

FEMINISTIC STUDY ON MAHESH DATTANI'S TARA

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Abstract

Feminism is Humanism. It is a movement which was created to get the rights of women. This paper deals with the concept of feminism in Mahesh Dattani's play Tara. Mahesh Dattani is one of the most prominent writers of Indian Writing in English. His play Tara portrays the life of Tara. The play has two views on Tara, one is by her father who does not care about her. Another one is her mother who is longing to show her love to Tara. The character

Bharati(Mother) depicts how she suffers a lot both mentally and physically because of her husband. The character Tara and her mother has shown the life of a woman and their suffering in the typical Indian family. In this novel, the author brings the world of men into the world of women.

"I'M A FEMALE.

Fe – Iron.

Male -Man.

Therefore, I'm an IRON MAN."

Keywords: feminism, humanism, women, study etc

Mahesh Dattani is an eminent play writer in Indian Writing in English. He is not only a play writer but also a director, actor, dancer and teacher. He received many awards for his writings and actions. He received 'Sahitya Academy Award' for his book Final solutions and other plays. Apart from a dramatic artist he is a sociologist. He studies social problems and presents in his plays. This is the reason we call his plays as problematic plays.

"Our culture is so rich with tradition, and that's a great advantage and disadvantage as well".

In the play Tara, we can find no understanding between Bharati and Patel. They have two children named Tara and Chandan. They are conjoined twins or Siamese twins. They are born with three legs. The third leg belongs to Tara because it gets blood from Tara's body. But her father insists to operate the leg and fix it to Chandan. Unfortunately, the leg does not suit for Chandan. So, both now have a wooden leg. After some days Tara becomes weak and has undergone many surgeries. Soon Tara and her mother dead and Chandan settle in London.

The above paragraph is an outlook of the play Tara. But this paper does not look only the outline of the play. In this play, we have the unbreakable relation bond between Tara and Chandan. As the title, itself signifies that Tara is the central character of this play. The play is narrated by her twin brother Chandan who renames as Dan.

Tara's mother Bharathi gives milk to her. But Tara refuses to drink it. When she forces Patel scolds Bharathi not to force Tara. Bharathi says that milk will improve her health. If she refuses like this then she will become too weak. But Patel does not consider the words of his wife. Bharathi feels very bad for her husband's prejudice between Tara and Chandan. Though Bharathi does in favor of her children Patel brings a bad impression in their mind about their mother.

"If I don't force her to eat, how will she gain weight? She will keep getting thinner till she is shriveled and she is only skin and bones".

When Chandan helps his mother in kitchen Patel asks him not to do the household works. Because he is a boy. It is unacceptable. Is there any Vedas, Puranas tell that only the household works must be done by Women, not by Men? Cooking is one among the sixty-three arts in Indian tradition. This scene clearly depicts the egoistic mind of Patel and his thoughts on Women.

"How dare you do this to him? Turning him a sissy-teaching him to knit!

I'm totally disappointed with your Chandan. You must come with me to the office until your college starts." When Patel speaks about education and job he only concentrates on Chandan. Bharathi asks him to consider Tara also. She wants her daughter to get a good education and to earn by herself. But Patel does not consider Tara because she is a girl and she is too weak.

It is not Patel feels for Tara's health. He only wants Chandan to go for a job. But Chandan does not like the attitude of his father. He wants Tara to study and go for a job like him.

"The world will tolerate you. The world will accept you-but not her! Thirty is unthinkable. And what about Forty and Fifty! Oh! God."

Bharathi always takes care of Tara's health. Once Tara's one of the kidneys get a failure. she is in a critical stage. When Bharathi is ready to offer one of the kidneys to her daughter Patel refuses it. Patel is ready to buy a kidney for the amount. Here we can see the cruel heart of Patel. He does not give the rights to Bharathi to give her kidney to her own Daughter. After the surgery, Patel does not allow Bharathi to Tara or Chandan. Because he wants to make their children to feel that he is loving them more than their mother.

"Tara, please believe me when I say that I love you very much and I have never in my life loved you less or more than I have loved your brother."

When Bharathi falls in sick she is admitted to the hospital. At the time Chandan and Tara are also there. When they ask their father about mother he does not speak much even he does not allow them to see their mother. Bharathi feels guilty that how she makes her children realize that she loves them more anything in the world. For the first time, Tara and Chandan raise their voices against their father. And they think about the reason behind the action of their father?

"you want Tara and Chandan to believe that you are sick. I want to help you Bharathi, Please allow me to help you."

On hearing their words Patel gets shocked and nervous too. At that time Bharathi dies with her guilty feeling. After the death of their mother, their life is very difficult. Within a few years, Tara also dies. After the death of his mother and sister Chandan settles in London. When his father asks him to come to India he refuses it. Because he cannot forgive his father. So, he decides to leave his father alone and makes him realize the value of wife and children.

"Tara has been dead for six years, and now mummy has gone as well, there is nothing left for me to back to you. Maybe I am hurting you deliberately. I do not know why, but I can't help the way I feel... Either you came here or live in Mumbai all by yourself."

The main theme of the play is the quest of self -identity. Bharathi fights with her husband for the rights of their own daughter. She does not want to bring her child like her. She wants Tara to stand by herself after their death. But Patel concerns only on Chandan. Chandan feels for Tara because he likes to go to college with Tara. Though Tara is physically weak she is mentally strong. But the pettiest problem is Tara does not know her mother's feelings, pain, and love.

The play is in two acts. The characters are very less but the essence which is extracted from the plot is a valuable message to the society. This play shows the Indian family and their lifestyle. Especially how they bring up their children. Both boy and Girl are born into the same family and for same parents. But the way they look the children is totally different. Even in some rural areas mothers also concern for their sons, not for their daughters.

This is the main cause of the tragic atmosphere of this play. Dr. Thakkar reminds the readers or audience about the crucial surgery which Tara and Chandan have undergone. For comic, the author introduces Roopa who is a friend to Chandan and Tara. She used to misspell the words while speaking. If we read the play we ourselves will feel the male and female characters.

The views of families on their son's education are different from daughter's education. If we educate a girl it is equal to educate a society or a family. No one in society thinks that going for a job is one of the rights of women. If the family is economically struggling they sent their daughter or wife to job or else they remind in the kitchen. Even in the job they must struggle a lot both mentally and physically.

*"Little girl with Dreams become
Woman with Vision".*

The woman is the nuclear part of our society and the family. She is the seed for our next generations. The Family needs a girl to marry and to give birth to a child. If the child is the boy they celebrate his birth as a festival. If the child is a girl they start to fire on her mother. Both father and mother are the responsibility for a child.

*"Girls are not tensions.
They are equal to TEN SONS".*

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