

Preci 2020

Manto faced societal contradictions marked by self-righteousness, hypocrisy and an insensitive society. Critics labelled his work as obscene leading to prolonged legal battles. Despite this, Manto remained dedicated to depicting harsh realities, particularly those affecting marginalized groups consisting of wage-earners and prostitutes. Influenced by Freud, he explored human sexuality in a tangible, realistic manner. Manto portrayed humans as a mix of good and bad, focusing on the genuine thoughts and actions of middle and lower-middle class characters. He highlighted the gap between appearance and reality, detesting social duality. His writing, though discreetly handling vulgarity, resonated deeply with readers, reflecting their restlessness, and raising him above his own struggles through serious enthusiasm.