



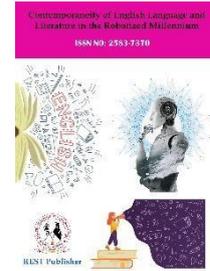
Contemporaneity of English Language and Literature in the Robotized Millennium

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Marginalization in Anita Desai's Fasting, Feasting

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Abstract: *This paper aims at marginalization in Anitha Dasai Fasting, Feasting. Many of the women's are marginalized by their family and society. Anitha clearly depicts in this novel. Uma is the central character in the novel; she was marginalized by her family. She was unable to come out from the problem. It was clearly shown by Anitha Dasai in this novel. This project portrays the characters in Fasting, Feasting and it helps the protagonist to create their own identity.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays novel become popularized in Indian writing. A novel is a long narrative that usually describes fictional characters and event in the form of sequential story. The genre has historical roots in the fields of medieval and early modern romance and in the tradition of the novella. The Italian word used to describe short stories supplied the present generic English term eighteenth century. Every novel should have certain characteristic. These include an exposition, rising action, climax, falling and a resolution that have conflict and main character. Women are natural story teller even when they do not write or publish. In India we have see how the marvellous Toru Dutt wrote both French and English novel before she died. Other women writers too have since made their mark in Indian fiction in English. After the Second World War, women novelists of equality have begun Anita Desai is one of the few distinguished Indian writers in English of international repute, whose work have been greatly admired both at home and abroad. Her contribution to fiction to fiction writing has been quite commendable and substantial. Her novels are the exploration of sensibility the inner working of mind that assumes the most important place and is unparallel. The first part of the novel set in India and it focused on the life of Uma who is overworked daughter of her parents. She put, upon by them at every turn, preparing food, running errands. In the early part of the novel we see her struggling at school. She is not very bright but loves the sisters who teach and appreciate her. Finally she is made to leave school and serve her parents. Another character Anamika also faced sad fate. She has won a scholarship to oxford but her parents insist that she get married. She does and fails to please her husband by providing him with children. He keeps her for a time as a servant but eventually she dies by burning. It is strongly hinted that her mother-in-law killed her. Uma is left with great sympathy for Ughma and her simple kindness as she survives as best she can in a not altogether friendly world. In this novel patriarchal set up with the man at the centre, the woman is pushed to the margin, for he believes in conquering and subjugating with the unbridled power in his hands. If unable to wield his power outside to its fullest, he satisfies his ego by wielding it at home. Ultimately, it is the woman at home who has to bear the brunt of his frustrations. With this as a canvas an attempt is made to sketch and listen to the cries of a few victimized women characters, in Anita Desai's novel Fasting, Feasting. Uma is the one of the victimized character in the novel. She was forty three years' old unmarried women. Mama papa treat Uma, their daughter differently they treat Arun, their son. They put a lot of thought into their package for Arun. Meanwhile, Mama papa expect a lot from Uma, and their way of piling demands onto her shows that they give little thought to whether or not Uma can actually meet those her shows that they give little thought to whether or not Uma can actually meet those demands. They expect her to have no other needs desires, or priorities other than meeting their needs. They look out upon the shimmering heat of the afternoon as if the tray with tea, with sweets, with fritters, will materialize and come swimming out of it – to their rescue. With increasing impatience, they swing and swing. (5) Mama's recollections about sneaking the sweets betray the unequal treatment of girls and

boys in her own family and the secret defiance of women against that inequality. In Indian tradition nutrition food and good things are only for male child in the family, female children are not considered equal to male.

Mama said, in my day, girls in the family were not given sweets, nuts, good thing to eat. If something special had been bought in the market, like sweets or nuts, it was given to the boys in the family. (6) Uma seems to be victimized more by her destiny than anyone else. Uma is a slow starter, not very good at studies and on the average all her escapades end in disaster. Year after year, she is held back in the same class. Her failure in the examinations is due to her inferior and substandard brain that she possesses. Due to this, she is made to discontinue her studies. Uma's mother tells her to pass the fruit bowl to her father but papa remains still and silent and does not take it. Papa feels so self important that he does not even use words to express his demands. Mama accommodates papa's sense of entitlement, and she considers waiting upon him to a duty of not only herself, but also her daughter. Something as simple as eating an orange become a ceremony for mama to proudly show her submission to papa as patriarch, and to impose the same submission onto Uma. This shows papa never think Uma as her daughter. She picks out the largest orange in the bowl and hands it to mama who peels it in strips, then divide it into separate segments. Each segment is then peeled and freed of pips and then passed, one by one, to the edge of papa's plate. One by one, he lifts them with the tips of his fingers and places them in his mouth. (23) Even a little boy, Arun already knows that he has a more powerful place within the family than his older sister Uma. He uses his power as the boy child to threaten and scare Uma, as a way of manipulating her into keeping him happy. He is still a child and therefore playful, but the effect his threats have on Uma are real. Mamapapa arranged marriage for Uma, her facial and bodily features are also not attractive enough to please men so that marriage offers do not fructify. The tragedy of a girl rejected by many parties in marriage is pathetically drawn in the case of Uma. When the marriage arrangement does take place it proves to be a fraud and her parents are shorn of their major part of income. They always offer a fair dowry to the aspirant for Uma's hand in marriage out in vain. Unfortunately she is drawn into another deceitful marriage with Harish, an already married man with children, only for the sake of dowry. After this marriage she is considered a blighted illiterate girl Having cost her parents two dowries, without a marriage to show in return, uma was considered ill-fated by all and no more attempts were made her off. (96) In a society where women measure their worth by their husband's success, uma becomes invisible. She is lonely, not because she pines for a husband, but because her community isolates her by failing to make a place for her in their world. Uma loves freedom, socializing and has the ability to relate to people. But there is a systematic withdrawal of opportunities and of freedom. She seeks refuge in the company of Miramasi and her cousin Ramu and relates well with Mrs. O'Henry and Dr. Dutt. When Mrs. O'Henry invites Uma for a tea party the parents do not permit her to go. Even an offer of job to Uma by Dr. Dutt is declined by her parents saying that they need her to nurse her mother who might undergo hysterectomy. She is even deprived of using the telephone at home as they keep it locked. When once stealthily she uses the telephone in their parent's absence to speak to Dr. Dutt about the job offer in which she is interested, she forgets to lock it and the father finding the evidence of her crime accuses her Indian woman has carried the burden of the family. She has slaved, for her husband, for her children and for her family. Indian women take pride in suffering and live with the idea of subjugation entrusted to them for years in inculcation about the necessity to accept and abide by the rules assigned to them by patriarchy that runs through their blood. In a male dominated society, woman is supposed to be an ideal wife, a mother and an excellent homemaker with multiple roles in the family. As a wife and a mother, service, sacrifice, submissiveness and tolerance are her required attributes. Mild submissiveness, domesticated, un protesting and self-sacrificing woman was an essential adornment of the patriarchal social set up all over the world. Uma's mother is one such victim of this patriarchal set up. She is a woman who has not only surrendered her individuality but also that of her daughter. It is believed that mothers who yield to patriarchal power betray their daughters. They pay a heavy price for selfpreservation. Uma she was only happy with her loneliness. She wants freedom in her life, her parents not allow her to go for a job. They want Uma to do house hold works, they never give importance for her wishes. Mama papas consider Uma as a burden for them. She was unable to come out from the family. Finally she feels happiness in the ashramam. In such a way we see that even in the twenty first century, not only lower caste women but also a modern, educated woman are given inhuman treatment. Women are exploited, raped, victimized in our so called globalized society which is really a shameful thing. It is like so much of human experience is marginalized. In order to exterminate this marginalization, care should try to change their orthodox mindset and treat women as equal to men. Empowerment of this class should be at every level that is personal, family, social, political, and educational. People should consider women as the past of the mainstream. It is the responsibility of every human being to treat equal so in coming future we may not find such marginalization in the society.

2. CONCLUSION

A novel is a long narrative that usually describes fictional characters and event in the form of sequential story. The genre has historical roots in the fields of medieval and early modern romance and in the tradition of the novella. The Italian word used to describe short stories supplied the present generic English term eighteenth century. Every novel should have certain characteristic. These include an exposition, rising action, climax, falling and a resolution that have conflict and main character. Women are natural story teller even when they do not write or publish. In India we have see how the marvellous Toru Dutt wrote both French and English novel before she died. Other women writers too have since made their mark in Indian fiction in English. After the Second World War, women novelists of equality have begun Anita Desai is one of the few distinguished Indian writers in English of international repute, whose work have been greatly admired both at home and abroad.

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