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ANITA DESAI-THE CONNOISSEUR

ABSTRACT

Anita Desai is a distinguished artist of high order and her concern for human lot has imported profound appeal to her moods of all contemporary Indian English novelists. She has made commendable contribution to the Indian English fiction. She is a novelist of urban malice and is a mixture of INDIAN, EUROPEAN and AMERICAN SENSIBILITIES. She notices instinctively as if writing is an urge for her. She is essentially a PSYCHOLOGICAL NOVELIST. She claims that her moods are no reflections of Indian society, Politics or character. She does not reflect on social issues in her works. But she sees social realities from a psychological point of view and does not look at them as a social reformer or a moralist.

Keywords: Consciousness technique, Resourcefulness, Creative vitality, Exploration and segregation

1. Introduction:

Anita Desai's focus of attention is on the inner climate, the climate of sensibility. Her main concern is to depict the psychic states of her protagonists at crucial juncture of their lives. She creates a limited world by covering minutely what is going on around her. In the words of

G.RAI, “She is almost alone among the Indo-Anglian writers who have used stream of consciousness technique in her novels. She makes a clear cut distinction between the writings of inner and outer world and precedes to delicate a character and depicts the situation from the personal angle. She is an uncrowned queen of the inner emotional world. Endowed with boundless imaginative resourcefulness and creative vitality. She writes remarkably well about only those aspects of life, she minutely observed and experienced. As a novelist her distinguishing qualities are many. The chief among them is the subordination of the background to the characters and the depth handlings of language, imagery and syntax. In order to convey an intimate expression of the inner world of her characters, she makes each of her work haunting, Exploration of the psychic life. She is probably known for sensitivity in structuring the pattern of her novels, integrity of her artistic vision, imagination mind and keen segregation, sharp awareness and competent craftsmanship. She has become a much sought after writer by craftsmanship. She has become a much sought after writer by publishers, readers, research scholars.

2. Discussion and interpretation:

Desai’s primary concern as a novelist is with the lonely individual. Her fictional world postulates and engaging tussle between the alienated individual and chaotic milieu. She deftly explores the emotional ecology of her protagonists who are shown, facing single handed, the ferocious assaults of existence. She is mainly concerned with the projection of the “psycho philosophical, psycho-emotional and socio psychic states of the female protagonists living in an alien, closed and cloistered world of existential problems and passions and loves and hates”. She writes instinctively carried away by her complexness allowing the mood “to sprout and grow freely like a tree under the blue sky and then bringing its urging branches and uprooting the weeds growing around it”. She always goes to explore the inner reality. She depends on her private vision than the subjection rendering of external reality. Her preoccupation is with the individual and his inner world. Her fictional world is half revealed and half concealed, partly real and partly fictional. She rises her inner cry of the absurdity and meaninglessness of the world.

Anita Desai’s spot thoughts of extremely complex are notion of life. Her notion of reality of life seems to have been greatly influenced by Virginia wolf who maintains that “life is not a series of big lamps symmetrically arranged: Life is a luminous a se mi transparent envelop

surrounding us from the beginning of conscience to the end “. The purpose of her writing is to discover for herself and then desirable and covering the truth. She clearly differentiates between truth and reality and finds difference between than she thinks that the world is like an ice-berg, the one tenth is visible, above surface of the water is what we call reality, which the nine-tenth submerged makeup the truth and that is what on is trying to explore. This technique is used by her in capturing a psychological realism’ and an extensional expression’. She is very much interested in exploring the psychic depths especially of her female protagonists. K.R. Srinivasa Ayyengar rightly says, “Since her preoccupation is with the inner world of sensibility rather than outer world of action”

Among all the Indo-English novelists Anita Desai lays stress on the landscape and correlates it to psychic states of her protagonists, her gift of suggesting things is rare. She employs various devices such as flash backs, asides and painting the landscapes seems in order to throw clashes to the action of the story. As Shyam and Aznami says, “her technique is the natural extreme of her preoccupation with the individual psychology confined with her painter eye, her veiled awareness of external world. She makes use of language of the extension which requires a delicate and subtle handling with hints and suggestions. So her liberal use of symbols makes the reader breathless. She is “an Indian Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf blended together “.

3. Conclusion:

She employs the language of the interiors to delineate the inner tension crises of her characters. The problem of her characters is “existentialism”. Being essentially a modern psychological novelist’ in thought and techniques. She employs symbols spontaneously and unconsciously. Symbols endow her novels with rare compactness and richness. Symbolic strain in her fiction is the keynote with the help of which one can properly understand and evaluate her art and ideas. Symbolism is an integral aspect of her mind, Being a sensitive novelist and gifted with keen observation a penetrating analysis and a skill to paint the scenes and situations with appropriate words, she creates a rich gallery of characters.

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