

Psycho Analytical Aspect in The Novels of Anita Desai.
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Abstract: The main aim of this essay is to critically examine Anita Desai's psycho analytical aspect from a female point of view. An attempt has been made to analyse the feminine psyche in the novels of Anita Desai. This essay also tries to explain how Anita Desai presents different characters from her novel and her views about psycho analysis.

Keywords: Psycho analysis, human psyche ,absurd, existentialism, protagonist,etc.

Introduction : Anita Desai highlights both kinds of alienation, social and self in her novels . As an indisputably one of the most powerful contemporary Indian novelist in English was born on June 24, 1937 as Anita Muzumdar to a German mother Toni Nime and a Bengali businessman D.N. Muzumdar in Mussoorie Indai. Anita Desai has written scores of short stories that have won her great accolades. As a novelist Anita Desai made her double in 1963 with Cry the Peacock. Anita Desai's mastery over words is mentioned in her felicitous and deft use of images. While writing about human psyche Desai's use of language and dialogues is one of the features of her artistically conceived novels. She uses native words of festivals, dress and food items, cultural practices, addresses etc. in order to evoke the typically Indian atmosphere, apart from this she for vividness and visibility includes adjectives referring to physical and psychological states.

Psychoanalytical aspect: The fragmented psyche of immigrant blackbirds, Dev and Adit who find themselves trapped in an alien land is explored by Anita Desai in her novel Bye-Bye-Blackbird. The agony of being trapped as an outsider accepting but not acceptable becomes an aching sadness for them. Born and brought up in India Dev and Adit suffer from a loss of identity and crippling sense of gradual social uprooting cultural dichotomy which is at the back of the despair and discontentment that they experienced in England. The different environment and an indifferent culture in England, seen absurd and superfluous to Dev.

Where shall We Go This Summer? Portrays in psychological terms, the feeling of boredom and meaningless existence experienced by a middle aged married woman. Sita is married to a prosperous businessman and four children. However she has no sense achievement, fulfillment or satisfaction to make her life worthwhile.

Hugo the protagonist of Baumgartner's Bombay is wounded self, an outsider, a wandering Jew all his life. His indomitable ambition to carve out a niche for himself in the face of an alien and hostile milieu singles him out from the other protagonists of Desai. Hugo, Baumgartner belongs to the 'insulted and injured' the nobodies of the society. The existential predicament of the Desai protagonist borders on the recognition of the fact that death makes the world and life absurd.

Hugo Baumgartner is the victim of the holocaust which uproots him from his native soil and deprives him of his native sky. The rapidity with which his childhood world is shattered is shocking and the impact of the events that follows the rise of anti-Semitic feelings in the Germany is nothing less than traumatic. His father a respectable furniture dealer who walked the streets of Berlin with self respect, suffers the humiliation of being taken to Dachau.

One of the most significant aspects of Desai's characterization is her successful attempt to establish a relationship between the external objects of nature and psychic states of her personages. She uses symbolism as a device to clarify

meaning and relevance of her descriptions. She shows a remarkable ability of perceiving reality in the incidents, characters, subjects and objects, words and expressions. She depicts the inner longings of women characters through the images of birds. Birds are considered to be the symbol of freedom of will thought and action but Desai has used them in a different way according to the need of the situation and nature of the scene. It is because of their inherent flaw of egotistical reflections, her characters suffer with the self-created problems like an over-reaching ambitions, allusiveness, greed, raving jealousy and sometime demeaning emotions. They are purged and regenerated when corrupting and corroding desires are driven from their minds. The inborn instinctive weakness or self created illusion creates in them an idea to be a self –referential being. Surcharged with egoistic reflections, they are satisfied with the fulfillment of their lower instinct. But the self schooling process enkindles in them a light which purges them of their psychic aberrations and fills them with a new zest to face a life with normal and social discipline.

Thus Anita Desai depicts the inner psyche of her characters. Her protagonist is a psychologically fragmented individual who relies chiefly on indirect methods of coping with a stress situation which ventilates through various survival strategies. Her novels are psychological dramas surfacing an inner conflict through aesthetic objectivity. She has adopted a controlled method of stream of consciousness, manifesting characters feeling about and evaluations of the events and characters of the story. In the novels of her first twenty years of writing, Desai has used a uniform structural pattern with the marked features of modern psychological novel.

Conclusion : Anita Desai has intensely understood and analysed the problems of women and captured the quintessential dilemma of disturbed feminine psyche in her novels. In different novels she has portrayed different facets of female psychic. The female characters search for their own identity and this inward search is a common theme of her novels. The female characters suffer because of male domination. The way she explores the different facets of female psyche is quite remarkable and handling of her characters is beyond appreciation.

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