. While returning he found a goat on his way. He carried the goat and crossed the jungle. He hears the sawing sniff of a panther. He thinks every possible way to be safe. Finally, he chooses and moves up a spruce tree. The monster thunders wildly underneath the tree. Bisnu is trembling with panic, sticks solidly to the base of the tree. The panther is an extremely crafty creature. It applies each trap to terrify him. On the Bisnu's deferral from school, his mother and elder sister looking restlessly at the pathway. Sanjay's dad seems to inquire about the Bisnu's arrival. He and two other men went looking for him. Puja also goes along with them. They move towards the wilderness. They hear Bisnu's yelling for help. The panther leaves the spot hearing the human sound coming towards. Bisnu is protected with the little goat. The disappointed puma does not wait long to attack another human being.

The peak of the story happens when the panther makes a venture to assault Puja. Bisnu and his sister are working in their field when Bisnu finds the sight of the panther on the stone. He is prepared and ready now to kill the man-eater creature. The panther did not succeed and falls into a ditch. Bisnu calls other men for offer support. They complete panther after a few endeavours of the brute to flee from the threat. The murdering of the man-eater panther provides release of danger to the people.

: Love is a sad song is narrated in the first person singular and flashback. The story depicts the love between the protagonist who is thirty and falls in love with the girl who is sixteen. The description of the harvest time magnificence is in the foothills of the Himalaya. The rock, blue skies, yellow grass, the dazzling evening attracts the reader. The narrator is in the sweet memory of his cherished Sushila who stayed in Delhi used to visit him and her uncle's house in holidays. He opens up the past memories. He thinks of the days, hours and minutes he had spent with her. Sushila was ten when he first met her and gave her fatherly love and affection. Once, she turns sixteen, his emotions change:

A year ago my feelings about you were almost parental! Or so I thought. But you are no longer a child, and I am a little older too. For when, the night after the picnic, you took my hand and held it against your soft warm cheek, it was for the first time that a girl had responded to me so readily, so tenderly. Perhaps it was just innocence; but that one action of yours, that acceptance of me, immediately devastated my heart.

As the story moves the love increases. The protagonist and Sushila kiss each other in the wilderness. He enjoys her body. She too reacts in positively. the narrator is aware of the fact that he is in a physical relationship with a teenager. He has no intention of misusing her. He genuinely wishes to be with her forever by marrying each other. Be that as it may, he needs to hold up as Sushila is of sixteen and he can get her after she turned eighteen years age. Its surprising to know Dinesh, Sushila's uncle was aware of their relationship for a long time. The narrator also sleeps with Sushila and her brother, Sushil in the same room. It is strange to find that Dinesh did not react and allows a stranger to sleep with a grown-up girl although knowing about their affair. The narrator asked Sushila's hands to his uncle. He tells that Sushila is too young to marry at this age so he has to wait for few more years.

Dinesh is more mature than the narrator. He remarks, 'Desire isn't loved.' Shusila enjoys the physical relationship rather than pure love. A sexual relationship is considered as a sin before marriage in Indian society. Sushila did not have a true love rather only desires to have sex. She demands, 'Love me! Love me! I want you to love me.' She could not differentiate between love and sex. The narrator not only loves her body but also her soul. This shows the difference between teenage and adult.

The end of the story is related to the title, 'Love is a Sad Song.' The narrator discovers that Shusila falls in love with a bank officer. He left Delhi with the note: 'I may stop loving you, Sushila; but I will never stop loving the days I loved you.'

'The Eyes have it' is another collection of the short story in the night train at Deoli. The story is narrated in first person narrative by a blind person. Traveling in train and conversation in a compartment is the setting of the story. There are three

characters: Rohana, blind person, a girl and a new passenger. Rohana could know she was blind only after she left and a new passenger came in the compartment.

Rohana was alone in the compartment travelling to Dehradun, then comes a girl. He was totally blind, :my eyes sensitive only to light and darkness.~ Although he could not know anything about how she looks but was attracted towards her voice. Then the conversation begins. He tactfully hides his weakness from being blind to her. The girl told she would get off at Saharanpur and here aunty would receive her there. Here bond reflects the typical character of Indian aunts whom Rohana remarks, :aunts are usually formidable creatures.~ Both of them had a common interest that is they love hills. He explains the hills recalling from his memories,

The hills are covered with wild dahlias, the sun is delicious, and at night you can sit in front of a log fire and drink a little brandy. Most of the tourists have gone, and the roads are quiet and almost deserted. Yes, October is the best time.

This shows Bond's love and relationship with nature. This is an autobiographical element in the book. How he is so connected and close to nature. The girl remained silent. Rohana breaks the silence and asked to see the trees moving outside the window. She also questioned back whether he could see animals outside. As Rohana had a good presence of mind he replied no from the fact that few animals are left in the jungle. Rohana being on the safe side compliments her that she had :an interesting face.~ She also complimented, :you are a very gallant young man.~ Their conversation could not go on for so long. Her destination came and she said goodbye to him and got off on the train. Another passenger came in and Rohana tried to inquire

about the girl's hair. The passenger replied: 'It was her eyes I noticed, not her hair. She had beautiful eyes- but they were of no use to her. She was completely blind. Didn't you notice? _

This reveal broke him inside. The ending of the story is appealing due to the ironical. There is a humour in the narrator's effort to cover up his blindness. But this humour takes an ironical turn and twist when he discovers that the girl is also blind. This is an excellent example which reveals the mystery in Bond's art of characterization. Common people also have the quality to create interesting situations.

Another humorous story by Bond is the boy who broke the bank. This story describes nature of Indian people. It is a sweeper, Nathu who did not get his salary regularly. The bank officer didn't regularly pay him. This rumour spread so fast that it resulted in the collapsed of the bank. This story is about how bits of gossip and miscommunication can cause big issues and caustic.

Nathu who is a Sweeper in Pipalnagar bank which is owned by Seth Govind. Nathu belongs to a lower class family. He wants his salary in time but was unhappy due to his irregular payment. Sitaram, the washerman's son heard Nathu's problem and sympathizes him by searching for another job for him. There are some other people who listen to the issue of Nathu and takes it to another level. Mr Srivastava is one of them who heard the issue of Nathu from Sitaram. Instead of getting a solution, She begins discussing the more poor status of Pipalnagar bank.

Mr.Srivastava informed to Mr.Bhushan concerning the poor state of the bank by saying Seth Govind Ram's bank can't pay his employers. Mr.Bhushan was also shocked to hear what she told: : If they cannot pay the Sweeper they must be in a bad away none of the others could be getting paid either. This news spread like flu.

Mr. Kishore whose claims one photographic shop and in the wake of hearing this he expresses his joy that he doesn't have any record Seth of Govind Ram bank, however, he lights up his companions Deepchand who is having hair salon about this stunning news. He says to Deepchand :

‘The Pipalnagar bank is about to collapse and also suggested him if he had an account in that bank than get it back as soon as possible. _

Deepchand in the panic cut ear of his client. The client was in agony due to two reasons, one was that Deepchand trim his ear and he was stressed over the banks when he heard. He called Seth Govind Ram however he was not around. He went on holiday to Kashmir. The news spread all over. when Deepchand heard than news about elopement of Seth Govind Ram. He remarks ‘The bird has flown_. This news spread in the town was set on fire. when Ganpath, beggar heard this news, He began jumping on his feet. This sight amazed everybody. nobody had observed Ganpath strolling on his speed and hearing his news he began running and was afraid of the savings he has done from begging these villagers.

Everyone assembled before the bank and began riot by throwing stones on the bank. the manager tried to please the villagers but they did not stop destroying the bank. Next day Nathu came and saw all these in his eyes and utters: ‘Who would have thought the bank would

:The Cherry Tree~ depicts the relationship between children and nature. Bond speaks his own heart through the boy, Rakesh. In the story Rakesh, a six years old boy who lived with his grandfather on the periphery of Mussoorie. One day, he went to the market and bought some cherries. While returning to the home he ate almost all the cherries. Only three of them left, of which he gave one to grandfather for taste.

While eating he thought to preserve the seed. But grandfather asked him to plant it. He took a spade started digging the garden. Rakesh planted the seed. He watered and protected it by placing stones around. With passing time both of them have forgotten about the seed they planted. After a year, he noticed twin and recalled about the cherry seed he planted last winter. He was excited about the growth of the plant. Every morning he used to see the plant and was curious about it. During monsoon, the cherry plant grew faster.

A sad incident occurs. A goat entered the garden and ate the leaves in the cherry plant. This incident made Rakesh heartbreaking. Another incident took place which breaks all hopes of Rakesh. Once a woman cut the cherry plant while cutting the grasses. Both Rakesh and his grandfather were extremely sad about the fact the plant would die. That summer, he went to his parents to help them in field works. After he returned to his grandfather, he found the cherry has grown up to his chest. He was very much excited. He watered the plant every day and takes proper care. Meanwhile, he found insects on it and a caterpillar eating the leaves. He took them away and protected the plant as much as possible.

In winter, the plant bends down due to snowfall. Still the tree survived. Next February Rakesh turned nine and the cherry tree four. Grandfather noticed flowers on the cherry tree and loudly called Rakesh to see the same. Both of them were so happy and felt as if some miracle has taken place. Birds, bees gathered and collected honey. Rakesh felt happy seeing the plant growing healthy day by day. The first fruit ripens and the cherries were sour. But grandfather advised the next year sweet fruits would come. Rakesh had a question in his mind and asked grandfather: ` there are so many trees in the forest. What's so special about this tree? Why do you like it so much? _

Grandfather replied, 'we planted it ourselves. That's why it's special.' Rakesh was surprised to think from a small seed such a grown-up plant. This is the creation of god. He whispered: 'I wonder, is this what it feels to be a god?' this reflects the dedication and love towards small things. He pays respect to the creation of god.

A similar theme to 'The Cherry Tree', 'My Father's Tree in Dehra' also presents the growth of plants which prove happiness to the owner. Bond depicts the love of nature. Nature provides love and happens. A special bond develops between the man and the plant. As if the plant is the child of the owner who takes proper care and feels happy seeing its growth. This vividly presents bond's relationship with plants. Through these stories, the autobiographical elements such as love for nature and bond with plants are presented. As bond has spent his lives among the trees and nature he is so close to it. The narrator expresses his feeling watching the growth of plants: 'They have multiplied. They are moving. In this small forgotten corner of the world, my father's dreams are coming true, and the trees are moving again. _

'Death of a familiar' is the describing the massacre of the narrator's friend Sunil. he was an adolescent and presents the picture of problems faced at this age. This is an apt definition of an adolescent:

He had not been a boy to fit in with the conventions. And as for character, he had the stability of a grasshopper. He was forever in search of new adventures and sensations, and this appetite of his for every novelty led him into some awkward situation.

In adolescent insecurity and passion is the main cause. There is no certainty in attitude.

He was a product of partition of the frontier provinces, of Anglo-Indian Public Schools, of films, Indian and American of Medieval India, Knights in Armour, hippies, drag, sex magazines and the sub-tropical Terai. Had he lived at the time of the Mughals, he might have governed a province. Being born into the 20th century, he was but a juvenile delinquent

The narrator meets Sunil, an adolescent good-for-nothing watching wrestling in Shahganj. The narrator is an independent writer, gaining just as much as the requirements for his minimum essentials. Sunil used to visit the narrator frequently. Soon they became friends. The narrator gets irritated during the afternoon nap. One day Sunil pour a bucket full of water on the narrator and everything is wet. A minor battle takes afterwards. Sunil feels sorry over his prank, and they decided to forget and forgive and continue their company with each other. the narrator decides to take Sunil to Shimla along with him, keeping in mind to save him from the ladies whom he flirts in Shahganj.

After Reaching Shimla, Sunil takes a keen interest nature and wants to explore remote valleys, woodlands and waterfalls. Be that as it may, the narrator accidentally slips and hurt his ankle. For few days the balcony of the hotel became the screen to look around. In this time span, Sunil meets Maureen who is a teacher elder to him. with time their relationship develops into a love affair. They decided to marry. With this note, he returned to Shahganj. Sunil's father was against the proposal and blames the narrator for this affair. Sunil was not afraid of his father. he went in search of a job in his uncle's paper factory. meanwhile, he gets the news that Maureen is going to marry a teacher. At this point, the narrator needs to leave for Delhi. After a year, the

narrator heard the news of Sunil's death or rather was killed due to having lured with his friend's wife.

The story clearly presents the instability of teenagers. They change their mind an decision instantly without acknowledging it. Bond is a keen observer of the psychology of people. He has observed the adolescence in order to present the reality of society.

CHAPTER - 2

STYLISTIC DEVICES IN THE NIGHT TRAIN AT DEOLI AND OTHER STORIES.

This chapter is to discuss the stylistic devices used by Ruskin Bond in short stories. The language used, symbols, imageries, personification, irony, simile and various themes used in the stories.

The woman on platform 8 is a story with autobiographical notes. The stranger women symbolize motherhood. As from the biography of Bond it's clear that he had a lonely childhood without parents and stayed with the grandmother. So when the women comfort him with love and affection he also responds with love. There is a contract between the train and the women.

Ruskin Bond in his writing blends the nostalgic memories of a child with which his grandmother could also recall her childhood memory. The photograph is used as an image which could flashback the very old memories. The Photograph symbolizes memories. The memories along with the whole situation and surroundings could become live in front of the eyes with the photograph. These memories would refresh the mind and make smile in thinking the silly things done in the childhood. In the story, although the small boy could know that the photograph is of her grandmother but he remained silent to see her grandmother's smile. Bond uses symbols in order to make readers more ambiguous. Granny describes the atmosphere in the photograph:

it was a spring day, and there was cool breeze blowing, nothing like this. Those flowers at the girl's feet, they were marigolds, and the

Bougainvillea creeper, it was a mass of purple. You cannot see these colours in the photo, and even if you could, as nowadays, you wouldn't be able to smell the flowers or feel the breeze.

The spring symbolizes joy and love. Granny tried to convey how she used to enjoy when she was young. Flowers blossom in the same way she also blossoms in her young days. Colors symbolize happiness in life. Grandmother was happiness in her youth and she enjoyed all the freedom and liberty. She also told the narrator about the beautiful nature, the smell of flowers and atmosphere which she enjoyed.

Ruskin Bond is a master at creating a symbol out of common things. The image he uses is so common but is so truly related to human life. The window is a story in which he uses this as a symbol of the world. Through the window, the narrator observed the daily activities of the people around that take place. It is like a cinema to look through the window. All the events in the story take place from the window. The window acts as a medium between the boy and the world. Koki remarks, : it is like a cinema. The window is the screen, the world is the picture. This symbolizes the glimpse of the world enjoyed from the window by the narrator and Koki. The window also symbolizes the opening of the feeling. The window also symbolizes detachment- ` it gave us the power of detachment: we were deeply interested in the life around us but were not involved in it. Although the narrator enjoyed the daily activities through the window, he was not completely involved in their lives. He used to observe what goes around him. The window symbolizes the opening of your heart for a companion. The narrator opens his lonely world to Koki. They share a special bond which hopes to continue when she comes again. This reflects the attached and detachment between the two. The boy could not see the

whole world but some part of the world or activities can be observed through the window.

In the story, 'The Night Train at Deoli', Bond uses the symbol of female beauty. She describes the girl in the Deoli station: 'she had a pale skin, set off by the shiny black hair, and dark, troubled eyes.' The girl's eyes reflect the miserable life of the girl. She is in need of help so requests the narrator to buy a basket. Another symbol used is the railway station. The busy life of railway station is reflected. While the narrator travels, he could not see all the activities but the Deoli station was empty. So he came across the girl. The train is personified with life. The movement of the train is compared to the movement of life. Life also goes on after the narrator left the station. The lady and the narrator had a short-term relationship but the bond is so close and valuable. The women wear a 'white saree' which symbolizes she is lonely and needs love and in return the boy was also lonely in the station. He also seeks love and care. Both of them soon were tied in a bond of temporary mother and son. This shows child loves those who love and care them. Their love is true and they are innocent.

Bond uses journey as a metaphor. He presents life as a journey. With time characters move ahead in life leaving their past behind. Life never stops, only memories remain forever. In 'The Window' the narrator's daily life continues after Koki left. When she left, he closed the window and decided it shall open when Koki will come again. He hopes to meet her again. 'Love is a Sad Song' is a story in which the narrator in the end discovers Sushila is in love with a bank officer. He moved to Delhi with a note: 'I may stop loving you, Sushila; but I will never stop loving the days I loved you.' This shows that may he be far from Sushila but he will cherish the memories and times spend with her. In 'The Night Train at Deoli' the narrator used

to travel from Delhi to Dehra in every summer to meet his grandmother. While travelling he fell in love with a girl at the Deoli station. When next time he comes, he couldn't find the girl and decided to break the journey and find her. He was also in fear to discover about the girl. Still, once he went and asks in the station but nobody knows about her. Afterwards, he decided not to search her and consoled himself and move on in his life.

Imagery adds a sensuous effect to the stories. Bond uses imagery of the trees as friends in human life. In 'The Kitemaker', the old tree and mimosa sapling symbolize the old man and his grandson. Nature and human can share an intimate relationship. The boy symbolizes himself to the cherry tree in 'The Cherry Tree'. The growth of the plant symbolizes his growth from an infant into young men. The plant faces difficulties while growing into a full grown fruitful tree. In the same way, human beings also face ups and down. Failure and success are parts of life. Human overcomes everything and becomes a successful man in life. In 'a Love of Long ago', the narrator uses imagery for his childhood love's eyes and smile. She uses 'pearls of laughter' for her smile which is shining and eyes as 'sparkling brown eyes' which is dazzling.

In the 'Chachi's funeral', Sunil uses imagery of her chachi's anger as 'fanned flames'. Sunil is very mischievous. Chachi has to look after her sons, daughters, nieces and nephews along with household works. She gets so angry that her anger is like flames and fire. She is so angry that hits him. After she hits him she started crying. This is irony. She loves Sunil so she couldn't digest that she bet him. This shows anger is temporary but love is permanent in the heart. Sunil in anger also tries to kill her Chachi. Madhu, his cousin helped him to kill her mammi and Sunil's Chachi. So she draws a picture of Chachi on a paper and asked to stab her. This picture

of Chachi is personified to the body of Chachi. He stabs her to death. They also did the cremation of her. In this way, the immediate anger of Sunil goes but afterwards, he realizes and burst into tears. He went to Chachi and cried hugging her. He also requested her not to leave him and also speaks his heart out that he loves her so much. Chachi even realizes that he does care for her. This finally shows that anger is the spontaneous action which leads to destruction but love is permanent and truth which can't be changed. Bond also uses alliteration in this story. While Sunil was in anger, he repeatedly shouting announces to her Chachi: :I'll kill her, I'll kill her, I'll kill her! ~

The title of the short story :The Eye's have it~ is irony. As the title depicts it's about eyes which helped to look at but in the story its opposite. A narrator is a blind man and he meets a co-passenger on the train, she is also blind. The narrator pretends as if he has eyes and starts his conversation. If one is a defect in one aspect then he is strong in another aspect of him. God has made the world balance. The narrator is blind still his other senses are so strong that he could feel the presence of the girl, the movement of the train and the outside environment from the window. Their conversation seemed like both enjoyed the nature through their eyes. But this is ironical. Both the narrator and the girl could not know each other's weakness. Narrator complements the girl in an intellectual way and even she complements him back. This shows even heart can be seen in darkness. But in the end the narrator asked to confirm his doubt about her long hair from another passenger. He found she had beautiful eyes but it was of no use as she was blind. This is ironical again. Eyes are beautiful but lack sight. This means beautiful to weakness.

CONCLUSION

The short stories collection by Ruskin Bond *The Night Train at Deoli* and other stories is analysed on the basis of various narrative techniques and stylistic devices. This research brings to a conclusion that a text can be interpreted in different ways. The collection of stories have been applied the narrative technique for better understanding. The various narrative techniques that include construction of plot, character, the point of view, setting etc. Narrative techniques used by an author to write effectually. It involves how the writer describes the way the plot unfolds and descriptions of the characters look like both physically and spiritually. A narrative technique is a technique in which action and external events are conveyed directly or indirectly through a fictional character. The procedure used by a writer of stories is narrative. A writer writes to entertain the reader. The theme of the narrative writing is introduced by the writer in the beginning of the story followed by the growth of middle and impressive end. Narratives can also be fictional events that follow a plot structure which includes introduction or exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution or end. Characters are a portrait in such a way that it seems to be real. There are two types of narrative writing: personal and imaginative. In personal narrative, the writer writes about his own life and experience through the character. The presentation may sometimes be direct or indirect. After reading the readers can easily connect to their own life. The imaginative narrative writer writes through his imagination also called Creative writing. There is no limit or boundary for him. With his power of imagination, he can touch the sky and go beyond it. He can create

unusual situations and events that could never have happened in real life. Hence, the writer has to create a plot and make it sound and convincing to the reader. The narrative structure contains two things: story and plot. The story contains the chronological order of the dramatic action. The plot is the sequence of events that make up the story. The plot contains the how the story is told, the form of storytelling which includes flashback and flashforward. Both the story and plot present life of character throughout the story. The mode of narration of a story is the point of view or narrative mode. It signifies the way in which story is told. The point of view includes first, second and third person narrative. The setting is the background in which the story is presented which includes time and place. The writer chooses different places according to the sequence and events of the plot.

In the collection of short stories, bond used various narrative techniques to convey his thought and experience directly to the readers. It contains the stories which describe his childhood, a teenager life, an adolescence phase and then youth is a time when we recall the past. The past memories contain both sad and happy moments. He has applied narrative techniques such as flashback, first-person perspective. Most of his stories are presented in flashback in which he recalls his past memories. His stories are directly connected to the heart. He is realistic in his approach. Readers can connect to their own life easily. His characters are simple and flat. Bond is a keen observer of the psychology of people. So he could present his stories in a more appealing way. He uses simple language to convey his thought. He writes for every age group. Nature plays an important role in his stories. He is so connected to nature that he can feel it through his senses. His setting of most stories is also in the foothills of Himalaya. This show his soul mingled with nature. He is by all accounts resolute that whatever be the blends, the account ought not to make the impression of a

revenge story. There is a teaching to every one of his stories. In Bond's stories, nature may cause destroy for a transitory period, however, balances the tempo without many deferrals, giving the expectation of another life to everybody. The Thief in Bond's :The Thief~ realizes his mistake and return the money he has stolen to the owner and wanted to lead a truthful life from now. Bond's accounts that the stories not to end with the escape of the enemy. There is idyllic equity allotted to all such opposing figures, despite the fact that they are relatively uncommon in Bond's universe. Eg:- Sunil in :Death of a familiar~. His stories reflect faults and flaws of human nature and advice to realize and overcome in life. Narrative technique helps to interpret the stories from different perspectives. As the book contains his life journey, the stories are written in flashback. He could recall his childhood and presents in an extraordinary manner. He recalls the following things such as his journey in train from Delhi to Deoli, about his childhood love and even friends and relatives. He also remarks life goes on but only memories remain with us. His plot is well written which contain a proper beginning, middle and end. There are many autobiographical elements presented in the stories. He presented it both directly and indirectly such as his boarding school life, summer vacation with grandmother in the hilly region in the lap of nature. He uses different symbols and images to provide it more importance. The photograph resembles old memories which even forced to think the things which we do not provide importance in the childhood. The window is simply a thing through which we look out but Bond resembles in seeing the world through the window. His ideas of looking into simple things in a different perfective make him more prominent. Bond's art of characterization is well portraited to his stories. He writes about common people and stories related to common people life. Bond presents most of his stories in first person narrative which is more effective and realistic.

A stylistic device also has a deep impact on the stories. The purpose is an intensification of the emotional or logical emphasis contained in the corresponding expressive means. The various stylistic devices are symbol, imagery, simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration and etc. A symbol may be an object, a person, a situation, an action, a word, or an idea that has a literal meaning in the story as well as an alternative identity that represents something else. It is used as an expressive way to depict an idea. The symbol generally conveys an emotional response far beyond what the word, idea, or image itself dictates. Imagery is when the author invokes sensory details. Often, this is simply to draw a reader more deeply into a story by helping the reader visualize what is being described. Imagery also symbolizes important ideas in a story. A simile is an easiest stylistic device to identify, use of the words "like" or "as". A simile is a comparison used to attract the reader's attention and describe something in descriptive terms. Personification is giving human or animal characteristics to inanimate objects. Irony implies opposite meaning.

Bond in his collection of short stories used various stylistic devices to put a deep impact on the reader's mind. A symbol is a concrete word which refers to or represents an abstract idea. A symbol is a simple word that occurs a number of times in an author's works and with each Occurrence, it grows rich in meaning. The train has an important symbol in the short stories. Train symbolizes the journey of life. Other symbols used are a window which acts as a medium between the human and world. Seasons also has a symbols. In the story Bond uses spring season which symbolizes joy and happiness. The irony is a contrast statement. The title of one short story :The Eyes have it~ is an ironical title. Both the protagonist and the girl in the story are blind still they enjoy the sight. Alliteration is used to emphasise a statement.

Bond used :I'll kill her, I'll kill her, I'll kill her! ~ and `Love me! Love me! I want you to love me. _

To conclude, the art of narrative is well portrayed with experience and the power to visualize the world in different perspective. Bond interacts with the readers through his characters and plots. He has a universal appeal towards the society. If you want to lead a life of a child even in adulthood, then you should prefer Ruskin Bond.

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