

## CONCLUSION

This study attempts to look into the existence and influence of the principles of psychoanalysis of Sigmund Freud through the novels of Anita Desai and Gustave Flaubert. The main ideas of Freud's psychoanalysis- id, ego, superego, libido energy, Oedipus complex, repression, projection, displacement, day-dreaming and dreams are examined in details and their presence in the selected texts indicate the worthiness of Freud's theory as well as the necessity of psychological study in literature. The man-woman relationship, necessity of marriage, gender disparity and unequal distribution of powers at the hands of both genders are the other sub-plots that the novels seem to claim. The attempts of the writers to disclose the psychological reality of their characters and its effect on their lives altogether is evident in the texts. There are tangible instances in the novels where they undergo a conflict among their id, ego and superego that leads them to restlessness and an imbalanced personality, which Freud calls neurosis. However, the unconscious state of mind is the most effective one that displays the real personality which is free of domination by the id, ego or the superego. The *third space* is never disclosed to any other person but only the self and this exercises a lot of influence upon the personality.

Freud's theory of psychoanalysis is something the whole humanity is indebted to. Desai and Flaubert created characters possessing real and universal human traits. Not only Emma and Maya, but every human has a longing for fulfillment of desires. Desires are common in all human beings, and it rather seems unworthy to blame these two women for it. Perhaps, their inability to maintain a balance between their responsibilities and desires lead them to destruction, but they are in some way or the other forced by their socio-cultural norms. The inability to conform to the societal expectations as well as self-desires affects their mental health.

An overall assessment of the theme of the novels indicates the presence of one of the common and most controversial theme, i.e feminism. The characters are certainly seen to experience immense pressure regarding their gender roles and expectations in the society which is the main concern of the feminists. Existence of the universal concept of sexual desires and dreams is denied to women as they belong to the weaker sex. Through the examination of the texts *Cry, the Peacock* and *Madame Bovary* it is found that the characters studied are entangled in what is called 'responsibilities of marriage'. The marital discord among the two couples, Maya-Gautama and Emma-Charles is not an uncommon instance. Broken marriage is one of the reasons that they start a silent revolt in their minds. However it is discovered that, once the desires remain unsatisfied, they form a space in the unconscious of the human mind and gradually start possessing the individual.

In the second chapter, the degradation of Emma's psyche and the instances that admit her neurosis are discussed in details. To the surprise of the readers, she chooses her desires to be fulfilled and thus commits the adultery. Emma's inclinations towards the books she had read in the convent grew gradually and thus her inability to keep herself away from dreaming of a satisfactory life keeps growing. Momentary pleasure had become a requirement and she declares a war within herself and everyone else for the sake of her desires. Freud's psychoanalysis theory allows the exploration of the other version of Emma's mind, her unconscious. Her day-dreaming sessions, dreams, defense mechanisms etc all constitute her neurosis as Freud says. Without thinking of the consequences, Emma keeps on enjoying the company of the two males apart from her husband because they seemed to fulfill her criteria of a husband.

The third chapter contains an analysis of *Cry, the Peacock*, where Maya is a representation of the neurotic, due to the disharmony existing between herself and her husband.

The novel relies on the surface that Maya is submissive, fits into the stereo-typical role of an Indian wife and keeps nagging throughout the novel. But, psychoanalysis reveals the reasons behind her neurosis and insane behaviour. Her unconscious mind holds numerous desires that she had been hiding since her childhood. The unfulfilled hopes, the thirst for Gautama's love and time is the only thing she wanted. She embodies the Indian wife in a true sense, keeping pace with the traditions by strangling her hearty desires at the hands of marriage. The four years of her marriage life brings her nothing but a loss of identity, the soft-hearted Emma that the writer speaks of in the initial pages of the novel disappears by the end. Maya is an embodiment of the plight of many Indian women, whose dreams collapse at the hands of marital disharmony. Her dreams, visualizations of sexual symbols in nature, the image of the peacock, the picture of life and death that she sees through the peacock's life are the ones that reflect Maya's unconscious.

In chapter four, the compare and contrast of the themes, narration, literary devices, characters etc brings to the conclusion that, certain facts are being commonly used by both the writer that brings out the essence of the comparative study. The dissonance among the couples begins the discontentment in the characters, the lack of harmony of thoughts is enough to let them reconsider their marriages. But the middle-class society as depicted by Desai and Flaubert does not allow the freedom of separation, no matter what the root cause of the discord is. Psychological exploration of the *Cry*, *the Peacock* and *Madame Bovary* show how much these novels explore the female psyche, a psyche commonly misunderstood during the twentieth century. Desai creates Maya to exert the necessity of a deep study of the insight of the characters rather than emphasizing only on what they talk and appear. Their notion of female psychology gives a new angle to the idea of psychological study, which demonstrates the numerous reasons for a woman losing control over her psyche. The central reason seems to be hidden in her

unconscious and the study of these characters by implementing Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, study of dreams and fantasy has helped in unveiling those reasons. Flaubert was keen to produce a story of a woman stuck in between the dreams and roles of being a wife, a daughter, a mother, a daughter-in-law and the adjustment inside her keeping the French societal background. Also, his use of the food symbolism, dresses, table manners etc approve his involvement of a French taste. The difficulty to escape from the middle-class status of society and the attempts made by the French middle-class to reach the bourgeois status is narrated through the dreams of Emma. On the other hand, Desai deviates from the conventional way of depicting a woman, a socially, mentally and physically deprived woman straightaway by introducing a different narrative through the recall and representation of memory. The presence of memory and letters bring out the essence of the struggle for adjustment in a new life, in a marriage. Desai introduces newness to the earlier themes of portrayal of women by her contemporaries and breaks apart by letting Maya burst out her anger and make a transition towards a violent one. The unconscious lets a space for numerous desires and wishes that an individual thinks are born to be dead. But, these desires that the unconscious stores are the real self of an individual and it is impossible to survive by keeping them hidden for a long period of time. Not all are aware of the existence of this unconscious unless Freud's study of personality defined its existence. Examining the actions, thoughts dreams of Emma and Maya brings to light that they really suffered from neurosis, a conflict within their id, ego and superego. The lack of co-ordination between them raises the problem of adjustment to the situations, and the more the unconscious stage is filled with desire, the more id, ego and superego loses balance. Freud's claim of "The ego represents what we call reason and sanity, in contrast to the id which contains the passions" (Freud, *The Ego* 14) is reflected in the life of Emma. As long as the id influenced

her, she went behind her passions, leaving aside all the worries of life, but once her ego came in the path of her id, she couldn't. Freud's assertion in *The Interpretation of Dreams* that "the interpretation of dreams is the royal road to a knowledge of the unconscious activities of the mind"(Strachey 604) seems true in the study of the Maya because, her dreams hold the unexpressed and Freud's way of connecting the dream symbols lead us through the real mind of Maya.

While the study deals with the use of psychological issues and their implications in the lives of the characters, the narrative style of the writers through the use of memory and reconciliation of the past also paves a way to psychoanalysis. Maya's remembrance of her paternal home brings and Emma's description of the days at her father's farm at Rouen signifies their past lives. Memory is a recall of the past, and knowledge of the past is a necessity for psychoanalysis. Flaubert and Desai have made sure to provide proper links through the characters to dig into the psychological reality and provide the readers multiple options to reconsider their neurosis as nothing extra-ordinary and unnatural.

Psychoanalysis focuses on the dualism of a human psyche and Freud's theory has emerged as a gift to the humankind. Though he received much criticism for his works and the history of psychology, the fact that he has given the world a new basis of study cannot be denied. His oeuvre can only be understood if one is thorough with his theory of unconscious because it is the only point that connects all his works, which have been written in a rather scattered form.

However, the study is limited to the detailed analysis of the existing feministic issues and so the psychological state of these women of this category with relevance to all other women who face the same plight can be further researched upon. Desires are universal and attainment of

them is the only way for spiritual recognition for a person as well as the process of development of their mental health. This opens up the scope for further study on the efficiency of Freud's theory of psychoanalysis and its essence in literature, because, the scope of this theory does not seem limited to Maya and Emma or their genders but extends to every human being, anyone suffering from ignorance of impulses, unfulfilled dreams and desires.

### Works Cited

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