

The Contribution of Anita Desai to the Indian English Novel

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Abstract

The Indian English novel is globally recognized today. The Indian English novel is now well-known throughout the world. In terms of quantity, quality, and variety, it has reached maturity. The recognition should also belong to women novelists, whose contributions to the composition and publication of novels are significant. Authors experiment with different subjects, settings, approaches, or genres; they bring up questions of gender, identity, caste, and class; they draw inspiration for their novels from personal experiences, politics, deep psychology, and society. One of the most well-known and talented Indian English novelists is Anita Desai. Language and technique used by Anita Desai is as per theme and situation. She uses memories of past that is Nostalgia as a narrative technique. Her distinct style of writing, original characters, use of language, realistic theme, and narrative technique has made her writing so endearing which earned many words, recognitions and awards for her work. Her contribution to the literary world is without any doubt is great. All aspects of her novel writing techniques are discussed in this paper.

Key Words- Anita Desai, Language and technique, Feminist.

Introduction

Anita Desai deals for new era of Indian English fiction. She is foremost Indian novelists of post-independence era. She is one of the most prominent writers in Indian English. She is regarded as a writer who introduced the psychological novels in the tradition of Virginia Wolfs in India. She introduced the psychological realism in her first novel 'Cry the Peacock' in 1963. She is without doubt the most read contemporary writers in Indian English. This talented Indian Novelist was born as Anita Mujumdar on June 24th 1937 in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand. Her father is Bengali and mother is German. The positive atmosphere in home and a very creative imagination helped her to be mature in her vision. Her father was a Bengali businessman and mother was a German origin. She received her education from Queen Mary's higher secondary high school and Mirinda House, Delhi University where she received her B.A. in English Literature. Fire on the Mountain (1977) and The Village by the Sea (1982) brought her national and international awards. The first one shows that human relationships are collapsing and lack vitality or more appropriately fire. Nanda Kaul

wants to stay undisturbed and is reluctant to communicate with others. The second novel has portrayed an Indian family life.

Her stories followed by her first novel Cry, the Peacock in 1963. Desai has contributed to the Indian English literature by her valuable novels as Voice in the City (1965) Bye- bye Blackbird (1971), Where Shall We Go This Summer (1975) Fire On the Mountain (1977) Clear Light Of Day (1980) In Custody (1984) Baumgartner's Bombay (1989) and Journey to Ithaca(1995).

Cry, The Peacock (1963), her initial novel follows an enthusiastic youthful woman's degeneration into madness. Maya is the hero of the book. She is fixated on death and tormented by a prophetic predication that her marriage is going to end in its fourth year with the demise of one or the other spouse or husband. Maya, childless and caught in a sad union with Gautama, a more established man neglects to impart her feelings to him. "How little he is aware of my hopelessness or how to comfort me, however at that point he knew nothing that concerned me. Giving me an opal ring to wear on my finger, he didn't see the clear skin underneath, the blue glimmering veins that run under and out of the extension gold.

Advising me to rest while he worked at his papers, he didn't really think about me. It is his hardness - no, no not hardness, but rather the distance he icily keeps from me". Desai capably changes the actual scene into a clairvoyant one that reflects Maya's progressively upset mind. Paying attention to the calls of Peacocks in the blustery season, she understands that she would never rest in harmony. Maya experiences migraines and encounters furies of resistance and dread. Her dim house appears to her like her burial chamber and she considers in it over the loathsomeness of all that is to come. Her beloved canine Tito's demise helps her to remember her depression which had been curbed by her. Her unfulfilled yearning for a friendly air and relationship drives her to sheer annihilation.

Voices in the City (1965), is a cynical novel like *Cry, the Peacock*. The protagonist's of this novel are confined, conceited and stay stand of fish from others similarly as Maya in *Cry, the Peacock*, who distances herself from the rest. In this novel the existence of Calcutta has been portrayed. Anita Desai depicts the triplet of touchy characters and the desolate and passionless individuals from a family who came to Calcutta from a Himalayan Hill station. Nirode is an intrinsic disappointment. He winds up distanced from his family and from society and charms himself in an existence of dreadfulness and dissemination. Monisha, a specialist of Russian and English writing is pledged into a giant and ordinary group of Hindu Bengali Brahmins with "ages of Bengali lady taken cover behind the banished windows of half dull rooms, going through hundreds of years in washing garments, plying batter and mumbling so anyone might hear stanzas from the Bhagavat Gita and the Ramayan in the faint light Amla tries to observe satisfaction including herself with the life and specialty of a moderately aged painter. Amla's approach of life is not quite the same as Nirode and Monisha. She needs to partake in the city existence with young energy. She is a clever and freed lady. She gained a decent illustration from the existence of her sister. She anticipates a blissful life and profession in the large city. In any case, her encounters of the bless city life baffles her in such countless ways. Amla stresses over her siblings. Numerous a times, she attempts to change their way of life by giving advice, but she is stunned to see that

they are the casualties of the heartless society. She is disappointed to see the discouraged and consumed mind of her siblings. The two characters, Nirode and Monisha are very not quite the same as one another in their attitude. Nirode and Amla are portrayed through portrayal of their mystic reality.

Language and Technique:

We cannot separate theme and technique from Anita Desai's novels. They are not isolated elements but inter related. In order to convey theme, she uses places, characters, situation dialogues and silence Her use of technique and narration give her distinct position among the Indian novelist. It is vital agent of thematic trust. Her dialogues are powerful and touch the heart. She uses different techniques of narration as per theme and situation. She uses memories of past Nostalgia as a narrative technique. In this respect she is compared with James Joyce and Virginia Woolf. All readers and critics are anonymously agreed that beyond doubt Anita Desai is one of the most popular feminist Indian novelists in English. It is she who has enriched the tradition of the Indian novel in English. Anita Desai's contributions to fiction have made her special and uplift the position of Indian fiction in to desired height of world literature.

Conclusion

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