

## TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING TRAVEL WRITINGS: A STUDY

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### **Abstract**

*A vital component of contemporary society is travel. In today's globalised world, there are numerous travel possibilities that are less expensive and less difficult to arrange, such a vacation to a nearby city or a flight to a tropical island. The concept of human well-being is described in this paper as being multifaceted, and its connection to tourism is discussed. Travel has been identified as the best method for reducing stress, releasing emotions, and finding inspiration, according to a literature review and the opinions of academic authors. The majority of viewpoints have demonstrated that tourism is a crucial component of the ecosystem, which in turn shapes human satisfaction and well-being. While service providers enhance their offerings and put their customers first, travel, in particular, differs depending on the time and place. The present paper explores travel writing as a source of getting knowledge and exploring the world. MLA eighth edition has been used for literary documentation and citation.*

**Keywords:** *Traveling, hypothetical audience, human existence, pilgrimages, internal and external journeys, etc.*

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Introduction:

We are not new to travel. It is an intriguing aspect of human existence. The history of humankind is the history of travel. Man has always needed to travel in order to either meet his basic necessities or to continue to exist. It won't be an exaggeration to say that man's propensity for travel has led to the reality of the modern, developed world we live in today. One of the essential aspects of human life is travel. It is always a voyage, regardless of whether one goes abroad or merely across town, and it is the journey that shapes the person, history, and stories they tell.

The term "travel" is etymologically related to "Travailen," which means "to make a voyage." Originally, it meant "to labour, toil." The idea of "going on a tough journey" may have therefore been the basis for the semantic development. Even words in the English language, including "Sojourn," "Tour," "Errand," "Wandering," "Trip," "Movement," and "Mobility," have the meaning "Travel." The journey from one place to another is echoed by almost all of these phrases.

Traveling broadens a person's horizons in terms of knowledge and understanding. It not only fosters understanding and social integrity but also brings diverse cultures and cultural heritages closer together. In the past, pilgrimages and other religious activities were the two most common motivations for travel (i.e., trade and business). The aims, however, have altered as time has gone on. Nowadays, people travel for a variety of reasons, including enjoyment, change, and stress relief.

Even if one travels for artistic, partisan, or commercial reasons, there are some people who have a propensity to just travel for the sake of it—to wander aimlessly. The ecclesiastical figures of old travelled from location to location in an effort to broaden the scope and perspectives of their particular religious' ideas and draw adherents of other religions to their own. Many Christian missionaries around the world were attacked for these reasons. Both

Buddhist lamas and Jain monks share this situation. European, Japanese, Chinese, and Mughal travelers all had various motivations for their journeys.

Numerous great individuals have travelled for various reasons, including Columbus, Vasco-De-Gama, Fahiyān, Hue-en-Sang, Itsing, Alberuni, Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo, and even Indian saints like Swami Vivekananda, Shankracharya, and Swami Ramtirth. Travelers with a creative inclination and the capacity to fictionalise their experiences in a meaningful way describe their journeys in an artistic manner, giving rise to what is known as "travel literature." Travel writing of literary value. As Richard Kerridge puts it:

The traveler offers to be a proxy, venturing into foreign space on behalf of the reader at home, but always maintaining contact with base, through the narrative-address to that reader. He has stepped out of the web of attachments that normally holds him in place, in order to search for something lost or repressed in ordinary life- but only to look at it, or brush against it. (Kerridge167)

Recent years have seen an increase in the popularity of travel and travel writing. As a thriving and hugely popular literary genre, it has reached a new height. Travel-related works frequently make bestseller lists or are nominated for literary awards in a number of categories. The reading audience appears to have acquired a predilection for trip narratives, and creative writers have started to take this form seriously, translating their travels into a variety of both modern and historical travel novels.

Most of the controversial topics are currently covered in books about travel and similar experiences. The traveler embarks on the voyage to be able to capture it, and there are a wide range of expressed viewpoints. Diverse travels are undertaken and depicted, including pilgrimages, conquistador and explorer excursions, anthropological research, and backpacking trips. The development of science and technology has increased the possibilities for travel, from domestic to international, from the oceans to the Polar Regions, and even further astronomical expeditions in space. Man's interest and curiosity with travelling activities is reflected in a wide variety of historical events and literary traditions. And there are numerous others who are similar to them but have not yet set out on their dangerous, potentially fatal adventures.

Now, as the world has become the global village with the advancements and luxury of travelling facilities, it has ignited this latent tendency of travelling and documenting such experiences artistically. Carl Thompson, defining travel, states,

It (Travel) is the negotiation between self and other that is brought about by movement in space” (Thompson 10). “And all travel writing is at some level a record or product of this encounter, and of the negotiation between similarity and difference that it entailed.” Carl Thompson further comments.

During the course of his journey project, the travel writer may have a variety of designs, viewpoints, and patterns in his head. He also discovers more about the locals' culture and way of life as he travels to a different country. The local traditions and rituals come into direct contact with him, and as a result, they all capture his attention and elicit views on them. In this connection the prolific British travel writer, Geoffrey Moorhouse makes right observation that:

The travel narrative is indeed in a rather special category of literature: it can include topographical description, history, autobiography, reminiscence about almost anything under the sun that you think your readers will tolerate as having some relevance to your journey or your disquisition on a particular place. (Moorhouse 18)

Travel and travel tales highlight the fact that experiencing new cultures while on the road exposes the traveler to aspects of his or her own culture that may not be familiar. Due to the traveler's absence from home and other familiar surroundings, he or she frequently has the chance to come face to face with the inner self while on the road. Additionally, when something foreign appears to be quite different from the things and ways that he or she is used to, this causes them to probe into themselves and thus, the voyage inside begins. Pico Iyer in his essay 'Why We Travel' nicely exposes this point:

Thus travel spins us round in two ways at once: It shows us the sights and values and issues that we might ordinarily ignore; but it also, and more deeply, shows us all the parts of ourselves that might otherwise grow rusty. For in travelling to a truly foreign place, we inevitably travel to moods and states of mind and hidden inward passages that we'd otherwise seldom have a cause to visit.

And,

We travel, then, in search of both self and anonymity — and, of course, in finding the one we apprehend the other. Abroad, we are wonderfully free of caste and job and standing; we are, as Hazlitt puts it, just the “gentlemen in the parlour,” and people cannot put a name or tag to us. And precisely because we are clarified in this way, and freed of inessential labels, we have the

opportunity to come into contact with more essential parts of ourselves (which may begin to explain why we may feel most alive when far from home). (Pico Iyer)

As a fervent researcher, William will do anything to gather information for his best-selling books. He travels in areas that seem to be dangerous, possibly even to one's life, in the course of his pursuits. Both Kashmir and Palestine have seen shootings at him. During his book research in Afghanistan, he narrowly escaped a sniper attack and was almost killed. Dalrymple searched libraries and archives in England, India, Pakistan, and Kabul for information on the war but wasn't satisfied with what he discovered. Dalrymple has won a number of awards, including the Asia House Award for Asian Literature, the Wolfson Prize for History, and the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award. He also wanted to visit the scene of the combat between British forces and Afghans because he is a perfectionist.

Conclusion:

In this sense, "travel" functions as a catalyst, inspiring the writer to embark on a trip both externally and within. Thus, the text that is created appears to be the result of both internal and external journeys. The traveler first embarks on the actual journey, occasionally recording it in writing and keeping personal reflections; after returning home, he mentally recreates the entire journey, choosing, acting out, creating, erasing, and, most importantly, ordering and rearranging it all with the hypothetical audience he addresses in mind.

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