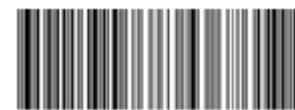




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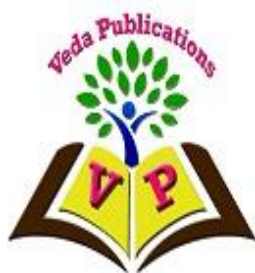
**MARITAL MALADJUSTMENT AND DISPOSITION IN ANITA DESAI'S
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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.54513/JOELL.2022.9212>**ABSTRACT**

Literature is one of the most prevailing and ancient ways of understanding life as well as the world. Especially women and literature are clearly related to each other because women writings revealed the true state of society and its treatment of women. Unlike other writers Anita Desai didn't use conventional and not influenced by folk tales, myths and epics but presented her novels in realistic manner by adapting current problems related to woman-man relationship, cultural conflicts, disposition, mangled psyche and marital maladjustment. Bye- Bye Black bird is such a novel. The story deals with two main characters Dev and Adit in London. Adit an Anglophile turns into a hopeless nostalgic returnee and Dev an Anglophobe turns into a hopeful Anglicized inhabitant of London. Sarah, an English woman, moves away from her parents and marries Adit. The Conflict idea between the Indianess of Adit and Sarah's own Westernself runs in her mind throughout the novel. This paper mainly aims to analyze marital maladjustment in Anita Desai's Bye- Bye Black Bird."

**Keywords:** *Literature, Man and woman relationships, life, Marital maladjustment.*



"Literature is the reflection of human experience". Literature is not just a collection of words but literature is reflection of human experience. Literature takes us a step back to time and learn more about life. Literature is the mirror of the society and gives us a chance to understand the world. Life and literature are interrelated because life produces literature and is in turn fed by literature. The study of literature takes us into the wide field of the history of Politics and society, manners and costumes, culture and learning, Philosophy and religion. The literal meaning of literature is the art or Picturesque way of the society in written work in different forms. Literature is a medium that depicts the goods and ills of the society and its study improves the knowledge among the readers about the incidents happening around them. Anita Nair says, "Literature has always been ambivalent in its representation of women..." According to Margaret Atwood, "Literature is not only a mirror; it is a map, a geography of the mind". Literature has always held a faithful mirror to the Society under investigation and men and women are among the subjects of an extraordinary study in literature. Women and literature are closely related to each other. New dimensions to the English Literature are added by the women writers. They made an everlasting mark in the field of English Literature. After independence, a set of woman writers has sprung up. Of these writers Anita Desai has stood apart in dealing with human relationships. She has dealt with conflict of values, broken ties of marriage and many other human concepts.

Bye-Bye Black bird is a study of man and woman relationships abused by cultural conflicts. In an

Interview with Atma Ram she told that, "of all my novels it is the most rooted in experience and least literary derivation". She mentioned, "Bye-Bye Blackbird is the closets of my books to actuality particularly everything in it is drawn directly from my experience of living with Indian immigrants in London". It highlights the way man-woman relationships are bedeviled by cultural encounters. The story deals with two main characters Dev and Adit in London. Adit has lived in London for a longer Period and married an English woman, Sarah. Dev Comes to London for higher studies and employment. As the story develops Dev and Adit become transposed. Adit, an Anglophile turns into a hopeless nostalgic returnee and Dev an Anglophobe turns into a hopeful Anglicized inhabitant of London. Sarah, an English woman moves away from her parents and marries Adit from all together different culture and tradition. The Western culture to which Sarah belongs does not match or meet the Indian culture of Adit. The conflict idea between the Indianess of her husband and her own Westernself runs in her mind throughout the novel. She feels she is nobody; her face was only a mask, her body only a costume. Sarah's conflict is between her own natural proclivity and her readiness to adapt to her husband's culture and tradition. By marrying Adit, Sarah suffers mental torture Sarah agrees to be a Hindu wife. Adit remarks:"you are like a Bengali girl... Bengali women are like that reserved, quiet. May be you were one in your previous life..." "She feels herself to be cut loose from her childhood life..."

She feels as though she was caught in a whirlpool of dark, deep water. She feels that her marriage did not offer her any fabulous grand life or identity. She



feels she had become nameless and has shed her name as she has shed her ancestry and identity. When she meets her friends, she becomes reluctant to talk about her Indian husband and thinks that she is socially alienated in her own country. She tries to adjust herself and maintains a balance between her 'English Past' and 'Indian Present'. On the other hand Adit, in spite of his attempts at acculturation realizes that he is misfit. He tries to reconcile when he marries Sarah. He is denied of equal status and is not respected by Sarah's Parents. Adit realizes this when Sarah Shuts him out "with a bang and a snap, from her childhood of one-eared Pandas and large jigsaw puzzles".

1. Adit who once loved London decides to leave London. He cannot digest the way he is received at his mother-in-law's house. He becomes annoyed with the treatment he meted out. He says, "My mother-in-law hates and despises me. They make fun of the life I lead and the ideals I Profess".
(Desai, Anita. *Bye Bye Blackbird*.)

He decides to leave London and says, "Sarah, you know I've loved England more than you, I've often felt myself half-English, but it was only Pretence, sally. Now it has to be the real thing. I must go. You will come? Sarah is at cross roads. She can neither accept to move with Adit nor shed her native English culture. At the end Sarah and Adit bid good bye to England.

CONCLUSION

Anita Desai's *Bye-Bye Black Bird* presents the theme of alienation and East-west clash. It is also the study of human relationships especially wife and husband relationship. Adit does not care to know Sarah's

feelings when he decides to return to India. She feels displeased by marrying an Indian. Sarah is pregnant and has concern for her unborn baby. Even though Sarah is not very happy about leaving her native land but as a wife she takes care of things and decides to move with Adit to India.

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