

An Analysis of Marital Discourse in Manju Kapur's *Custody*

S.Abarna^a, P.Rajeswari^b

^aDepartment of English Sri Sarada College of Women Tirunelveli-627 011, India

^bAssistant Professor of English Sri Sarada College of Women Tirunelveli, India

Abstract

Historically women across the globe have been put low to a marginalized position and subsequently discriminated in all aspects of life. Women are forced to do their duty as wives, mothers and home makers. They are marginalized in everything. Women are expected to sacrifice their desires and passions for the sake of their family. Tradition is deep rooted in Indian traditional system. But women have changed with due time. They are no more toys in the hand of men and they have emerged with new revolution. The new women find themselves at crossroads of duties and passion which have been influenced by western ideas of personal liberty and female autonomy. Shagun, the protagonist of the novel *Custody*. She is bold and wants to live a luxurious life style in order to create her own space in the world. She is a middle-class woman. She is married to corporate advertiser Raman. She has two children- Arjun and Roohi. She feels bored, alienated from the society. Shagun has an extra martial affair and her as traditional house wife. She wants to fly away from the routine life and to achieve her own freedom. ManjuKapur gives importance to the fears of the Indian mothers and their opinion the marriage is important in every woman's life.

KEYWORDS: Marginalized, Sacrifice, New Women, Liberty, Autonomy, Luxurious, Alienated, Marital, Routine.

Historically women across the globe have been put low to a marginalized position and subsequently discriminated in all aspects of life. Women are forced to do their duty as wives, mothers and home makers. They are marginalized in everything. Women are expected to sacrifice their desires and passions for the sake of their family. Tradition is deep rooted in Indian traditional system. But women have changed with due time. They are no more toys in the hand of men and they have emerged with new revolution.

The new women find themselves at crossroads of duties and passion which have been influenced by western ideas of personal liberty and female autonomy. Shagun, the protagonist of the novel *Custody*. She is bold and wants to live a luxurious life style in order to create her own space in the world. She is a middle-class woman. She is married to corporate advertiser Raman. She has two children- Arjun and Roohi. She feels bored, alienated from the society. Shagun has an extra martial affair and her as traditional house wife. She wants to fly away from the routine life and to achieve her own freedom. ManjuKapur gives importance to the fears of the Indian mothers and their opinion the marriage is important in every woman's life.

ManjuKapur five greatest works are as follows, her first novel Difficult Daughters. It was published in 1998. It received the common wealth writer's prize for the first book in the Eurasian region. Her second novel A married woman was the best seller in India and U.K. Her Third novel Home was nominated for the Hutch cross word Book award in 2007. The Immigrant was her fourth novel. It was shortlisted for DSC prize for south Asian literature in 2011. Her fifth novel is Custody.

ManjuKapur expresses her thought through the character of Shagunwho determines that "She had needed to ensure her daughter's safety before the fruit was snatched and a tender life ruined" (Custody 34) She has got a Bride groomfrom a decent family, named Raman IIT, graduate. He is a sincere company worker, hard-working, and talented person. The marriage of Raman and Shagun's was arranged along standard lines "She the beauty, he the one with the brilliant prospects" (Custody 14).Shagun was pregnant within a one year. She does her duties as wife and as dutiful daughter-in-lawby gives birth to a boy baby. "She had been introduced up to marry, to be wife, mom and daughter-in-law. She had by no means wondered this destiny, it was the one pursued by all of us she knew" (Kapur 27).

Shagun appears to have a little or no to say as a long way as fixing of her marriage is worried. She unearths herself stifled and trapped by the confines of an organized marriage to a man who, she discovers, it is rigidly conservative and absolutely indifferent to her goals. She starts to experience utter loneliness, due to the fact Raman is an excessive amount of obsessed with money and he stays insensitive to her emotions and emotions besides displaying a touch love. Shagun's suffering; subjugation, isolation and disadvantaged circumstance turn her attention in the direction of some other man name Ashok.

The worst part of Shagun's lifestyles starts off evolved with the sudden being pregnant after the long hole of years from her first baby. When Arjun was almost eight. Shagun found that again she became pregnant. She was not prepared for the second delivery at age of thirty in one situation she was ready and gives birth to a girl child named Roohi. Shagun led a normal life as a mother of two children with good earning husband. Raman is a kind man, he wants to face more challenge in his life. After his daughter birth, Raman as a corporate adviser changes his company work and return to India. His new job wasbringing changes in their lifestyle. Kapur says "Weekends with family, friends, clubs and parties. Weekdays shopping, restaurants, children afternoon and evening, nights and parties. From time to time a book was read and knowledge of it displayed." (Custody 16). Manju Kapur expresses her thought through the character of Shagun who determines that "She had needed to ensure her daughter's safety before the fruit was snatched and a tender life ruined" (Custody 34) She has got a Bride groomfrom a decent family, named Raman IIT, graduate. He is a sincere company worker, hard-working, and talented person. The marriage of Raman and Shagun's was arranged along standard lines "She the beauty, he the one with the brilliant prospects" (Custody 14).

Shagun was pregnant within a one year. She does her duties as wife and as dutiful daughter-in-lawby gives birth to a boy baby. "She had been introduced up to marry, to be wife, mom and daughter-in-law. She had by no means wondered this destiny, it was the one pursued by all of us she knew" (Kapur 27).

Raman is surprised due to the fact the pregnancy will become an apple of discord among Shagun and Raman. Though within the give up, while she realizes that there's no

get away from one's responsibilities, she gives beginning to Roohi. Shagun's hatred and loneliness force her to devote adultery. Her love for Ashok is that of an unpredictable passion. Day by day their love bond becomes stronger: During the assembly with Ashok, Shagun perceives that in her 11 years of her marriage life, many men had regarded, however none has ventured throughout the boundary line of matrimony.

When Ishita decided to adopt a child, her mother did not agree with information of Raman's divorce, it made Mrs. Rajora to choose Raman as her son-in-law. She got an awesome possibility when Ishita turned into invited on Sunday by using Mrs. Kaushik. Now Ishita and Raman started sharing their troubles and sad recollections of the past with each other. Soon, a relationship between Ishita and Raman. Ishita had a loving heart. She remained genuine to Suryakanta till she became with him. After the split of her marriage, the staying power and loving heart remained with her. Her love for slum children displays her to be women of authentic love and complete of compassion. Her love and attachment for Roohi, made her near Raman. She suffered whilst she became dwelling with Suryakanta. Because of her bareness. She in no way protested her in opposition to the struggling and agreed to offer mutual divorce to Suryakanta. Not like Shogun who used all the tricks to make Raman go through as revenge when he changed into now not geared up to offer her kids to her. When Ishita got married with Raman, she discovered her life entire, as shown in these strains,

“Ishita started out her lifestyles with Raman and Roohi, morphing into wife, mother and mistress of a large flat along with servants. Every dream had come real.” (custody 35)

Thus, Ishita comes out as an essentialist feminist who attempts to bring a change in narrow thoughts set of patriarchy. She does her best to protect the price of marriage and own family, but additionally raises her voice against injustice. She suffers a lot throughout her first Marriage, however does not lose her confidence to make a new start. Shagun, she continues the fee of own family and succeeds to have individuality and identity as mom.

Work Cited:-

1. Kapur, Manju. Custody. India: Penguin Random House, 2011.
2. Kapur, Manju. "Random Reads: An Interview". Random House India. 29 March 2011. Web. 24 August 2014.
3. Kumar, Ashok, "Portrayal of New Women: A Study of Manju Kapur's A Married Women". Indian Writing in English: Critical Ruminations. Eds. Amar Nath Prasad and S. John Peter Joseph. New Delhi: Sarup & Sons, 2006. 194. Print.
4. <https://www.academia.edu>>Angst of modern Marriage.
5. Banerji, mithu. Custody: review. The observer. 27 February 2011. web.