WOMEN WRITERS SUICIDE IN LIFE AND SUICIDES IN LITERATURE

(ABSTRACT)

This thesis attempts to explore the concept of Suicide, and the literature associated with it. Suicide, as a fact and in fiction, is a most debatable topic, and as with other issues of life, it is steeped in controversies that have riddled through history, and stubbornly resisting any kind of closure to the riddle itself. Suicide is as old as humankind, and it had its origins in the creation of the Home Sapiens. Its kind, methods and approaches may differs, but humans started restoring to this practice as they realized it could provide an ultimate solutions that life itself is unable to resolve. In subsequent chapters, the act of suicide is studied from a gender perspective, besides the analysis of the lives of three women suicides writers Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, Virginia Woolf brilliant in their literary output but who succumbed to the forces of varying pressure and stress, further four women suicide characters from four literatures French, Russian, American and Indian is taken up for analysis. The rationale for the choice of the women writers and the literary text is to primarily analysis the gendered notions on suicide, and is to primarily analyses the genders notions on suicide, and to explore the concept of suicide in life and literature, and the selection of the writers and texts find themselves to content this purpose.

The thesis is structured into five chapters. The first chapter –Introduction- deals with the conceptual definition of suicide from its origin to the present. It reviews the opinion and views of different philosophers, sociologists, thinkers etc. It examines the theories of suicide related to psychology, sociology, feminism and philosophy. It gives an introduction to the women suicide writers and suicidal literatures selected for analysis.
The second chapter titled "women writers suicide in life". A significant number of writers have struggled with depression and seductions of suicide. From Virginia Woolf to Sylvia Path and Anne Sexton, artists have identified with the downward pull of the creative unconscious toward suicide. The focus of this chapter therefore is to study the life and works of three authors who took their own lives. Each case discusses the writers attitude toward suicide. A strange similarity can be perceived among these three gifted writers, although they belong to socially and culturally different milieus. This similarity is rather interior than exterior. A number of creatively eminent individuals have taken their own lives, including Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath Anne sexton, and many other writers. The large number of such cases suggests that there may be a functional relationship between creativity and psychological health.

The third chapter is" Suicides in Literature". From the very beginning of western literature, from Greek Tragedy women’s suicide have been portrayed as central plot elements. *Madame Bovary, Anna Karenina, The Awakening and Voices in the City.* are well-known novels of the nineteenth century. Emma, Anna Edna and Monisha all die, like thousands of other women in fiction, because, in accordance with the well-worn stereotypes and morality of their times, their sexual lives dictate that they must; because they are wrenched into existence by authors who see death as the end best fitting the demands of their fiction.

The Fourth Chapter is "Suicide writers and Literature: A Gender Perspective". Gender is much debated issue today, referring to ways of seeing and representing people and situations based on sex difference. While sex is a biological category gender is a sociological and cultural category influenced by stereotypes' what 'female and male' behavior that exist in our attitudes and beliefs. In general gender pattern for suicide is that rates in male considerably exceed than of females. It outlines a series of male and female writers suicides and strives to probe into the
differential aspects of the two. This chapter has two parts, one is, it attempts to discuss writers in life, and the second part discusses suicides in literature, particularly in fiction. It also gives historical perspective of literary suicides from ancient literature to the present.

The Fifth chapter is Summation which deals with the summary of the thesis and major reasons for writers and fictional suicide. And it deal with concerned summation and comparison of fictional writers and the three important literary figures.