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## **A Comparative Study Of Women Psyche In The Works Of D.H. Lawrence And Anita Desai**

**Hamreen Kaur** PhD Scholar, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara.

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### **Abstract**

Comparative literature is the study of “literature without boundaries.” Comparative literature discovers the transformation of literary genres and texts. This literature explores the connections between literature and history. Comparative literature emerged in the 19th century. It began as “Literature Compare” in 1860 in Germany. Comparative literature got its recognition as a study in 1897. Mathew Arnold first used the term “Comparative literature for the first time in English.” Comparative studies are investigations to analyze the quantitative and qualitative methods, a phenomenon, and or facts among different areas, subjects, and objects to detect similarities and differences. In a comparative study of the literature, we compare every aspect of the works written by the writers whose works we are comparing. Psychoanalysis is a theory that talks about the pent-up emotions, and memories that a person hides, it talks about the frustration that a person has and is keeping inside him or her and it affects the mind of the person, the psyche of the person. Freud once encountered someone and that the person was going through some physical problem but it was exactly the physical problem it was the trauma that the person was facing, that was hidden inside the mind of that person, but it was not in the conscious mind. Through this, Freud got to know about the unconscious mind. Some of the writers like D. H. Lawrence and Anita Desai have also used this theory in their works. Modernism in literature was a literary movement that focused on contemporary elements.

**Keywords:** Comparative literature, Modernism, Psychoanalysis, conscious, unconscious

### **INTRODUCTION**

In a comparative study, the comparison is done by considering every point the writer mentions. A comparative study of any work whether a novel, every character is studied, characteristics of the character are studied, psychology, imagery, and symbols used in the works are studied. In a comparative study, we compare two or more things intending to discover something about the things being compared. A comparative study is a scholastic study of literature and cultural expression across linguistic, national, geographic, and disciplinary boundaries. Comparative literature is a versatile field in which the interpreter studies literature across borders, languages, cultures, and genres. Comparative literature is the study of “literature without boundaries.” Comparative literature discovers the transformation of literary genres and texts. This literature explores the connections between literature and history. Comparative studies tell us about the intersection of literature with other cultural forms such as films, new media,

and visual art. Comparative study means the study of different texts by different writers, texts from different genres, and the study of similarities, and dissimilarities in the works. Understanding the histories, and literary movements of the periods in which the novels were written. In studying comparative literature, one must consider literature from different genres, locations, and periods. A comparative study is a method that studies a fact and brings them together to find the similarities and differences in a particular field. Comparative literature emerged in the 19th century. It began as "Literature Compare" in 1860 in Germany. Comparative literature got its recognition as a study in 1897. Mathew Arnold first used the term "Comparative literature for the first time in English." Comparative studies are investigations to analyze the quantitative and qualitative methods, a phenomenon, and or facts among different areas, subjects, and/or objects to detect similarities and/or differences. In a comparative study of the literature, we compare every aspect of the works written by the writers whose works we are comparing. In a comparative study of work, we study the theories that are applied by the writers in their works and see how these theories are applied and with what perspective they are applied by the writers. Psyche is the entirety of the human mind, conscious and subconscious. Psychology is the scientific or impartial study of the psyche. The word psyche has a long history of use in psychology and philosophy, back in ancient times it is one of the fundamental concepts for understanding human nature from a scientific point of view. The English word soul is sometimes used equally, especially in older texts. In literature, psychology tells us about the writer's psyche, with what he or she writes their work. In a novel, the writer represents the life of the characters according to his or her perception, views, ideologies, and objectives, talking about individual differences. Psychoanalysis is a field in psychology that is eminent among other specialties because of its body of knowledge and its thorough treatment approaches. It aims at basic changes and alterations of a person's personality. Psychoanalysis helps to promote awareness of the unconscious, maladaptive, and regular patterns of emotion and behavior, allowing previously unconscious aspects of the self to become combined and promoting optimal functioning, healing, and creative expression. Freud believed that the human mind was composed of three elements: the id, the ego, and the superego. Freud's theories of psychosexual stages, the unconscious, and dream symbolism are still popular among both psychologists and the public, but others view his work with skepticism. The psychoanalytical theory is the theory of personality organization, it talks about the psychology of a person. It is based on the notion that an individual gets motivated more by unseen forces that are controlled by the conscious and the normal thought. Sigmund Freud is closely related to psychoanalytical theory. According to Sigmund Freud, human behavior is formed through an interaction between three components of the mind is Id, Ego, and Super Ego. The psychoanalytical theory was first laid out by Sigmund Freud in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, psychoanalytic theory has undergone many refinements since then. The psychoanalytical theory came to full importance in the late twentieth century. Freud stopped his analysis of the brain and his psychological studies and after some time, he shifted his focus toward the mind and started reading about the mind, and how it works, by applying the theory. The study of psychoanalysis emphasized the recognition of

childhood events that could influence the mental health of the person. Psychoanalysis talks about the psychology of the person, the situation through which a person goes. Psychoanalysis is a theory that talks about the pent-up or the emotions, and memories that a person hides, it talks about the frustration that a person has and is keeping inside him or her and it affects the mind of the person, the psyche of the person. Freud once encountered someone and that the person was going through some physical problem but it was exactly the physical problem it was the trauma that the person was facing, that was hidden inside the mind of that person, but it was not in the conscious mind. Through this, Freud got to know about the unconscious mind. According to Freud, the instinct to survive, or the death instinct, aggressive or violent behavior is all because of the unconscious level of our mind. (Freud) Many writers have applied psychoanalytical theory in their works to show the psyche of their characters. Some of the writers like D.H. Lawrence and Anita Desai have also used this theory in their works. Modernism in literature was a literary movement that focused on contemporary elements. The modernist literary movement began after World War I. Modernism was the result of the sociological changes during World War I. Modernism is a change that affects multiple sides of expression. The rise of capitalism, and rapid industrialization. The modernist movement began to move away from the ideas that were there before the modernist movement. People in the modern period, during modernism, started getting a sense of fragmentation and disappointment and this was all because of the world war and this is reflected in the works of the writers of the modern age. During this period Sigmund Freud was pioneering his revolutionary work in psychology and we could see the influence of Freud in the works of the modernist writers. Modernism in literature focuses on the inner workings of the characters of the novels and it talks about their consciousness, it tells us about the impact of capitalism and machinery, people started isolating, there was a constant search for individualism, the society was absurd. People were fed up with the effects of the world war and its consequences. Modernism reflected the changing world, industrialization, and rapid development in technology and machinery. People were busy with their work and focused less on enjoying nature. The works during modernism were written from a first-person perspective. Industrialization during the modern age gave women the chance to work outside. Women started raising their voices against the things that they were not allowed to do, after the world wars women gained their rights to freedom, the right to sexual expression. During the modernism period, women became a threat to male-dominated society and women became the most important source of material for the writers of this age. One of the writers who wrote during modernism was D.H. Lawrence. Lawrence was an English writer and poet. His works represent an extended reflection on the dehumanizing effects of modernity and industrialization. His writings talk about issues such as sexuality, emotional health, and instinct (Wikipedia.org). D.H. Lawrence's works talk about the psychoanalytical theory that shows the mindset of the characters, their unconscious mind, the hatred that is in their mind regarding the things they dislike, and violent behaviour. Talking about the women's psyche during modernism, it says that the effect of industrialization, and capitalism is shown through women, their behaviour, and their urge to get free of the bondages they

have been in. Women characters of D.H Lawrence show that women are equal and they can do whatever they want to. Through the women characters in his novels, Lawrence talks about the changes that could be seen in the modern period, socially and politically how London changed. Women in his novels show that they are equal to men and they can live life according to themselves and they don't need men every time. The psychoanalytical theory could be used in literature to interpret the text to understand the psyche of the writer that is with what wants to tell through these works and his characters. This theory talks about the Oedipus complex and this could be seen in the novel *Sons and Lovers* written by D.H Lawrence (Kumari, 2016) (Ahmed, 2012). In the novel *Sons and Lover*, the writer focuses on how the domineering power of the love of a mother and how her jealousy restricts her son's desire for other women. Ultimately the mother wins over her blood ties over another woman. Also, how the psychological development of the child affects their personality in the later stage of life (D.H Lawrence, *Sons, and Lover*). In *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, we see how Connie's suppressed sexual desires led her to unfaithfulness in spite of the class difference. She is Unhappy in her married life, due to her husband's physical disability, Connie has suppressed her desire for a long time. These suppressed desires come out in the form of an outburst of emotions when she sees Mellor. Being driven by the libido, led her to establish sexual affairs with the lower-class servant and moral dilemma out of her superego. (D.H Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*). Through the works of Lawrence, we see that women understand that they have drowned themselves in poverty and meanness, and with the coming of industrialization in the modern period women can become bolder and more independent and they can be themselves and have their individuality. D.H Lawrence's works show how the women characters in his novels struggle to obtain freedom from the male-dominated society. In his novel *Women in Love*, he talks about the situation of the women and their longing for the same freedom that the men in their society enjoy. In their society women live in isolation, the women are in search of their own identity. In the works of D.H Lawrence, we can read that despite living in a dominated society, women have achieved their goals. (D.H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*). In another novel by Lawrence, he talks about characters, like their author, who are consciously or unconsciously on a quest to connect the various dimensions of their lives in a period of great social upheaval, themes in the novels are strongly related to social concerns. The struggle of the major characters to achieve fulfilling personal relationships, to know their inner self, and to break the norms of the patriarchal society because all the characters are unconsciously doing things. (D.H. Lawrence, *The Rainbow*). On the other hand, post-modernism started after the Second World War in around 1950. During postmodernism everything was changed, all those things that were there during modernism changed the beliefs of the people changed, and their values changed. Postmodernism showed corruption as well as hope, they described honesty, unlike modernism which showed that society is full of corruption. Postmodernism shows that if there is destruction, after some time there will be a ray of hope everywhere. Postmodernism says that we are not afraid of things, we are not afraid of any type of tragedy, and we have learned to live with the situation around us. Postmodernists say that hardship is part of life. Postmodernism says

that nothing is in order in this world, there is no logic. Postmodernism says that there could be multiple interpretations of a text. Postmodernism tells the readers that the fiction they are reading is not real, it is imaginary. The writing is subjective, writers talk about their emotions, desires, and thoughts in their works. Postmodernism has mixed different genres. One of the writers of the postmodernism period is Anita Desai. Anita Desai is an Indian writer, who belongs to postmodernism. She is a Sahitya Akademi Award winner. Her novels show a typical setting or 'world' of their own. Most of her novels are set in the cities and they represent the undesirable, unimaginative reality, unreal, and unsatisfied delusion is shown in her novels. Her characters could be divided into two types, one type shows a neurotic, artistic sensibility, and hypersensitivity, and the other type is cynical, tough, and sharp. Her characters are in a state of conflict either with themselves or with the environment around them and the result of this conflict leads to murder, suicide, compromise, and death. Anita Desai's characters deal with their inner conflicts. The novels of Anita Desai talk about the psychology of her characters. Psychoanalytical theory in the works of Anita Desai depicts the psychology of the characters, their mind, and how their unconscious mind let them not understand what they are doing. How the characters of her novels are disturbed and are waiting for their freedom and self-realization. Female characters in the novels of Anita Desai are suppressed, stressed, detached, and confused in the modern world around them. They fight with their battles, fantasies, and loneliness and look for their way to existence, they have lost their identities. Through her novels, Anita Desai wants to show the way of exploring the inner psyche of her female characters. Anita Desai wants the characters in her works should find their true self only with self-realization. It is with such belief and art of characterization that Anita Desai has been able to show the development of her women character in her novels. Her feminine characters, while tightly fitting their psychological reactions, usually point out the change in the environment of a given society. (Khan, 2009) In her work *Cry the Peacock*, Anita Desai talks about her protagonist Maya, her psychology, and her behaviour after a small incident that took place in her childhood and that affected her present and destroyed her relationship with her husband. (Anita Desai, *Cry the Peacock*) Desai's novel *Clear Light of the Day* talks about escapism from the problems, women's role in society, and the effect of the past in the present that leads to problems in the lives of the characters of Desai's novels. (Anita Desai, *Clear Light of the Day*), In the novel *Voices in the City*, voices symbolize the different attitudes and behaviours of human beings toward the inner and outer realities of life dealing with the psychological problems of the youths of today. As it is mainly about the growth and working of the psyche, it is rich in symbolism. The novelist makes extensive use of symbols. (Kumari, 2014) (Kadyan, 2016). The women represent the symbol of fostering women who work hard to look after their families, they struggle so much in their lives just for their family, and people close to them still are suppressed and are not treated equally to the men in our society. Anita Desai's *Fire in the Mountains* shows the psyche of the women asking questions with voracious eyes to discover the real female subject and identity of the men in the male-dominated society. Anita Desai exhibits the woman's situation, emotion, and realization which are analyzed to observe

the universality of the female psyche. It was all a lie, all. She had lied to Raka, lied about everything. Her father had never been to Tibet . . . Nor had her husband loved and cherished her and kept her like a queen – he had only done enough to keep her quiet while he carried on a lifelong affair with Miss David, the mathematics mistress, whom he had not married because she was a Christian but whom he had loved, all his life loved. And her children – the children were all alien to her nature. She did not live here alone by choice – she lived here alone because that was what she was forced to do, reduced to doing. All those graces and glories with which she had tried to captivate Raka were only a fabrication: They helped her to sleep at night, they were tranquilizers, pills. She had lied to Raka. And Ila had lied, too. Ila, too, had lied and tried. (Saha)

-Anita Desai, *Fire in the Mountain*, 145

From ancient times till now, women have been treated badly by society, they are treated according to the men of society. According to male dominance, women are known through men, whether as beautiful souls or evil personalities. Anita Desai in her works talks about the female psyche, and female insecurity that females face in society because of society being a patriarchal society. She says that the female in the society is like a pendulum who is swinging here and there, just according to the men of the society. Anita Desai in her works talks about the psyche of the women who face problems in society and are suppressed by male dominance and are just kept as a source of help in their house and are treated as useless. Because all these problems they face affect their mind, and their psyche, and then out of the destruction they try to do something that is not in their control, that is in the unconscious mind and about the unconscious mind, Sigmund Freud has told us in his theory that emotions pent up inside the mind of a person and one or the other incident in the mind of the person is there that leads the person to do something that is not under their control, it is not in their conscious mind but this is the role that is played by their unconscious mind. Anita Desai in her works uses fictional methods such as; flashback, stream-of-consciousness method, dream, fantasy, symbolism, and so on to tell her readers about the inner loneliness, pain, and battle of her major characters men and women. There is no poetic quality given to her novels, but it helps to portray and explore the hidden psyche of her characters. She could be considered as a practical modernizer in the field of Indian English Fiction Writing. It lets her narrate the story, portray her characters, convey the mood of her characters, induce the atmosphere, and review the inner psyche of her character

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Modernism was the period that came after the First World War; it brought destruction and fragmentation. People during modernism were happy with industrialization and capitalism. This period brought a ray of hope for the women as they started believing in themselves and started involving themselves in the environment around them, they could easily work out and live according to them, they could be involved in politics and they no longer have to be the victims of the patriarchal society. Writers of the modern age wrote about the after-effects of the world war and what was the impact on the

people and they wrote about the changes that came with modernism at that time. D.H Lawrence was the writer of the modern period, in his works he wrote about the fragmented society, in his novels we could read about the psychoanalytical theory given by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalytical theory talks about the conscious and unconscious mind. D.H Lawrence in his works talks about the psyche of women, the unconscious mind of women, and their struggle to move away from the fragmented world, to live life according to their selves, whether sexually or politically. Postmodernism. Postmodernism shows that if there is destruction after some time there would be a ray of hope everywhere. Postmodernists believe that what is there in the present is the reality and they will live with this reality, they know that the world is fragmented but on the other hand, there is hope as well. Writers who belong to postmodernism wrote about the current world and their own experiences in their works. In both ages, there was the influence of psychoanalytical theory, through the use of this theory the writers are talking about the characters in the novels, their lives, and their minds, exploring their inner psyche. Women during modernism and postmodernism faced problems and it affected their inner psyche. Anita Desai in her works talks about the female characters and the inner psyche of her characters, their dilemma, and their search for the inner self. The theory applied here is the psychoanalytical theory at the same time keeping in view feminism, and women's psyche in modernism and postmodernism. Through the use of the symbols in their novels both the writers have talked about the personality of their characters in their novels. Some symbols and imagery in the novels talk about what is the psyche of the character at that point in the novel because of which the character in the novel takes another self, searches for their identity, and gets self-realization and self-satisfaction.

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