

Vol.12

No. 2

Oct. - 2017

ISSN - 2230-7796

ACADEMIC RESEARCH



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The Study of Woman to Woman Relationship in Shobha De'S Novel 'Strange Obsession

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Abstract-

Shobha De, a well-known modern Indian novelist has established her name as a feminist writer by demanding love, respect, sympathy from the male community of dominance. She reflects experiences of man to woman relationship and woman to woman relationship. In the novel 'Strange Obsession' Shobha De works on sex issue through the relationship between two women, Meenakshi and Amrita.

Keywords- relationship, woman to woman, sex issue, Meenakshi, Amrita.

Introduction

Shobha De is the eminent Indian woman novelist writing in English language, who presents issues like sex, love, innocence, guilt, and self identity through her prose writings. The issues on which she writes are known to the men and women. Therefore, the themes and characters of Shobha De generally appeal the hearts of everybody. Her interest in human problem shows Shobha De's psychological insight. One may underline her interest in portraying women characters in modern period who suffer at the hands of men being and the society. Shobha De's efforts of expressing truth in her all novels are a result of time and culture, the correlative concepts. She expresses her urge to evaluate any woman on the basis of her inner nature, abilities and conduct.

The novel 'Strange Obsession' by Shobha De illustrates human relationship of 'purpose' and 'interest'. The characters are bound together for the fulfillment of purpose and interest. The character of Meenakshi is remarkable who presents world of dishonesty. She is very emotional about sex issues and eating habits. She takes interest and spares lot of time for doing unusual. Through the character of Amrita Agrawal the novelist Shobha De shows her interest in reflecting the adult world of competitions. A growing model, Amrita

comes to Bombay from Delhi to make her future in the profession of modeling. Her Beauty compels one to stare eyes at her. A cameraman, Karan says, 'you are creating a bloody traffic jam'. (De, 1992:5) The novelist is concerned with congruities, lack of interest and foolishness of metropolitan life.

Human relationship

Relationship is the most important aspect of human life. It reflects existence of human being. Due to human relationship life of human being becomes peaceful. Human relationships and existence of human being are related to each other. The needs of human being are fulfilled because of relationships. Man and woman understand way of living and way of spending life through relationships. How to live is the basic question of the human race. It is discussed by the writers through relationship in literature. "In this world, none is more vital and enduring than those human relationships of home and family. Love and marriage, the joys of parenthood and family ties are the bases of all that is best in-the supreme happiness."(Watson, 1951:239)

The emotional scène

Shobha De's psychological thinking about human conduct provides her a chance to go deep into emotions and passions through the relationships of the women characters in her novel the 'Strange Obsessions'. Shobha De's women characters in the present novel are active. The readers observe that they act and react in their routine life. There is a scene of interaction between two women: Amrita and Meenakshi. Amrita is more active while Meenakshi is very passive. Reading this picture it is but natural to raise questions in the mind of the readers such as are the women highly professional? Or rich? Or highly emotional? The condition between Meenakshi and Amrita is parallel. Meenakshi's strong obsession of love to Amrita is underlined through the words, 'I am in love with you. I love you. It is not sexual. I don't wish to go to bed with you. All I want is to be around you. That's all. (De, 1992:22) There are some examples such as Meenakshi's purchasing air conditioner for Amrita, cutting watch strap in the grave yard suggest Meenakshi's attempt to justify Amrita her real love. Amrita does not agree with Meenakshi. Meenakshi is successful in perceiving her sympathy by recalling the event in which she was seduced by her father. Meenakshi's purpose of creating relationship with Amrita's parent's is served. At the same time her permission for staying with Amrita is also granted

by her parents. The relationship between them is not natural but it has taken place by force. The events which take place in the room are sources to the development of the novel. The shameful deed begins in the room. Amrita is a victim of situation. 'Amrita lay back against the pillow inertly. Her mind switched into a dream-like state. She shut her eyes and ceased to think or freely surrendering to Meenakshi who was over her, moving her hands tenderly along the length of her body, caressing her face, kissing her softly. She felt Minx's fingers unbuttoning her linen jacket...and she did not resist'. (De, 1992:94)

Amrita's routine life is very busy. Instead of leaving for modeling work in the morning she remains in the bed. She does not have any interest in interacting with Meenakshi. Amrita does not think of present or future. On the other hand, Meenakshi has action and reaction with the world when she goes out. It is the base for her future career. The scene in the bathroom also indicates intimate relationship between Meenakshi and Amrita.

Meenakshi held Amrita close and buried her face between her breast repeating, 'my poor darling my sweetheart....' (108) The bath tub was full of water. There were rose petals on the surface water. There was fragrance of sweet smell in the room. Meenakshi pushed Amrita into the warm tub and undressed herself. Meenakshi lowered herself down and lay her side, holding her by shoulders and helping the water over her body. She asked kissing her wet mouth and opening with her tongue. Amrita's body, soaked and relaxed, began to respond to Minx's pleasuring. (108) Meenakshi is unable to control herself. She desires complete satisfaction of sex. For that she wants a sex change operation. By doing so, she feels that she can fulfil her desires satisfactorily. In response to this Amrita says to her, 'But will that make me pregnant? Will you fill my womb with a child? Answer me? (110)

Meenakshi and Amrita have shifted their residence in the house which was gifted by Meenakshi's father. Meenakshi and Amrita acted their alike lesbo. "Meenakshi pulled her towards the bed and threw her down. Amrita shut her eyes and lay back simply. She knew she could not fight Minx. It was always easier to submit". (147) Meenakshi desires to let Amrita enjoy real sex. So taking advantage of time she uses a hard toy.

Amrita is tired of the present situation. She wants escape from Meenakshi. Therefore she decides to marry Rakesh and leave for

New York. Amrita is under the impression that Meenakshi will fear the police and stop her bad deeds. She will be free and will divorce him. Finding another job she would start new life. On approaching Rakesh Meenakshi shows some photographs to know that Meenakshi and Amrita are friends as partners. The emotions and thoughts Meenakshi do not allow her to remain silent. Pursuing them when they are on their honeymoon Meenakshi plays a game there. This act of Meenakshi justifies that she behaves as nonsense. Amrita's condition is very pathetic. She is like a wounded animal.

In 'Strange obsession' Shobha De presents a young woman, Amrita who wants to make her career in modeling in Bombay. But she is very unfortunate who has been caught by obsessive woman, Meenakshi tortures her and makes Amrita's life unhappy. After Amrita's marriage with Rakesh (N.R.I.) Meenakshi pinned her against the tree. Taking Amrita's hands over her breast Meenakshi unbuttoned her jeans. She also takes off her clothes and throws them over the grass. Looking at her Meenakshi says 'Oh my god! Amrita, how bitterly beautiful you are'. I could die just looking at you right now. Amrita wanted Meenakshi to touch her. But it does not happen because she smells different. Meenakshi realizes smell of man over Amrita's legs, breasts, and in mouth. She shouts 'No, I can't touch you ever again. Get dressed, let's move, it's over. (195)

Meenakshi is haunted by sex. She strongly desires to enjoy emotions with Amrita whenever she gets an opportunity. But when she gets distress after Amrita's marriage she finds another way to satisfy her mind. She compels them to perform sex activity before her eyes. Her happiness has no limits when she watches them doing sex. She utters with joy "This is heaven. I couldn't have dreamt of a better end to our love story. Darling. I can't tell you how happy you've made me...so happy. I could die right now. This minute". (205)

Amrita finds herself safe and protected on the arrival of her parents. The three are saved by the police officers. Mr. Iyengar is one of them, the father of Meenakshi, who promises Amrita that she (Amrita) and her husband will be free from any botheration. He has decided to keep his daughter, Meenakshi under his supervision so that she can make her career the best.

Conclusion

By presenting two women characters Meenakshi and Amrita, the novelist Shobha De tries to focus on good and evil spirit of

human being. No one is completely good or bad. One can underline amalgamation of good and bad in everyone. The abnormality of Meenakshi is suggested by her enormous desire of sex. Meenakshi, who comes to make career in modeling in Bombay is alone and nobody is there to control her. Consequently, she does not leave a chance to manipulate the event with Amrita. It is responsibility of everyone to control the bad thoughts or emotions to avoid disaster. It makes one possible to lead normal and ideal life which remains harmless to the person who comes in the contact. Meenakshi's inability of controlling feelings is the cause of Amrita's physical exploitation.

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RNI NO MAHMUL/2006/20663

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