



CHAPTER – VI

CONCLUSION.

Conclusion

A study of women characters in Anita Desai proves conclusively that women play a major role in her novels. In her fiction the role of women is as an important and pivotal as the men's. Women are the vehicles and crucibles of Anita Desai's ideological concerns. But is equally significant fact that the life potentialities of these ideas are examined primarily in terms of the lives of women characters. In her novels primarily the characters like Maya, Sita and Nanda Kaul become alienated. The problems of marriage, children and neurotic part of the women are dealt by Anita Desai in her novels. The structure of Anita Desai's novels derives the major strength from the women characters. Anita Desai deals with the plight of woman in the society. She gives new shape to the Indian English novels. She does not deal with the traditional problems of the women. The world of her

women characters is different. She looks into the inner mind of her characters. Most of her women characters suffer in their life.

Maya, the protagonist, in *Cry, The Peacock*, is torn between happiness and misery. She suffers a lot due to non-adjustment with her husband Gautama. Being spoilt daughter, her attitude towards life and her husband is romantic. Where as Gautama is a realistic and philosophic. Hence she feels alienated and discarded in her life. She is obsessed with the prediction of albino astrologer. By the way she is childless. The death of her pet dog Toto reminds her childhood prediction. She becomes neurotic. She loses her mental balance and pulls herself towards tragic end. Maya makes several attempts to get intimate companionship with her husband, but in vain. In the beginning she thinks about her own death. But she loves her life. Then decides to make Gautama her target. In an

impulsive mood Maya, thrusts Gautama down to the very bottom. Then she herself commits suicide.

Sita the wife of Raman is the central character in *Where Shall We Go this Summer?*. Like Maya, Sita also suffers throughout her life. She has four children and the fifth is on the way. She does not want to carry this pregnancy. This unnatural attitude of Sita carries her towards the misery. Her husband tries to convince her and assures her to give comfort. But she is not convinced. Due to irritating attitude towards small incidents she becomes unhappy. She feels frustrated and lonely. She decides to go to Manori, an island of her father. She wishes to get rid of her pregnancy there. But she does not find the past charm and magic on the island. Her journey to Manori is failed. She suffers much on the island. She understands the meaning of life. She comes out of her own world and knows the reality of life. She knows that her husband only

can give her comfort. She surrenders herself to her husband. At last Sita decides to go to Bombay with her husband.

Fire on the Mountain mainly deals with the loneliness and isolated life of an old widow Nanda Kaul, who lives in Carignano, a haunted house in Kasauli, away from the worldly affairs. Nanda Kaul a protagonist was a wife of Vice-Chancellor. She had lived a prosperous married life. She took proper care of her children and the friends of her husband. She was too much tired of the household work. Her husband's love affairs with Miss David, the Mathematics Mistress made her sad. She became despair and frustrated.

After the death of her husband Nanda Kaul comes to Kasauli to spend her remaining life in a seclusion. But her granddaughter, Raka's arrival disturbs her private life. Even though she prepares herself to adjust with Raka. She

concentrates all her attention to hold Raka's interest. Nanda Kaul tries to avoid on-slaught of self-hate by escaping into the intra-psyche defenses. When Nanda Kaul hears about the tragic death of Ila Das, her friend, her self hate operated in different way. She is shocked. She can not tolerate it. And at the same time Raka's destructive act of setting the mountain on fire is too bitter to endure for Nanda Kaul. Finally it causes her psychie death.

Anita Desai portrays the minor characters effectively. Their role in the novel is necessary. The minor characters are concerned with the protagonists in the novels. Though Maya, Sita and Nanda Kaul are central characters, they are related with the minor characters. In *Cry, The Peacock*, The minor characters – Gautama's mother, Nila, Leila and Pom have their own eristence in the novel. In *Where Shall We Go this Summer?*, Miriam, a maid servant, Menaka, the daughter of Sita and Rekha, her sister play a significant

role. Menaka's role in re-uniting of Sita and Raman is really appreciable. Though Raka and Ila Das are minor characters in *Fire on the Mountain* they are in the main flow of the story. The main theme of the novel is revolved around Raka. Through the minor characters Anita Desai attempts to remove the social evils. As Ila Das, a social worker tries to stop child marriage for which she meets her tragic death.

Anita Desai is aware of the problems of Indian woman. She skillfully deals them in her novels.