

**GULZAR, A POET IN POPULAR CULTURE:
A CRITICAL STUDY**

by

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CERTIFICATE

The thesis titled **Gulzar, A Poet in Popular Culture: A Critical Study**, being submitted by **Saba Mahmood Bashir** to the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**, for the award of the degree of the **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**, is a record of bonafide research work carried out by her. She has worked under my supervision, and has fulfilled requirements for the submission of this thesis, which has attained the standard required for the Ph.D. degree of the Institute. The results presented in this thesis have not been submitted elsewhere for the award of degree or diploma.

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(Saba Mahmood Bashir)

Abstract

This doctoral study places Gulzar, an Indian poet and film lyricist, as a progressive poet in popular culture. Tracing the characteristics of the Progressive Writers, the Hindi-Urdu debate along with the birth of the resultant language, Hindustani has been studied as the literary works of the poet under deliberation are available both in Devanagari and the Persian script. Popular culture with relation to Hindustani cinema has been examined, touching upon the terminological debate for the film industry located in Mumbai with a brief history of film songs, as again Gulzar is a popular poet of the film industry. The poetry of his literary anthologies and the poetry that he uses in his cinema, talk to each other, thereby complementing each other. Taking examples, only from his poetry - both film and non-film, this study attempts to establish the literary unity that Gulzar achieves thereby establishing a new poetic norm which gained popularity during the last half a century thus contributing to the multicultural milieu of Indian society. The poems have been examined on grounds of style (covering the recurrent and the unusual usage of imagery and the distinct use of language – be it the borrowing of words from different languages or the use of strange and severe words) and themes (covering his poems on love, social concern and nature along with the ones written for children). Analysing his poetry, this thesis thus achieves the set objective of reading Gulzar, a popular poet in an Indian language, in the context of his times and analyses the film and non film poetry of the poet who was constantly trying to build bridges between high culture and low culture, in the process becoming a progressive poet in the popular culture.

Contents

Page Nos.

Chapter I - *Self-Portrait*: The Introduction

- Introducing the Thesis 3
- Introducing the Poet 14

Chapter II - *Voh Yaar Hai Jo Khushboo Ki Taraah, Jis Ki Zubaan Urdu Ki*

Taraah: The Historical Background

- Progressive Writers' Movement 27
- Hindi-Urdu Debate 37
- Choice of Hindustani 43

Chapter III - *Adab Aur Cinema Ko Kareeb Karne Ki Koshish*: The Popular Culture

- Terminological Debate 51
- Hindustani Cinema and Popular Culture 54
- Hindi Film Music 63
- History of Film Songs 66
- Gulzar, A Progressive Steeped in Popular Culture 69

Chapter IV - *Rooh Dekhi Hai, Kabhi Rooh Ko Mahsoos Kiya Hai?: The Style*

- Imagery 72
 - ◆ Recurrent Images (Moon/Sun and Day/Night; Eyes; Water) 78
 - ◆ Unusual Images: Gulzar's Experiments 100
- Language 111
 - ◆ Words from Various Languages 114
 - ◆ Colloquial Words 121
 - ◆ Severe and Harsh Words 124
 - ◆ Strange Words 129
 - ◆ Experiments with Form 130

Chapter V - *Chand Parosa Hai: The Themes*

- *Dil to Bachcha Hai Jee, Love* 131
- *Fasaadaat, Social Concern* 141
- *Kaynaat, Nature* 160

Chapter VI - *Abhi Na Parda Giraao, Thahro, Ki Daastan Aage Aur Bhi Hai:*

The Conclusion 164

Bibliography 176

Appendix I i - Ixxi

Guftagoo, In his own words (Gulzar's interview)

Appendix II i - xxxviii

(List of film songs and poems from anthologies)