Conclusion

Anita Desai stands apart from other female Indian writers due to her involvement with the life of young men and women in Indian cities. She discards all social concerns and asserts that she is interested in individual and not in social issues. She is concerned with psychic life of her characters. Her concern is the ‘why’ and the wherefore of the external action rather than the action itself. Her forte is the exploration of mind and soul and not the body. While dealing with the psychic problems of her characters, she finds longing her liberty in them. For her depth is interesting. She is not interested in external world. Desai stands apart from other women novelists for she throws light on the inner mental conflict which her character undergo. Narrating the mental agony of a very complex dimension there is forceful yearning for liberty in character’s life.

Anita Desai’s chief concern seems to be the quest for liberty, which her characters crave for. She has successfully portrayed this aspect in nearly all her novels. The quest for liberty prevails as the recurring theme because nearly all the characters in her novels
yearn for liberty from bondages. There is no plan, no place, nothing to keep them at peace. Their main concern is the persistent search for liberty. Their peculiar childhood, dissatisfying adolescence and unfulfilling middle years make them long for liberty. The men and women in her novels are hunted by the desire to attain liberty from the ordinary routine of duties, family responsibilities and social obligations. They search for full liberty within their given condition and situation. Maya, Monisha, Nanda Kaul, Nirode, Sita, Deven, Arun all fail to accept their limitations. They are always in search of a more authentic existence than what is provided to them. They say the great “No”. When the characters cannot relate to the reality of their circumstances, they employ indirect methods or compensatory behaviours to escape from it. Some of them turn their back on the present and take the route back to their childhood. Some snap their relationship with people and with ideas. Some turn to aggression, which manifests itself in murder or suicide. Some of the characters are overpowered by self-destructive tendencies while others want to destroy the chaotic world. Some of the protagonists rise above
despair and make a heroic attempt to come back and accept life as it is. Almost all the major or minor characters around whom the story of novel revolves yearn for liberty. Desai has forcefully and explicitly portrayed this aspect in her novel. Since almost all the characters struggle to get liberty from one or other thing hence undoubtedly quest for liberty is the dominating theme in the novels.

In Desai’s fiction recurrence of liberty can only be understood by keeping in consideration the importance of freedom. Freedom is explicitly presented as the supportive agent in the quest for liberty. Nearly all major characters secure aid of freedom in asserting liberty. After making a detailed study of her novels one finds that freedom is very crucial aspect in attaining liberty.

Generally freedom is possessed by all for its an ability to act in accordance with universal values. But in Desai’s novels, it is not possessed by females in this patriarchal society. Due to the absence of freedom on the part of few female characters liberty is not attained. Freedom is crucial aspect in attaining liberty in Desai’s novels for it plays role of a supportive agent in attaining liberty. In
novels those Characters do not secure liberty who are not in possession of freedom of thinking, freedom of acting and freedom of will.

A reflection of the situation of women in the male dominated world is also found in the novels of Desai. Being females they are represented incapable of reaching out to the wider world. The liberty, which they desire to achieve at any cost, eludes them for they lack freedom. Idea of liberty haunts them so much that they are led to murder of self-immolation.

The novels of Anita Desai are not meant to explain theories of psychology, but they reveal her involvement for the upliftment of women who are seen as worst sufferer due to their marital discord. In almost all works, women are depicted in quest for liberty in a meticulous world, dominated by men, who in the guise of a father, a brother, a husband presents a constant threat to their integrity. In order to attain liberty these female characters have reacted sometimes violently and sometimes silently.
Anita Desai has added a new dimension to her fiction by taking up the cause of the neglect class i.e. women of society. She presents in her novels those women characters, who find it very difficult to adjust in the present mechanical set up and therefore they long for liberty. In her novels, Desai presents woman’s pursuit for liberty, equality. Her rebellion and protest against oppression at every level. Anita Desai excels particularly in highlighting the miserable position of highly sensitive and emotional women tortured by a humiliating sense of neglect in the male dominated society.

Anita Desai also portrays females’ desire liberty from social and traditional bondages in the patriarchal society in her novels. She denies a narrow feminist approach. She herself asserts that she writes about women for she knows and understands them best.

Females are represented incapable of reaching out to the wider world in her novels. The liberty, which females desire to secure, eludes them for they are granted limited freedom. Thought of liberty haunts them so much that they are led to murder and self-
immolation. Maya in Cry the Peacock murders her husband to get liberty from marital bondage. In Voices in the City Monisha commits suicide to attain liberty from the repressive condition of woman in patriarchal society.

In almost all the novels females are portrayed in quest for liberty in a meticulous world dominated by men, who in the guise of a father or a husband pose a constant threat to their integrity.

Anita Desai appears to be a leading luminary of Indo-Anglian novelists. She creates her own world, which she fills up with very sensitive female characters. In her novels, she presents feminine quest for liberty in a male dominated and hostile society. Anita Desai’s treatment of the women characters looks to the past to anatomize the pain inflicted on women down history to the present in a passionate affirmation of female identity and experience.

Women meet a dead end whatever road they may take to assert liberty. Their quest becomes a circular journey for them, always bringing back to the point from where they begin it.
The distinctive feature of Desai’s fiction is to focus on the interior aspect of life. She expressed a uniquely Indian sensibility. Her main purpose is to explore the psychic life of her characters. Desai’s predominant concern is not with social problems but the individual psyche of females. She explores the complexities and intricacies of females psyche with rare insight. She plunges into the depth of the mind and brings on surface the hidden contours of the human psyche. With the help of feminine psyche she has explored quest for liberty as a recurring theme with rare insight in almost all of her novels.

Desai has an innate ability to keep into the inner recesses of the psyche of her character in general and females in particular. She has contributed to the growth of Indian fiction in English by delineating psychic aspect of her female characters.

For Desai action is less important for she portrays emotions and thoughts of her characters to reveal their psychic odyssey. She portrays the psychic upheavals in the minds of her anguished protagonists. With the help of female psyche she brings on surface
females’ quest for liberty.

Predominantly interested in exploring the psychic depth of her female characters, Desai may be said to be doing something unique among the contemporary Indian-English novelists.

Judging minutely this most important aspect, it becomes crystal clear that quest for liberty forms the backbone of her novels. The novelist creates a rich galaxy of most important part of society, which has not been hitherto given properly by other Indo – Anglian novelist. Being from the same genre she seems to be most suited for championing the cause of nucleus of the family.

She seems to shift the focus from male to female. This endeavour on the part of Desai will make a long lasting impact on society in general and the upliftment of women in particular.

One can gauge the importance of her being a novelist and her novels in the light of this impartment dimension.