

Shobha De's Novels in Perception of Modern Writing

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Abstract- Shobha De, maiden name Shobha Rajadhyaksha is one of the prominent journalist and novelist on the Indian literary scenario. After completing graduation Shobha De took up journalism as her career. Today she is one of most popular writers because of her tempestuous style. The present paper focuses on see her novels in perception of today literally writing. This paper discusses her writing style, her skills to argue the most sensitive aspects of human relationship and man-woman relationship in her novels.

Keywords: journalism, style, relationship, novels.

1. INTRODUCTION

Shobha De, maiden name Shobha Rajadhyaksha is one of the prominent journalist and novelist on the Indian literary scenario. Since childhood Shobha De had experienced and observed gender discrimination. After completing graduation Shobha De entered into world of modeling. Although through the modeling she got national and international exposure to the glamour and advertising world, but still she was not fully satisfy. It was the year 1970 which proved to be the turning point of her life. She took up journalism as her career.

Once during her chat with a friend at Creative Unit, modest advertising agency, a question was asked to her- "Can you write?" (1998: 84). This question had changed her entire course of life and turned towards a new profession. In 'Why I Write', (1994: xi) De views that she writes as she loves writing: 'I write because I like the feel of paper under my ball point pen. Writing is pure sex. I like to see a blank sheet fill up. I like to think while my fingers move. I like the way words jump around inside my head impatiently like they can't wait to pop out and be born.'

Thus writing becomes her passion. She founded and edited three famous magazines that is 'Stardust', 'Society' and 'Celebrity'. While working as a freelance writer she earned both name and fame. She also used to write columns for various magazines and newspapers. Also she worked as a consulting editor of 'Sunday' and 'Megacity.' She pen down for several popular soaps on television,

including India's first daily soap, 'Swabhimaan.' She hosted a prestigious weekly show called 'Power Trip' which featured India's Billionaires as never before. Journalism and media furnished her language and style and made it more mature. Moreover, these fields offered her different angles and faces of the society. She is a woman with glamorous personality who keenly observes the upper-class neo-rich life of sophisticated cities, especially Mumbai.

2. DE'S WRITING STYLE

Shobha De bears multitalented personality. She is talented writer with extraordinary skills to argue the most sensitive aspects of human relationship and man-woman relationship. Today she is one of most popular writers because of her tempestuous style. She emerged on the Indian literary scene in 1989 with her first novel 'Socialite Evening'. She has given a new definition to the literary world through her bold, breakthrough and extremely unique style. She is accredited with having given birth to a new language 'Hinglish,' an exhilarating, irreverent mixture of English and Hindi, which spoke to readers in a wholly new way.

Although her work consists of novels, stories, an autobiography, essays and letters, but she is rather recognized as a contemporary Indian woman novelist than anything else. As she represents modern Indian women, the most significant feature of her writing is also the modern Indian woman which forms the core of her fiction.

Although De belongs to modern class of Indian women writers but what separate her from them is her writing style. Shobha De deems in openheartedness and a candid narration of events. In her writings nothing is reserved. Due to her frank narration style and open conversation of sexual issues, she has been criticized by the traditional people in India. De never cares about the criticism of these traditional readers about themes and style of her writing. In fact her writings are being enjoyed not only in India but also all over the world. She is the writer of an international fame. Being a feminist writer she concentrated on the marginalization of Indian women in society. Having graduation in psychology, De has great knowledge of the deepness of woman's psyche and problems.

3. FEMINISIM IN HER NOVELS

The core concern in the work of Shobha De is 'Woman' as she is a feminist writer. But De's woman does not belong to the first phase of 'feminine'. Shobha De is the representative of third phase of feminism which begins 1920 onwards and described by Elaine Showalter as the 'Female.' This third of phase of Female is the phase of self-discovery, quest for freedom and identity. But her characters don't stay rigid to the only one phase. In fact they exceed from 'feminist' towards the 'female' i.e. from the phase of grievance against the patriarchal means towards the progression of self-discovery. As a feminist writer, Shobha De believes that in order to establish a true identity of her own, a woman must break the cultural, socio-political and economic obstacles enforced upon her by several forces since forgettable time period.

The sensational images of the independent, attractive, and highly professional women, trying to control the power structure has been very skillfully anticipated by the novelist. But behind this external splendor of these women's life which they seem to enjoy there is disgust and dissatisfaction which is the result of their anomalous behavior. Despite of feeling suffocated and hopeless, the traditional Indian women try to amend themselves in the social system arranged by the male dominated race, impetus and surroundings.

This new woman has been projected by De as a confident and challenging in the quest of attaining her desired ambitions. Shobha De has offered a new woman as an amalgamated character, who has

feminine qualities with physical freedom, career, marriage and assimilated pleasure. Shobha De has stimulated the spirit of new woman to comprehend her prospective to face and challenge any kind of impediment, turns up in her selected path.

As she is the writer of postmodern age, she follows the genus of that age. Jasbir Jain(2002:23) who has avowed the role of women writers in his article, "Towards the 21st Century: The Writing of the 1990's" views: "To come out of the postcolonial phase would automatically mark a shift in relationships, transforming then from dependent, subordinate ones to self-confident and equal ones". In spite of been criticism for her novels, De endure a rigid stand to defend the cause of urban woman of India in her own style.

When read with an unbiased mind, Shobha De's novels appear to be the illustration of the changed realism of the lives of urban woman. Shobha De never believes in presenting her women as a love-slaves or mere helpmates at home. De endeavors to undo this skewed and indistinct image of woman who cries for equality and freedom which is still unheard in the patriarchal world. From this viewpoint, the women of De's works are more powerful than man. Women are essentially characterized sexually progressive and rational and have become recognized as the 'new-women' in the later twentieth-century fiction. But the potency of her characters in the very culture that has judged her is even more notable. Her feminine characters, intensely only after they have gone through their own experience, come to real identity. De's women may or may not be flapper but they are much more corporal and sporty than their mothers have been. In her writings, Shobha De tries to reveal the above-conferred feminine features. Her female characters are simply outstanding when deliberated against men. Men-women's complementary picture has been totally traumatized in her novels.

Shobha De's women are far more dominant, bold and assertive in comparison to their male counterpart. They are not acquiescent and guilty about their attitudes and affairs. Shobha de's women are more grown-up than their mates. However in their own world, her males have implicit code of apathetic masculinity in order to identify themselves in their relationship to women whose code does not guarantee success. Men appear to be very passive in response to women: they are insensitive or indifferent, unwilling or

unable to act or to undertake responsibility for the manner things work out. Men in the Shobha De's novels are stereotyped and traditional. Shobha de has offered men resorting to some defense processes against their self-reliant and self-confident wives but more often than not they do not succeed. They are dreadfully endangered by their females. De's women obviously stand their dominance over their male counterpart. They can effortlessly outplay and checkmate all her male counterparts with a tactic which seems afar the male conception as it is too subtle and maneuver a trick.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Shobha De rationally offers the web of the most sensitive characteristics of human relationship in general and man-woman relationship in particular in her fiction. Her female characters are simply outstanding when deliberated against men. Shobha De is a writer with a serious intention. The novels of De are not just entertainers, fleshy tales or thrillers. In fact they are an eye-opener to readers. In the literary circle she has been criticized and condemned for her free, bold, frank and open metaphors of sex battles, but her intentions and viewpoints are truly different.

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