

Anita Desai's –Maya Psychodynamic

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Abstract:

“The human heart likes a little disorder in its geometry” - Anita Desai

Anita Desai's novels influence the mental health and psychological aspects of human beings. As a first and primary psychological writer of Indian– American English, Desai has portrayed the personal struggle met by her characters. Desai's characters are good and noble and they are very loyal to their families and they love and very loyal to the customs of the society. Desai has created the characters by inciting their personal feelings which is different from person to person. Most of her lady characters experiences unconscious feelings, superstitious knowledge, memories, and thoughts. Psychic disorders create a negative impact on people. Desai has introduced good and noble characters in her novels. Even the emotionally affected characters do not be a bad model for the world. Her female characters are from very rich families and are highly educated. Their family members are also educated and they have very good educational as well as wealthy background. But if we examine the characters, individually they can't meet their expectations as a result personally they are leading an unhappy life. But they won't it outwardly.

As a unique writer Desai portrays the importance for the familial duties of women. She has also defines the importance of characters. Desai's characters are constant and very bold in not to give up the realities. They respect the feelings of the family members, elders, friends, including pets and animals. Unfortunately, illusions, astrology, and psychology revolve around her women characters. They are affected by their own disappointments and psychological problems. That's how the unfortunate things happen in their life. This paper examines the chief protagonist of Cry the Peacock, Maya. Basically a pampered well educated woman but has psychodynamic impact in her life. Even though she has been affected with some inner problems and faces major discomforts, she does not spoil her character or become a bad example for the society like how the people spoil the society and culture at present. The inner feelings of Maya turn into a great misfortune for her own personal life.

Keywords: psychodynamic, superstitious, impact, culture

“Pride is not a quality wholly to be lamented, but pride, when not kept in careful check, too often makes us our own worst enemy.-Anita Desai

Introduction

Maya is pampered and at the same time over sensitive child of a famous advocate. She is from a wealthy family, overprotected by her father because she is motherless. Her father devotes his valuable time with his lovable daughter. Her father's aim is to satisfy his daughter's wishes. He always takes care of his daughter in a well-off manner. Her brother Arjun is in USA to complete his degree. The part of a mother is essential for a female child than a father's love and currency. Maya's father makes a mistake by selecting an inappropriate advocate Gautama as his daughter's life partner. Fatefully she got married to

an elderly but very trustworthy friend of her father Gautama. Her father finds a decent groom for her as his own age that is the blunder mistake he has made in her life. The rest of her life after mistake has been portrayed.

Objective and significance of the study

A researcher has to study the culture and tradition of India. Culture and tradition plays a huge role is important for all the society. Because culture is an eye for the society. This paper has been dealing with psychological aspects of human nature and how it affects the culture. It is totally about the happenings of an individual's life and how it affects the society. According to Indian English literature and Indian culture all are equal. Whether people are rich or poor they should follow some tradition and Indian custom. A psychodynamic individuals' happiness and sufferings and the result of unexpected thing happens in an individual's life has been discussed. This research examines how an individuals' life is important for the society. Through this research, the researcher aims to show the importance of individual's character. How one's character is important to the society.

Methodology

The researcher has employed Psychodynamic theory which also known as psychoanalytic theory which explains human personality which is related to unintentional or emotional processes like wishes, opposes, fears or childhood experiences, prophecies which are not completely conscious are critical in modelling matures one's personality. This study concentrates on a mixture of sources, books, journals, online data to collect relevant evidence and data. A laborious and methodical approach, the researcher aims to examine and clarify the outcomes meritoriously, to provide valued insights into the focused matter.

Expectations of Maya

Gautama is smart, handsome and intelligent. His crispy hair, his half-closed eyes to the sun, mini crinkles in the corner of his eyes—everything attracts Maya. She firmly holds his hands for his affection as a sign of love and gentleness. She loves Gautama in his white dress. Maya herself loves the way he dresses, appreciates his smartness, but these things alone are not Maya's expectation. But, Gautama, these feelings are normal. He doesn't recognize how to love her. Before marriage, Maya has been leading a very cheerful and vibrant life. Life has been totally changed after marriage. Gautama is religious and realistic, while Maya is materialistic and imaginative. They lead their life surrounded by many servants but Maya feels alone. There is no cheerfulness or good considerate thing involve around her. Usually Maya live in an imaginative world by expecting a lot after marriage. But here not even a consideration.

Maya could not share her feelings, and no one cares her life like her father. May be her pride didn't allow her to convey her feelings to Gautama as he is always busy, whereas Maya is free. Someone is interfering in their life when they are alone. They lead a very well-to-do life, enclosed by many servants, when Gautama is out for his profession, Maya is alone most of the time at home. Desai's writings are based on culture and profoundly involved with the female characters, Maya too has been portrayed as a good and noble character. Maya desires to lead a life like a classic partner who expects love and warmth from her spouse. She needs to be in this world as a superior cordial lady. She too needs to have her kids like a common woman. That's the important distinctiveness of an individual's importance pictured in

Indian society. Behind marriage, vital association for a lady is her husband, children and relatives. The total love and affection of the family. Unfortunately, she could not have all these relationships as she expected or already she has enjoyed in her childhood life in her father's house.

Total rejection from the family's love

Gautama's mother and sister visit their house just once in a week or one time in a month. Every time they visit Maya's residence, she gets relief from her loneliness and gloom. Emotionally, Maya anticipates care and warmth from Gautama as her father loves her. Yet, Gautama is rationalistic and absolutely contradictory to her to afford all the conveniences but cannot change himself according to her own expectations. She has been enormously dissatisfied when she loses her pet dog. She has been frightened and waiting for the arrival of Gautama and his affection. Maya rears a pet dog, and she showers her love on the dog. The death of the pet dog is a big issue for Maya, while it is an ordinary thing for Gautama. She suffers in her life and feels entirely gloomy. The odour of the pet dog's death makes Maya to lie down and weep on the veranda. In the late night, Gautama arrives at home and disposes the dog's dead body by calling the corporation. Gautama treats the dog as just a dog, but Maya cannot accept it. In the same night, he comforts her.

Albino astrologer's prophecy

She remembers of the Albino astrologer's prophecy while she has been young. Maya could not manage herself. As the prediction of an Albino astrologer, Maya or her husband's death after four years of their marriage threatens her. He has threatened that one member of his family members would depart this life. This has troubled Maya. She or her husband has to die. This is the fourth year and Maya becomes very unhappy. Death is the only thing of which a human being has been scared whether they are rich or poor, money doesn't matter.

Her interior scenery as a lady's mind recollects the early days' reminiscence, fantasy and delusion as she has been brought up. Maya's visualization exposes the territory of her own confidential experience she receives from society. Maya is typical. The feelings and sufferings of Maya are mostly due to disturbing and cultivating effect. The dimensions of thinking of Maya travel around her. Maya tries to live the real meaning of life as she has been living since her childhood. The issues between Maya and Gautama are their personal. She doesn't want to reveal it to others. Maya's mother is no more, so she has no one to share her private life which she particularly can't share with her father. Moreover she doesn't want to reveal it to her father or she doesn't want to tell it to her father. Moreover some personal matters can't be shared with even parents.

The Albino astrologer's prophecy has been examined by her inner mind then and there. Maya's expectations as a woman, her maternal instinct, her marital conflict and family pressure troubles her a lot. She is wife of Gautama, not only by her marriage bond, but as a human being. One has to care about the partner after the wedding. But Gautama hasn't care her. Even though Maya is rich and has all the values, her psychological perspective requires the love of her husband. She doesn't have the idea of giving up her husband. Instead, she is longing for the love of her husband. She has been shaping herself by her own beliefs and views, but her expectations are not satisfied.

Maya a lover of nature

Basically, Maya is a lover of nature. Her interior feelings are incited by the shrill voice of the peacocks,

the change in the climate and everything around her makes something wrong in her mind. In every rainy season the peacock cries loudly to welcome not only the rain but also it's partners. Maya feels her pain in the bare life. She imagines herself as a peacock. The crying of the peacock creates the anticipation of her husband's association. The peacock's loud voice creates a feeling of separation and annoyance. She tries to keep away from the sound of the peacocks. But she cannot. It also remembers the Albino astrologer's prediction too. The dance of the peacock to attract the attention of its partner creates a sense in Maya. She too foolishly tries to draw the consideration of her husband. But at that time, Gautama is very busy at his job or sleeping. She cannot get the love from her husband. At one stage, she starts hating not only her husband but everything. She doesn't want to come out of the marriage bond as the ladies do at present without thinking of their future.

The Albino astrologer's words always echo in her mind. Basically, Maya is positive and her reinforced feelings connect people. She knows family is a basic unit of a society which is very important for both the gender. She neither has the maturity nor has the thinking to accept and understand the meaning of practicality. Her psychological standpoint is in conflict. She can't stand between reality and fantasy. She tries many times to modify Gautama. But there is no change in his position. His family members too speaks about parliament, bribes and the government matters instead of spending time with her and fail to ask she is happy in her personal life. May be they belong to high-class society or they never care her. They don't love Maya. Nowadays Maya considers Gautama an insensitive and brutal partner.

Conclusion

Maya cannot overcome her mental torture. Maya and her husband go to the roof of their house as usual for a talk. When they are started talking suddenly Maya is affected by the prophecy. This is the fourth year after her marriage she or her husband has to die. Suddenly she has been obsessed with the fear. Unconsciously she pushes Gautama from the roof. It may be she wants to get rid of all her troubles or the prophecy which is drumming her brains from the childhood. Gautama meets death on the spot. She liberates herself from her superior husband who is not fit for her imaginative world. After sometime, the mother and sister of the late Gautama come, and they send Maya to her father's home and latter she been sent to hospital for treatment. Finally she has also fallen down and met death.

Being an innocent Maya has been assured herself to convey how important character is important to the society. She has explored the inner depth of a woman's psyche and shows its relation to the family and society. This anxiety can be drawn through the portrayal of Maya, who is haunted by a premonition of her husband's death on account of her belief in an Albino astrologer's prediction. Maya's expected deal goes for violence even though she has been calm throughout the novel. Maya is enthusiastic, playful, which is a plea for a bright dawn for the whole female community. Maya holds the entire emptiness, usual isolation and solitude and a dreadful departure from her husband mentally. Maya's pain is tormenting her emotionally. Maya is not an adamant but silently rebels against her own practicality.

This allows her to live in her own artistic world. Maya's imaginative, romantic and artistic needs are not fulfilled by Gautama or his family members, as he as well as his family members are hard and practical people. In addition, Maya has married in her early age to an adult man, Gautama; both ends cannot meet happily or as expectedly. She doesn't want to have any extra marital relationship by spoiling her name or the family name or against the Indian culture and tradition like what happens in the society at present. Maya is good, only because of the mental pressure she pushes her husband. So we can't take Maya as a bad character or bad example for the society. Only because of the mental pressure she pushes him when

she has been out of control. That too happens because of the psychological problems she has been affected from her childhood.

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