

Padma Bhushan and received the Honorary D.Litt. from the University of Leeds and the University of Delhi in 1967 and 1973 respectively. The renowned 'British Council' also honoured him by including him in 'Writers and Their Work' series. Many of his stories have been broadcasted by the B.B.C. A Bollywood film based on his novel **The Guide** was released in 1965. This novel was adapted into a play in 1968 and has been translated into several languages.

He passed away in 2001, creating a big vacuum in the realm of literature.

THEME

R.K. Narayan's magnum opus, **The Guide** is a thought - provoking novel, which explicates the subtle and complex human relationships in a very lucid manner. It explores a face of India -- its customs, traditions, culture, socio-economic conditions, illiteracy, superstitions and religious faith and presents a conflict between traditional and modern values. It also focuses on the institution of marriage and family bonds and on the fact that certain set roles are assigned to a woman in a patriarchal society and if she tries to cross the defined precincts and desires more freedom, she arouses the wrath of the family members. It also throws light on the role of destiny in a person's life.

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUE

A major part of **The Guide** is set in Malgudi, a fictional town in South India and a part of it in a village named Mangal. The author has used cinematic techniques of flash back, flash forward and montage in his plot construction. The unconventional plot of the novel revolves freely in time and space, both in between and within the chapters, shifting from the past to the present and back again, and from Malgudi to Mempi hills to Mangal in a random but smooth and logical manner. Raju's presence in Mangal is narrated by the author, while his past in Malgudi is narrated by Raju himself. This technique of double narration, the juxtaposition of the past and the present focuses on the irony of life, the predicament of a man, who is not born 'great'