

Exile and self alienation in Anita Desai's Bye Bye Black Bird

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Abstract

Anita Desai has rightly presented the Indian culture and Indian people and she has good command on presenting the emotions like isolation, loneliness, immigration etc. Anita Desai's third novel *Bye Bye Black Bird* published in 1971. Anita Desai portrays the immigrants who cannot attach with his cultural roots and trying to make new identity in foreign land. The theme of estrangement is also shown in the novel. She has mastery to depict the Indians who behaves Englishmen in England./ They suffered both psychologically and mentally Similarly loneliness is also pointed in *Bye Bye Black Bird* .In addition to that Anita Desai portrayed Indian nature , attitude culture civilization in her characters. The paper is focusing on exile, self alienation tortures experienced by the Indians in London in the novel *Bye Bye Black Bird*.

Introduction & About novel

The theme of the novel is based on migration of Indian native people to England/foreign land for sake of education /Business etc. As the culture are different the clashes of ideas, traditions customs are occurred. The novel also speaks about the inferior treatment and sometimes the people are marginalized also in the every moment of life in foreign land. The novel deal with the problems of Asian countries emigrants in the UK often faces racial discrimination.

The novel is published when India got freedom .Before that Indian people experienced the slavery, administration, and Discipline of British people in India. There is a great impact of British people on Indian who directly or indirectly came into contact with British similarly the western culture always attracts the native Indians .Anita Desai is modern English writer whose writing is different from other Indian writers in India. Her novels are working for the manifestation of socio-political elements in themes with East-West encounter. She put the cross cultural consciousness in characters. The cultural encounters are observed in *Bye Bye Black Bird*

Sarah is neither interested in Indian music nor ready to cook and eat curry. She did not enjoy the pleasure in Indian jokes which Adit enjoys a lot. Dev proves misfit to England and somewhat discriminated in English society. Even Adit proves himself different in England. He hated in disciplines in India.

Alienation and Exasperation in the Bye Bye Black Bird

The well qualified educated couple from India, Adit Sen his wife Sarah and his Bengali friend Dev. There are the major character existed in the novel. Dev is a student from India seeking for the admission into London School Of Economics for this purpose he arrived in London. He also wish after completion of learning he wanted to catch good/ remunerative job. Dev possessed a good knowledge of English literature and very much aware about England customs, traditions etc.

Adit Sen already settled in London got married with English wife Sarah totally modified himself like Britishers and often tries to prove himself not less than Britishers. He also has shown very superior from the other immigrants like Dev migrated from India. Dev migrated from India; he is always attached to Indian culture traditions customs etc. HE arrived in London for his academic purpose. His friend Adit wishes that Dev should adopt the British ways and attitude and manners as like British. On other hand Dev is very conscious about Indianess, He has sense of consciousness about his motherland India. He always used to recite Sanskrit hymns and other literature which was gifted from Indian life. Adit is completely forgotten the Indian culture and other important things which he preserved from India. Even Adit does not visited the Victoria Albert Museum where Indian Moughal and Rajasthan miniatures are placed. The contrast between two characters are also observed in the novel. Dev has departed India and lived in England for the search of cultural identity and intellectual journey. he wanted to fulfill his vision which was dream of his eyes. Adit wanted that Britishers should accept him not as Indian but same from their country. He fully adopted all the essentials which are required to be Britishers.

Rejection from native country

With parallel to that Sarah a English girl married with Indian, this incident is not digested by Britishers Sarah suffered from insecurity and alienation in her own country and

people in own society. Actually Sarah suffers from his identity by marrying an Indian. It is the reason for torture and taunts from her colleagues .She puts in dilemma that an English women or Indian wife but never fails to show both. From the characters of Adit and Dev it is observed that the same spirit and desire is observed in Indians to settle down in foreign land to fulfill the wish of better future expectations. So the land like England is dream for the Indian migrants. Adit and his wife Sarah both are suffers from cultural crisis and did lose their own identity in England Adit already divorced from India and Sarah is marginalized by British not accepted as British woman. The couple decided to leave London visit to India where the hope for sense of relief and escape from sense of alienation which she observed in her own country. Adit is victim of racial difference. He tries to bridge this gap but fails to attend it. He is representative of male dominated society well as representative of Indian people lived in London. Sarah becomes part of underestimation in her own society.

Conclusion

The people students migrated from India for better education and highly remunerative / good paid jobs. They see the foreign land of opportunity and employments. Native people from India living in England/ foreign land they somewhat suppress the love for their own country even they forget their customs, heritage, rituals etc. Anita Desai depicted the Indian community migrated from India to foreign land. The racial problems face by the Indians, The inferior treatment to the Indians the term Black Dog is also used for the Indians. The partial forgetfulness which occurred in Indians .The negligence of Britishers who married with Indians they have not good respect from their own people they are alienated from their own homeland this insecurity feeling of abnormal atmosphere existed within them.

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