

Book Reviews Published in 'The Hindu': A Study

Dr. S.P. Satarkar

Librarian, Swami Ramanand Teerth

Jagdish N. Kulkarni

Assistant Librarian, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marthwada University, Nanded.

Shahaji S. Waghmode

Lecturer, MGM College of Library and Information Science, Nanded

ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to study the reviews published in daily The Hindu. Present article narrates various features and shortcomings of the reviews published in The Hindu.

1 INTRODUCTION

The word 'review' is derived from the French word meaning 'to see again' and is used in different sense. It may describe a critical article or report as in a periodical, a periodical publication containing articles on current event of affairs, books and arts.

2 BOOK REVIEW

Book reviewing in the modern sense is of recent origin compared to 'literary criticism' in English language, 'Teekas' as they are called in Sanskrit, in Hindi 'Sameeksha and Aalochana' and in Marathi it is called as 'Granth Parikshan'.

The World Book Encyclopedia¹ has defined the term 'Book Review' as "An article published in a newspaper or periodical that announces the about and evaluate it." Book reviews are also published in newspapers and periodicals along with other articles and newspapers. Generally book reviews are published in the supplements of the newspapers. In India most of English and regional language newspapers publish book review column in its issues.

The book reviewing may be a 'descriptive' review, often issued by a published as selling device, or an 'evaluative' review bordering on literary criticism. Reviews by authorities or by professional reviews have more influence on the

buying public than publisher's blurbs or advertisements because of the combination of evaluative and descriptive elements²

3 TYPES OF REVIEWS:

Reviews or review articles critically summarize the progress made over a certain time in a given subject fields, including reference to the primary literature. Generally written by experts reviews fall into the three categories.³

- i) Discipline or Comprehensive Reviews,
- ii) Categorical or Topical Reviews,
- iii) Analytical and Research Reviews

4 REVIEWS IN 'THE HINDU'

In 'THE HINDU' book reviews are published in two supplements one is 'BOOK REVIEW' published every week on Thursday and second one is Sunday's 'LITERARY REVIEW' published twice in a month.

6 METHODOLOGY

The data required for present article is collected, by referring to all the issues of The Hindu published during the study period. Bibliographical details were written on cards and entered in the database created using FoxPro. Study highlighted different

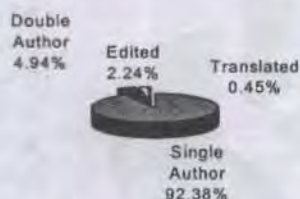
features of book reviews evaluating those on different parameters. There were 447 reviews published during 1st January to 30 June 2002.

6. ANALYSIS OF DATA

6.1 Authorship Pattern of Reviewed Books

It can be observed from Figure 7.1 that books by individuals (single) authors have occupied large part of the collection under review. It has occupied 92.38% (413) to the total single author is more important in a flow of publication. Double author 04.94%(22), Edited 02.24%(10) and Translated books were also reviewed.

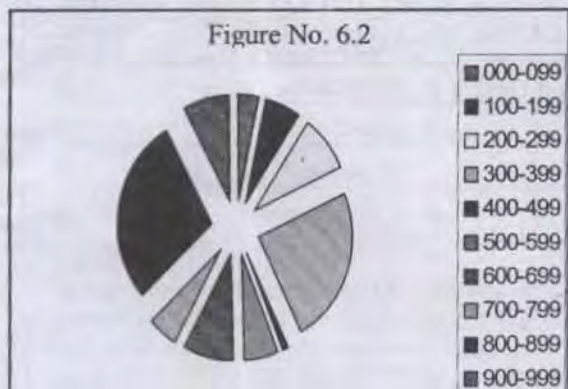
Figure No 6.1



6.2 Classified Analysis of Reviewed Books

Second parameter for analyzing the reviews was classified analysis. The book reviews collected from the newspaper were analyzed on the basis of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC 19th Ed.). It is analyzed into ten main classes enumerated by Melvil Dewey.

Figure No. 6.2



From the Figure 6.2 it can be observed that literature books under review has occupied

maximum part as it has about 129 documents from the total number. It has share of 29.08% to the total collection under review. In the decreasing order first was Literature i.e. 129 (29.08%), second was Social Science 107 (23.94%) and third was Religion 40 (8.95%). The books from other main classes were Generalia 16 (3.58%), Philosophy 27 (6.04%), Linguistics 4 (0.90%), Science 27 (6.04%), Technology 38 (8.50%), Fine Art 22 (4.92%) and History and Geography 36 (8.05%). The books of Linguistics were very few.

6.3 Authorwise Ranking

In the process of analyzing the book reviews published in 'The Hindu' it was intended to know the number of book reviews published of the books of one author.

Figure 6.3

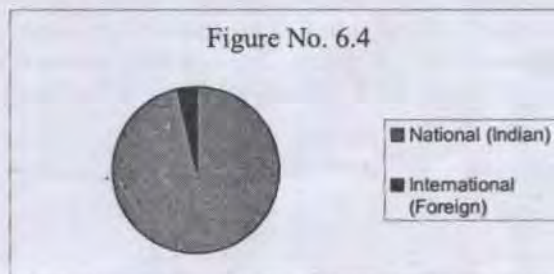
Sr. No.	No. of Written Books	No. of Author	No. of Total Books	Rank
1.	12	1	12	1
2.	4	1	4	2
3.	3	1	3	3
4.	2	8	16	4
5.	1	316	316	5
6.	Author not mentioned	96	96	6
Total		423	447	

It can be understood that there was author named K.N. Saraswathy whose 12 titles were reviewed under this column. Then, four reviews of the books by Navaginnanda, three reviews of the books by K. Anbazhagan and remaining titles of an individual author whose only one book review published is large in number.

It is surprising that 96 reviews have no authors. It is not understood whether really these documents have no author or it has not been printed in the reviews.

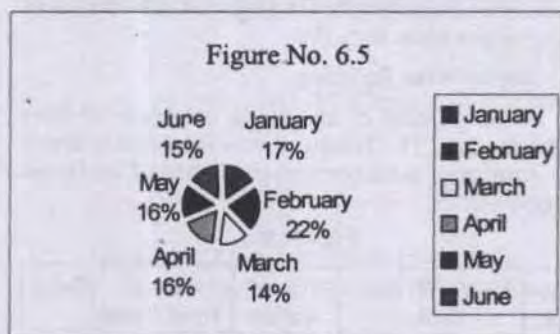
6.4 Book Reviews of National and International Levels of Publications

Figure No. 6.4



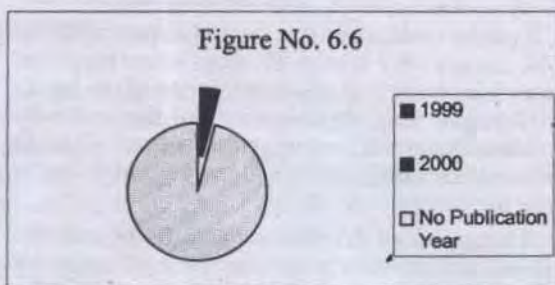
Book reviews published in 'The Hindu' have included the National and International published books. Indian books have occupied large position 431 (96.42%) and foreign books reviewed are quite good in number i.e. 16 (3.58%) of total collections of the book reviews in 'The Hindu'.

6.5 Chronological Book Reviews Published



Researcher has analyzed reviews in chronological order. It is found that in the month of February 2001 - 95 (21.25%) book reviews published. There is no major variation in the publications it ranges from 63 to 95 per month on an average.

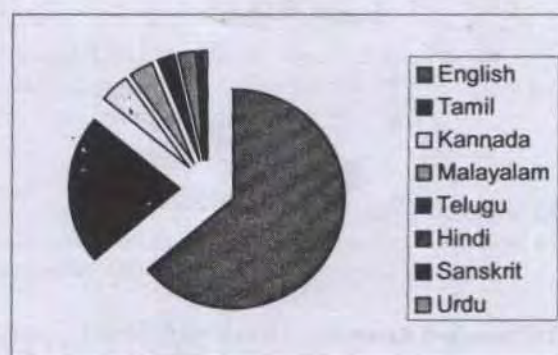
6.6 Year of publication of reviewed books:—



Generally, the recent published books are reviewed in the newspaper, but in some specialized cases a newspaper may publish the reviews of the books, which may not be published recently, or going to publish soon. It is found that 428 (95.75%) of book reviews have not mentioned the year of publication. However, very few numbers of books reviews have shown year of publication. Out of shown years, book published in the 2000 are 17 (3.80%) and in 1999 are 2 (0.45%) only.

7.7 Language of publication of reviewed books

Figure 6.7



It can be observed from Figure 6.7 there are 284 (63.53%) book reviews of the English language books. Considering the importance of books are published in different national and regional languages and readers interest. 'The Hindu' has also published book reviews of the books in Tamil 100 (22.37%), Kannada 20 (4.47%), Malayalam 16 (3.58%), Telugu 11 (2.46%), Hindi, 11 (2.46%), Sanskrit 3 (0.67%) and Urdu 2 (0.45%) only.

6.8 Ranking of Publishers of Reviewed Books

Figure No. 6.8

Sr. No.	No. Of Book Publishers	No. Of Books Published	No. Of Publications	Percentage (%)
1.	1	15	15	3.35
2.	1	12	12	2.68
3.	1	11	11	2.46
4.	1	10	10	2.24
5.	2	9	18	4.03
6.	2	7	14	3.13
7.	3	6	18	4.03
8.	7	5	35	7.83
9.	4	4	16	3.58
10.	11	3	33	7.38
11.	28	2	56	12.53
12.	206	1	206	46.09
13.	Publishers not mentioned	3	3	0.67
	Total	421	447	100.00

It was observed that Oxford University Press publications are reviewed maximum in the analyzed collection i.e. 15 (3.35%), Kadalangudi Publication 12 (2.68%), Penguin Books India 11 (2.46%), Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan 10 (2.24%) and other has decreasing ranked subsequently.

However, name of the publisher was not found in the book reviews for 3 (0.67%) books.

6.9 Ranking of Reviewer

Figure No.7.9

Sr. No.	Name of Reviewer	No. of Books Reviewed	Ranking
1.	CVG	20	1
2.	Parthasarathy, R.	17	2
3.	Bhasker, B.P.	14	3
4.	Ramachandra, M.	14	3

It was intended to know the persons who reads recent books, study it and brings to the notice in the form of review for the use of the general users. It also helps publishers as a indirect tool of publicity. During the period of study, C.V.G. has ranked at firsts position by reviewing 20 books followed by R. Parthasarathy is on second, B.P. Bhaskar and M. Ramachandra at third position. It is also observed that for 42 book reviews, reviewers are unknown.

6.10 Place of Publicationwise Book Reviews

Figure 6.10

Sr. No.	Place of Publication	No. of Books Published	Percentage(%)
1.	Chennai	128	28.65
2.	New Delhi	125	27.96
3.	Bangalore	22	4.92

It was observed that Chennai has ranked in the first place and occupied 28.65% collection under the review. Chennai is the place from where 'The Hindu' is published. No doubt, there was great impact on the publication of book reviews. Then the place like New Delhi which is the capital of India and 'The Hindu' being a national newspaper many books i.e. 125 (27.96%) are reviewed, which are published in capital city of India.

States capitals like Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Thiruvananthpuram, Bhopal had also considerable share in the publication.

Books published in the International cities around the world like London, Chicago, Columbia, New York, Singapore, Karachi were also reviewed and published in the book review column. 46 document (12.29%) reviews had not shown the place of publication over all. Place mentioned in the review itself is considered only while classifying the documents under review as per publications.

6.11 Pricewise Book Reviews

Figure No. 6.11

Sr. No.	Price (Rupees)	No. of Books Reviewed	Percentage(%)
1.	1-50	82	18.34
2.	51-100	54	12.08
3.	101-150	37	08.28
4.	151-200	35	07.83
5.	201-250	43	09.62
6.	251-300	23	05.15
7.	301-400	38	08.50
8.	401-500	22	04.92
9.	501-600	23	05.15
10.	601-700	9	02.01
11.	701-800	6	01.34
12.	801-900	4	00.89
13.	901-1000	11	02.46
14.	1000 - above	24	05.37
15.	Price Not Mentioned	36	08.06
	Total	447	100.00

From the Figure 6.11 it can be observed that books costing less than Rs.50/- are more i.e. 82 (18.34%) prices of the books under review are in the range of minimum rupee one to and maximum Rs.13, 500.

7. CONCLUSION

Total 447 book reviews were published in the 'THE HINDU' during the study period.

- 1) Book Reviews published in 'THE HINDU' are mostly of the book by single author.
- 2) Book Reviews on science & technology, arts, generalia and linguistics have very less share in the review publication..
- 3) Books published in India were more than foreign books.
- 4) Average 63 to 95 book reviews were published in a month.
- 5) Book reviews of the books published in South Indian languages were more than other Indian languages.

- 6) Maximum number of book reviews was of the books that were published from Chennai.
- 7) There are many book reviews without price of the book, size of books, and/or type of bookbinding of books and/or reviewer's full name and his address were also not found.
- 8) Literary review supplement published twice in a month and book review supplement published per week.

RESUME

- 1 Groman, Jeff, Edi. : The World Book Encyclopaedia, London, World Book International, 1992, p.459.
- 3 Sethi, A.R. : Book Reviewing is Librarian's Prerogative, IASLIC Bulletin, 29(3), Sept. 1984, p.122.
- 3 Ibid, p.124.