

# An evaluation of relationship of endearment and detestation of the outlanders in Anita Desai's novel *Bye-Bye Blackbird*

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In the current scenario the novel has flourished by the swift transformations in social fittles. The novelists are interested in delving the innermost thoughts of human psyche. In the last two centuries many writers pursued the psychological theory of Freud & Jung. The novelists & story writers such as S.K. Ghose, S. B. Banerjee, Balkrishna, Sorabjee Cornetia, Kshetapal Chakraborty, S. M. Mitra Raj, T. Ramakrishna, K. S Venketaramani were the authors who were experimenting to provide attention to the Indo-Anglian fiction.

During the year 1950-70 the next batch of Indo-Anglicans like Bhabani Bhattacharya, Mulk-Raj Anand, R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao, Manohar Malgoankar, Kamla Markandaya, Anita Desai, Nayantara Sehgal, Nirad C. Choudhari and many others tried their art of fabrication with endless and unrestricted themes. The novels of Bhabani Bhattacharya and Mulk Raj Anand deal with the themes of political liberation and social criticism which are devoted to India's journey for freedom from imperialism. The ancient Indo- English fictions are based on the religions and legendary Indian doctrine. It has been fortuitously depicted in the novels of R.K Narayan, Sudhin Ghose and Raja Rao. The psychological and social tensions are evident in the novels of Anita Desai & Nayantara Sehgal.

Modern Indo- English fiction has now rendered worldwide accolade. It has yielded lately many literary jewels such as Jhumpa Lahiri, Vikram Seth, Shoba De, Salman Rushdie, V.S Naipaul and others. The confrontation of east & west theme is easily discovered in the works of Salman Rushdie. In the contemporary world of fiction, the writers deal with the various upheavals, destroying heritage of migration, Colonialism, Precedents of discrimination & violence, clashes with cultural otherness can cause "inner expropriation of cultural identity".

Another Indian women novelist Arundhati Roy, the nightingale of India has given the world but one significant fictional work, "The God Of Small Things". Among these novelists, Anita Desai is the greatest Indian Novelist, short story writer and screen writer.

Anita Desai has taken up the existential question in her novels and show profound influence of thinkers like Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Bergson, Marcel, Camus, Sartre and Beckett. Her novels talk about themes with a universal appeal with emotional profundity and technical excellence. Her probing into the inner world makes her works a systematic and analytical interpretation of not just what her characters do but also what they think.

In all her works she concentrates on personal struggle of anglicized, middle class women in contemporary India. As they take a stab at overcoming the social restrictions imposed by tradition bound male-dominated culture. Her character feels estranged and banished. Even in a crowd, they never feel the lack of culture around them. Rather than the social and political actualities Desai is more inclined in the internal world of her protagonist. Her novels batch with fierce assault of onfall. She uses several devices of stream of consciousness narrative like symbols and imagery. Desai engaged in the complexities of modern Indian culture from a feminist perspective in her works while emphasizing the female Indian predicament of maintaining self identity as individual women.

"Bye-Bye Blackbird" is Anita Desai's third novel. Estrangement at different levels form the motif of the novel. It researches the lives of the exiles seeking to create a selfhood in alien society. It is said that the novel is very close to her personal experience as an immigrant. She succeeds in her tessellation when she shows a character in action.

Her revelation of the unconscious strings of human psyche gives the structural oneness to the novel. She depicts the intensity of yearning of the estranged hero's emotion towards his native land. Adit Comes to England and marries an

English lady Sarah. Having a Job and wife, he leads a happy life there. After some time Adit's friend Dev comes to England for higher education but he does not like the pomp and show of England.

England which transforms Anglophobia into Anglophile, he develops a great fascination for the English people. Adit on the other hand becomes nostalgic about his childhood memories and longs intensely for his motherland India. Dev detested the ways of English, now changes and begins to love England & entreats to seek his future existence. Sarah is only character who resigns all compensations of being an English girl and yields fully to the wishes of her husband.

Anita Desai's "Bye-Bye Blackbird" is mainly concerned with the varied human endearment- detestations relationship. Adit from the beginning of the novel develops attachment to the western way of life, especially to England; but while living in the England he shows his hostility towards the way of European life and particularly to England. Dev comes to England only for his education. As a matter of fact Dev celebrates the fundamental excellence of social and educational factors between the east and west. Dev becomes impetuous to be an England returned teacher to the same time shows his abhorrence to the social system of England. Adit tries to be sagacious to the country he inhabits to the country and he exists for his future.

Dev shows his strong dislike towards men and manners of England; but his stay there for a while intensifies his tendencies to the country. Sarah stands for her reconciliatory approach between the east and the west. She gave away her inhibitive leanings just for the sake of her husband. She outlines a proper and balanced approach to the various groups of human relationship. She proves her respectability as an Indian wife. Adit loves England; Dev loves India; but Sarah swings in between her natural steepness and willing adoption. She gladly quits all her claims for existence in England and was ready to leave England for India with her husband.

The breaking out of war between India and Pakistan once again creates yet another important structure as a whole. The war news makes Adit, nostalgic and he desires to be in India. His love for the motherland shakes the inactive emotions. He makes up his mind to go back to his country immediately. There is wrestling inside his mind to leave England or not. Ultimately he listens to the call of his conscience and realizes his social responsibilities. He doesn't want to live the artificial life of England. He frankly confessed to Sarah. Sarah dedicates herself to her husband binds the different strings in the story. Though she has to confront problems during the long way fare from England to India because of her pregnancy she embraces limping thought as Adit's wife. She marries him with expectations to share the best of mind and spirit; but she gives up her womanly desires and like a traditional Indian wife admits her destiny. She leaves her country for the sake of her husband and motherhood.

Dev, another protagonist of Anita Desai's "Bye, Bye Black Bird" undergoes a convulsive change in his mind. He becomes a precedent of contrast. Dev loathed Adit's mind and forgives himself completely to settle down in England for its luxurious life. Desai leaves her character to grow independently and watches the inner feelings. Desai has diagnosed the inner shaking in Adit and Dev for their respective change towards life. Finally he realizes his social duties and returns back home. He leaves all the pomp and show of materialistic life. Dev also undergoes transformations in his character and strikes a comparison and contrast with Adit in existential pursuits. Thus there is a stepwise psychic change in both the characters. The novelist simply justifies Adit's yearnings to return to India due to Pakistan's attack; but the convulsive change through the war does not convince the reader immediately. The author herself watches a slow and gradual restraint sensibility in Adit. England as a living entity brings forth a slow change in the mind of each character. In his visit to the parental house of Sarah, Dev is drawn towards by its scenic beauty. He gives up all the doubts and confusion for his future existence; he obtains sensational excitement from all the objects seen in England. The scenes and situations become so delightful that he realizes:

"Though every step or other paradisiacal walk in his mind as though to imprint it all on his mind as one memorizes a poem." The irony of the novel is that Adit, the Indian with comfortable job, English, wife, fully feels at home in his adopted country. By the end of the novel Adit chooses to leave England for good to India with his English wife, and Dev who has been critical of English and England. It is not simply white man's burden but also the feeling of superiority by virtue of their being ruler over us.

Expatriation and the problems and complexities prevalent in the life of outlanders have emerged as a significant idea in the novels of 20<sup>th</sup> century authors, crossing the barriers of caste, creed and nationality. The book wrights have expressed their feelings in narrating the intricacies of life of immigrants. Another writer in the series of Anita Desai, who dives deep in the unconscious and sub-conscious psyche of the outlanders and their nostalgia and yearnings to their motherland. Her portrayal of characters and situation is not one sided and her protagonists seem to be cherishing a strange endearment- detestation relationship with the end of their adoption with great exactness and resplendence. Adit weighs the

advantages and disadvantages of foreign land, but by the end of the novel he concludes that when his English self was fading and dying to achieve his real self and to have real life he must go to his native land India.

Desai is of the view that all these immigrants are prone to live or not live in England. Adit leaves England for good and Dev remains behind once. Adit's part of inexplicable influence for his foreign land to everything about London is fascinating and expresses unreservedly.

*"I love England I admire England I can appreciate her history and poetry as much any Englishmen."*

He has molded and transformed himself entirely up to the expectations of England. He has voluntarily adopted the life style of Britishers. He keeps comparing England with his own motherland, criticizes India for its traditionalism and backwardness. Truly his experience in India was not very pleasant and he portrays its heart-rending picture. When Dev felt irritated to see a couple hugging each other under a lamp-post and remarked about the obscenity of these people as "a bunch of exhibitions."

Adit is supercilious of his blind adoration of England. Endearment, appreciation and fidelity have much offer to England, in return he feels to enjoy and celebrate. Ironically in all his appraisal worship, land of liberty, individualism he realized that England can furnish him neither of these whenever he goes he becomes a victim of racial discrimination and persistently regarded as second grade citizen. His irresistible fate gets on as long as he wishes to stay in England.

Despite his love and adoration for England, he feels himself as an alien and strangers at the moment his heart is full with nostalgic reveries of his motherland. He yearns for many things especially for the delicacies in his home. Adit closed the circle of his migration complete from India to England and again to India. But Dev who came for studies finds faults in Britishers, laugh at Adit about his endearment for England.

Though in the beginning he is fully determined, he would not stay in England. He appreciates only for England's green and gruesome life.

It was the beginning of his unfortunate position. At the close of the novel he finds himself completely bewitched and charms for future perspectives of his life in England. It clearly shows that "Bye-Bye Blackbird", portrays the endearment detestation relationship of the emigrants with England. In the novel Anita Desai presents a clear reversal attitude of two outlanders. Adit who loves it leaves for good and decides to settle in India. Dev, who hates it, stays in London. Thus, the fact is that Adit and Dev share a love-hate relationship with the ex-coloniers. In "Bye-Bye Blackbird" there is different effect on different characters. Adit, there is an eye-opener, realizes him to return to his country. He completes the full circle; Dev begins a new one. When Dev enters England he is shown that his state of mind is in an extreme end. He has intense detestation towards England because once England has powered motherland and ill-treated his countrymen. He shows abhorrence towards England and its people. He loathed Indian who supports the western culture.

Desai digs out Dev's deep rooted national feeling he acquired by history of Indian freedom. He considers English men as his foes.

The ultimate end of his state of mind is completely engaged with the spirit of his national feeling. The luxuries, happiness, privacy which everyone possess and enjoys English culture. Slowly changes and starts admiring the "once hatred" culture. In the end of the novel he decided to settle in England. It is another end of his state of mind. It is to be appreciable than the role of the novelists in bringing the emotional changes of the principal characters and their afflictions in an alien country. She reveals that culture will change any person to follow it not out of compulsion of any external force but by changing the person's psyche to follow it voluntarily, whether it is eastern culture or western changes of the prime-movers in Desai's novels.

Her works mark a new and mature phase in Indian English fiction. Anita started writing in sixties. The emergence of illustrious women authors, merged into the stream with their male counterparts. The benefaction of colonialism hangs heavily on the writers whose ideas centered as socio-political and cultural issues results. Along with colonial and post-colonial issues, the central idea of women writers foregrounded the emotional compatibility between partners in marriages and voiced the woman's need for space in the male-dominated society. Her early novels focussed on the feminine sensibility at war with the rancour of male centered universe. Her later novels reveal the sensitive discernment of existentialist against the modern man trapped in islands of loneliness, equally alienated from family and society.

A notable theme running through her works is the loneliness of the human being in the isolated island of human fate. The burden of existence hangs heavy on most of her characters. As K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar puts it, “is the exploration of sensibility the particular kind of modern sensibility that is ill at ease.”

Anita Desai usually used the theme of expatriation in most of her words. She evokes the right atmosphere through the rich mental images characteristic of her style and the use of symbols. Anita Desai has turned novel into a serious intellectual endeavour rather than an object of mere entertainment. In her hands, novel is a mature, evolved and creative genre fit for expressing somber and reflective thoughts. The psychological issue in her character's life affirms the dimensions of existential agony because it is rooted in the existential loneliness that tarnishes her being and makes it possible for her to find meaning in banal existence.

Emigration of the individual is a tenacious idea in Desai's novels. The sensitive human being suffers from a sense of alienation who could reach the intensity of an existential despondency. She reveals the existential attributes of man in society. She examines a man in action in order to reveal his hidden intentions behind the reality of conscious mind. Desai's novel brings forth some ingenious presumptions of her creativity. They leave an impression on the reader that Desai's art moves from strength to strength, proliferate in wit, humor and creative abundance.

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