

REFLECTION OF CULTURE AND LANGUAGE IN RAMSEY CAMPBELL'S THE ONE SAFE PLACE

Dr. Advait. D. Joshi
Associate Professor
Sadashivrao Mandlik
Mahavidyalaya, Murgud

Abstract- Ramsey Campbell is known for his horror fiction. He has dealt with Gothic, Cosmic, Mundane and Concealed Horror. He is also labelled as an urban Gothic Horror writer. His novels have allured masses as they make readers move in the world of ghosts, cosmic entities, serial killers and antagonists. His horror novels are packed with uncertain incidents, cinematic techniques, unhappy endings and cruel father figures.

Campbell's novels express social concern and chaotic social situations. *The One Safe Place* (1996) moves around two boys- the one is a victim and the other is a villain. Apart from the other aspects of horror novel, this novel is a fine example of reflection of culture and language. The present paper examines the same linking the novel with social concern.

The One Safe Place is a story of Darren and Marshall. The novel catches the nerve of readers as Darren kidnaps Marshall and keeps in his house unnoticed. He exploits Marshall as much as he can. He keeps Marshall in the dirty room and offers Marshall the birth control pills when he asks for some medicine. Darren does not wish any one to let know that Marshall is there especially, his family members who have just come with some loot to hide in the house. But Darren's mother sees Marshall and tells him to get rid of the boy. The end of the novel is tragic one as Marshall kills Darren but he was not punished as he was drugged by Darren.

It is clear that the novel raises certain social and moral issues thereby exposing criminal and amoral world. The novel is a fine portrayal of class as well as a family conflict. The encounter of two families not only marks the juxtaposition of two

worlds but also focuses on different socioeconomic status of the families. The speech of the families reveals their socioeconomic status. Fancy family can hardly utter a sentence without an abuse. Even Darren is not an exception to it; he communicates or is communicated in a filthy language that the upper class of the society has always tried to shun.