Abstract: This research paper focuses on the male character of Anita Desai. She is a prominent writer; focuses not only at her female characters but her male characters have same values. Her study shows a deep psychology of her characters. The novel 'cry the peacock' shows a tragic trauma of Maya, but it is created by her husband Gautama, the same way Sita get trouble due to the involvement of male character in ‘Where Shall We Go This Summer’!

Deep neurotic trauma is revealed by Nirode in ‘Voices in the City’. The elements of diasporic sensibility are reflected in the novel of ‘Bye Bye Blackbird’, ‘Journey to Ithaca’ and ‘Fasting Feasting’. ‘In Custody’ shows the trouble of Urdu fond professor and Baumgartner Bombay to a Jew. We will focus on the pathetic psyche of Eric and Ravi in ‘Zig Zag Way’ and ‘The Artist of Disappearance’.

Key words: trauma, psyche, neurotic, diasporic sensibility etc.

The title of this thesis Individual and society suggest the importance of Individuals in a particular society. Her novels are certainly the reflection of social realities, she does not deal on social issues like Mulk Raj Anand and Nayantara Sehgal, they show the social evils spread in society but she goes deep into the characters psyche and deals with patriarchal, patrilineal, father dominated Indian family. She sees the social realities from a psychic or psychological perspective, but does not look at them, as a social reformer or a moralist would do.

Anita Desai first novel ‘Cry the Peacock (1963) is framed at the psychological point of view. Society plays a vital role in the lives of individuals. Present novel is dividing into three parts. The first part of the novel shows the agony of Maya on the death of her pet (Toto) and the sensitivity of Maya. In the second part of the novel, tragedy of Maya is constructed, her life before marriage and after with Gautama his neurosis and murder of her husband, her attachment with father and brother. The third part of the novel merely defines about the life of Nila. She is May’s friend get relief after divorce. The title of the novel ‘Cry the Peacock’ (1963) symbolizes the cry and painful psyche of Maya. The major protagonist of this novel is Maya and Gautama. Peacock cry in delight to see the clouds. Desai uses irony in the cry of delight fro peacock and same cry is painful and agonized for Maya. Desai uses the image-making tendency of Maya, through a design symbols. Maya’s symbolization contains two level a pure fantasy and mature effort at integrating experience. She uses the dance of Kathakali, It is associated with Albino Astrologer and goes introvert in Maya, the dance of Peacock and the dance of Shiva. The present novel has three divisions, each is respectively divide in an introduction, second the main narration and the epilogue, the first and the third part are woven in first person narrative. Gautama and Maya both have different social and psychological perspectives effect on narration.

Gautama is an idol of realism. He is practical and denier of romanticism. These are the good traits of a person, but for her wife Maya, These qualities are the cause of her dream failure. Maya has an exception of emotional and physical care and love from her husband but the condition is vice versa. He is a moralist. He does not care of sensitivity and live. Another personal responsible for Maya’s hypersensitive nature is her father Ray sahib. His love fixation for May, provide her immaturity. These male characters are responsible for Maya’s downfall. Desai displays the great creative ability to handle her protagonists. Being a novelist of moods and the state of psyche, Desai characters have a tendency to turn inwards. Maya live a life of acute sensitivity and dies in her quest to find a complete life.

Desai characters are not average human being either they retreated or extremely isolated and derperate. They are hypersensitive, modern and deserted, the penalties of their life threatens them to accept the challenges in their life. They are also introspective and unaware of the social world. Desai more focuses on the inner life and psychological problems of her characters. They are existential characters. They are such type that easily traps in the circumstance and in relationships. She is mainly concern with the mental condition and analysis their cultural, social, biological, moral and psychological consciousness. In an interview with Jasbir Jain she says- “I think all human relationships are inadequate. I have never worked this out. Everyone is solitary. I think involvement in human relationships in this world invariable leads to disaster. (Jasbir Jain: ‘stairs to the Attic’11)

Nirode is an introvert Bengali young man. He is self-afflicted, self-driven and self condemned. His highly sensitive attitude leads him towards the loneliness and alienation. He is neglected child of
parent, engaged in nostalgia. Some critics find in him a character “deeply influenced” by Camus, Kafka, and Baudelaire and tend to see him as a figure that has walked out of the pages on one of Camus’s novels. It is point out that Nirde’s experiments with failure are an indication of a “quest for an abiding meaning in life.” He achieves nothing in the end and remains a rootless drifter who can neither compromise with the world nor reject it as absurd like Camus’s Kafka, Mearsault. The outsider Nirde is an introverted romantic. He is a torchbearer of a true revolutionary spirit. He abuses to his intellect, freedom and says. “He is caught in a kind of intellectual vice. There is something hollow, something phony about his protestations and diatribes”. (Raizada Harish, The Haunted protagonists of Anita Desai 17-30)

In the modern world, Nirde like neurosis, faced by many individuals. They get this position still having higher qualification and intelligence aspirants do not achieve success in their life. If we see our society, we can found many more peoples.

Nirde’s troubles starts with his conflicting demand and their defensive solutions. He is aggressive in nature; also never accept to idealized image. Her younger sister’s (Monisha) death his neurotic pride and his mother’s rejection works havoc in his tormented psyche. He compares to his mother with Kali (destructive). The image of Kali is an archetypal image used in this novel.

Desai focuses on the anxiety takes roots in Nirde’s home, and self-alienation developed among siblings. The most damaging situation arises when the children notice open hostility contempt dispute between their parents. Their indolent weak-willed and idle father has an unconcealed malice for his wife; mother also shows the disdain the resentment towards her spouse. The mute suffers of this dispute tension are children. They have no ‘room to grow’ a child psychologist put it that means children have no offence still they were facing the environment of utter tensions.

The title of the novel “Voices In The City” suggest the various voices of modern men in Calcutta city. The two-torrent soul or voices are Nirde and Monisha. Both are unable to survive in the urban society Monisha considered to herself enclosed in four walls. Desai also used the theme, lack of communication. We found lack of communication in Nirde family. Parents never communicates with children instead of they are busy to criticize each other. Ericson the psychologist point out the self-determination and personality development is possible only with healthy communication. Nirde gets one troubles after another. Sometime he tries to overcome of his problems but everytime meets failures. This quote best suited to the critical condition of Nirde “I want to move from failure to failure to failure step by step to rock bottom. I want to explore that depth, when you climb a ladder, all you find at the top is space all you can do is leap off-fall to the bottom. I want to get there without that meaningless climbing. I want to descent quickly” (Desai, Voices In The City 40)

Nirde’s idealism bread with cynicism, nihilism and pessimism, he constantly moves towards negation. He does not care of physical appearance and world pleasure; he uses to wear greasy pajama and loose torn shirt. He is a clerk in a newspaper and an editor of magazine voice, in which he worked pasting and cutting on the Patrika. This job is monotonous dissatisfied for him. He detested the shabbiness and negation but his ego never allowed him to accept subservice.

In ‘Bye-Bye Blackbird’ (1971) Adit who looks cheerful and settled as an immigrant in the beginning of the novel, later undergoes a decisive change in his attitude to England. When he went to his in-laws house, he feels nostalgic for his India crops. He understands that his marriage is ‘insane misunderstandings’ and basic disharmony’. He gets delighted of any sights of ‘anything Indian at all’. The nostalgia about the Indian landscape and other memories continuously haunted him like ‘country lane’ ‘Farm Yards’, ‘rivers of India’, hills and fish. Infect “…. The ferocity of his growing nostalgia broke that stone dam that had silenced him for long and …. had become an illness, an ache.” (Desai, Bye Bye Blackbird 183).

‘Where Shall We Go This Summer?’ Suggest the journey of Sita from Bombay to Manori Island. She feels ditched and alienated in the environment of Bombay (Mumbai) and wants to take rest at her parents’ home Manori Island. She is a tired middle age homemaker. The novel constructed in three parts to narrate the story of Sita. When she stays at her house cleaner house, she thought ‘Where Shall We Go This Summer’, because everybody is cheating and deceiving her. She has four children and expecting the fifth one, to escape from the monotony of her pregnancy, she came to meet her father. Desai shows the mental, morel emotional and psychological issue related to Sita, She is in state of bewilderment about having next child or not? A critic observes the novel, “dramatizes two kinds of courage: a struggle between positive no and potent yes”. (Atma Ram A Journal of Indian Writing in English 74-80) She acted; like a neurotic like Maya and Monisha. Her enigmatic demands,
rage and querulous behavior makes her family miserable. Through the portrayal, this quote Desai wants to show that in order to survive in the world of relations one has to compromise with conditions of others.

Sita’s husband Raman is a practical, adjusting and worldly man. He is extravagant and like to organized parties and social gathering. He is heartily attached to social issues and a perfectionist in business work. Sita and Raman both are quite different from each other. Raman a social individuals and held a reputation among people on the other hand Sita is an introvert, she is not connected to society. She is a neurotic tycoon. If anybody tries to harm or crushed to nature she cannot bear because in his loneliness this nature is her friend. The other fact, is that from her early childhood she grown up in mid of nature at Manori Island. Therefore, she has a strong bond with nature. However, in Mumbai, Individuals do not have environmental awareness but she was well aware.

‘Where Shall We Go This Summer’ represents to cruelty and callousness of urban life. It also shows the inner realities of urban people through the character of Aman, Menaka and Karan. Sita the main protagonist of the novel came from Manori Island & settled in Mumbai after marriage. Her father practiced the black magic (symbolic) to cure the patients, he become a legendry and saint among the people. Her father fails to provide a good life to their children. Due to the negligence of her father, her mother eloped with her lover. He established his affair with another woman. The broken home provide Sita tormented life and make her introvert.

Male characters in this novel connected with early childhood life of Sita. Deedar is her father’s childhood friend. He describes the history related to Sita’s father personal life. Sita’s father was a politician and takes interest in politician parties. Sita’s father discovers and possible creates an identity for himself among his followers, but he remains a stranger fantasy-figure in his own child hood days. Jivan reveals his strong struggle for life. Father wants stardom in his life for this he went to jail several times. After releasing from jail he established his own identity as preserver of Manori Island people. He did magic and cured to people with his magical power. People considered him God and worshipped him for his versatility. Sita become alone and alienated after father’s death. She feels shattered of faith Rekha is Sita’s stepsister wants freedom in her life; she wants to build her career in industry. She chooses singing as her career.

Deven, a lover of Urdu poetry has been obliged to teach Hindi in a small town college for financial reasons bullied by his boyhood chum Murad to go to Delhi and interview the great, ageing Urdu poet Nur Shah Jehanabad, for Murad’s rather ridiculous magazine. The relationship between weak unworliday Deven and he posturing bully Murad seems at first like something out of Narayan but Narayan’s meek character usually stands for traditional Indian, while his bullies represent some aspect of the modern world. Murad is an avaricious person that beguile to Deven. Deven considered to Murad a good friend, he pays for his lunch. He buy old tape recorder for the interview, then arranging an incompetent assistant who completely fouls up the recording. Deven’s excitement for an interview can be express in these words- “Deven’s hand fluttered on to his knees as he melted at the suggestion and felt a glow creep through him at the thought of writing something in the language which had been his first language… The glow was also caused by pride, at being asked to contribute a piece by the editor of what he took to be leading Urdu journal’ (Desai, In Custody 16).

Deven has not contained any met human qualities nor has any transcended ordinary humanness. He is a man that roses from a simple and ordinary differences and attain the mutuality of human being and the attitude of recognition of the essential solidarity. The novel contains the rhetoric qualities and suggests – a new Deven is not an illusion cut from the reality. It is symbolic when coming out from me he pulls a thorn from his feet that symbolizes; he left all the problems and agonies at home. Deven has the self-effacing qualities the author in this novel deft handle the value system of identifies him with growth oriented individuals. Deven sets the values to achieve the goal in his life. He maintain transparency in self-acceptance, he has the courage and strength to accept the rejections and has a confidence that his real self will be accept. Sometime he tries to transcend his personal problem to rise up from the existentialism problem of man.

The setting of ‘Baumgartner Bombay is in Europe and India. The incidents take place in Germany before Second World War. Victor Hugo Baumgartner runs away from Germany due to his Jew origin. Hugo is a man that has not been accepted by his own country due to the anti-semantic Nazis. Hugo’s tragedy is very heart touching, his father was a prosperous businessperson of furniture. His family was prosperous. After the Hitler’s party came into power, his father business confiscated. Unfortunately, he was born in a Jew culture; he...
was not satisfied in his own country. In Germany, during the rule of Hitler Aryan hatred was faced by Jews and they were not ready to tolerating their existence. Anne Frank, being a Jew in German culture, faces the same pathetic situation. In her early childhood, she lived separately from her parents. She describes about the situation of Jews during the Second World War, the time she was only ten years old. She represents all her experiences in her diary ‘Kitty’. She is an agonize woman due to death of her elder sister, grandmother and father. She also died in her early adulthood. Hugo’s father died of lost business’s shock. After the death of his father, Hugo left the school and took the training of an account. Due to poverty and economic crisis, he left Berlin moved to India. Sometime Baumgartner feel mother-fixation. He tried to left her mother alone and it seems that their lives fell into a groove and remained there; they might have been an old married couple Hugo and his mother, seldom leaving the apartment, looking after each other with stricken concern”. The isolation and loneliness of the apartment make his life monotonous when Her Fuehr the gentleman of Hamburg compel Hugo to leave to India, that time he wants to accompanied his mother but mother refuses to go with him. She shows his fear of snake, spiders and tigers of India. Before going to India, Hugo assures to her mother that he would make a home for her and will have servants to do the work or to keep the snake away to provide her relax. He is not connected emotionally with any woman beside her mother. Only for a short span of time, Lotte - a German Cabaret dancer came in his life. He never feels the need of marriage. He always remains worried about her mother’s well being. He often agonized and tormented by her sweet memories.

Baumgartner is not sole responsible for his own downfall, but society play a crucial role to make him isolated and alienated person. In India, he is torched, humiliated and at last murdered by the hand of crucial society. A German man murders him, but he died many time by the crucial handoff society to insult him every instance. Sometime individual himself want to recover from his oppressed situation but circumstance does not allowed him to recover from situation. In modern society, the people like Hugo considered beguiled and deceived only because they are simple honest and kindhearted. These types of individuals are mostly introverted, they do deeds, but have expectations in return, and they do their service selflessly. At the death of Hugo, a large amount of crowd was gathered, but no family member and relative…

‘Journey to Ithaca’ is a quest for achieving enlightenment. The characters Matteo and Mother are in search of enlightenment. Matteo and Sophie came to India from Italy in search of wisdom peace, truth and spiritual enlightenment. Matteo seeks for divine love and Sophie suffers due to much involvement in spiritual activities, she requires Matteo's love but his all love dedicated to spiritual salvation. The fictional world is created here is quite different from original one however human being wish to do the daily stuff. Therefore, the seed for a beautiful peaceful garden and a take care of their children, Matteo is a person who shows the intellectual integrity and conviction in his life. Sophie feels many problems she is helpless to do the caring of her children alone.

In this novel Mother (Laila) and Matteo both are indulge in search of spirituality. According to them this Ithaca can be achieved after a long journey but after reaching there, the sight attracts to everyone and provides calm of mind. After reaching at the summit of Ithaca, we will feel pleasure, joy, and the sweet air will provide a heavenly fragrance. The writer suggests if we will keep patience and our aim or goal is fixed then we can achieve and see the panoramic view. Ithaca will not provide you the materialistic essence but the spiritual one.

In the novel ‘Fasting Feasting’, Fasting represents to India a rich cultural country with different religion, traditions and worships. It is second largest country and many people have migrated to foreign country for studies and business. Here some people are immensely rich and some come under poverty line that are enable to collect their food, so they are compel to beg. We can see to slum children everywhere in India. In Indian people are rigidly glue with their traditions and never dared to go against it. So they take fast as an offering to God. On the other hand, America is a developed country. It is less populated and enough food for its people. Everyone desired to go America for higher studies. It is an alluring place for all Indian people. In ‘Voices In the City’ Nirode has the desire to go to abroad for higher studies, but Arun feel alienated and isolated in the environment of America. Here Desai does not want to waste her time in putting acrosses the Arun fixation. Despite distance Arun does not want to live with Patton’s family, he wants to spend his summer breaks as a student in dormitories. He receives a letter from parents and tells them about his living abroad. He describe his situation, is not better than a cage bird in USA. He yearn for freedom, to break all the rules and fly to India but helpless to do it.
Uma’s parents do not care for her academic career and never delt seriously at her every issue. Aruna her younger sister feels exhausted at her parent’s behavior. She never follows the advices of her mother so it turns towards Uma, because she does not have dared to protest parernts. Therefore, she seeks relief in company of Meera Masi, a widow. Mira Masi felt her grief and provide her relief. She felt lonely in spite of full family. It is isolation, compels her to live a secluded life or the campany of Mira Masi. Here we can clearly see discrimination of parents with girl and boy child. They give importance only on to her son and remain indifferent for girls.

'Journey to Ithaca’ is quite different from Baumgartner Bombay. It deals with spirituality and religious issues which make it different from other novels of Anita Desai. ‘Bye-bye Blackbird’ deals with the familial issues and exile ‘Journey To Ithaca’ also raise the issues about exile and immigration but here exile reveal towards endless journey towards eternity, in the end, what happened with Matteo Sophie and Mother, Desai provides an extraordinary vision of a country and attributes a great richness to novel. There is no doubt 'Journey to Ithaca' is most involving and most powerful novel.

‘Zig Zag Way’ expresses the hardship and tough life of mine peoples. In the Mexican silver mines in the days before Panchlo villa and Emilino Zapata led their uprising, the native miner’s hauler their loads up and thousand of step in a winding patter huichol. The word ‘Zig Zag Way’ is applied exactly twice in the book in reference for the path of miners with their heavy loads had to take. They ascend and descended with the bowls of the earth from which, the ore must be extract.

The theme of psyche, alienation, selfhood and exile has been fashioned in 19th century. The he present novel reveals the burden of miners in the mines of Mexico and their transport along perilous inclines. They are unable to find out a destination goal and walk in Zig Zag manner aimlessly. “They walk in Zig Zag direction because they have found from long experiences that their respiration is less impeded when they traverse obliquely the current of air which enters the pits from without”. (Desai Zig Zag Way 79) Mining workers face not only economical crisis but health issues also like lung disease due to polluted air.

Eric is an American student travel to a remote town in vague search of thesis topic. His purpose was to come here in search of his ancestral history. His grandfather belongs from Mexican city. In Mexico, Eric first came in contact of Dona Veera’s library. Dona Veera is unforgettable character, a woman who finds the meaning that has eluded in her life and her escape from her husband by becoming the unlikely champion of the Huichol Indians.

Desai novella ‘The Artist of Disappearance’ contains three sections. All reveals the pathetic psyche of their charaters. The first section of novella is ‘The Museum of final journey’ it is rest at junior officer, a mere sub-divisional officer in the August government service. He appointed at an isolated place where is nothing but fields, dirt, no light or signs of a town. Desai presented a clear example of a sub-divisional officer, how he was pleased and unhappy with the rural life. Desai in all her novels present the isolated and sophisticated urban life but in ‘The Artist of Disappearance’, she present rural life is also isolated in absence of luxurious amenities. People live their lives in absence of basic necessary things. Desai present the baffled condition of sub-divisional officer.

The second title novella is “Translator Translated”. It is narrated by a solitary and an embittered English teacher name Prema. She loves to her mother tongue language Odiya very much. She likes the “unsung heroine of Oriya letters Suverna Devi”. She gets a chance to meet a publisher. She soon gets the translation work of Suverna Devi (a famous Oriya writer) stories into English. It is the proudest moment of her life when her text published. She was expecting the fine glory of her publications. However, she faces the vice-verse. She imagined the glory of her meeting with the shy and talented author Shrivels in actuality as ignorant, confident publisher monopolizes Suverna Devi. She realizes her chance of fame and recognition has slipped away. She secretly starts doing the editing of words. She changes some words “radically as she translated upping the emotional tempo, changing red to crimson and anger to rage”. Suverna Devi family and her kith and kin complain of changing the words in translations. They complain the changing words diminish the beauty of her work. So Prema’s life suddenly “stretches out before (her) like an empty unlit road”. Suverna Devi is still live far away in a village. She gives great work of writing, but it affected to the life of Prema Joshi. Later Prema Joshi simply translated to Suverna Devi work. It shows the dead hand of our system suffocates the living impulse. It shows the supreme power over the lower person, the supreme never allow lowering to raise high. It is a great irony of our society, no one can see the others progress.

The novella ‘An Artist of Disappearance’ is set at a beautiful hill city Mussoori is a resort in the
Himalayan foothill in north Delhi. It is a beautiful hilly area located in Uttarakhand state, India. Anita Desai is born in Mussoori so she chooses this place in her novella ‘The Artist of Disappearance’. Main protagonist Ravi is an adopted son of a prosperous couple. In the beginning of the novella, he returned to Mussoorie after a tire and boring life in Bombay. In Mussorrie he wants to seek calmness and isolation which was absent in Bombay. Like Nirode (voices in the city), he cannot tolerate the hustle and bustle life of Bombay. He gets relief ca

To conclude, Desai male characters feel frustrated and make passionate attempt to overcome on his sufferings in order to find a chaotic world. Withdrawal and escapism is often adopted as a strategy for survival. Desai characters turn back of the present chaotic situation, seek refuge in self-created inner world, and strive with this self-chosen environment. Nirode’s obsessive love for solitude is indicate of an escapist attitude toward life and its problems. He cuts himself off from any sort of commitment, instead of allowing himself to seek emotion all togetherness with duty. This type of attitude brings nothing but only sufferings. He keeps himself in the illusion that he is adopting to Lord Krishna’s counsel on detachment and defend his negative approach to life by following Camus. The main fault in his character is wrong approach to detachment, which carries him in the gloomy ditch of sorrow. He follows the advice of his family friends and a dilemma continues every time in his mind. Desai like Keats believes in escaping the interties and nihilism through creating an ideal art.

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