

# Concept of Literary Criticism of Marxist by Terry Eagleton

(On The Basis Of Literary Criticism of Marx)

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**Abstract:** This paper is based on Terry Eagleton's book Marxist Literary Criticism. on the basis of it viewpoint of Eagleton is come forward about Literature and history, commitment of writer content, form and writer as a producer. Literature itself a Social ideological creation which comes forward with fundament issues of basic requirement.

**Keywords:** Literary Criticism, Terry Eagleton, fundament issues of basic requirement.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper in hand is to put forth the notions of Terry Eagleton about the criticism of Marxist literature. It is necessary to be clear about this point that this work is not about the history of the criticism of Marxist literature and also the contribution of Terry Eagleton. The name is not possible within the framework of time and size of this article. It is a different thing that this type of literary background helps in the in-depth study. Along with that the purpose of this work is not to study but to pay attention to the next book of Terry Eagleton "Criticism and Ideologies". It is therefore very evident that our stress in only on the basic/ fundamental concepts of "criticism Marxist Literature."

## II. BODY OF ARTICLE

The "criticism of Marxist- Literature" is confined to a few Pages only and is very small. In this book the eroticism by Terry Eagleton of about Marxist literature is confined to some important and conflicting matters about the form, size and details of Marxist view point of universality and philosophy in the context of History. In this context the writers following statement appears to be appropriate. Marxism is a complex subject and the field of criticism in respect of Marxist literature is the less enigmatic. For this reason, it will not be possible to discuss more than the brief study of only the fundamental issues and basic problems."

It is clear that the writers purpose for the criticism of Marxist Literature is only to discuss some fundamental issues or to bring forth some basic points. While doing so, he studies the Historical points which gives shape and image, to his contemplations. Such investigative study involves the mode of the survey of the History. He also prepares the synopsis of all these procedures which change with History. There are four such central and important points which form the basis of Eagleton's thinking. These are as under.

1. Literature & History
2. Content and form
3. Writer and his commitment

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## 4. Writer as a producer

The writer has comprehensively defined the above said issues in every part of this book.

If you have a cursory glance on the various pages of the book of criticism of “Marxist Literature.” The first impression you get of the writer is his multifaceted and deep awareness of conventional knowledge. He has not only studied Marx, Engels, Lenin, Plekhanov, Raliff Fox, Trotsky, Lucal, Goldman, Piro Sashaire, Walter Benjamin etc. Prominent creations relevant Maxims) made evident but he also uses them for confirmation and extension / amplification of his own convictions this project in hand neither put forth this entire tradition, nor it is relevant here. We will here only restrict our attention to his four concepts /notions.

The first point that Terry Eagleton has brought to our notice, pertains to Literature and History. The relation between History and literature has not been taken up by the writer in a traditional and restrictive manner, but has shown it in a manner that is full of vigour. The originality of Marxist universal point of view has been represented by him as under-

“The originality of the criticism of Marxist ideology is not its approach to literature but in its understanding of the revolution in literature.”

In this way, he points out the real goal of the Historical approach of the Marxism towards fulfillment of literary creations. Which means that in the context of Historical context literary creations, its forms, technique or its meaning should have more sensitivity and attention or to accept it as reproduction of History. In the context of bi-lateral relationship of History and literature, on the one side he stresses upon his stamps on the Historical age/dominance. On the other hand he perceives his historical conditions will outline the time/era. Further the writer perceives the History with ideologies matters. He propounds the basic concept of Marx & Engels that "Economic Powers constitute the frame work of the fundamental economic model." Every age is a part of this or dependent upon this economic factor, Evolution of the same is not only dependent upon Art but also upon certain patterns of social awareness. The same is being named as ideology of Marxism." He uses it as a supporting power and also agrees with the ideology of Marx that the Governing body of the society has a dominating influence on the society. It is evident that he suggests linking of literature with History and History with Ideology.

According to him 'Art' is a part of social ideology. And if you want to understand literature than you must understand the whole procedure. He not only understands that Literature\_History, and ideology should be understood from scientific point of view but also opposes Mystical and Romantic viewpoints. The writers' view point about the link age between History and ideology shows his multifaceted approach to the literature. He does not suggest delinking The Literary products from the society. He believes:-

"Every writer is individually a part of the society. He reacts to the whole History from his special point of view. Then he expresses his experience in solid terminology." The changes in society are not the only basis of literature or Art but it is an active part of the same.

Terry Eagleton's second important belief is connected to Material and its form. The writer instead of considering /viewing it in an unbiased/ manner, He sees it in Historical and scientific manner. In this context, therefore his discussion moves forward, he makes it clear that criticism of Marxism is opposed to all types of literary form. In this context, he does not term the literature in an aesthetic sense but gives it literary importance. When he considers Material and form of literature, he puts forth his views in a historical context as under:-

“Historical form/ relationship of a material /object is determined by a person who has to portray it. When a material transforms itself, then its portrayal also changes, breaks and transforms itself. Which means that a material is above its relationship.”

In this way, the writer in the context of “material and form” of literature in historical sense lays stress on this point that the material has a prominent role than its form. While doing so he consciously condemns the formalism. This does not mean that he reveals the literature as a social document, but he views literature as having the stamp are a result of ideological transformation of History. Also he views accept literary transformations .

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The writer's foremost view is that "form" always keeps intact three complicated elements.

(A) The form of literature partly takes its form of the Historical literature from independent observations.

(B) It takes its form from dominating ideological creations.

(C) It demonstrates and interprets the special relationship between the writer and the reader. His paramount planning is to observe the form (of literature) on complicated elements of unity or conflicting relations. Terry Eagleton after narrating the problem of literature & History, Material and its form in the back ground of Historical prospective and in a rational manner, touches upon the commitment of the writer. Although while discussing the problem of literature and History, he has made the commitment to the view points of ideology. But still this point has been fully explained in the chapter on his commitment. His compulsion towards Realism does not mean that art and Artist are dispensable, Nor he means that art and artist have no relevancy. He recognizes art as a product of social material. To evaluate Art, he has given importance to certain rules.

He also agrees with the concept of Palkhanov that the literature which benefits History is more beneficial than that which gives amusement. "The writer translates social facts into literary facts and the critic again converts these into Realism." It is evident that he does not view the literature a mirror of society or politics but also gives importance to artistic rules. His beliefs in this behalf are "Fictions does not need open and frank political support the reason why it is so is that realistic writings themselves do not constitute photographic viewing of political thoughts or thrusting of external cloak of words but it is normal interpretation of important forces operating in social life."

This quotation contains three important views: 1<sup>st</sup> is Social life. Second is national instinct and third is dramatization. The mutual collaboration of all these three represents commitment to literature.

The last point under discussion pertains to the writer as a producer. He also considers literature as an art which creates social awareness/ consciousness. Besides he considers it as an industry. In this connection his views are:-

"The books are not only some meaningful creations but these are produced by the publishers for profit when these are sold in the market."

The writer further elaborates this point in the back ground of capitalism. In this context the writer compares himself with a labourer, who works for the publishers in the form of producing goods which can be sold in the market. Consciously he also sends a message that art is not for sale in the market. Also art for him is not something which is to be dissected academically but it should be considered as some social work.

It can be said that although this book is criticism of Marxist literature written by Terry Eagleton is very brief but he has touched upon very important issues. He tests literature as well as Art from conflicting viewpoints. The study of the field of Marxist Literature His views on Literature & History, Material and its form as a writer his commitment and writer as a producer are distinctive and original. He views both History and criticism from Historical perspective. He gives more importance to Historical context when he discusses literature and its criticism because he was born in this environment. Literature born out of special social environment has left behind deep foot prints on the society.

### III. CONCLUSION

Terry Eagleton has laid stress on this point that Art is one of the forces which are capable of social transformation. He also believes that Art is one of an active element /basis for the transformation of History. The writer is not, in favour of restricting art to ideology. He recognizes the complicated links between art and ideology. He asks the writers to absorb both the awareness of reality and commitment to art. Which means that he does not approve any political ideology. In brief we can say that the writer Terry Eagleton has calmly studied the subjects of Literature and History, Material and its form. The writer's commitment and the writer as a producer and also proposed that the literature should be-linked to development in History and also keep in mind the aesthetic values of the social conditions.

**REFERENCES AND COMMENTS**

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- [3] Same Page 18
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- [7] Same page 81

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