

**CHAPTER – III**

**THE HEAT OF THE  
DAY**

CHAPTER- III  
**THE HEAT OF THE DAY**

**The Heat of the Day**, one of the major novels of Elizabeth Bowen, published in 1949, is dedicated to Charles Ritchie. It is Bowen's only war time novel which draws upon her attitudes towards England and Ireland during World War II when she was an Air raid-warden in London and an informer on Irish affairs for the Ministry of Information. It is seen that <sup>the</sup> war forced Bowen to re-examine her war experiences, disrupt her narrative and led her to depict believable lower class characters. Bowen, in this novel and other novels also, combined sensitivity, atmosphere and personality with a skill in a social satire. This work is largely devoted to the subtle emotions of love affairs in the conventional middle class society.

Elizabeth Bowen lives both in Ireland and England. She always travels from England to Ireland. Ireland is her motherland, and she is an exile in England. She is an observer of the life of people in these countries during the world wars. She has a great deal of experiences regarding the world war-II, which makes her write this novel. Bowen has an opportunity to travel between these two countries as she is working as a war reporter for the British Government. Consequently, she studies the attitude of Irish people towards England's part in the war. Her sense of Irish view of war is reflected in the characterisation of this novel. When

Bowen is working as a war reporter, her lover Charles Ritchie works as a diplomat. This situation in the personal life makes her reflect on some aspects of the personality in the character of Robert Kelway. Bowen inherits an ancestral home known as 'Bowen's Court' as Roderick inherits the property of 'Mount Morris'. As Barbara Watson remarks :

'The importance of this ancestral home in natural Ireland is emphasized in the structure of the novel.'<sup>1</sup>

During the war her house in Ireland 'Bowens Court' is bombed several times. Both her husband and Bowen barely escaped from being killed. This horrifying effect is portrayed in her characters. According to Bowen war is not only a terrifying experience for soldiers but also for the civilians even. In this regard Anthony Burgess remarks :

'Another thing : war (in Europe anyway) was not just something for soldiers : it was often more terrible for civilians, and it is difficult to think of a civilian novel set in war time (I like, say, Elizabeth Bowen's 'The Heat of the Day') as belonging to special category called the war novel.'<sup>2</sup>

The English society is very conscious of class conflict. Bowen belongs to the upper middle-class but due to war she gets an opportunity to come close to the lower middle-class people. Naturally she gets an opportunity to understand their life. And thus war bridged the gap between these two classes in case of Bowen. In this novel she portrays the characters of both classes- lower and the middle.

The theme of **The Heat of the Day** is the effect of war on the life of soldiers as well as civilians. In addition, it is about the romantic love relation between Stella Rodney and Robert Kelway. It is also called as a spy story of war-time London which renders the feelings of the unsettled capital, London. This novel also comments on the theme of treason and betrayal.

Bowen's war-time novel **The Heat of the Day** consists of seventeen chapters. The novel has a war background for itself. In this novel, Bowen attempts to exploit the effects of war on civilians' mind. It is observed that London people are habituated to the war-time way of life, especially the bombings and blackouts. **The Heat of the Day** is largely a personal novel and also a love story. The plot of the novel is melodramatic. The novel begins with a musical concert at Regents Park even during the intense war atmosphere. The crowd which comes to enjoy musical concert, consists of both Londoners and the foreigners. At this crowded place Louie meets Harrison, the spy, for the first time. Louie belongs to a middle-class family. She is a factory worker and leads a monotonous life. Her husband is working in British army in India. She is living in a flat on the Chilcombe Street. Her parents are killed in a bomb blast in the war, and their sum of money helps her to make a living. Her early part of life is spent in Seale-on-sea. After she gets married with Tom in 1938 she comes to London to stay thereafter.

Stella Rodney is the central character of this novel. She belongs to the upper middle-class family and stays in a well-furnished old flat in Weymouth street. She has a son named Roderick who is a product of her divorcee dead husband, Victor Rodney. Roderick is twenty years old working in the army. Robert Kelway is her lover. He is suspected of selling information to the enemy. Stella is working in an organisation called Y.X.D. She is grown up with the World War-I and has felt deeply the experience of the war time. Her parents are dead and her brothers lost their lives while fighting for Britain. In course of time she meets Harrison, the spy and slowly distorts her smooth life. Harrison loves her and wants Stella to love him. In order to do this he blackmails her by saying that he would withhold from revealing that Robert is a German spy. Stella discovers the price of maintaining her moral code at the expense of love.

Roderick comes to meet Stella. Both Stella and her son discuss the happenings in the war. By this time she reveals about her divorce from Victor Rodney and soon after that her husband dies. She also reflects the fact that Rodney's family members blame her for her husband's death. During this discussion Roderick comes to know about inheriting his father's cousin's property in Ireland. It is a huge property consisting of a big house and three hundred acres of land. This pleases Roderick and he eagerly wants to give a visit to Ireland. Besides,

Roderick comes to know about Robert Kelway and Harrison. The first meeting between Stella and Harrison is at the funeral ceremony of the cousin, Morris, who dies of heart attack at Wistaria Lodge. His wife, Nettie, is mentally retarded person, having the treatment of Dr. Tringsbay.

It is seen in the novel that there is shift in Bowen's style and technique in this novel. She reflects the disorder caused by World War-II and continues the same through her rest of the novels. She reflects a world with a different view-point with increasing alarm. Her central idea of innocence and experience is shifted to fantasy and reality.

In course of love both Robert and Stella come so close to each other that Robert is a habit<sup>ual</sup> to Stella. It is after the first meeting in September, 1940 in London, Robert and Stella identify each other while Robert is discharged from hospital as he is wounded in the war. Then after they meet frequently. In such a tense war atmosphere their love develops day after day when there is no guarantee of life of the next day. To the citizens of London each day is a new life. The people discuss about air raids, destruction and death of the people. Robert occasionally meets Stella in her new flat at Weymouth street. It is curious to note that their private life is not at all affected by the war. They are just in a dreamy world.

The very interesting event of the novel is Stella's visit to Holme Dene, the house of Robert Kelway. Mrs. Kelway, Robert's mother, is living with her daughter Ernestine and grand-children. Their family belongs to the lower middle-class having sceptic attitudes. Stella's visit to their home makes her realise their anxieties and uncertainties of life. Harrison constantly visits Stella. He makes her think and re-evaluate Robert, Harrison is not sincere in his duty towards the British Government. He is found mixed with the romantic feeling for Stella and expects that Stella should respond him. But Stella is in love with Robert and Harrison delays in revealing the secret of Robert's spying. Besides, Harrison is an intelligence officer with no home and relatives.

Louie is a good friend of Connie who is an A.R.P. warden. Connie is having a wide knowledge of war and international affairs. They always talk of the lower middle class people and feel that their life is a routine work. But on the other hand, war has changed the life of the upper middle class women like Stella who leave their domestic life behind and enters public affairs. The uncertain nature of Mrs. Kelway obliges Robert to visit his home. Robert is not interested to sell the house and opposes his mother. Bowen's tone in the novel is satiric when she is commenting on the lower middle-class.

Meanwhile Stella Rodney visits Ireland and meets the old servant Donovan and his daughter. Both of them respect her very much. In

Ireland Stella dreams of Roderick's future life, specifically his marriage, his wife and having a son. Stella feels that Ireland is safer than London. This makes Stella to think that an ancestral home of Ireland is a link between the past and the present and she also dreams of future. After enquiry, she comes to know that Robert has betrayed her country and she reveals the same to Robert as she comes to know it through Harrison.

In course of time Roderick meets Nettie at Wistaria Lodge and is surprised to see her normal behaviour. He also comes to know through Nettie, about his father who has left his mother for his beloved in the very middle of life. This touches Roderick and the secret of his mother's sacrifice makes him respect her very much. During the same meeting with Roderick, Nettie declares that she knows about her husband's death and has no objection in regard to Roderick's inheriting her property.

After this, there is a meeting between Stella and Harrison in a hotel at London. During discussion Harrison explains the change of behaviour of Robert due to Stella's questioning. At the same time he warns Stella not to caution him hereafter. The situation obliges Stella to accept Harrison as a lover in order to safeguard Robert but it is not a convincing idea to Harrison at all. By this time Stella is happy and begins to think that her friend, Robert, is out of danger. Occasionally Louie also comes in the same hotel and meets Stella and Harrison. This meeting appears as if the upper and the lower middle-class come near to each other. In



discussion Stella expresses that they are all human beings after all. Louie feels that war has brought such change in the attitude. Both of them become friends. Louie respects Stella and wishes to be a life-long friend for her.

The turning point of the novel is Robert's visit to Stella's house in the latter part of the novel. Stella is quite suspicious about Robert and asks him the reason about betraying her country. He irresponsibly admits that he doesn't believe in the existence of country. According to him there are no countries left. This is a quiet striking reply to Stella and she is really haunted by the idea of betrayal. This makes Stella to feel that Robert has broken the law, and starts thinking of him as the enemy of her country. By the same time he hears the sound of footsteps, and Robert guesses that it must be Harrison. In order to escape from Harrison, he climbs on the top of the roof, falls down and meets death at night. On the next day of Robert's death, the people of London are talking about victory of England in the World War-II. The atmosphere in London is quite happy and jubilant. By this time, Louie meets Stella and comes to know about Robert's death. Roderick comes to know that Robert is a traitor. Then Stella moves to another flat in Victoria Street and starts living there. By the end of the novel, Harrison is not seen but is found vanished. Both of Harrison and Robert are spies. Stella has a company of neither of them. Louie continues to work in the

same way and Connie supports her as a friend. Due to the death of Robert, Stella is dragged to the court where she has to answer the queries on Robert's death, Louie is disturbed by Stella's affair with Robert when she reads about it in a newspaper. At the very end of the novel Roderick goes to Ireland. In his absence Stella meets Harrison. She wishes to marry her cousin and starts a new life. On the other hand, Louie is engaged in sexuality and as a result she is pregnant. At last Tom dies and Louie gives birth to a son. She goes to lead the life of peace at Seals-on-Sea. There she determines to look after this fatherless child and to be successful and victorious in life.

Bowen's **The Heat of the Day** is female-dominated novel with characters like Stella Rodney, Connie, Nettie, Louie, Mrs. Kelway, Ernestine and Mrs. Tringsbay. The male characters of this novel are Robert Kelway, Harrison, Roderick, Morris, David, Hattie, Dr. Tringsbay, Victor Rodney and colonel Pole. Among all female characters Stella Rodney dominates the major part of the novel. Stella is the protagonist in the novel. She is of middle age and belongs to the upper middle-class family. She is working in Y.X.D. organisation whereas other female characters like Louie, Connie, Mrs. Kelway, Ernestine belong to the lower middle-class family, Louie is working in a factory and Connie is an A.R.P. warden, Mrs. Kelway is the mother of Robert Kelway and Ernestine is her daughter, Nettie is the wife of

Morris who is the cousin of Victor Rodney. Mrs. Tringsbay is the wife of Dr. Tringsbay. Kristine Miller remarks on the variety of war experiences as :

“The Heat of the Day’ illustrates how bourgeois feminism depends upon on an exploitation of working class female experience but this can be understood only if the readers differentiates among the various war time experiences of different classes of women.’<sup>3</sup>

Bowen herself belongs to the upper middle-class family. She attempts to reflect her views through the character of Stella Rodney. Bowen has a great respect for the upper middle-class and is proud to be a part of it. Whereas she has less respect towards the lower middle-class which she reflects not only in this novel but almost in all her novels. She has depicted them with a ridicule. She makes fun of them by bringing into focus their behaviour and habits. Her views of ridicule of the lower middle-class is reflected through the characters of Louie, Connie, Mrs. Kelway and Ernestine. All these characters are given sub-ordinate roles in the novel. In **The Heat of the Day**, Bowen addresses her growing anxiety about her own social position where she examines a feminist imagination that does not have luxury of ‘Bowen’s Court’ in war-time. The novel focusses on Stella Rodney, the protagonist, who is like, Bowen an upper middle-class woman, living and working in London during the time.

Bowen seems to have an indifferent attitude towards male characters in the novel. She gives less scope to them and their roles are minor. They are subordinate to female characters in the development of the story. The male characters like Harrison and Robert Kelway are secondary to the female characters. Both of them appear to be unfaithful to Stella and as well as to their duty. They do not reveal their whole personality but when it is exposed it becomes a great torment to Stella. Actually Stella Rodney is interested to see good qualities of both Harrison and Robert. In this context Kristine Miller remarks :

‘The two men Robert Kelway and Harrison represent crude binary opposition between Kelway’s total investment in private identity and Harrison complete absorption with public persons.’<sup>4</sup>

As this is a war-time novel it reflects the effects of World War-II. The scene and setting of the war are chosen from London and Ireland. Bowen looks at war from different perspectives. She has rightly concentrated on the life of civilians in general and of female in particular. It is Bowen’s attempt to show that war is tormenting not only to the soldiers fighting in the battlefield, but it is more terrific to civilians. In this novel war has both positive and negative effects. People of London are accustomed to war, especially the air raids and blackouts. They begin to feel insecure in their own home as there is no guarantee of life of the very next day. Even home is not safe place of

residence in the war-time. Each day is a new life to them. People talk about the air raids in the city of London and the death-toll, in the house and on the roads even. They feel happy to be safe and alive. War becomes a part of their life and they are accustomed to it. They do not have permanent place of residence and their each day begins with the deadlines of war in the newspaper. The whole London atmosphere is tense and terrible due to war. Even it is not surprising that Bowen feels exhilarated by the war-time emergence of women out of their domestic space. War has bridged the gap between the upper and the lower middle-class. Britain needs an expanded workforce during the war. Women are compelled to serve in a variety of military activities. Some of them prefer to work at home even as canteen workers, factory workers, and A.R.P. warden. The character of Stella shares both the sexual freedom and social prejudices articulated in the first hand accounts of war-time experiences written by the middle class and the upper middle-class woman. War-time employment opportunities offer these women greater freedom, and liberate themselves from the old conception of womanhood. They become a part of earning source and, add to the income of the family. War changes the life of educated upper middle-class women whereas it doesnot affect much the life of the lower middle-class women as in the past, too, they used to work in the factories for the whole day maintaining their domestic life. Their work is boring and tiresome. Here Bowen exposes the difference between the upper

class choice to follow a fashion and the working class necessity to make a living which marks a class disparity in the way that women view their war work. In this context Kristine Miller remarks :

‘When one returns to ‘The Heat of the Day’ with this background, it becomes clear that Stella’s experience of the war was much like that of upper class women like Diana Barnato Walker. Stella perceives war as a social opportunity without fully considering the complexities of class relations. As one of the 7½ million British women engaged in war work during the second world war, Stella, like many women of the upper middle class, avoids the drudgery of factory work in favour of a more interesting job.’<sup>5</sup>

Like Bowen Stella has <sup>the</sup> same experience of war in London. She is habituated to it too. She changes her flat from Regents park to Weymouth Street due to black-outs. Her house is bombed several times in London and barely escapes from being killed. She begins to feel insecure due to war and is uncertain of life of the next day. Other characters like Connie and Louie are civilians who are affected by war. Louie couldn’t enjoy modern life like Stella. Due to war she has lost her home and her parents. War has made her homeless, lonely and she has to live in London far away from her husband. Both Louie and Connie often change their houses of residence because of black-outs. They realise that the war affects the life of the upper middle-class women positively, but their life remains unchanged. This fact makes them sad

psychologically. The characters of Nettie and Mrs. Tringsbay are unaffected by war in this novel. Also the life of Mrs. Kelway and Ernestine seem to be less affected by war as they are living far away from London. In the other sub-plot of the novel Bowen suggests the continuity of English life across class barriers. In this war-time novel Bowen creates an incongruous but recognizable variation on Stella in the character of Louie. In appearance, education, class, manners and almost everything else two of them share essentially in their fate as women and war victims, Louie Lewis is a factory worker whose parents have been killed in an air-raid and whose husband has gone off. Barbara Watson describes Lewis as :

‘Louie Lewis defied categories including those of gender. There is nothing feminine about her, although she is quite biologically.’<sup>6</sup>

Among the male characters Roderick is the son of Stella and is a soldier in the army. Robert Kelway is wounded in the war and now is working in a war office, Harrison is a spy. Other male characters in this novel are not affected by war. Due to war Robert Kelway becomes limp and handicapped. Roderick is obliged to live far away from his mother and occasionally meets his mother. Being a soldier, he is unable to look after his ancestral property inherited from his cousin, Morris. War makes him unable to visit Ireland frequently. Harrison leads an unsettled life. There is no fixed place of residence for him. In the opening scene of **The Heat of the Day** Louie observes Harrison and thinks him to be

the spy. Harrison is a comic or pathetic figure, jesturing and muttering to himself as his motives are unexplored in the novel. Barbara Watson remarks :

‘Considering how patent the idea of the house and home is in Bowen’s fiction and how much is made in this novel of the bombing of homes and uprooting of families, Harrison’s lack of any homing instinct says much about his lack of identity.’<sup>7</sup>

Almost all families in the novel are affected by war. Each family has lost their dear and near ones in bomb blast. The survivors are living in a war tense atmosphere.

This novel of Elizabeth Bowen has the feature of emotional dislocation. Most of the characters are emotionally dislocated in this novel. In spite of the tense atmosphere of the war major characters are shown involved in love affairs. During the war, people of Ireland who are living in England, cannot visit and meet their loving relatives frequently. By that time there prevailed a lengthy procedure for taking permission to visit Ireland. As in the World War-II Ireland doesn’t participate, Irish people possess similar attitude by keeping them aloof from the war. The women of the lower middle-class attempt to search a model image of woman in the upper middle-class but they fail to find so. Thus reality is confronted. The characters face mental conflicts. The characters are seen searching for their identity but they do not get it. Aspirations of characters are not fully realised in the novel and



consequently remain unfulfilled. The feelings of characters are dislocated in war-time London. Their life is distorted and disturbed.

The character of Stella Rodney is vital in the development of the novel. She is of forty years age. Unlike Portia she is mature, sensitive and attractive. She has lost her parents, brothers and even her divorced husband. She is lonely and isolated. She develops a satisfactory relationship with Robert Kelway. She loves him faithfully, Stella doesn't know about the exact position of Robert Kelway in public life, nor does she is interested in knowing it. Their relationship is extremely intimate and private. Harrison reveals of Robert's spying and hurts Stella. She is confronted by Robert's real position in public life. She is unable to accept the reality about Robert. She is emotional, and there is a confrontation of private and public life in regard of Stella. On the other hand, Harrison is also a spy working for British Government. Stella doesn't like him. On the contrary, he likes and loves her. It is difficult to develop love relationship in war-time but Stella tries to maintain her loving relationship with Robert though she is in a dilemmic position. Like Bowen Stella's son inherits ancestral home in Ireland. She feels she might get relief from emotional tension if she goes to Ireland. According to her, Ireland stands for peace whereas London for turmoil. In such a war atmosphere Stella's emotions are dislocated. Kristine Miller remarks :

‘Owning few possessions Stella feels out of place in her rented furnished flat and her physical displacement parallels her growing confusion concerning public and private identity.’<sup>9</sup>

Louie is a factory worker. She compares her life with Stella’s life and realises that war changes the life of the upper class women whereas the lower middle-class women remain the same working laboriously to maintain their domestic life. Louie is searching for an ideal woman and she tries to find the image in Stella. She thinks that Stella has a model of an ideal woman but her dream gets shattered when she comes to know about Stella’s personal life, and particularly her love affair with Robert Kelway. This brings Louie back to the world of reality and, she also experiences her imagination confronting with reality. It is seen that war has brought chaos, disorder and gloom everywhere. The moral order of society is disturbed and the lower class people have no chance of making their life ideal. Women like Louie are left astray and are seen emotionally dislocated. Kristine Miller says :

‘In contrast to Stella Louie is a factory worker who, bored with the monotony of her work and lonely in the absence of soldier husband, tries to find excitement through adulterous relationship.’<sup>10</sup>

Mrs. Kelway and her daughter Ernestine are socially unfit and lead an uncertain life. Their emotions are not fit in this real world. They do not possess a social nature. They are not certain about their firm

decisions. This shows that they are emotionally dislocated. Kelways do not possess firm decisions as a result they are rootless and unstable in life. On the other hand, Connie is not emotionally disturbed except the effects of war on her life. She has a wide knowledge of war which makes her more mature and ripe. Cousin Nettie seems to be emotionally disturbed and always remains in the mood of mourning. In fact Nettie is not insane, but her apparent insanity makes her see more of life. Nettie is intelligent to realise that women have less power to make decisions in life. Barbara Watson remarks :

‘Woven in the fabric of ambiguities and deceptions, the main plot of treason and detection shares three arrays of imagery with the two sub plots one of Mount Morris, landed gentry and the other of Louie Lewis, the working class women.’<sup>11</sup>

The male characters are, too emotionally disturbed in this novel. It is specially seen in the character of Robert Kelway. Robert’s love affair with Stella is in the dislocated atmosphere of London. They develop love relation in a social vacuum forgetting the real existence of reality with past, future and family members. Their love relation is fit in the world of imagination. The character of Robert is portrayed well in the novel only through the view-point of Stella. In general, Kelways are inhuman, uncertain and full of ambiguities. The defective personality of Robert Kelway is almost seen from his visit at Holme Dene with Stella. The atmosphere of Holme Dene prevents Robert from developing any

belief in himself. The image of the traitor in Robert develops because of emotional disruptions of Kelways. Robert lacked all the delight of life.

In this context Barbara Watson remarks :

‘If war is a territory, Robert has been for Stella ‘a habitat’ within it, out of focus partly because he is too close to her.’<sup>12</sup>

Harrison, the spy for British Government, doesn't have any past history. Bowen has made his character obscure due to the war atmosphere. He doesnot have any family life. In this novel his emotional attachment to Stella becomes very stronger and he forgets his sense of duty. He is a malicious and dangerous person. Bowen comments on the moral chaos of the family. It is also seen that war has uprooted family-life everywhere. Harrison is homeless and he possesses no identity. He is brought up without homely nursing and as a result he becomes a sinister. His love for Stella forces him to withhold the information of Robert's spying. His personal life gets mixed with the public life. In this context, Jocelyn Brooke remarks :

‘One is never sure of the exact nature or scope of Robert's Crime, and Harrison remains a shadowy figure throughout, haunting Stella like a vengeful but rather ineffectual ghost.’<sup>13</sup>

Roderick loves his mother, Stella who brings him up to make a man of substance. Roderick is a soldier in army and has to go to the front to

fight against enemy leaving his loving mother in London, war disrupts family life of both – Roderick and Stella.

The British Society is founded on class distinction. War breaks this barrier and bridges the gap between the upper and the lower middle-class women. Bowen perceives that war has an opportunity to come out of domestic world and women's entrance into public world. Both as war reporter and A.R.P. Warden, Bowen herself has experienced this sudden thrust into public arena. Bowen visualizes this sudden change of women in the character of Stella Rodney. Most of the personal feelings of Bowen are expressed through this character. Bowen tries to reflect that even a shelter is not safe in the world of war. The ordinary citizens experience a great violence which is known only by a soldier. In this context Kristine Miller remarks :

‘Like other upper middle class British women of the period, Bowen imagines and then pursues a universalised feminist independence that breaks down divisions between feminine domestic space and the masculine political arena.’<sup>14</sup>

Bowen has largely concentrated on female characters by giving them major roles in **The Heat of the Day**. With the presence of male characters, Bowen enlarges the scope of female characters and visualises their outer and inner personality. She chiefly exposes war effects on the female's outer and inner life. This sense is almost reflected in all female

characters like Stella, Louie and Connie. Stella always feels that she is a product of war. Bowen satirises the tyranny caused by war. She is very serious about the present and is worried about the future. In this novel Bowen comments that though British society is divided according to class distinction, her female characters realise that they are all human beings. War has taught them how to survive. Bowen's character, Louie, leads a monotonous life without change. Louie always feels that war has broadened their outlook towards the nation. It has affected only the life of human beings, but not of the life of nature. It is seen that there is a great deal of difference between Bowen's characters, Louie and Stella. In this novel, the final scene obscures the social realities in favour of the vision of the universal feminism. Louie is holding her infant son while the bombers are returning from war. On the other hand, Stella's life is symbolically complete by the birth of Louie's illegitimate son. It is clear that Louie's life is in chaos. The novel is Bowen's mystification of the relationship between gender and class ideologies which arises from her own class anxieties as an upper middle-class owner of an Irish big house.

**The Heat of the Day** is thus centred upon the theme of treason with the most of female characters dominating the entire scenario of this novel. It is also called a spy story as there are two male characters related to the protagonist of the novel and these two are spies. The

setting and atmosphere of the novel is a mixture of domestic and war life. The novel particularly exposes the classed society of British people on whom war has both positive and negative effects. The novel has a sense of regionalism reflected through the attachment of characters with their own region and mother-land. Elizabeth Bowen reflects her psychological feelings through her protagonist and through some of major female characters. There is also a reflection of emotional dislocation amongst all major characters of this novel. The popular war novel combines a number of themes. Cox and Dyson remark :

‘The Heat of the Day’ in which Miss Bowen remarkably combines Woolfian atmospherics with a plot of suspense, violence, blackmail and betrayal which owes a great deal in its general handling to Graham Green.’<sup>14</sup>

## REFERENCES

1. Barbara Watson, "Variations on an Engima : Elizabeth Bowen's War Novel", **Southern Humanities Review**, Spring, 1981, Vol. XV, P. 143.
2. Anthony Burgess, **The Novel Now**, New York : W.W. Norton, 1967, P. 49.
3. Kristine Miller, "Even A Shelter's Not Safe", **Twentieth Century Literature**, Summer 99, Vol. 45, Issue, 2, P. 2.
4. Kristine Miller, P. 8 of 17.
5. Kristine Miller, P. 7 of 17.
6. Barbara Watson, P. 145.
7. Barbara Watson, P. 141.
8. Kristine Miller, P. 8 of 17.
9. Kristine Miller, P. 10 of 17.
10. Barbara Watson, P. 146.
11. Barbara Watson, P. 134.
12. Jocelyn Brooke, **Elizabeth Bowen**, London, Longmans, 1952, P. 25.
13. Kristine Miller, P. 7 of 17.
14. C. B. Cox and A. E. Dyson (ed.), **The Twentieth Century Mind: The English Novel**, London, Oxford University Press, 1972, P. 414.