

**THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI
AND
ANITA DESAI- A CRITICAL STUDY**

A THESIS

**SUBMITTED TO GAUHATI UNIVERSITY FOR THE DEGREE OF
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Conclusion

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Introduction:

In the foregoing chapters, an honest attempt has been made to study the novels of Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai with special reference to seven novels from each of the authors. Both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai are versatile writers. They are blessed with high quality of narrative skill. They are composite writers endowed with remarkable quality of expression. They use poetic language while writing prose, making them much more heart touching.

They delve deep into the hearts of their characters so as to expose their psyche. The most common thing between Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai is that their protagonists are chiefly woman. As women novelists, they can understand well the psychological world of their female protagonists. So, they are able to create memorable female protagonists like Saudamini and Maya. It must be mentioned here that Mamoni Raisom Goswami's female protagonists are widows and dispossessed living in rural areas whereas Anita Desai's woman protagonists are married women living in towns. Mamoni Raisom Goswami's widows are deprived physically, emotionally and socially. In the same way, Anita Desai's female protagonists also suffer both in and outside married life. They are also deprived both physically and mentally. The women characters in their novels live continuously carrying a smouldering fire of negligence, depression, regression, deprivation etc. in their hearts. Sometimes these women maintain a deathlike silence; sometimes they try to withdraw from their dreadful condition; sometimes they become rebellious and finally commit suicide as silent protest.

Mamoni Raisom Goswami, though an Assamese writer, has universal appeal as a writer. The settings of her novels are not always Assam. Most of her novels are set in different places across India. By doing so she intends to give her readers a varied taste of life beyond the boundaries of Assam. On the otherhand, Anita Desai's novels are set basically in India. She uses the very essence of Indian society, culture and tradition in her novels. Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai have great narrative techniques. They use different technique such as flashback technique, stream of consciousness technique, interior monologue, symbolism and imagery etc. to convey their thoughts through the use of language.

Summary of the Chapters:

The title of this research work is "The Novels of Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai: A Critical Study". This research work has been carried out with special reference to only the major novels of both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai. Considering the limitations of a research project only seven major novels have been selected from both the novelists concerned. The novels undertaken for study from Mamoni Raisom Goswami are – *Chenabor Shrot*, *Nilakanthi Braja*, *Ahiron*, *Mamore Dhara Tarowal*, *Datal Hatir Uye Khowa Howdah*, *Tej Aru Dhulire Dhusharita Pristha* and *Chinnamastar Manuhto*. The seven major novels selected from the novelist Anita Desai are – *Cry*, *the Peacock*, *Voices in the City*, *Bye-Bye Blackbird*, *Where Shall We Go This Summer?*, *Fire on the Mountain*, *Clear Light of Day* and *In Custody*. This study makes a modest attempt to focus upon these selected novels from different perspectives. This research work has been divided into six chapters.

The 'Introduction' has introduced the subject studied, the aims and objectives, the significance of the study. It has also included the hypothesis, review of literature and the methodology used.

The first chapter 'THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI AND ANITA DESAI' has discussed the novels of Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai. It also gives a detailed account of the life and works of both the writers.

The second chapter 'PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM IN THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI AND ANITA DESAI' has discussed the psychological conflict as presented in the novels of the authors concerned.

The third chapter 'FEMINISM IN THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI AND ANITA DESAI' has delineated the concept of feminism as expressed in the novels of both the writers namely Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai.

The fourth chapter 'INDIANNESS IN THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI AND ANITA DESAI' has thrown light on the Indian sensibility of both the novelists as displayed in their novels.

The fifth chapter 'SYMBOLISM IN THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI AND ANITA DESAI' has discussed comprehensively the symbolism employed by both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai, in their novels.

The sixth chapter 'FOLKORISTIC PERSPECTIVE IN THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI AND ANITA DESAI' has discussed in detail the folk

materials such as traditional beliefs customs etc. as found in the novels of Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai.

The critical study of the novels of Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai has been done in the foregoing chapters from different perspectives. This chapter 'CONCLUSION' presents the summary of the research work undertaken. It includes the findings of the study.

It is already mentioned in the very beginning of the study that though the selected novelists have more than a dozen of novels to their credit, only seven novels from the major ones have been undertaken for critical study under this research work. The novels of both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai have been read carefully for the fulfillment of the purpose. For the same purpose, various types of reference books have also been read. In this study, there are some repetitions of textual quotations. It is almost unavoidable in the sense that the same novel has been discussed under different perspectives for chapter division.

Findings of the study:

The salient findings of the study are as follows:

1. Woman plays a pivotal role in the novels of both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai. The chief protagonists of their novels are always women.
2. Mamoni Raisom Goswami has a psychological note in her novels. But Anita Desai has started an epoch of psychological realism in the history of post-colonial Indo-Anglian fiction. They plunge deep into the hearts of their characters and expose their inner psyche. The psycho-emotional conflicts of their characters lead them to the state of alienation and frustration.

3. Both the novelists express feminine sensibility in their novels. Their chief concern is woman – hyper-sensitive, isolated, frustrated, depressed, suppressed and exploited. They explore the psychic condition of their women in its varied mood.
4. Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai exhibit the plight of their female characters in a male-dominated society. Their women characters suffer immensely in a patriarchal society.
5. The novels of both the novelists depict the theme of ill-matched marriage. The female protagonists are always victims of incompatible marriage.
6. Quest for self-identity is one of the dominant themes in the novels of both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai. Their female protagonists have defiant individuality. They also look forward for warmth and compassion in life.
7. The female protagonists of Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai suffer from existential problem. They refuse to live as non-existent.
8. There lies deep a suicidal tendency in the hearts of the female protagonists of both the novelists. Their female protagonists find it difficult to choose between life and death at the moments of crisis. Sometimes they win the battle of life but sometimes they loss.
9. Both the novelists prove through their writings that they are Indians by heart and soul. Their novels are Indian novels. The themes, the settings, the plots, the characters of their novels are Indian by their very appearance.
10. Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai held high the traditional values, beliefs and customs of contemporary India.
11. Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai use rich symbols in their novels. They depend on symbolism to express their thoughts and feelings.

12. 'River' finds a new exposure in the novels of both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai. The mighty Brahmaputra, the sacred Ganges, the Mahanadi river, the Chenab river and many more rivers are mentioned in their novels.
13. Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai use poetic language in their novels.
14. Both Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Anita Desai are humanists. Their message to human beings is that life must go on.
15. Mamoni Raisom Goswami's female protagonists are generally widows but Anita Desai's women are married women.
16. Mamoni Raisom Goswami's female protagonists are eventually picked up from rural background but Anita Desai's female protagonists are town women.

Scope for further study:

Maximum effort has been put to give a full form of a thesis to the research work titled "THE NOVELS OF MAMONI RAISOM GOSWAMI AND ANITA DESAI: A CRITICAL STUDY" but many topics are only briefly discussed herein. It must be admitted that there are still different areas that are not encompassed in this study. In future the topics that are left undiscussed here can be taken for further study. At the same time, this study has brought into focus some other important aspects in the novels of both the novelists such as theme of alienation, position of women in society, familial relationship, incompatible marriage etc. which have scope for further study. It is hoped that this thesis will provoke further reading and bring to light several new dimensions to the study of their novels.