



# Contribution of Anita Desai & Kiran Desai in Indian English Literature

Mr. Dhiraj Vilasrao Nimsatkar  
M.A. (English), B.Ed., DJ, Research Scholar

## ABSTRACT

The contribution of mother-daughter, Anita Desai and Kiran Desai in English literature is invaluable. They describe the genuine picture of Indian women condition in Indian society through their works. They have provided number of masterpiece work in English literature for which they have been recognised as the best-selling authors in India. Anita Desai has presented the temperament of Indians towards women is still insecure, trust issues, and male dominating society. She also described women's condition and family issues in Middle Class families. Most of the central character in Desai's literary work is women.

**KEYWORDS:** Forbidden, confined, nostalgia, commonwealth, feminism, affluent.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Once, women have no right to take education, they were completely forbidden from taking education. She was confined with giving birth to children and making food for her family. There was a couple (with modern thoughts) in India Mrs. & Mr. Phule, who fought for the rights of Women's Education and women started learning. Indians thought that, "If a girl learns, their religion will sink" and people started opposing them. But the Phule couple never stop their mission. Indian constitution gave them right to educate. As a result today we see that women are excel in every sector, every branches of education and performing better that men.

Literature is also one of the most notable branch where women carved their impression. Fully illiterate women like Bahinabai Chaudhari is famous for Ovees, Saint Janabai is famous for Abhang (a type of poem), in Marathi. As well as many women contributed their literary work and established themselves on notable place in Indian English literature.

In this presentation we are going to depict the invaluable contribution of Anita Desai and Kiran Desai.

Anita Desai was born on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1937 in Mussoorie in the blended family of Bengali father and German mother. As she was a daughter of Indian and German couple, she learned both culture and language in her early days. After completing her primary education in Delhi, she completed her graduation in English Literature in Delhi University. She has produced novels, stories, children books and articles. She is often called as well-known psychological novelist in a feminist who deals with major themes of isolation, lack of communication, inner struggle, man woman relationship and marital dissensions. Her protagonists are female. Language and technique used by Anita Desai is as per theme and situation. She uses memories of past that is Nostalgia as a narrative technique. Her unique style of expressing ideas deal with original characters, use of

diction, realistic theme, and narrative technique has made her writing so amiable which gained many words, recognitions and awards for her work.

Anita Desai has written ten novels and many short stories in her literary career. Her first novel '*Cry the Peacock*' published in 1963. Maya is the heroine of the novel. She is a spoiled and stout daughter of a rich Brahmin. She married to Gautam who is sensitive, impolite and an intelligent advocate. When she was a child, an astrologer has predicted that after four years of her marriage, she or her husband would die. Due to the fear, she loses her balance of mind. In an insane condition she kills her husband. This novel describes the psychological dilemma of Maya's inner psyche.

Anita Desai produced her second novel in 1965 '*Voices in the City*' the novel describes the miserable condition of Mirode Monisha and Anita living in Kolkata city. Present novel describes Monisha's mental agony and feelings through her personal diary.

Anita Desai's third novel '*Bye Bye Blackbird*' appeared in 1975. In this novel she has been described the condition of Indians who have settled in London City. Adit and Dev are facing the problems of alienation in settling in London.

Anita Desai is fourth novel '*Where Shall We Go This Summer*' published in 1975. The progement stak is disturbed to see that the people are busy in earning and spending they have no mission of life. This novel describes the psychological condition of Sitas mind.

Anita Desai published her fifth novel '*Fire on the Mountain*' in 1977 in London. It reveals Nanda Kauls motherly feelings, insult and helplessness of alienation in beautiful way.

In her sixth novel '*Baum's Gortners Bombay*' published in 1988 it is the story of a German Jew who feels himself as an outsider in his country because he is a Jew if he comes to India where he is an outsider because he is afirangi.

Her one of the famous novel '*In Custody*' published in 1984, and it can be recognized as one of the greatest novel by Anita Desai it forces us to think about the decline of Urdu language. Once it was a court language of Mughals it ruled over the hearts of the people but now it is losing its charm. In this novel she describes the story of Deven Sharma, belongs to a middle class family. His father was a school teacher who dies in Lucknow. When his mother comes to Delhi Deven becomes a lecturer in Lala Ram Lal college at Mirpur he is married to an ordinary girl of Haldwani in UP, his dream is to meet NurShahjehanabadi the Urdu poet, Murad his college friend fulfills his dream by giving him a chance to interview Noor. But he is kicked like a football by MuradSafia Begum NurShahjehanabadi and by Siddiqui.

'*Clear Light of the Day*' is published in 1980 and set primarily in Old Delhi. The story describes the dispute in post partition Indian family of Mr. & Mrs. Das. Das lived in a rental room of Mr. Hyder Ali. They had four children named Bimla, Raja, Tara and Baba. Baba is an unexpected child. He was physically unstable that's why Mrs. Das called her sister Mrs. Mishra to look after him. But she was intoxicated woman. Mr. & Mrs. Das were also addicted to drug. Bimla was the youngest child of the family and she was very responsible woman. She earns money by working as home tutor. Raja is son of Das family, he fell in love with the daughter of Mr. Hyder Ali and married her. Mr. Hyder Ali left the city and shifted in Hyderabad at the time of India-Pak partition. Tara is third child of Das family and she married with Bakul and they had two daughters. Bakul was arrogant man that's why Bimla opposed Tara but Tara married him. Baba is mentally and physically unstable child of Das family that's why Bimla took responsibility of him. One day Bimla got letter from Raja in which it was mentioned, "I will take the same rent, which she was giving to Mr. Hyder Ali." This is the reason of dispute between brothers and sisters. One day Tara said to Bimla about marriage invitation of Raja's son. Bimla was not

interested to go cause of the letter. But at the end of the story Bimla thinks that there should not be dispute among family, she hoped that one day she will meet her brothers and sisters. The story deals with India-Pak partition and Das family partition.

*'Fasting and Feasting'* is one of the renowned novel written by Anita Desai. This novel is deal with the two culture of society in India and America. There are three children in the family who are Uma, Aruna and Arun. They called their parents as Mama and Papa. Papa was a government official and Mama always support her children. Uma was very interested in study but after Arun's birth, she had to stop her education to look after her younger brother. Uma met her teacher, Mother Agnes and request her to talk to her parents, but she denied to do so. After a long while Mama and Papa decided that Uma should get married. But she was rejected by several people, as a result she had to marry with an old man but he also ditched her. There is one more character in the story Anamika, who is Uma's cousin sister. She was excellent in studies and she got an opportunity to study in Oxford University but her family didn't allow her to go. Eventually she got married to Arvind who was affluent man living in Bombay. But Anamika's post marital life was not smooth, her family members were troubling her a lot and after some days she was killed by her family but shown as it was suicide. This is the climax of the story. Here the first part of the novel is concluded Where Anita Desai shown that Indian culture do not give more priority to women in education. Now the second part of the novel is deal with Arun, who worked hard and got scholarship and went to study in Oxford University and there he got support from unknown American couple Mr. and Mrs. Patton. In the novel Anita Desai tries to show us the view of American people towards the education is different than Indian people.

Through her novels Anita Desai always tries to show the psychological state of her characters, because she thinks that the inner life of man and woman decides her or his character rather than the external condition of life. She is affected by men and women relationship at home, none of her characters are happy, she uses a great variety of symbols and images to describe the suffering of mind. She was awarded with the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award in 1978 and she was also listed for the Booker prize award. Anita Desai could be recognized as one of the prominent and best-selling author of Indian English literature and also would be remember for notable contribution in Indian English Literature.

The well-known writer of Indian English Literature Kiran Desai was born in Chandigarh in 1971. She spent her childhood in Mumbai and Pune. She became famous with her first book *'Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard'*. Her book *'The Inheritance of Loss'* won her The First Booker prize and the works National Book Critics Fiction Award in 2006. Kiran Desai completed her studies in creative writing from Columbia University. She is the daughter of renowned novelist of India Anita Desai, whose name was shortlisted three times for Booker prize. In 1998 her first work *'Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard'* was published and won Betty Trask Award from the British Society of authors which given for the best novels by citizens of Commonwealth of nations. Desai's second book was published in 2006 entitled *'The Inheritance of Loss'*. In 2008, her report on community to sex workers was titled *'Night Claims the Godavari'* was included in AIDS Sutra. Desai's work has been appeared in the International Magazines like The New Yorker Guardian and also in the Vintage Book of Indian writing.

## II. CONCLUSION

In this research it is found that the contribution of Anita Desai and Kiran Desai in Indian English Literature is notable. They have given their best as a result their works appreciated they are awarded for their creation.

Anita Desai is a critically lauded 20<sup>th</sup> century writer and her novels on the experience and inner lives of Indian men and women are known for their compassion, eloquence and lucid prose.

### III. REFERENCES

- [1]. Voices in the City
- [2]. Bye Bye Blackbird
- [3]. Where Shall We Go This Summer
- [4]. Fire on the Mountain
- [5]. Baum's Gortners Bombay
- [6]. In Custody
- [7]. Clear Light of the Day'
- [8]. Fasting Feasting
- [9]. Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard
- [10]. The Inheritance of Loss