Robinson Crusoe as a Text : Cultural Encounter

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Abstract :

The relationship between Robinson Crusoe and Friday lightens on the east, the west, and their culture. Defoe reminds us about "German Capital Punishment" which was still in practice. In a sense, it gives the pattern of colonial language, cultural dialectics and colonization in 17th to 19th century.

Robinson is a Whiteman whereas Friday belongs to black-white. There is a common between Crusoe and Friday that is, the different habits, cultures and convictions and modes of perception. The common ground between both of them that is to share is the chance of being human beings. Defoe has questioned 'the cultural displacement'. The relationship between Robinson and Friday is a paradigm of colonial relationship. Robinson and Friday develops to such an intimate bond of relationship that Friday forgets his country, his home and becomes close friend of Crusoe. For the love, affection and selflessness, which Crusoe treats,

Friday is recompensed generating in Friday unconditional and selfless surrender to the master. Nonetheless, one of the greatest achievements of Crusoe as a man of faith is the success in transforming Friday into a loyal and committed servant. Friday puts forth that his people are originated from the mighty river Orinoco; his God is Venamuckhi and priests are called Oowookeke who can talk to God. Defoe comments on oow as a fictional name. He exposes the age of the supremacy of priestly class, irrespective of the temporal.

In this way, Defoe's perception of Robinson and Friday's relationship is a paradigm of his genius who has brought out cultural encounter in this particular text.