

I have attempted to analyse, evaluate and critically appreciate the outstanding contribution of Dr. Wazir Agha to literary criticism and research in Urdu. Born in the village of Wazir Kot in Sargodha in 1922, he entered the world of literature in 1948 when his poems were published in the then famous literary magazine "Adbi Dunya". Agha is a poet, essayist and critic. He has produced more than 40 prose books. Among these prose writings 17 books relate to literary criticism in Urdu. His fame is primarily based on his Urdu Shairy Ka Mizaj that presents an in-depth study of the South Asian Muslim culture which nurtured Urdu poetry.

I have divided my study into 6 chapters. First chapter gives an over view of the origin and development of literary criticism in Urdu, up to the time when Dr. Wazir Agha entered into the realm of Urdu criticism. This chapter also deals with the formative phase of Dr. Agha's literary temperament. In the next five chapters I have tried to give a critical appreciation of Dr. Agha's major works i.e "Nazam-e Jadid ki Karwatain", "Urdu Shairy ka Mizaj", "Takhleeqi Amal", "Galib ka Zauq-e-Tamasha", "Tasawraat-e-Ishq-o-Khird__Iqbal ki Nazar Mein", "Urdu Adab Mein Tanz-o-Mazah" and several volumes of collected essays in literary criticism.

I have also made an attempt to explore as to what extent Dr. Agha's theoretical formulations as well as practical criticism has influenced contemporary generation of Urdu creative writers. According to my estimation his impact on contemporary literature is immense. The last chapter presents a comprehensive overview of Dr. Agha's contribution to literary criticism and literary research in Urdu literature.