

CONJUGAL CACOPHONY IN DESAI'S WHERE SHALL WE GO THIS SUMMER

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ABSTRACT

“The conflict between two polarized temperaments and two discordant view-points represented by Sita and Raman’ sets up marital discord and conjugal misunderstanding as the leit-motif of desai’s novels”.¹

Anita desai’s novels show conjugal cacophony because of the difference and temperament of man and woman. She writes the predicament of woman. Mostly in her every novel shows man-woman relationship. The temperament attitude creates differences between both of them. Desai presented conjugal cacophony in her novel Where Shall We Go This Summer. The protagonist Sita is nervous, sensitive and introvert middle aged woman. Anita Desai portrayed the feminine psyche of neurotic women and it can be said sub normal if not abnormal. Sita got married with Raman, who is a prosperous businessman and Sita has four children. Her husband Raman fails to understand her violence and passion. He is sane, passive and rational and other side Sita is irrational and hyersteromaniac.

KEYWORDS: Conjugal Cacophony in Desai’s Where Shall We Go This Summer

INTRODUCTION

“Desai describes the tension between illusion and reality through the use of irony and the shifting of focus Sita’s reversion to the past of her childhood identity is but a continuity of her present identity that persists despite transformation”.²

Sita the protagonist of desai’s novel got pregnant but she does not want to give to fifth child which is in her womb. She decides to live in manori for this reason. She feels isolated from her husband and children because of her emotional reaction to many things that happen to her.

“Sita’s desire to achieve the miracle of not giving birth to child in a world not fit to receive it, could also symbolize her desire not to continue the bond that existed between her and raman”.³

Mostly it happens two people both are not equal, some differences makes the different identity of them. Raman is down to earth and Sita has not self control.

“Control was an accomplishment the half slipped out of her hold, without her notice it, over the years till now she had no more than an infant has before he has begun the process of acquiring it, over forty grey and aging.”⁴

Sita is a housewife, feels lonely and alienated the question is that what the reason of her loneliness and alienation is. And we get the same reason like Desai’s other novels. Whereas protagonist are lonely and alienated because their life partner does not understand their feelings. And conjugal cacophony comes between husband-wife relationships.

“Mutual love and understanding between husband and wife the foundation stones of a happy marriage are unfortunately not found in the lives of sita and Raman.”⁵ it is not necessary that a man who is a prosperous businessman

has got every variety of a good man. Although Raman is an extravert man but sometimes he fails to understand his wife's emotion. There was not understanding between husband and wife.

“The lack of understanding between Raman and Sita originates from their inherent temperamental differences. Sita is a dreamer and a romantic visionary, whereas Raman is a down to earth realist”⁶

Husband and wife show their love, hate and their feelings to each other. It is said quarrel makes the relationship very strong but it does not mean there is no love and passion, we can say the purity of this relationship is that love and faith but it comes very difficulties. Both can be satisfied from their sexual desire but the purity and base of this relationship that is love and faith. Physical hunger and satisfaction can't make the pillar of this relationship. Love, faith, trust, understanding play the important role a married life. She thinks most of the people as animals “There are nothing but appetite and sex. Only food sex and money matter animals.”⁷

Sita is tortured by the paranoiac fear of her fifth pregnancy. Raman makes her understand that she should not feel frightened as everything is going to be fine. She was fed up of her metropolitan life. That's why she had decided to go Manori Island she thinks a miracle will be happen there. And she will get rid of her circumstances.

... Then she went in at last and saw what had become of the house in twenty years of absence – a waste of ashes. she saw the cold remains of the bonfire her father had lit to a blaze...⁸

After reaching there and lying down she recalls her unhappy married life and her childhood spend on the island.

Sita's mental agony is the outcome of her inability to cope with the modern society she get from the island is a cold welcome she shifted with the daughter and son leaving other family in Bombay. Her island old house is full of dust and cobwebs. Her children express their dissatisfaction to continue their stay. When Sita is passing through such crises in life, Raman visits Manori Island to fetch her away as she finds him likeable for all that he does for the family.

Sita is forced to come back to Bombay. Her return to Bombay brought her a new child safely. Normally many novels of Desai have presented the character of protagonist act violently. But in where shall we go this summer protagonist takes a positive action; she goes back to with her husband. She strikes a balance her inner self and the outer world.

Desai's protagonist in cry the peacock and voices in the city reacts violently and novel takes a negative and tragic ends but where shall we go this summer presents a positive approach to the existential predicament. The difference between Maya, Monisha and Sita that is they go towards death and sita compromises with her destiny. She makes adjustment to remedy. bidulata chowdhary said about it.

CONCLUSIONS

“Between two uncompromising attitudes of Maya's madness and Monisha's suicide Sita is the only heroine of Mrs. Desai to understand and succumb to the world 'only connect' the only compromising link between the prose and passion of her life. Her reaction proves that it is very difficult for a woman, however, modern, she may be, to get rid of the situation, she is once placed in inspite of her dislike to the ways of the world, to the traditional life of royalty, she resumes her return journey to adjust to the role of a wife and mother. Hence, she accepts defeat, crumples her passion and mingles with the prose of life for the betterment of human relationship”⁹

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