

## A COMPARISON OF THE COMEDY OF MANNERS AND THE COMEDY OF HUMOURS

Ben Jonson, is considered to be the pioneer of the art of writing 'Comedy of Humours'. This sort of comedy gained momentum in the hands of Ben Jonson. 'Comedy of Humour' is different from the 'Comedy of Manners' in so many aspect. It is quite true that in both types of comedies, there is a frequent use of satire and realism but inspite of all this, we see a great distinction between both sort of literary genre.

The 'Comedy of Humour' mainly deals with the oddities of characters. We see a shadow of whimsicality over the real life of character. In the 'Comedy of Manners', the playwrights highlight the social manners of the contemporary society. The Restoration playwrights deal with the vices and follies of sophisticated society in most amusing manners. However, the style of these dramatists is a little exaggerative but they are very successful in conveying their ideas. The characters of the 'Comedy of Manners' are the true representatives of their age. They are highly fashionable and perfect dandy. But as far as 'Comedy of Humour' is concerned; the playwright emphasises the representation of characters in action; without considering their whimsicality. In the 'Comedy of Manners', the main focus is on the presentation of a true picture of social life of the characters. It deals with their life-style, and exposes their vices and follies in its totality. Its chief purpose is not the exhibition of characters or their humour but it is mainly concerned with the manners of these characters.

Ben Jonson developed the use of humours in his comedies. The characters of Ben Jonsonian comedies exhibit excessive humour in their personality, but in the Restoration comedy, characters are devoid of such quality. However, we find some element of eccentricity, too in the characters of Restoration Comedy i.e. 'Comedy of Manners', but there is a great difference between the eccentricity of these characters. In the characters of 'Comedy of Manners', this eccentricity develops during their life-time but in 'Comedy of Humours' this oddity is the inherent qualities of the characters. The reason of unconven-