

STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS TECHNIQUE: A STUDY OF CHARACTER PARO IN THE NOVEL OF NAMITA GOKHALE'S "PARO: DREAMS OF PASSION"

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Abstract: Stream of Consciousness technique is not a new term as per as Indian literature is concerned. But in recent times it is used strictly to promote inner ideas of a protagonist, antagonist of the novelist. It is a method to give a self analysis and interpretation of the character. The portrayal of the character strikes reality of life, frankness, explicit description of sexuality and above all fulfilling her desire to the deepest depths. Namita's "Paro: Dreams of Passions" created havoc in the history of Indian Writing in English and set an identical genre of its own. The novel deals with erotic overtures, and obsession of love. It is the story of irresistible, outrageous woman with the same name.

Introduction: The literary genre Stream of Stream of Consciousness technique plays a dominant role in the psychological evaluation of any character in the 19th century novel onwards. It has its deep roots centuries ago, but it acquired a scientific and literary authenticity with the principles of psychology proposed by William James. With the publication of "Principles of Psychology" (1931), he proposed theory of Stream of Consciousness" in the novels of Modern age. It is a device of inner feelings and emotions expressed introvert. It is a flow of thought. It is extension of literary genres like Interior monologue, soliloquy and Dramatic Monologue. It is a type of style in writing marked by the sudden rise of thoughts and lack of any pause. This use of narration is generally associated with the modern novelists and short story writers heavily in their writings. It is not out of context to introduce this technique in a bird's eye view.

In the novel "Ulysses", James Joyce frequently used this technique as a part of narration to analyze the day in life of a middle aged man named Mr. Leopold Bloom who lives in Dublin. I quote: "He is young Leopold, as in a retrospective arrangement, a mirror within a mirror (hey, presto!) he beholdeth himself. That young figure of then is seen, precious manly, walking on a nipping , a mother's thought" (page no. 14.38)

The above lines express the thoughts of Bloom. His views as a young with self reflections achieved by the flow of thought which moves him back to his previous life. The same technique is used in 20th century by well known writer named Virginia Woolf in her novel "Mrs. Dalloway". I extract: "What a lark! What a plunge! For so it always seemed to me when,

with a little squeak of the hinges, which I can hear now....." (Page no 1)

By articulating the internal feelings of the writers, they provide freedom to the characters to go to and fro in time. In the character Mrs. Dalloway thoughts always fluctuated between past and present. It gives us a close understanding of critical nature of the character.

It is not out of context to bring the character of Paro of Namita Gokhale's novel, "Paro" into the picture of Stream of Consciousness technique. The portrayal of the character strikes reality of life, frankness, explicit description of sexuality and above all fulfilling her desire to the deepest depths. Namita's Sensational novel "Paro" created havoc in the history of Indian Writing in English and set an identical genre of its own. The novel deals with erotic overtures, and obsession of love. It is the story of irresistible, outrageous woman with the same name. Right from the beginning of the novel, she is depicted as a proud, self confident, ambitious woman. The major flaw in her character is her vanity and false prestige. The novelist has an instinct for truth and thrust for identification. As it deals with the theme of human predicament, it is an excellent debut novel. It is in the form of metaphorical sense describing the life of woman who comes from corporate culture. The sensuous, seductive, stream of consciousness of woman in the world of corporate corridors is a few other inner feelings of the character expressed throughout the novel. Sometimes it is laced with lusty relationships and the feelings of a woman who last certain things in her life.

Paro the central figure of the novel is an alter ego of the narrator Priya. It is the story of two women Paro and Priya. Paro is a heroic temptress, alluring and

rapacious where as Priya is eternal voyeur and diarist who identifies strongly with the heroine of her favorite novel, Rebecca. Priya herself is 100% in love with her boss but Paro marries him. Thus Paro seduced many of the women. Here the novelist tries to tell that the modern life is a miserable. Surprisingly the novelist introduced interplay of reality and fantasy. The characters which the novelist introduced are deprived of intellectual and emotional vitality emerges as stock characters. At the end of the novel, it is suggested that life of hedonism is not solution to the challenges of life. It underlines the meaning that the protagonists of the novel take an otherwise view of life when they were disturbed by the problems. Ultimately, the character Paro surrenders her life as we observed in the other novels, but she never exhibit in front of the readers. Namitha Projected this idea with new look without any comparison. Paro's relation breaks up with her husband and after separation they hold different affairs. But Priya follows the social norms by continuing her relation with Suresh, uninterestedly in her life. This is the best presentation of understanding values especially the relation between man-woman of the present scenario. There is an incomplete in the life of woman as well as in the society without man. The writer proved this fact in a new way with the life style of urban.

Paro, is the woman with guts, who lost the control over the senses. It generates a naturalistic view in the character. She has very strange views in her life with enjoyment and self-discipline. She recollected all her experiences of childhood through stream of Consciousness technique. There was a flow of thought how her life was in her earlier days. She remembered the days her experiences in a grove of pine-trees. She recollected her experiences with him how he sadonised in the woods of behind the chapel. I still have the watercolor I was painting when that happened;

it shows the landscape exactly as it was the day my life began

to get fucked up. You know birds, butterflies, blue skies, and

the works. It hangs in my bedroom. I look at it and weep. (page no. 27)

Paro's revelations revolve around her school days. Her teacher's behavior with her which is exemplary of her boldness and free will. This incident describes the multiple opinions as though she is weeping. She

describes a picture hanging on the wall of bedroom. She tells: : "I was good. You know, I wanted to be P.M. of India, you know." I nodded in understanding." (page no. 27) Paro's life is full of passions and she know how to take the situations and handle it effectively. Paro is all over and her personality was subconscious everybody's thirst. She is very aggressive, superior with her motives and traits. About the nature of Paro, Priya comments: "There's this guy-I've forgotten his name but his wife is this dame Paro..... (Page no.22-23). Namita rendered Paro as a woman who controlled with her physical passions with out having any other free spirit. It leads awful ending of the life of Paro. Women writer's present different ideas merged with different voices like feminism, display of modern women and it provides a New women concept in the literature. That is performed not only with the character but also with the language. It reveals the life of upper class women, their inner struggle, their jaunts and their complete world presented with in the frame work of this novel.

Paro is the symbol of free will and naturalistic. For her aspirations she married B.R. Their marriage develop jealous and depression in the mind of Priya. It adds a pinch of salt to Priya with that she adds "Ivy, Mary and I loved him (B.R.) madly.... (Page no. 1). Behavior of Paro at marriage ceremony with new wedding is expresses minutely and it expresses the status of woman in modern society after marriage how the economic independence was restrained by the man. Paro's life is full of glitter but men think her behavior as that of decisiveness. She is accepted as a final outcome for her capricious social extremes. She tries to enjoy the small things of the life as a rich person, but that is different, colorless, tasteless and emotionless. For an emancipation nature of Paro she could not continue with one man and marriage is not a permanent feature of Paro for this Priya has expressed: This is the Paro who is recently liberated from marriage and convention: she is still convinced that she is young and desirable as she was. Her massive breasts, like the enlarged pores of heriog skin, have grown ponderous with age. Even her fingers have become fatter-but this coarsening of body has also somehow catalyzed a startling vitality of mind.

Paro is the character with convincing skills and capability of do any thing. She was accepted by hen men whatever she did and also she was too powerful

outwardly for anybody to ignore but in her personal life there is a vacuum. We looked her in a ridiculous combination with her massive and towering personality. She never struggle to become a good daughter, a good wife or even a good mother but always struggle to care of her physical self. Physical aspects play an important role in her life to create a vacuum. This character is the best example one to the present society for their superficial consciousness.

Paro and Priya are intertwined and she said: "Perhaps you hurt her too, by all your womanizing." Some times they treated as alter ego at some situations. In this context she undergoes many a times thinking herself various things and questions herself the sanctity of her actions. Thus the novelist portrays the stream of consciousness technique through the character of Paro in a significant manner.

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