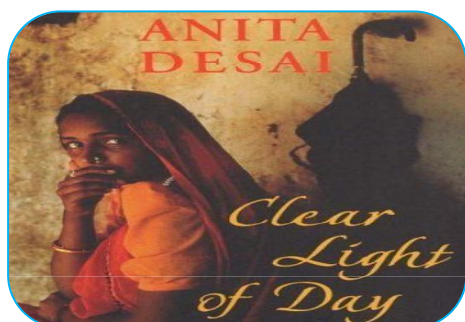




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THE THEME OF COMPLEXITY IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN ANITA DESAI'S NOVELS

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ABSTRACT:

Anita Desai is one of the most eminent literary personalities in India English Literature. She has focused upon the miserable condition of women who are kept under the pressure of male dominance. The picture of Indian women which Desai draws is the dark side of our society. The human relationships receive the changes according to changes in socio-economic development of society. The human beings run behind the materialistic world and do not get the meaning of life in its required time and manner. The complexity in relationships is the result of lack of love and respect for each other. The modern world has brought many positive changes in our lives but we have ignored the bitterness of our

relationships. Desai has shown through her novels that if the relations are not maintained with love, respect and sympathy, there will always be complexities in them.

KEYWORDS: protagonist, human relationships, complexity, temperaments.

INTRODUCTION

The novels of Anita Desai are the perfect reflections of the miserable condition of life of Indian women. She has written the large numbers of novels and short stories. Her literary works are appreciated not only in India but in abroad too. The multicultural family background of Anita Desai has supported her in her task. Desai is very much concerned with the human relationship which goes through various difficult stages. Desai feels that the marriage institution faces the unavoidable problems due to lack of love, belief and respect. In modern era of globalization,

where the world has come to the door, the human relations are far away things. There is communication gap between husband and wife, mother and father and parents and children. Desai has stressed upon the need of respect and loyalty in human relationships. Her novels are very realistic in bringing out the complexity in human relationships and their consequences. In fact, the women become the victims of complexity of human relationships as they are not as practical as men are. Desai female characters are very sensible in nature. They are not related with the realities of life hence, they have difference of opinions with their male counterparts.

In the present research paper, an

attempt has been made to study the theme of complexity in human relationship in the selected novels of Anita Desai.

In Custody:

It is one of the most remarkable novels by Anita Desai. She has very systematically presented the complexity of human relationship in this novel. Deven is the protagonist of the novel. He is a temporary lecturer in a college. His financial condition is not so good as he hardly matches with the monthly expense. Sarla is Deven's wife who has dreams of being rich and having luxuries facilities. However, her marriage with Deven shows her the reality of life. She has to adjust in whatever her husband

earns. The married life of Sarla and Deven is not happy. Deven is the short tempered person. He wants Sarla to prepare the food of his choice only. If he does not like the food cooked by her he throws the plate angrily. He says Sarla that she is the house wife so she has no tension about life. He treats her like a maid servant. He does not communicate the reasons for his frequently visits to Delhi. It is because of his low salary he cannot fulfil Sarla's wishes. Sarla being a typical Indian woman does not rebel against the inferior treatment given by Deven. Their different temperaments and attitudes do not form the bonding between them.

Deven is lover and follower of Urdu poems of Nur. Nur the renowned poet of Urdu poems has great impact upon Urdu literary works. He is the most acclaimed living Urdu poet. His Urdu poems are studied in the various parts of world. Deven is provided the opportunity to interview Nur for his contribution in Urdu poetry by Murad, a close friend of Deven. In fact, Murad has commercial interests in the task as he has his own publication hence he requires Nur's interview to be published in his magazine. Deven is amed about Nur's poems. He accepts the opportunity but faces many unavoidable problems. He receives money from college authority to buy the tape recorder for Nur's interview. Deven gets shocked to see the miserable condition of Nur. He is old now and has many health related problems. His two wives are not at all concerned with his failure in personal and professional. It's because of Nur's second wife Imtiaz, his personal life has many unbearable problems. He drinks wine, eats biryani and remains in the company of his insensible, uneducated and inferior friends cum followers. They gather around Nur in order to have wine and biryani for free of cost. They neither understand his literary contribution to Urdu poetry nor concerned with his ill health. Imatiz does not like his party and his friends. She says that Nur is responsible for his own misery. She also does not like Deven's frequently visiting Nur for his poetry. In fact, she feels insecure as she recites Nur's Urdu poems claiming them her own. She fears that Nur may open up his all literary works for Deven. She uses very harsh words while interacts with Nur. It is because of Imtiaz's insensible behaviour with Nur, he feels to be lost everything in life. It can be seen that the married life of Nur and Imtiaz has no base of love and care. They have made compromise to their married life. The complexity in married life of Nur and Imatiz makes Nur imbalance in his professional.

Nur's life is full of misery. He has no relief from his pain of personal life. His first wife does not prove to be the intellectual life partner hence he marries with Imatiz who is the dancer by profession. Her beauty makes Nur fall in love with her. Gradually, she tries to acquire everything of Nur says "That what she really wanted, you see. This house- my house- was the right setting for it. The right setting- unlike her own house which was a house for dancers, you see- although she was one of the top- the top - when I saw her..... But she was not content with that, she wanted my house, my audience, my friends. She raided my house, stole my jewels- those are what she wears now as she sits before an audience, showing them off as her own. They are not own, they are mine!". It becomes very much clear that Imtiaz is not concerned with the life and miserable condition of Nur. Her selfish intentions and nature brings the complexity in their relationship.

VOICES IN THE CITY:

It is another important novel by Desai. It is different than the other novels of Desai in the context of its setting. The novel talks about the human life in the metropolitan city like Calcutta. It is a story of Moshina, Amla and Nirode. They are sisters and brothers. Monisha is the eldest. She marries against her wish to Jiban who is a family oriented person. Jiban's is the joint family. He respects his family members and does the things according to their choice. As a husband, he fails to perform his duties. He does not pay attention to Monisha. The joint family is the new concept for her. She is not aware about the norms of joint family. She is treated as maid in home by her in-laws. Monisha is given the lots of domestic works. She has to make rotis as per the uncles and other members of family eat. She has to be in the service of her in-laws whenever they require her. The status of Monisha in Jiban's family is very much inferior. She has no personal choice in even her privacy is snatched from her. Monisha feels tired due to the heavy family responsibilities and feels to be relaxed in privacy. She is denied her privacy as the aunts and other members of family are always there in her room.

Monisha is the childless woman, in fact the medical problem lies with Jiban but the in-laws are not aware about. However, Monisha's childlessness becomes the topic of gossip for Jiban's family members. The traditional mind set of Monisha's in-laws cannot accept the sincerity of Monisha. In fact, Monisha is very intellectual and educated girl. She is fond of reading books. Her wardrobe is always full of books. She is sincere in the every task she does. She is confident enough to face to the challenges of life but it's very unfortunate that her sincerity is not considered by her husband and in-laws. The orthodox family of Jiban wants Monisha to fulfil all the demands of family members. They do not spare her free time so that she can get some time to maintain her hobbies. The life of Monisha gets changed for bad after her marriage. Monisha gets hurt very badly when she is charged with the theft of stealing money from Jiban's pocket. In fact, Monisha's brother Nirode is admitted in hospital and he does not have money to pay the bill of hospital hence Monisha takes the money from Jiban's pocket and forgets to inform him about it. The allegations of stealing money and Jiban's act of taking side of his parents make Monisha completely broken into pieces. She does not rebel against inferior treatment by her in-laws but her husband's complete ignorance and disbelief hurt her feelings very badly that she commits suicide. The Indian women live the life under pressure from either husbands or in-laws. Monisha becomes the victim of traditional norms of joint family. Her insensible husband proves to be mismatched to her as he has no love, respect and support for Monisha.

CONCLUSION:

Desai's novels are the reflections of the real picture of women in Indian society. Her deep interest and study about society and condition of women can be seen through her characters' selection. The complexity in human relationship is her favourite area where she presents the realistic situations happening with women through her characters. There are many reasons for complexity in human relationship but lack of belief and love are the major ones. Desai has very emotionally depicted the complexity in human relationship in her novels.

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