HUMAN LIFE IN THE SHORT STORIES OF O’HENRY

C. ARUN*, DR. V. PERUVALLUTHI **

* Part Time External Ph.D., Research Scholar,
  Department of English & Foreign Languages
  Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
** Associate professor of English
  Govt. Arts College, Tiruvannamalai
  Tamil Nadu

ABSTRACT

This paper “Human Life in the Short Stories of O’Henry” attempts to bring out O’Henry’s humanity through his stories. O’Henry wrote short stories on thieves, orphans, women prisoners, colored people, poor and robbers etc. He keenly observed and portrayed them by his style of writing. He was closely associated with the middle class and lower class people, his themes and techniques are concerned with the nuances of the vast majority of Americans. His plots are filled with keen observation and the hearts and minds of common people. He has deep insight and understanding of human beings. He is sympathetic and compassionate towards fellow sufferers. O’Henry is a serious writer with ulterior motive of changing and improving human life. He scorns at the mistakes, wrong doings and various other maladies of social life. He deals with common themes of loneliness, love, guilt, sacrifice. The bitter experiences which they made him fail in life have had remarkable impact in his short stories. O’Henry blames the society for all the social ills. He believes that there is an unseen eternal legal system governing the life of human beings.