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MISERIES OF WOMEN IN THAKAZHI SIVA SANKARA PILLA' S CHEMMEEN

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ABSTRACT

An Indian English literature is one of the gifts of prominent writers. The Indian English literature has initiated before one hundred and sixty years ago and a number of writer have been contributing to various literary genres. In the 19th century the new genre that known as novel was introduced in India. The great Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Mulkraj Anand, R. K Narayanan are played an eminent role in Indian writing in English. Anita Nair is one of the finest writers in 21st century. She has a good understanding of the psyche of women. Her novels have been translated into over thirty languages. She has translated Thakazhi Siva Sankara Pilla's *chemmeen* from Malayalam into English. The author portrayed a number of women as pitiful characters in *Chemmeen* as such as Karuthamma, Chakki, Nallapennu, Papikunju and Panchami. They are played a lamentable and lead role in the novel. This paper clearly expresses the mental and physical sufferings of above mentioned the characters.

KEYWORDS:

Miseries of women, Patriarchy

INTRODUCTION

An Indian English Literature is one of the gifts of prominent writers. The Indian English literature has initiated before one hundred and sixty years and a number of writers have been contributed to various literary genres as such as poetry and drama. In the 19th century the new genre that known as novel has introduced in India. In novelistic discourse mostly history, politics, and social life became tools that explicate deep nuances of life. It is primarily meant for entertainment presenting a realistic picture of life. The Indian novel in English which has now established itself as a part of Indian literature has every claim for recognition as a distinct entertainment. In the beginning of the 20th century the great Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Mulkraj Anand, R. K. Narayan are played an eminent role in Indian writing in English. The Indian English literature has attained an independent status among the world literature. It

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reflects Indian culture, Tradition, Social values and even Indian history through depictions of life.

In this view, Anita Nair is an eminent modern novelist with an international reputation and focused on the marginalization of women in Indian society. She was brought up in Chennai and her grandparents lived in Kerala. She made frequent visits to Kerala and these trips enabled her to know the heart of rural Kerala. Anita Nair is easily accepted as an efficient writer of the genre of Fiction. She attracts the readers with her evocative language which is abundant in her novels. Her career as a writer was started in the beginning of the 1990 with novels and articles published in paper and radio. Her notable works are i) *Satyr of the subway* (1997) ii) *The Better Man* iii) *Ladies coupe* (2001) Anita Nair has a good understanding of the psyche of women and therefore she explores the world of special women with all their overwhelming problems and challenges in her novels.

Her novels are passionately woven on the thread of human nature and values with a female oriented component. Her novels have been translated into over thirty languages but she has translated *Chemmeen* from Malayalam into English in 2011. This is her first work of translation. First, *Chemmeen* has written by Thakazhi Siva Sankara Pillai (1912-1999). He was a Malayalam novelist and short story writer whose work focused on the oppressed classes. His novels and short stories addressed various facets of society in Kerala in the mid 20 th century. His best-known works include *Kayar* and *Chemmeen*. *Chemmeen* expresses a tragic life story and the back-drop of a fisher Community. It is not only expressed the life style of fishermen but also mental and physical suffering of fisherwomen. The author represented a lot of women as a lead and pathetic characters in *Chemmeen* as such as Karuthamma, Chakki, Nallapennu, Kalikunju, Papikunju and Panchami. Miseries of women in Thakzhi Siva Sankara Pilla's *Chemmeen*

Thakazhi portrayed Karuthamma as the protagonist of the novel. The author has given an eminent role upon her from the beginning till end of the novel. Throughout the novel, she has been suffering by unwritten law. The author defined the unwritten laws as norms of fisher community that it is a fisherwoman should not maintain any kind of relationship with other religion man. If they maintain like that the shore will become waste land. The entire community would suffer and meet such a terrible consequence. The author depicted her as a fisherwoman. At the very beginning of the novel, the author portrayed Karuthamma's family as poor family. Her father wanted to own a boat and nets. Karuthamma asked Pareekutty to help them. Pareekutty was a well trader and Muslim man. He was a childhood friend of Karuthamma. She has been maintaining the secret relationship with Pareekutty. Both of them fell in love and used to play on the shore but they did not express the love. Pareekutty helped Karuthamma's father to buy a boat and nets. The neighborhood is blaming that karuthamma's misbehavior and unmarried state. The entire shore whispered in front of Karuthamma that the shore is going to ruin by the misdeeds of Karuthamma. The author has given some problems to Karuthamma through neighborhood. Her ungrateful father neither paid money nor fish to Pareekutty. Karuthamma wished to help to Pareekutty when he is in trouble. She argued and forced her mother to repay the loan of Pareekutty. As a true lover and honest person, she could not tolerate the loss of Pareekutty. She has hurt mentally by the dishonest of her father. The author exposed the stress of Karuthamma.

Her parents has found bride groom for Karuthamma. The author depicted that the bride groom was an orphan. She does not like him. The pitiable Karuthamma could not explain the pathetic state to Pareekutty. She could not continue the sentence and deep sorrow pressured her throat. According to her norms, she could not reveal the true love to Pareekutty. She even does not have any close friends to

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share the feelings on the shore. She was unable to bear the songs of Pareekutty that brought the reminiscence of Pareekutty and Karuthamma. In this place she displayed the pitiful love and a miserable condition of Karuthamma.

The author has provided some problems during the wedding ceremony. The bridegroom group could not pay the bride price seventy five rupees. According to the customs, the bridegroom should pay the bride price before the wedding. The bride groom group censured that the bride was not a good character and everyone was trying to eliminate her from the shore. They further said that all people tried to escape from curse. The bridegroom group criticized directly about the past life of Karuthamma. She could not express the anger with them. Her mother Chakki fainted and became ill after heard what they said. The author exhibited the terrible condition of Karuthamma that as a daughter, she neither could be with nor look after her mother. Her mother advised Karuthamma to go with her husband but her father insisted Karuthamma to stay with her mother. She fell down at her father Chembankunju's feet before leave the house with her husband. She tried to hold the feet but he removed her forcefully and ignored to look at her. Her father Chembankunju further said that he has disowned her. The author expressed the lack of fatherly love of Chembankunju on his daughter and miserable condition of Karuthamma.

The author exhibited the strange atmospheres in her husband shore where the sea was not quiet and the sea seemed to be a weird and violence. The water of sea became into different color. The new neighborhood suspected Karuthamma's behavior because of her father had two boats and nets. He had some money in his hands but he had sent his daughter with the orphan. They finally concluded that Karuthamma must be a slut. There was no one to support for her. The author exposed pathos state of Karuthamma. Once she has got the news of her mother's death through Pareekutty. Her husband was not in home at the moment. She told her husband that the news of her mother's death when he arrived the home. Her husband Palani enquired about the messenger instead of console her. He got angry with her father because of as per norms they should have sent a fisherman as a messenger. She fell down on his feet and pleaded him to go and see her mother's face but he did not mind her. In the novel Karuthamma could not attend the funeral of her mother.

In the middle of the novel, Karuthamma's husband had some problems with co-workers so Karuthamma used to sell the fish in the east with her neighbor. She had not got any profit in the business. Once Karuthamma's neighbor were planned to give two fish for an anna but Karuthamma was used to give five fish for two annas. It made them to get angry with her. They started to blame about the relationship of the Muslim man and Karuthamma. Their venomous words entered into her mind as a spear. She could not argue with them and no one argue for her. The author expressed the mental strain of Karuthamma.

Karuthamma came to know about the second marriage of her father so she wanted to see her motherless sister. She forced her husband to see her sister because she thought that step mother would treat her sister cruelly. He told her that she was going to meet Pareekutty instead of Panchami. She distressed a lot after heard what he said. The writer displayed the mental sufferings of Karuthamma and disbelief of Palani.

At the end of the novel, Karuthamma's character was concluded tragically. At the very beginning of the novel the writer illustrated Pareekutty and Karuthamma as lovers. Unfortunately they could not join in the life. After her mother's death she lost her happiness and drowned into deep sorrow.

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Pareekutty also led a life with the thoughts of Karuthamma. They have desired to live together but the norms of her community would not allow them. They might be desired to live as lovers in the heaven so that they drowned into the sea. The writer displayed the true love and very painful decision of Karuthamma and Pareekutty.

The writer expressed that Chakki is the next deplorable character in *Chemmeen*. Chakki is the poor mother of Karuthamma and Panchami. She would like to arrange the marriage to her daughter on time but her greedy husband has not yet taken any kind of decision. She is used to sell the fish and made dried fish. In various place of the novel, she argued with her husband to arrange the marriage to her daughter but he did not listen up her words. He was very busy in making money. She got angry with neighbors when they censured her daughter's attitude. She could not enjoy the wedding of her daughter. She was not well at the moment. In the middle of the novel, she has passed away.

The author displayed that Nallapennu is another pitiable character in the novel. The writer portrayed Nallapennu as the neighborhood of Chakki family. The writer composed her family as a poor family. Her husband is a spendthrift and irresponsible man. He is used to spend the money on drinking. She struggled a lot to lead the family and make the supper for her children. Her irresponsible husband is used to beat her whenever she asked money. She has pledged the things what she had in the hand to rectify the hunger of children. In the novel, the author not only exhibited the hunger of Nallapennu but also the entire family of the shore. She sometimes felt unhappy if she had problem with Chakki. As a good friend, she is unable to bear the death of Chakki. The author showed out the miseries of Nallapennu.

The next lamentable character is Papikunju. The author exposed papikunju's life as the wretched life because once she is a wife of Kandankoran Velakkaran. She has led a good and happy life with him but she married Chembankunju after her husband death. She has come along with her son to Chembankunju home. Papikunju and her son do not have any kind of rights in Chembankunju family. Both of them depend on Chembankunju. Her son wanted some money to go away from the home so she drew some money away from Chembankunju's saving. She has taken the money with the authority of wife of Chembankunju but he got furious with her. The money minded Chembankunju eliminated her away from his home and warned that not to enter in to the house. Papikunju is troubled by Chembankunju.

The last miserable character is Panchami. The author portrayed Panchami as a poor younger daughter of Chembankunju and Chakki. She is suffering from poverty at her early age. She has gone with her mother to sell the fish and made dried fish. Panchami planned to take some fish from her father's boat to make them as dried fish. One day she ran towards the boat to get fish in the boat but her father seized and threw her away. She was injured by her father. The father of Panchami has behaved as a cruel nature. The author expressed the lack of fatherly love on Panchami. In some place the author showed the agonies of the Panchami at her family. Once she mocked her step mother without any kind of intention. Her step mother suddenly complained to Chembankunju. He got angry and slapped twice on her cheek. The poor small child was unable to bear the pain and called out her mother. Her screaming cracked the neighbors' heart. In the middle of the novel, Panchami struggled without her mother and elder sister.

At the end of the novel, the author drew Panchami and the child of Karuthamma as Orphan. Panchami is already motherless child and her father transformed into madness. Her hope and relation

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are all karuthamma only but left her away. She is unable to bear the disappearance of Karuthamma. Her brother-in-law Palani also not yet returned the home. She wants someone to console her but she tries to calm down her sister's small child. The poor small child screamed out for parents. The author visualized the lamentable situation of Panchami and the small child.

CONCLUSION

Indian English literature is an honest enterprise to demonstrate the ever rare gems of Indian writing in English. The author carried the story with the themes of love, betray, pain and death revolve heroine and her family. The story not only revealed the problems of the heroine but also each and every problem of other women and entire fisher community. The novel clearly portrayed the miseries of Karuthamma, Chakki, Nallapennu, Papikunju and Panchami

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