

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

After completing the analysis of the protagonists in Fasting, Feasting by Anita Desai and Darjeeling by Bharti Kirchner, I would like to draw a conclusion. I conclude that there is unfairness for a woman in India who lives with the family who still holds traditional values and whose family's point of view strongly influences the women's characteristics. It can be seen through the change of their characteristics in facing the problems in their life.

First, in Fasting, Feasting by Anita Desai, I analyse Uma as a protagonist in the novel. Uma lives in the family who still have traditional values; girls are to be married and boys are to become as educated as possible. And Uma is portrayed unattractive, unintelligent and clumsy which makes her unlikely to get married. Although Uma is persistent to get educated and has a job, she is limited by her parents' value so she cannot do much in her life. In the end she becomes submissive, reticent and stressful.

Then, in Darjeeling by Bharti Kirchner, I analyse Sujata as the protagonist in the novel. Sujata is considered imperfect because she is portrayed

to be unattractive, introverted, difficult and rebellious. Her intelligence in tea plantation and business does not make her family appreciate her; in the contrary they consider it inappropriate. Her family always compares Sujata to her sister, Aloka, who is considered perfect as a woman because she is attractive, extrovert, and interested in many feminine activities like cooking, dancing, listening to classical music, and reading Bengali literature. As a result, Sujata feels inferior and cannot develop her potential. But her characteristics change when she moves to Canada because she has a family who supports her and she is also not limited by the family's point of view there. She becomes successful, attractive, confident and extroverted.

I can find some similarities of the protagonists in both Fasting, Feasting and Darjeeling. Both of them are Indian woman whose characteristics are influenced by their family, who are still holding on to an opinion about girl education from the medieval era. The family still keeps the tradition although they live in the modern era now.

Girl Education: The girls of medieval India and especially Hindu society were not given formal education. They were given education related to household chores. But a famous Indian philosopher 'Vatsyayana' wrote that women were supposed to be perfect in sixty four arts which included cooking, spinning, grinding, knowledge of medicine, recitation and many more. (Maps of India)

Not only about education, the families also share the same view about marriage. A women is perfect if she is married because marriage is very important according to their belief.

The Hindu Tradition: Marriage, perhaps the most important event in one's life has many connotations attached to it in Hindu tradition. Marriage are said to be made in heaven and the sanctity associated with it is unparalleled. No doubt, even in modern age, this is one tradition that has not lost its own glory and importance. (India Book)

Uma cannot get educated and has a job because she is forced to be married. And also Sujata cannot develop her potential in business because it is not appropriate for a woman in India at that time. Both of them were also born in unfortunate conditions, Uma who is unattractive, clumsy, unintelligent and Sujata who is inferior and introvert. As a result of the influence of their family's point of view, they have bad characteristics. Uma becomes submissive, reticent and stressful,; Sujata becomes inferior and she is considered difficult and rebellious. But the difference is, Uma does not get the chance of getting out to get a better life so she ends her life tragically. On the other hand, luckily Sujata gets the chance to change her life by moving to Canada, living with her family who supports her and does not limit her with the tradition of India. Sujata can develop her potential so she becomes successful, extroverted, confident and attractive.

In my opinion, the author's purpose in both novels is to encourage all women, especially who are inconfident and who are stuck in the unfortunate condition to do something in their life. The author wants them to stop thinking that their perfect life is depended on their appearance and other characteristics because humans are created differently and each of them has her unique characteristic and different potential. The

only thing that they have to be concerned is about how they can get the liberation to develop their potential.

The authors also probably want to criticize the parents or the older generation to give the liberation to their children or younger generation so that they can find the meaning of their life. Parents or older generation cannot dictate and make their children or younger generation be under their control in their entire of life. They also cannot judge their children with their points of view. They must give the younger generation opportunities and support them to lead their own life and develop their potential although it is different from theirs. The younger generation does not end their life tragically, but develop their life well.

I think both of the novelists are successful in showing the reader what they want to state. It can be seen clearly because they include the change of the portrayal of their character when the character face the conflict in their life. We can see that the family's point of view influences the characteristics of the protagonist. In Darjeeling, Kirchner reveals her message more effectively because she also includes the change of the characteristics of the protagonist when the protagonist lives in a different condition, which is in Canada with a different family who is a contrast with her family in India. The family in Canada supports her and does not have Indian traditional values that make a woman have to be married. So we can see more clearly what the author wants to state through the difference.

This concept does not exist only in India and for Indian women because we can see this case also in other countries in Asia who practice patriarchal system. We can also see it in China, some parts of Indonesia, and in some other countries in

which the liberation for women is still limited, they cannot do what they want. For example, they still have an opinion that a woman does not need to obtain higher education because in the end she will get married and hold all the housework.

Finally, after reading and analyzing both novels Fasting, Feasting by Anita Desai and Darjeeling by Bharti Kirchner, I get the same culture of knowledge of emancipation that a woman also has the right to develop her potential and nobody, even her family, can entrapped a woman's life with their traditional point of view.