

STUDY OF ANITA DESAI'S NOVELS: A FEMINISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract:

Feministic movement is aimed at issues like differences between male and female, dominance by men, dominance by other culture, violence by another gender in the houses and fight for rights and equality for the salary. Anita Desai has conveyed her women characters fundamental dependence on women through her lexicon and tropes of mastery, command, and domination. Nowadays this theme becomes more important due to rapid industrialization, growing awareness among women of their rights and individualism and the westernization of attitudes and lives of the people. In the ethical area they have been represented as "adjured", burdened, indented and silenced. The present paper focuses on and describes the women's rightist means of depicting women in Anita Desai's novels.

Keywords: gender discrimination, domestic violence, empowerment of women, isolation

Introduction:

Anita Desai wonderfully narrated the women's rightist means in her famous novels "Cry, The Peacock, and Where shall we go this summer". The novelist has therefore spotlighted the feminine predicament in several prospects. She stands out, especially in expanding the unfortunate status of extremely sensible and passionate women punished by negligence and alone. By this novel, Anita Desai pictures womanly sensitivity. The battle for equality of women rights historically and politically

Anita Desai's preoccupation with Indian women and their reaction to the far changing situation in modern India distinguishes her from the other women writers. She, as a novelist of cities and places, very good at catching the fatigue and emptiness of characters caught in melancholic existence, differs from all other Anglo-Indian writers.

In "Fire on the mountain" Ila das is projected as a character with all her reactions to the changing customs and cultures of the Indian society. The problems, the agonies, the insecurity, and the indifference through which she grows up, are a part of modern life. One finds in Desai's description ---her sympathetic attitude for the suffering women which flows like an undercurrent pervading the fictional world with the density that is simply Desai's.

Mrs.Desai's heroines are not ordinary women. They are women of sense and sensibility. Her indication is that woman can express herself in many ways to stop her escape from the world of tradition, of affluence to a place under the sun with hot gram and ice-cream sellers at a distant mark the necessity of relaxation as a simple source of happiness. This yearning for little bits of joy elevates the common character of Anita Desai's uncommon height. Mean existence, which has been the talk of the day, has gained primary importance in the novels of Anita Desai. She always tries to portray the human tragedy chiefly created by the sensitive approach to life. Dislike for guests, the social gathering is a recurring theme in Desai's novels. Her Heroines are no doubt ultramodern but are always disturbed by visitors. They are like sensitive plants who shut themselves with every external touch.

In most of the male-dominated families, the concept of marriage as a union of two different minds has not been realized. Women's individual identity has not been openly realized in Indian social life.

The target of the novelist is Nanda Kaul, the chief protagonist, who is tired of the role of wife, retires to a secluded place. Tactfully, Mrs. Desai probes into the problematic life of the elderly lady. It is her sheer weariness, mental fatigue that prompts her to move away from the world of duty and responsibility. The book emphasizes on growing burdens of duty and increasing restlessness that simply was too much for her. The workload thrust upon in the pretention of duty started unnerving her. She recollects with distaste, the stifling sensation under intense responsibility. Too many guests and too many trays of tea have irritated her. Their disorder and unpredictable excess become a threat to her very existence. She has been

forced to keep her hour of rest and practice stillness. To defend her, she behaves with determination by not responding for an hour.

Mrs. Desai is deeply concerned with the human problems, their origin, and possible solution. Each novel picks up characters from various sections of the society. Through their follies, they have been contrasted with their associates. By projecting women comparatively in sober roles, she tries to focus on the submissiveness of them. Each and every woman of her help in a better understanding of marital life.

The woman is subjugated by man and is exploited to meet out his selfish gratification, to satiate his sensual pleasures, to scintillate and glorify his life. Even in the present context, women are denied equal rights in their workplace. The writing was the only instrument –a powerful weapon of Indian Women.

Women writers like Kamala Markandaya, Ruth Pravar Jhabvala, and Anita Desai provided ground for discussion on women.

Anita Desai has a dexterously portrayed the pathetic struggle the women undergo in their lives. Her women refute and defy the patriarchal norms to liberate themselves from the clutches of the traditional myths of subjugation and submission. The novelist has thus highlighted the female predicament in various aspects. Anita Desai is no exception in so far as she has written, by and large about women characters; and no wonder, most of her novels move around women characters.

To conclude Anita Desai has given a new dimension and direction to novel writing in India. Her treatment of modern themes like alienation, isolation, and quest for wholeness is considered to be quite successful. The characters are not superfluous but real ones having flesh and blood, with a good deal of shortcomings and problems quite natural in a modern world. The novelist believes that "a woman novelist has something new to bring" and she has brought it. She has continued to produce novels which elicit widespread interpretation. What Desai senses is that institutions and orders imposed from outside are false but the expectations and experiences are true. The interesting themes convey a sense of balance, rightness and literary maturity. To sum up, the novelist has given primary importance to the individual. It is significant to note that any type of role and reaction may it be violent or silent subdued or emphasized, has not gone unnoticed. All the novels strike a note of warning without appearing didactic or moralistic, her works clearly suggest that modern life with all its spectacular achievement and progress is doomed to disorder and destruction unless it considers and nourishes the tender feelings of the two women who from the nucleus to any society. Here in lies the most fabulous and important achievement that adds a new dimension to Anita Desai's literary work and gives her a significant place in the realm of Indian fiction.

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