

Depiction of Female Psychology in the Selected Works of Anita Desai

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Abstract

Anita Desai, an Indian English novelist, and short story pen, happens to be a commanding voice in Indian English literature. Anita Desai writes about the issues of women and their rights. She's veritably conscious about her liabilities towards her culture. She belongs to Indian culture as a whole but she speaks in different speeches and has her own voices, which is distinct and unique in her own ways. In the jottings of Anita Desai, we find that the inner world of the womanish characters is revealed. She goes deeper into the cerebral delving of the womanish characters so as to unravel their inner world. This exploration paper depicted the womanish psychology in the named workshop of Anita Desai. Anita Desai's notorious novels like Cry the Peacock, Voices in the City, Fire on the Mountain and Fasting Feasting have a fabulous definition of womanish psychology and womanish situations in them.

Keywords: Personality, Imagination, psychology, Stress, Trauma, Incompatibility, Discord, Performance.

Preface

Desai was born in Missouri, India, and spent her nonage in Delhi. Her parents met in Germany when her father was studying there, and they moved back to his home of India in the 1920s. Desai grew up speaking German, Bengali, Hindu, and Urdu; she only learned English when she went to a charge academy. She also attended academy at Queen Mary's School in Delhi and entered a B.A. in English literature from Miranda House at the University of Delhi. In 1958, Anita married Ashwin Desai, a business superintendent, and they had four children (Kiran Desai, one of her daughters, won the Man Booker Prize in 2006). Desai has entered numerous awards, including the Royal Society of Literature Winifred Holt by Prize (1978), the Sahitya Academy of India Award (1979), the Guardian Award for Children's Fabrication (1982), the National Academy of Letters Award, and three nominations for the Booker Prize. She has tutored at Cambridge, Oxford, Smith, Mount Holyoke, and MIT; she's also a member of the Royal Society of Literature and the American Academy of Trades and Letters. Anita Desai's first novel, Cry, The Peacock (1963), softened new ground up Indian English fabrication and is said to be a colonist. It has been nominated as a awful novel by the pundits. Cry, The Peacock speaks the verity marital discord, absence of personality, idealism,

and a feeling of pretension of life. Important has been composed on the subjects and style of Anita Desai's novels. Different countries of mind to fortune and submission to the ineluctable displayed in her novels are also considered in this work. Maya, the heroine of the novel, is a veritably delicate woman who experiences psychotic reasons for alarm brought on by the prognostications of an albino clerk about her inconvenient and conceivable end, four times after her marriage.

She's hitched to a feasible, unsympathetic, sound, sensible man. She gets conversely in her wedded life and tries to escape into a world of imagination and fantasy. Voices in the megacity (1965) are a pessimistic novel like Cry the peacock. The protagonists of this novel are detached; tone- centered and remain frosty from others just as Maya in Cry the peacock, who alienates herself from the rest. What they always wanted was murk, silence and stillness and that was what they were left with. In this novel the life of Calcutta has been portrayed. The characters of this new especially Nirode and his family Monisha feel themselves detached from this city. The book is grounded on the time Desai spent in Calcutta in the early 1960s, and is a chronicle of the social changes in a contemporizing India, exploring what happens when traditional Indian ways of life come into conflict with new ideas, and the effect this has on youthful people. The concern of cerebral reality by Anita Desai is easily reflected in one of her masterpieces " Fire on the Mountain (1977)". The new substantially deals with the loneliness and insulation as well as the attendant anguish and agony in the vacated life of an old widow. The new narrates the story of Nanda Kaul who live in Carignano, a desolate and haunted house in Kasauli, down from the world " of bags and letters, dispatches and demands, she had wanted to be left to the pines and cicadas alone ... Whatever differently came or happened would be an unwelcomed intrusion and distraction". " Fasting, Feasting (1999)" is divided into two corridor Part I, set in a strict and authoritarian ménage in India and Part II, set in a cold and segregating home in the Massachusetts cities. Both sections of the novel are told in third-person- limited-human point of view, describing two members of the same Indian family. In Part I, the narrator, through flashback, explores Uma's hunt to find independence and identity within the cathartic and regimented ménage atmosphere of Mama and Papa. Part II explores Arun's own delicate hunt to find independence and freedom from domestic obligation in America.

Themes

Desai's literature works explores wide range of life related themes that are majorly social and profitable in nature. The different themes are presented in different novels though some of the themes lap at cases. Nevertheless, Desai easily demonstrates the thematic enterprises in her work. The goods on the society and the direct impact on the people. She uses characters in her novels to reveal the exhumed verity that the societies in India and in utmost corridor of the world put before when it comes to community related issues. Amongst major themes that Anita covers in her novels include affection in marriage, insulation, and

performance. Cry the Peacock (1963) in which she depicts the violent commotion and obscure agitation of a immature and touchy wedded youthful lady Maya who's spooky by a youth vaticination of deadly failure. It offers articulation to the since a long time back secured cry of a sliced brain, the astounding story of cauterized mortal relationship being told by the principle saint herself. Anita Desai's womanish characters are worried with the marriage foundation and disregarded the restrictions of the Indian marriage

In her novel, Cry peacock, Anita explores themes like connubial discord, performance and loss of stopgap in life. The main character in the novel, Maya, is faced with delicate situation in her marriage after being cast a spell by a priest. The novel, Cry, the Peacock, depicts incompatibility between the hubby and woman as there's no harmonious relationship between them. Maya suffers from hypersensitive fantasy and is unfit to lead a normal life with her hubby.

In another novel, "Voices in the City", Desai deals with the cerebral trauma of an educated woman Monisha, married in a conservative Hindu Joint family this isn't to her standard. There's no collective love and understanding between the hubby and woman. Monisha doesn't get the sequestration, which is necessary to concentrate on some private work. She's in a way happy that they give her a lot of work to do which keeps her busy. Importance of multiculturalism as a theme in the novel, Voices in the City. The book features Nirode and his two sisters Amla and Monisha. Sadness and disaffection fill the characters in the novel due to frequentness that have impacted negatively in their lives. After the failure of Monisha's marriage to Jiban, she commits self-murder. Amla is left heavily depressed and Nirode extremely stressed.

In " Fire on the Mountain", Desai portrays the intellectual issues that affect the community during the time where the character in the novel was forced to live in an isolated place where violence was dominant and poverty full of query and forlornness of the future. In this particular novel, the author shows how social life was full of alloyed gests in real life situations indeed though utmost of her work was fictitious. The artistic misconstructions and the blending of the three societies from the west, east and the indigenous communities redounded in a blend up that was full of fear and people were substantially concerned with their families only. A reflection from that novel is depicted in her life where she finds that people were more concerned with their own families and her mama tried to blend in the Indian culture. Patriarchy is another important theme of the novel. The three main characters are victims of patriarchy in different ways. Nanda Kaul has spent her life in a loveless but not childless life. Her hubby loved a different woman, but that did not stop him from awaiting Nanda Kaul to bear and raise children and run his ménage. Raka regularly witnessed the abuse of her mama by her father and was therefore traumatized in her nonage. Ila was left poverty-stricken after her sisters squandered each her family plutocrat. She's latterly ravished

and killed after she protests a child marriage. All these women are trying to find a way to live life on their own terms in a patriarchal society.

Some critical themes in “ Fasting, Feasting” by Anita Desai are family and artistic traditions, sexism and the patriarchy, and family. The book focuses on the difference between Indian and Western artistic traditions.

Desai a specialist in treating her characters psychologically

A.N. Dwivedi has correctly argued Anita Desai is the first among Indian English novelists to have strongly expressed the empirical problems of womankind; she's the first to have laid bare the inner recesses of the mortal psyche; she's the first to introduce the deep cerebral delving of her characters. Anita Desai moves inward in her subtle cerebral delving and grapples with the abnormal or the hyperactive-sensitive to advance a dimension of cerebral depth and a lyrical fable of knowledge to the Indian novel in English. Her work projects the difficulties faced by her characters in slipping their fears and precariousness, which results in dislocation of their family ties. Anita Desai herself describes her creative jottings as " purely private" therefore avoiding those problems, which a more objective pen has to deal with since she depends on observation rather than on the private vision, which she tries to synopsise in her workshop to see what the subconscious does to an impressionable person. She's more interested in portraying the response of a sensitive mind in the boxing world.

Desai visualizes the life of common women of India

Anita Desai lays special stress on the empirical problems of womankind in general and Indian women in particular. Although she doesn't belong to any feminist movement yet there's a touch of conclusive feminism in her jottings. She marks a revolutionary departure without involving herself in any contestation and is contended to have women protagonists in her novels. She visualizes life for a woman as a series of scores and commitments. Her themes and characters depict the empirical reality and elicit the sensibility of her ladies. She's constantly concerned with the problems of communication between men and women and has a gift of probing the psyche of her women characters.

Desai's Novels with novelty in womanish characterization

The gests three women in the novel, Fire on the Mountain. The new focuses on the gests of the main promoter, Nanda Kaul, in her tone- chosen home of escape in Carignano. With the appearance of her great granddaughter, and her friend, Ila Das, she's again tortured by the once recollections of her life in her connubial home. The oppression and repression of passions are extents in her connubial life. The other two womanish characters are Raka and Ila Das. As compared to all womanish characters in the novel, Raka appears to be the bone who achieves the topmost degree of physical emancipation right at Carignano. Still, despite

her apparent physical emancipation, she is, like Nanda Kaul, tortured by the once recollections of the relationship between her parents. The third character to be examined is Ila Das, who's the character passing the most disastrous outgrowth of her trespass into the public sphere. Also look into the emotional complications that confinement in one sphere of actuality brings to the women characters in the novel and see if there live any parallels in their guests in society. The state of oppression, repression, and tone- determination of Uma, Aruna and Anamika is concentrated in Fasting, Feasting. Then, the sources of the three daughters' conditions of oppression, which twain extent differ from the kind of oppression entered by women in the two former novels. One side numerous attempts have been made by the women to achieve emancipation from one sphere, we will also see the extent that she's portrayed as being satisfied with her present condition or her new way of life.

Social and Cultural Context

Anita Desai has been a prolific writer especially in the post-independence period in India. Her literature works have been critical all over the years with the aim of unfolding the truth in the society especially for women. The social and cultural contexts of her novels are projected depending on the time she wrote the novel and the place where she was. In all these circumstances, she was still able to view the culture of India from an external point of analysis. Female writers have faced stiff competition and criticism from their counterpart male writers due to their modern, more conservative and flexible adoptions to humanity than men. Included amongst Indian female writers, Desai who faced the challenge to transform women in India through literature.

Conclusion

The works of Anita Desai in the literature field for about five decades now clearly defines her position in the rank of the world's top writers. Her majestic trail in the long journey in literature from her childhood to old age shows her true depiction of commitment, enthusiasm and self- motivations that the society today needs to inculcate in the new culture. The challenges such as gender discrimination addressed by Desai affect most societies in the world, especially the third world countries. She therefore brings forward the challenge for the world communities to review historical development of their cultures, the changes and the improvements which have henceforth taken place. Her thematic exploration in social and cultural aspects of life creates awareness and assertiveness, especially to women in the society today. The role of culture and psychology in literature should be appreciated as Desai has endlessly supported it. I have chosen to work on the novels written by an Indian writer to analyze how the effects of the traditional value system affect the individual lives of Indian women in the late twentieth century as reflected in the novels. It will be interesting to see if any progress has been made in society to improve women's living condition and if they are granted more right to determine their own lives and spatial existence after about 50 years of independence of India. Studying the lives of women depicted in the novels helps us, to some extent, to understand how different cultural, historical and traditional value systems affect

women's lives in different times and contexts. The regulations imposed on women are not determined by them, and women, all around the world will look forward to the day when such regulations can be lifted and women can have better access to how they wish to live their lives.

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