

Motherhood as Institution and Experience :
A Study of The Poem “An Introduction” By Kamala Das

- Jasveera Parmar

Abstract

This paper is based on the two facets of motherhood, as postulated by the feminist theory. The first is the political facet, in which motherhood as an institution serves to enslave a woman. This opinion was entertained by the second wave feminists, who supported the view that institutionalisation of motherhood served the patriarchal design. The second is the personal facet, in which motherhood as an experience serves to empower a woman. This view is supported by the third wave feminists, who proposed 'maternal revivalism' to encourage women to empower themselves through motherhood. Kamala Das' poem “An Introduction” has been analysed to explore this theory.

Keywords : Experience, Feminism, Facet, Institution, Motherhood

**Mahesh Dattani's Gay Trilogy : Unmasking the Identity Crisis
Among Homosexuals in India**

- Dr. Jaspal Singh

Abstract

*Politically, legally and socially the community of gays is marginalized, victimized and traumatised. Love between same sexes is never accepted or appreciated by the society. Gays have no secure social existence or legal approval. They either keep trying to fit into the social order and pretend being something which they are not, or if they choose to come out with the truth, they have to bear social prejudice and hatred. They experience a lack of dignity and are always looked down in the society. An ever present feeling of exclusion, humiliation and isolation, coupled with the consequential sense of inferiority creates an identity crisis in the gays. They retrace into their own shell and develop the inevitable revulsion against the society, which puts them on a defensive mode, wherefore they seek succour in private partying/celebrations, with an oblique aim to promote their ideology as would expand their numbers. And accordingly, Mahesh Dattani, a Sahitya Academy Award winning playwright from India, gives the gays of India this voice - the voice that articulates their feelings and predicaments probably for the very first time in theatre through his plays **On a***

Muggy Night in Mumbai, Do the Needful and Bravely Fought the Queen. He spotlights the identity crisis which the gays encounter: of being torn between their true self viz-a-viz what the traditional Indian society thinks of them. In attempting to do so, Dattani brings theatre closer to the real life experiences and tries to unmask the crisis faced by this ostracised section of the society whose identity is shrouded in the cover of myths and social prejudices.

Keywords: Gays, Identity, Crisis, Exclusion, Prejudice, Space, Ostracised.

A World of Societal Masks and Madness: Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*, A Feminist Touchstone

- Dr. Ramnik Kohli

Abstract

*Sylvia Plath's **The Bell Jar** depicts the mental breakdown of a privileged and a well- educated young woman of 1950's American society. The literary merit of this book still remains a matter of debate among the literary critics. This semi-autobiographical novel takes a cynical look at the American society of the 50's wherein the women were trying to forge an identity for themselves in the face of society that had fixed notions about the role of women- i.e., to remain chaste till marriage and then to have babies devoid of all romance and pleasure. Perhaps because its history parallels the growth of women's liberation movement in America, the text has often been regarded as a feminist touchstone.*

*This paper attempts to study the different challenges offered by **The Bell Jar**- The notion of women being inferior to men, the impact of expectations of family and society on female psyche and identity. The paper will also analyse the protagonist's "madness" as a reaction to pressures and as a symptomatic manifestation of society's sickness. The protagonist tries to cope with society by wearing different masks- she is a perfect good girl for her mother, ideal A grade student for her professor and all sweetness for her boyfriend. However she cannot bear the burden of her different masks and they soon start to crumble and the false system breaks up with the bell jar descending onto her. The text offers different challenges- the quest for power and identity as also a search for self hood and nurturing even as the protagonist towards the end is able to carve out a new identity by somewhat regaining her divided self.*

**Girish Karnad's Naga-Mandala:
An Amalgam of Folktheatre and Brecht's Epic Theatre**

- Dr. Navjot Kaur

Abstract

*This paper intends to analyse how indigenous traditions of performance have been incorporated into contemporary post-colonial playwriting. I have focussed on the theatrical plays of Girish Karnad, which are an amalgam of eastern and western traditions of theatre, with special reference to his play **Naga-mandala**. Here Karnad makes use of myths and folklore in the modernised terms and reflects Brechtian impact on him. In the post-colonial stance the mimetic theory of Aristotle is replaced by the epic theatre of Bertolt Brecht which depicts the function of drama as anti-cathartic.*

Naga-mandala shows the invincible interest of Karnad to use folk tales and the mixing of human and non-human worlds as a distancing device which brings in elements of alienation in the play. The energy of folk theatre comes from the fact that although it seems to uphold traditional values, it also has the means of questioning these values. The various conventions – the chorus, the mask, the seemingly unrelated comic episodes, the mixing of human and non-human worlds – permit the simultaneous presentation of alternative points of view, of alternative attitudes to the central problem. Herein lies the influence of Brecht's epic theatre.

The practice of Karnad to derive source from myths and tales and to strike a departure from the emotion-based world of traditional values provides an immediacy of appeal to his work.

**Representation of Assertiveness and Individualism in
Difficult Daughters and A Married Woman by Manju Kapur**

*- Kuldeep Walia &
Dr. Navdeep Kaur*

Abstract

Education, career, and marriage of woman have always remained the major thematic concerns of Indian English novelists; but have received justified

*representation from the perspective of women novelists. Education of women has always remained a controversial topic in the male dominated society. The post- Vedic period denies the right of education to women for the simple reason to curb her individuality and independence- the two promises which are held by education. Thus education has always been a tool for change in women's social position. Marriage, the other most important issue, is a turning point in the lives of women. Most of their problems are related to marriage and it affects the subsequent life of a woman in many ways. Many educated women who are married think about their career, which causes another problem in the male -driven society. The object of this study is to explore the patriarchal norms, and their cruelty, which eventually lead to the individualism of woman who poses a threat to male dominance and hegemony. The present study aims to depict the 'individualism' of women in two novels of Manju Kapur -**Difficult Daughters** and **A Married Woman** - with a sharp focus on man – woman relationship since a woman is always viewed and judged in her relation to man.*

Key words: Education, Marriage, Independence, Patriarchy

The Denouement in The Mill on The Floss

- Dr. Rupakshi Bagga

Abstract

*The conclusion of the novel **The Mill on The Floss** has raised several questions and has been criticized by many eminent critics. It is certainly not illegitimate. There is nothing unnatural in the Floss rising into flood and again nothing unnatural in someone drowning or even in mass-scale devastation. But, it does give rise to certain questions as to how the accident has been connected to the past story. It is a measure of her moral courage and authenticity of her character that she dramatizes her personal experiences – the emotional and spiritual turbulence in her psyche- in her novels without any inhibitions or any façade of hypocrisy. It is this fact which imparts her works a special colour and slant, uniqueness and seminal character besides accounting for her perennial appeal. George Eliot, although placed alongside celebrities like Thackeray, Dickens and Trollope, has not been assessed from the psychoanalytical aspect. The present paper attempts to examine and explore the unfathomed caverns and deep volcanic ranges lying embedded in the subterranean region of her psyche, which is essential for a full understanding and*

appreciation of George Eliot's fiction.

From Illusion to Reality - The Journey of the Self in R.K. Narayan

- Anita Walia

Abstract

R.K. Narayan, one of the founding pillars of Indian writings in English, incorporates the profoundest Indian thoughts, philosophies and spiritualism in his novels. But, at the same time, he does not employ the genre of novel as a vehicle for propaganda for any social or political cause. Behind the narrative facade of his novels, Narayan attempts at a vision of life which follows a value-system that is enriched with the traditional Indian moral values, culture and ethics. The present paper aims at studying his characters that pass through a period of struggle and transition but towards the end, they attain a new vitality which provides them with a new interpretation of ordinary situations. The normalcy in the lives of his characters returns only because of their submission to traditional values and self-realization. It is these values that help his characters attain a life full of spiritualism, peace and self-realization and help them to maintain equilibrium in times of disorder, clash of motives and conflict.

Draupadi in *The Palace of Illusions* : Subverting the Legacy of Pain and Submission

- Reetu Aggarwal

Abstract

*The patriarchal ideology- the social organization which guarantees superior status for man and inferior for woman, confirms the subordination and subjugation of woman to man as 'natural'. The literary text, another mode of cultural production and an instrument of patriarchy (dominant ideology), pushes woman into the dungeons of dark silence and into the realm of 'other' and Indian literature is no exception. In the celebrated literary discourses, the oppressive, stifling social codes and institutions turn even most revolutionary spirits into tamed ones, as can be seen in the case of Draupadi, the ebullient heroine of **Mahabharata**,*

*the great Indian epic. The author Ved Vyasa imparts her a characteristic feminine silence and reticence, even when most crucial decisions of her life are taken by others. The fiery Draupadi, whom we encounter later in **Sabha Parva**, is missing at this crucial juncture of her life. She remains 'nathavati anathavati', (having husbands, but like a widow) till the great war is fought. With the re-visioning and re-visiting of the literature written earlier efforts are being made to bring the marginalized, peripheral and lost voices to the centre. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in her novel **The Palace of Illusions**, which is an intertext of **Mahabharata**, trying to re-juvenate Draupadi's image and gives voice to her hitherto silenced thoughts, in a challenging feminist way. Divakaruni imparts her a chance to unravel what lies buried within her by allowing her to narrate 'her own story', thereby, attempting to subvert the legacy of submission that male authors dealt out to her. Dismantling the stature of a divine being, Divakaruni paints Draupadi as an organic human with all the girlish fantasies and ambitions for beauty, curiosity and inquisitiveness of a person who is tagged to perform something unconventional. This time giving the strands of narration in the hands of her heroine, Divakaruni grants her the power to create plausibility behind her actions to reorient history.*

R.K.Narayan and his Myriad Coloured Fictional World

- Parshant Sethi

Abstract

The saga of Indian fiction in English language is incomplete and might seem wayward to a reader of literature without culling the name of R.K.Narayan. Narayan set the ball rolling in terms of revolutionising the English fiction by introducing the lighter aspect of Indian society at a variance from his predecessor and contemporary, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao respectively, both more famous for projecting the complex political and flagrant social issues of the pre-independence India. Narayan is a curious blend of Indian sensibility and Western way of looking at social perspectives. The paper is a humble attempt to trace the circumstances in the development of each of his characters mainly the protagonists. They gain vision and ooze with maturity as the narrative races across the pages of the novel. Narayan remains a lasting impression on his successor Indian writers of fiction set in Indian background.

