

FOCUS OF MINOR CHARACTERS AND JAYA'S WOMAN AWARENESS IN THAT LONG SILENCE

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ABSTRACT

Shashi Deshpande's novels present a social world of many complex relationships. In her novels many men and women living together journeying across life in their different age groups, classes and gendered roles. These crowded novels are placed in a cultural scene where many important changes of attitudes, norms and goals give these people curious feelings of grouping in a new world. The young and old are equally caught in a world of transition, faced with constant search for new moorings and guidelines. The women are particularly caught in the process of redefining and rediscovering their own roles, position and relationship within their given social world. Her presentation of modern Indian women's search for these definitions about the self and society, and the relationship that are central to women represents her own struggle as a writer to equally symptomatic of the resistance to feminist expression that prevails in India in the middle of the twentieth century.

In presenting women's point of view Deshpande is mainly interested in the clash of tradition and modernity. Her young heroines or minor characters rebel against the traditional way of life, its rituals, ceremonies and patriarchal values. Women like Indu, Jaya, Sarita & Sumi perceive the structuring of men and women in gendered roles, restricting their human potentiality and fullness while minor characters like Jeeja, Nayana, Kamat perform their role of shaping the protagonist's mentality.

KEYWORDS: Jaya, Traditional, Modern, Transformation, Woman Awareness