

IMPACT OF M.R. ANAND ON MODERN SHORT STORIES

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ABSTRACT

*It goes without saying that Mulk Raj Anand is one of the key figures of modern Indian fiction in Indian English Literature. In fact, he is a writer of miscellaneous interest. His short stories are quite sizeable in number. From the first volume entitled, *The Lost Child and Other Stories* (1934) to *Lajwanti* (1966) constitutes a major chunk of his themes and concerns which find a long treatment in his longer fiction. Besides, he has also re-told some fairy tales from Indian oral tradition and has written on the art of short stories at some length. Finally, he edited a selected column of his chosen stories entitled *Selected Stories*.*

In this paper I would like to focus on some of his well-known stories where the old form of the oral short story and the modern variations in European literature are blended. It is normally accepted that Indian English short story is hardly a hundred years old and small beginnings were made in the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century. M.K. Naik has rightly pointed out: "... the short story of this first phase is mostly artless in technique. Some of them are simply a re-telling of folk tales and legends, many are anecdotal, and the didactic element is very strong in quite a few of them." Similarly, it is believed that Indian English short story came to maturity during the Gandhian age.

KEYWORDS: *Indian English Fiction, Mulk Raj Anand, Short Story, Anecdotal, Fairy Tales*