

Stream of Consciousness: A Critical Analysis of Emotional Deprivation and Exploitation in the Select Novels of Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai

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Abstract

This paper explores the themes of emotional deprivation and exploitation in the select works of Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai, focusing on their use of Stream of Consciousness narrative technique. Through a close reading of Virginia Woolf's novels like 'Mrs. Dalloway', and 'To the Lighthouse' as well as Anita Desai's novels like 'Cry the Peacock', and 'Clear Light of the Day' this paper examines how stream of consciousness reveals the inner lives of characters, exposing the psychological and emotional effects of deprivation and exploitation. This paper also examines the way in which stream of consciousness exposes the complexities of emotional deprivation and exploitation, highlighting the need for greater empathy, understanding, and social change.

Keywords: stream of consciousness, deprivation, exploitation, socio-cultural background etc.

Introduction:

Stream of Consciousness narrative technique allows authors to explore the inner lives of the characters, revealing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai both are prominent authors of the modernist and postcolonial periods, respectively, both are from different ages, different socio-cultural backgrounds, and employ stream of consciousness to explore the complexities of emotional deprivation and exploitation in their novels. This paper provides a critical analysis of emotional deprivation and exploitation in the select novels of Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai, exploring how the authors use stream of consciousness to reveal the inner lives and experiences of their characters.

Objectives of the Research:

The objectives of the research paper as follow:

- 1) To understand the Stream of consciousness technique.
- 2) To understand the emotional deprivation and exploitation.

Scope of Research Paper:

This research paper is purely related only with the emotional dimension of deprivation and exploitation in the select novels of Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai.

Research Methodology:

In the present research paper secondary data has been used, in which the novels of Virginia Woolf like, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, The Waves etc and novels of Anita Desai like, Cry the Peacock, Clear Light of Day and Voices in City have been used. The topic oriented books also have been used.

Limitations of The Study:

This study is only related with the emotional dimension of deprivation and exploitation. Thus other dimensions like, social, cultural, gender, religious are not taken as a research material.

Stream of Consciousness Narrative Technique:

A psychologist William James in his 'The Principles of Psychology' define the term as: "Stream of Consciousness is the continuous flow of thoughts, feelings, and impressions that make up a person's conscious awareness". It is a modern narrative technique applied by many modern novelists to convey the inner thoughts and feelings of the characters. The research said that the person always thinks in his mind about various topics but most of the time he thinks about his emotional topics rapidly. Especially the topics in which he feels emotionally deprived and exploited. This present research paper provides emotional deprivation and exploitation of characters depicted by Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai.

Emotional Deprivation and Exploitation in the Novels of Virginia Woolf:

Virginia Woolf was a British author, essayist, and feminist widely regarded as one of the most important writers of the 20th century. She was a key figure in the modernist movement in literature and a pioneer of Stream-of-consciousness writing. In her novels like 'Mrs. Dalloway' (1925), and 'To the Lighthouse' (1927), explored the emotional deprivation and exploitation.

Emotional Deprivation and Exploitation in 'Mrs. Dalloway':

Virginia Woolf's 'Mrs. Dalloway' (1925) is a seminal work of modernist literature, renowned for its innovative use of stream of consciousness narrative technique. Through the stream of consciousness of Clarissa Dalloway, Woolf reveals the complexities of emotional deprivation and exploitation, highlighting the ways in which societal expectations and norms perpetuate emotional deprivation and exploitation.

Septimus Warren Smith, shell-shocked veteran of World War-I, is a prime example of emotional deprivation in the novel. Through his stream of consciousness, Woolf reveals Septimus' inner turmoil, his struggle with mental illness, and his feelings of isolation and disconnection. Septimus' emotional deprivation is exacerbated by his exploitation at the hands of the medical establishment, particularly Dr. Bradshaw, who seeks to control and manipulate him.

Clarissa Dalloway, the novel's central character, is a complex example of emotional exploitation. Through her stream of consciousness, Woolf reveals Clarissa's inner life, her thoughts, feelings, and desires. Clarissa's emotional exploitation is perpetrated by her husband, Richard, who seeks to control and manipulate her, as well as by her own societal expectations and norms. Clarissa's emotional exploitation is also self-inflicted, as she struggles to reconcile her own desires and aspirations with the societal expectations placed upon her.

Emotional Deprivation and Exploitation in 'To The Lighthouse':

Virginia Woolf's 'To the Lighthouse' (1927) is a popular novel in 20th century. It is well-known for narrative technique. Virginia Woolf employs stream of consciousness to reveal the inner lives and experiences of emotionally deprived and exploited characters.

Mrs. Ramsay, the matriarch of the Ramsay family, is a prime example of emotional deprivation. Through her stream of consciousness, Woolf reveals Mrs. Ramsay's inner turmoil, her struggles with her own identity and creativity, and her feelings of isolation and disconnection. Mrs. Ramsay's emotional deprivation is exacerbated by her role as a wife and mother, which requires her to suppress her own needs and desires.

Lily Briscoe, a young artist and friend of the Ramsay family, is a prime example of emotional exploitation. Through her stream of consciousness, Woolf reveals Lily's inner struggles with her own identity and creativity, as well as her feelings of inadequacy and self doubt. Lily's emotional exploitation is perpetrated by the societal expectations placed upon her as a woman, particularly the expectations that she will prioritize marriage and family over her own artistic ambition.

James Ramsay, the youngest son of the Ramsay family, is a prime example of both emotional deprivation and exploitation. Through his stream of consciousness, Woolf reveals James' inner turmoil, his struggles with his own identity and creativity, and his feeling of isolation and disconnection. James' emotional deprivation is exacerbated by his role as a son and brother, which

requires him to suppress his own needs and desires. His emotional exploitation is perpetrated by the societal expectations placed upon him as a man, particularly the expectation that he will prioritize his career and family over his own personal ambition.

Emotional Deprivation and Exploitation in the Novels of Anita Desai:

Anita Desai, is an Indian novelist and short story writer. She is one of the most distinguished and accomplished writers of Indian English Literature, known for her nuanced and insightful portrays of Indian life and culture. In her novels like, 'Cry the Peacock' (1963) and 'Voices in the City' (1965) explored the emotional deprivation and exploitation.

Emotional Deprivation and Exploitation in 'Cry The Peacock':

Anita Desai's 'Cry the Peacock', is a seminal work of Indian English Literature, renowned for its innovative use of stream of consciousness narrative technique. Desai employs stream of consciousness to reveal the inner lives and experiences of the characters.

Maya is a protagonist of the novel and prime example of emotional deprivation. Through her stream of consciousness, Desai reveals Maya's inner turmoil, her struggles with her own identity, and creativity, and her feelings of isolation and disconnection. Maya's emotional deprivation is exacerbated by her role as a wife and daughter-in-law, which requires her to suppress her own needs and desires.

Gautama is a husband of Maya and prime example of emotional exploitation. Through his stream of consciousness, Desai reveals his inner struggle with his own

identity and creativity, as well as his feelings of inadequacy and self doubt. Gautama's emotional exploitation is perpetrated by the societal expectations placed upon him as a man, particularly the expectation that he will prioritize his career and family over his own personal ambitions.

Emotional Deprivation and Exploitation in 'Voices in the City':

Anita Desai's 'Voices in the City' (1965) is a seminal work of Indian Writing in English Literature, renowned for its innovative use of stream of consciousness narrative technique. Desai employs stream of consciousness to reveal the emotional deprivation and exploitation of the character and their inner lives.

Amla is one of the main characters of the novel and prime example of emotional deprivation. Through her stream of consciousness, Desai reveals Amla's inner turmoil, her struggles with her own identity and her feelings of isolation and disconnection. Amla's emotional deprivation is exacerbated by her role as a daughter and sister, which requires her to support her own needs and desires.

Nirode is a brother of Amla, and prime example of emotional exploitation. Through stream of consciousness, Desai reveals Nirode's inner struggles with his own identity as well as his feelings of inadequacy and self doubt. Nirode's emotional exploitation is perpetrated by the

societal expectations placed upon him as a man, particularly the expectation that he will prioritize his career and family over his own personal ambitions.

Monisha is a third main character of the novel and prime example of both emotional deprivation and exploitation. Through her stream of consciousness, Desai reveals Monisha's inner turmoil, her struggles with her own identity and her feelings of isolation and disconnection. Monisha's emotional deprivation is exacerbated by her role as a wife and mother, which requires her to suppress her own needs and desires. Her emotional exploitation is perpetrated by her husband and society, which expects her to conform to traditional feminine roles.

Conclusion:

This research paper has provided a critical analysis of emotional deprivation and exploitation in the select works of Virginia Woolf and Anita Desai, exploring how the authors employ stream of consciousness narrative technique to reveal the inner lives and experiences of their characters. Through a close reading of Woolf's 'Mrs. Dalloway' and 'To the Lighthouse' and Desai's 'Cry the Peacock' and 'Voices in the City', this paper has examined the ways in which stream of consciousness exposes the complexities of emotional deprivation and exploitation, highlighting the need for greater empathy, understanding, and social change.

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