Abstract

Sharon Pollock is an excellent actor, creative director with a message, literary critic, and a cultural activist. She is known for her innovative staging and writing techniques, works in multiple genres and creates fluid dialogue that conveys strong social messages about oppressive forces and those who struggle under the compelling and suffocating forces. Her characters are the victim of surroundings and environment and make us to believe that their behavior is governed by the circumstances. The anxiety, oppression, suffocation or rebellion aspects of behavioral patterns are well depicted in her plays.

Born in 1936 in New Brunswick, Pollock started the journey of play writing with the play *A Compulsory Option*. As an aware and mature scholar she employed her all fine senses to observe and explore the various psychological shades of different characters. She extensively used theatre to explore and expose her characters’ psychological disorders, to expose deception, to probe the origins of behaviour, to study the personality and its
growth, patterns of behaviours and also to determine people’s responsibilities for the various actions and reactions under different situations and circumstances.

In this study various psychoanalytical angles are studied to understand the behavioral patterns of the characters under specific conditions. The circumstances, surroundings and the different experiences faced by the individuals lead to the different personalities of characters.

Psychoanalysis is a psychological and psycho-therapeutic theory founded in the late 19th century by Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud. Since then, psychoanalysis has expanded, been criticized and developed in different directions, mostly by some of Freud's colleagues and students. Although there have been many views and theories on the concept of Psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung are the founding scholars.

This concept explain the inherited constitution of personality, a person's development is determined by events in early childhood; the behaviour, experience, and cognition of human behaviour are largely determined by irrational drives; sometimes the drives are largely unconscious; human beings face psychological resistance in the form of
defence mechanism; conflicts between conscious and unconscious (repressed) material can result in mental disturbances such as anxiety, depression, neurosis, neurotic traits etc; the skilled guidance helps in the liberation of the destructive effects of the unconscious material and a balance is achieved through conscious mind.

Sharon Pollock has treated her subject and audience in a very respectable manner. “The theatre is not a classroom, the playwright is not a teacher”, Pollock has explained, “but a good play should provoke intelligent discussion about an issue or theme pertinent to our liver”. Sharon Pollock is a well-known Canadian playwright who has a crucial contribution to the Canadian literature and in the world of drama and theatre. This research seeks to explore and analyze the dramas of Sharon Pollock with the literary psychoanalytical approach. Both psychology and literature deals with the mind, the former deals with the process of mind and the latter is a product of mind. Both psychology and literature work through symbols, language being the most potent symbol in both these studies. Pollock, the great Canadian playwright’s plays primarily composed for the main stream including radio and television medium and some plays specifically for
children offer wide scope for their psychoanalytic reading. It attempts to show that Sharon Pollock’s dramas have crucial contribution for strengthening the Canadian theatre. She has written, directed and produced a number of theatre plays, several radio plays and many stories for children. Her works have contributed a lot in developing and enriching the Canadian theatre and Canadian literature world.