Preface

Modernity marks a paradigm shift in human thinking and human relations that brought in the emergence of modern science, technology, nation – states, capitalism, and industrialism across the societies thus producing unprecedented socio – economic – political conditions that have drastically restructured human lives. Fundamentally, modernity is the post – traditional way of being. The modern women in Shashi Deshpande’s novels are left confused between the conflicting forces of tradition and modernity. Reconciliation between personal aspirations and duties towards family and society becomes a challenge for them. Her novels deal with women’s sensibility, their sufferings, their aspirations and their struggle to rise above all the oppressive forces in a male dominated society.

This thesis is an attempt to briefly characterize the complex phenomenon of modernity through the novels of Shashi Deshpande, namely If I Die Today, Come Up and Be Dead, That Long Silence, The Dark Holds No Terrors, Roots and Shadows, A Matter of Time, The Binding Vine, Small Remedies and Moving On.

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