

A Critical Analysis of Symbolism in Anita Desai's *Where Shall We Go This Summer?*

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Abstract

This paper makes an attempt about women's Symbolism in Anita Desai's Novels. 'Symbol' is a sign of something else, in two different things 'literal' and 'suggestive'. In the first experience it is able to be a literal sign of some exact idea or item which it denotes. In a 2nd experience it may be an implication or a signal that indicates any other message. It is in this second experience the term is related to art. Anita Desai certainly holds a outstanding role a few of the modern writers of Indo – Anglican fiction. She is the bold and experimental novelist with a brand new feel and colorful richness. Much attention is given to the emotional disaster of her protagonists who stay in a chaotic society. From her novels, absolutely she possesses one of the healthiest and psychologically most balanced minds inside the realm of Indo – Anglican fiction and the sanity of her tastes and attitudes, is almost exemplary, a point really worth emulation for her fellow religionists inside the subject of writing.

Where Shall We Go This Summer is an intense tale of a sensitive young spouse torn among the choice to abandon the boredom and hypocrisy of her middle elegance and ostensibly secure existence, and the belief that the bonds that tie her to it cannot effortlessly be damaged. Her works also portrays light at the contour of shade and photograph through which she engages the eyes of reader on the factor of environmental analyzing. We find close connection between ladies and environment in her readings. The dualism among men/nature, nature/culture, ladies/nature, and guys/girls is studied in her one of the amazing novels "Where Shall we go this summer season". The novel paints the function of women individual Sita and her excessive sensitivity, alienation from her husband and loneliness. Generally, symbols utilized by Anita Desai are part of circumstantial details of the narrative. In order to present submerged psychic reality she uses the approach of symbolism very well cautiously chosen a cluster of snap shots, myths symbols are most prominently among the gadgets deployed via her. These symbols are capable of objectifying the inner psychic layers of the characters.

Keywords: Symbolism, Social Perspective, Women psyche, patriarchy, rejection, feminine sensibility.

Introduction-Symbolism

Symbolism is anywhere; symbolism exists on every occasion something is supposed to symbolize something else. Symbolism is a parent of speech that is used whilst an writer wants to create a certain temper or emotion in a work of literature. It is the usage of an item, person, situation or word to represent something else, like an concept, in literature. Some common types of symbolism include: There are many different themes or symbols used in Literature, below you will find a list of 7 out of the many symbols used in Literature

1. Colors: Colors often play a role in stories. Objects, mentioned in stories, often times have a color. If the writer mentions the coloration of an item, even some thing that seems unimportant, it is able to mean some thing to the narrator of the tale or another individual. Colors are used not just for imagery but also to invoke emotions as well. Look to see if a color or a series of colors are repeatedly mentioned, does it hold meaning?

2. Water: Water is one of the most overused tools in Literature. It can imply purification, or it is able to even mean death (in times like drowning).If the writer of the story takes time to mention an element of water look and see how it is used. Does it sound negative or positive? Does it sound peaceful or violent? By understanding the context of how water is being used within a story you will be able to use it when writing an essay as a thesis or even as concrete examples from the text to support your thesis.

3. Fire: Another overused element in Literature. Fire can represent anger, ardour, love, pain or loss of life. It is a symbol used in some instances for rebirth or new existence. Think of the phoenix from mythology or maybe from myth books, fireplace for the phoenix is used as each a weapon and a shape of rebirth when the chicken bursts into flames and a baby phoenix is born from its ashes. If the story you're studying mentions hearth, see how it's miles getting used. Did a building burn down and a character learned a vital lesson? Was someone injured in a fight while using fire? See how this element is used and compare it to life lessons, intense emotions, or even a comparison between life and death or rebirth.

4. Night: Night can be utilized in connection to darkness and acts as a cover over the arena and can be used to symbolize an 'end of the street.' It can constitute peace or tranquility or it may be as easy as death and darkness concerning the use of shadows. The great thing about night is that there is a lot to work with. Go back and look for a scene in your story and see if the writer mentions night, if he or she does see if they take time to mention the moon, stars, comets, asteroids, meteors, lamp posts, any type of light. In the story if you have read, does night play a role? Does it have any connotations to hell or even show an image of horror?

Does night trying to show you two sides, possibly good or evil, truth or lies or even danger and safety?

5. Day: Literally the alternative of night time in both nature and Literature. With day comes the rising of the solar, representing new existence and mild. It may be the new starting for characters or an opportunity for beginning over. Day is often used to describe things out in the open; it is difficult to hide in the shadows unless a character is in a building or under some other form of shade. With this theme in Literature you could compare it with night or darkness and contrast it with a character in the novel that might be bright or truthful in the story, someone that represents the 'good.' Another thing to include with day is the sun. The sun is the largest source of light for Earth, and with light comes new opportunities and knowledge.

6. Light: Light is used for truth, enlightenment, safety, or it can be used as a holy image. Light can stand for the side of 'good' in a novel or 'power.' It is used to overpower evil or even bring forth knowledge to a character or the narrator. In your story look and see if a character is cast in both light and dark. Use that image to prepare a thesis of both light and dark within a character or characters, after that just look for evidence within the story to support you thesis.

7. Dark: See if a character is in the shadows, literally, does the author describe a character as lurking the shadows or have pieces of their body or face obscured? These are symbols for darkness and hiding, meaning the character may be lying about something.

Plot: Where Shall We Go This Summer?

In this novel, protagonist Sita, the center-elderly heroine, does not need her fifth child to be born into the sector she finds round her of destruction and unmeaning less. Sita withdraws to the island of Manori, wherein she spent her formative years, in order to prevent the delivery of her infant.

The book is divided into 3 elements, the center phase being a flashback to her formative years. The conscientious reader builds up a photograph of Sita the kid-sitting at the dais whilst her father made pre-Independence speeches gambling at the sand with her brother Jivan in Manori, surrounded by means of her father's early life pals and the credulous village people. Her father dies and her brother and sister disperse to lives which the island seemed to have held in abeyance. Sita herself is rescued from the island by the person she later marries.

But the get away cannot be repeated. And even the formative years had end up improper via Sita's disillusionment with her father. The story ends while Sita is rescued over again from the island with the aid of her husband. He has booked a room for her within the nursing domestic and is by some distance the nicest guy she knows.

Sita is reconciled to a return to her existence in Bombay, after giant non-come across at the seashore with her husband. She can only don't forget one moment in their life together while she was happy, and this too relates to a reminiscence of strangers. It is hard to find wherein the inadequacy lies.

The novel is frequently overwritten, the pink being in no way limited to the situation, its importance or in any other case. The reader is naturally requested to sympathize with Sita's catch 22 situations. But that is hard as she appears to had been notably inept at giving her personal existence any direction. Her emotional crisis does now not encounter. It is tough to present credence to a disagreement (Sita together with her personal life) while she has been so passive all along, handiest chafing at her similarly passive in-legal guidelines now after which. The incidents which precede the disaster seem flimsy and contrived.

A Critical Analysis – Symbolism in Anita Desai Writings

Desai gives a new dimension to English fiction through the exploration of this troubled sensibility, a typical neo-Indian phenomenon .Desai's protagonists face difficult situations, and are meek and quiet in the face of exploitation. She beautifully draws the complex mind of a woman on pages who struggle for her existence in the family and society at the same time tries to keep everyone happy from her side. Anita Desai experiments with the female recognition in her novels. Female protagonists in the novels of Anita Desai are primarily based on the keen remark of Indian women inside the society who faces the problems in her each day lifestyles. The works of Anita Desai mainly deals with the human consciousness. She is worried with the oppressed introvert female characters clutched inside the hands the male dominance. To provide the readers a real photo of the characters and the situations Desai uses the techniques like circulate of recognition and the interior monologues. She narrates the flow of thoughts in mind of the characters. She dives into the thoughts of the characters to bring out the underlying truths. The way of life of India has influenced Anita Desai's novels. She saw the sufferings and intellectual anxiety of Indian women and skilled the annoying situations faced through ladies in Indian society. Her characters like Maya and Sita are the mirror photograph of an Indian lady who's struggling for her identity. Though her characters are fictional but the conditions faced by using them and settings, environment are primarily based at the truth as observed with the aid of Anita Desai. The characters in her novels slowly however in reality take their personal form. The characters from Anita Desai's novels are the reflect photograph of her personal thoughts. Anita Desai each time experiments along with her characters. The characters in her novels are not common they're driven to be the manner they behave strangely. Desai's *Where Shall We Go This Summer?* Is a tale of uncontrollable conditions that results in psychological violence in opposition to girls. This doesn't forestall with the intellectual torture but it gets constantly into the shape of get right of entry to mental pressure which leads the lady protagonist to act abnormally. Desai, throws

mild on the internal weather, and the weather of 'female sensibility' in her novels. Desai is fundamentally a symbolist, whose works are studded with the ornamentation of symbolism.

Symbolism - A Focus

"Where Shall We Go This Summer?" sounds like a 'symbolic query'. It absolutely suggests the doubt and the scheme the protagonist has about her destiny. It without a doubt indicates the shortage of precision of lifestyles. The central person Sita on this novel 'Where Shall We Go This Summer?' feels the disappointment of the suffocative 4 walls of the town life. Sita is seen taking shelter from her marriage on the 'Utopian land' which changed into her domestic once. An island blends with magical showground as she believed. Pregnant with her 5th baby, Sita desperately takes refuge from the mundane realities of her marriage in the direction of the island, which occurs to be the home of her deceased father. Sita feels lonely and dejected through all of the busy participants of the family. The truth, that she is pregnant for the 5th time, reasons irritations and lifestyles will become a burden to her. She makes an try and close down emotionally and isolate herself from the every day chores. It is then, that she feels the dire want to fade some distance away and dissolve to the 'Utopian land', which is illustrated right here as the island and the living vicinity of her lifeless father. Her father become considered to be a saint and villagers at Manori strongly believed in him. He became also able to numerous miracles for the people in want. That pathos that Sita feels that there was nobody to care for her and this became a continuous fret for Sita.

Character Entity of Sita -Existentialism: It is a word of difficult definition and a rare movement as many thinks not totally impossible to define. "I existentialists", tend to take the liberty of the will, the human power to do or less as absolutely obvious. Only now and then there are arguments in favor of free will. Sita was one such character portrait of Anita Desai. However, in general, the existentialists recognize that human knowledge is limited and fallible. The protagonist is expecting but miracles to happen in his island. One can be deeply involved with the truth and simply does not find adequate the truth, or wrong. The world in which we live is full of stress and spiritual tension. Sita terribly wants to escape its daily life and its worldly extensions. Modern man has become so materialistic, centered on the same and therefore focus on the ego, which cannot afford the luxury of help without undergoing the internal problem - a conviction of segregation and purposelessness prevails in their daily life. Sita is tired of the monotony of life in Bombay. It wants to escape the daily duties that the torture of it. She feels herself slowly, as go farther and leaving the place would help to get rid of his mental confusion. So, finally the option Sita was his father magical island 'Manori'. The existential issue is so critical and the casing that threat to all spheres of his life. We see Sita, the owner of the villa in the magical island; Manori arrived there after a long period of twenty years. The air seems to be pathetic, since nothing seems to be perfect when it arrives with his two sons, in the search for peace and harmony.

Mythical Names - Protagonist. It may be introduced in evaluation with Goddess Sita, wife of Lord Rama, within the epic 'Ramayana', who faces trials and tribulations. The protagonist Sita also can take delivery of an emblematic stance, for patiently bearing and engaging all her suffering in life. Her long wait, symbolizes several matters. First, she is waiting for something magical to take place in her existence. The primary characters - 'Sita' and 'Rama', bearing archetypal names, are a long way from the reincarnation of legendary figures. Though their names are related to the mythical figures, Raman turned into a difficult and tough man. He determined her unbearable in her misery, the drama of her misery.

Island – A Symbol of Loneliness:

A long awaited servant Moses inside the remarkable island 'Manori'. The summer season symbolically illustrates a 'state of tedium' that the protagonist has skilled of late. Moses, the servant who became taking care of Sita's homestead inside the island, has been anticipating 20 years and the island stands as a symbol of loneliness. The protagonist herself has existential questions including 'loss of life', the 'meaning of human lifestyles' to be replied. The island turned into once, considered having magical traits and wherein her father become the non secular magician. The land appeared deserted after so many years of lifestyles. The worrying monsoon inside the island portrays the internal turmoil the protagonists' faces, whilst she reaches there. Unable to stay within the strife torn present, she is inside the hunt for identifying herself, touching on her past. The beyond becomes a psychic residue in her 'personal unconscious' and turns into her milieu.

Sea, as a Contrivance:

Desai employs the sea, as a contrivance of progress this is targeted on this novel. Sita, the primary man or woman, appears to be bored with life in Mumbai and expects to have a drastic alternate in lifestyles at 'Manori'. The human beings in the island look ahead to fervently to look the daughter of their liked saint who became extra special in human relation and a living legend for all of them, however Sita returns as a chaotic mom, without her husband to accompany and with no unique tendencies of her fantastic father. The sea plays a major function in the lives of each Raman and Sita, due to the fact that is the place where their life had started. She changed into a younger girl when she lived at the island. The sea, which changed into like a mother to her now appeared all new. It seemed as if Sita predicted peace in returning to her mother land. Their tour within the boat suggests how a good deal of hurdles the boat faces as it's far tossed inside the midst of the sea. Sita, is likewise tossed a number of the waves of her existence, in which the currents waft her slowly closer to looking for a peace of thoughts and discover content material in solace. A mother of four, Sita is again pregnant for the fifth toddler, which she feels is demeaning to have. She goes to the island no longer with the idea of giving beginning, however with expectation that the mystical island might also assist her, stopping her accouchement by some means. Desai

brings the delineation of the island, as symbolic and magical in man or woman. Sita's life is like the 'Sea'. She experiences monotony from her recurring existence, like the sea engulfed through the waves.

Monotony of City Life:

Desai makes use of the term a 'zombie' – An expression to painting the frustration with the rich lifestyles in the town. Sita suffers from culpability which transforms her intact personality. Moses finds her not, the least like her father. The metropolis had taught her to smoke – a habit that even men in the island feel disrespectful.

White Color Showing Symbolism:

Desai uses colorations to reveal the characters and their description. The coloration 'White' in this context depicts purity and divinity, while 'gray' depicts shadow and thriller. Desai uses the white coloration to show the prevailing condition of the residence. 'White' seems to be the symbol of death, for under the impact of death a person withers and grows pale and old. The house in the island was a gift to her father from a devotee.

Conclusion:

Anita Desai's major concern depicts woman in the real situation through her works and she has raised a voice against violence of women in *Where Shall We Go This Summer?*. She presents a woman searching for her identity imprisoned in so called social bonds. Her novels present the effect of family relations and the social bonds on the psyche of woman. Thus Desai, through ideal symbolic delineation both in characterization and incidents, through environment and insignia, has fantastically interwoven right into a harmonious combo of familial bonds.

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