Research Paper

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Deceit of an Indian Woman in Sivasankari's *Deception*

English

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

Sivasankari is a prolific Tamil authoress who has written with great awareness on social issues and problems. She is a recipient of several awards and nationally recognized writer. Deception is a novel which portrays the deceit of an Indian woman. Giridhar and Durga are the two characters who were leading a fruitful and happy married life with two children until Giridhar is sent to the U.K. on work. Durga endures letters from Giridhar dry up. Durga battles her fears and pain alone. A journey for truth. She finally reaches U.S along with her children to ensure the truth of the letter. The shocked and arrogant Giridhar considered her arrival as an ill-mannered behaviour. She and the children were insulted as intruders and beggars, interrupting his privacy. He offers her enough money from Linda for their survival and sustenance. She refused all his offers and wanted to convince her children that she was not befooling them as they were anxiously waiting for the arrival of their father from U.K. Durga was courageous enough to confront the deceit of her husband and lead a committed life for her children. Passionate life to cowardice, promotion and fame to deception, unfulfilled desires to deception, justifying mistakes to deception, realization of reality and factors of deception can successfully found in the novel. We come across transformation of noble, dutiful, broken and shattered women to a bold and courageous personality.

INTRODUCTION

Sivasankari is a prolific Tamil authoress who has written with great awareness on social issues and problems. She is a recipient of several awards and nationally recognized writer. Her books have been translated into many Indian languages, English, Japanese and Ukrainian. Some of her major works are *Oru Manithanin Kathai*, *Avan*, *Nandu*, *Verillatha Marangal* and *Amma Chonna Kathaikal.*

SUMMARY

Deception is a novel which portrays the deceit of an Indian woman. Giridhar and Durga are the two characters who were leading a fruitful and happy married life with two children. Both of them were working in private firms. Durga was concentrating on the children's education rather than her own career development. But, on the other hand Giridhar was thinking on reaching the heights of his achievements. The company officials recognized his talents and they decided to send him to U.K for training. During the course of training, he happened to meet an American widow, Linda who came as a tourist to London. He used to be in constant touch with his children and wife until he met Linda. He was sympathetic and gradually got attached to her. Linda was able to open the doors of his unfulfilled desires. When he got attached to her, he deceives his beloved middle-class wife, children and the company. Later he informs Durga through a letter that he intends to marry Linda legally after getting the divorce papers cleared. The shocked, bewildered and courageous middle- class wife taps every possible opportunity to unfold the truth of the letter. She finally reaches U.S along with her children to ensure the truth of the letter. The shocked and arrogant Giridhar considered her arrival as an ill-mannered behaviour . She and the children were insulted as intruders and beggars, interrupting his privacy. He offers her enough money from Linda for their survival and sustenance. She refused all his offers and wanted to convince her children that she was not befooling them as they were anxiously waiting for the arrival of their father from U.K. Durga was courageous enough to confront the deceit of her husband and lead a committed life for her children.

Passionate life to Cowardice

The novel explains that both Giridhar and Durga were leading a middle class life. As they were working in private firms they were anxiously waiting for Saturdays and leisure times in life. Every Saturdays they used to spend time in enjoying their life, viewing moves and spending time in park. " Giridhar and Durga both worked only for half a day on Saturdays and they usually went to the movies or park for an outing." (D 40). In spite of all such enjoyment and leisure, many of Giridhar's desires were unfilled.. "The struggle in trying to suppress the feeling is something only I know"(D 96). As man he never shared any such kind of dormant desires. But Durga, a middle class woman was loyal and frank to her children and husband in their married life. The blissful life of Durga gets disrupted through his cowardice.

Promotion and fame to deception

In this novel Sivasankari portrays women as genuine promoters of husband's name and fame. Durga prompts Giridhar by telling that this training in U.K. is such a great opportunity. "Come on, Giri, such a great opportunity has come your way! Of all the people in the office they have picked you. And a better position and a comfortable life style await you when you return" (D44). Giridhar doesn't want to part with Durga even for six months training in U.K. He was so selfish that he was not concerned about her promotion and finally loosing her the great offer. "Giridhar did not think her job was so important. He thought she could resign. Durga dis agreed. They had to be practical. Also, there had been talk of moving her to a higher position in her company. If she resigned at this time just to accompany him, she might not get such an offer six months later, when they returned to India."(D 45). Grabbing the opportunity to better their lives finally leads to a disastrous married life. Desire for position and fame finally leads to disastrous ends of deception.

Unfulfilled desires to deception

Everyone desires to fulfill their ambitions and goals in life. One needs to realize the real meaning of their existence through their life. Sivasankari throws light on the automated routine life which unfulfills the dormant desires. Giridhar was in such a state that he says: **"**I was in a daze because of my automated, uninteresting, meaningless existence. The struggle in trying to suppress the feeling is something only I know**.** It was in this state of mind that I arrived in London. Once again, I was assailed by the ache that I was living a fake life, not doing something I really, truly enjoying**"** (D 96). When he arrived in London, he realized that he was leading a fake life which led him betray his life partner.

Justifying mistakes to deception

Sivasankari exposes the justifying character of men on committing a wrong deed. In the novel, Giridhar wisely and cleverly advises Durga not to be hysterical like other women. He attempts to justify all his actions irrespective of the consequences that ripples upon his wife and children. He finds happiness for himself by adorning her as "wise" and "educated". In fact, he attempts to justify his decision by ignoring his fault and deceives his wife and children.

Realization of reality

The novelist reflects the deceiving character of men and the changing mindset at the sight of beauty and wealth. She also highlights the internal agony of deceived women. Durga realized that the love and affection he had shown throughout their married life seemed to be an illusion. There was no real love between them and the castle of their married life was dilapidated. The love and warmth of Giri's and Durga's blissful life vanished away on meeting the face of an American widow. He felt that the life with Linda was going to be real and the forgone years were only illusions and fake. Durga asks herself: "How could Giri behave so selfishly? The Giri I've known all these years- was he real-or is the face he is showing now the true one? Which was real, which fake?" (D 102).

Factors of deception

Throughout the novel, we can observe different factors that contribute to deception. The first and foremost is *beauty* which leads one to deception. Giridhar, a special envoy of the company with a mission arrived in U.K. He accidentally met a tourister and fell in love at first sight by her beauty. Finally this attraction led to deceive his wife and children.

He felt *sympathy* towards the tourister on knowing her family situations. This indicates that men have a melting heart on seeing casualties. They have a butterfly's character moving from one to the other for a sweeter honey. Through this, the novelist criticizes the fluctuating character of men dismantling the built-up relationship.

Giridhar is in a fantasy of becoming the wealthiest in his association with Linda. He dreams about her bank balance, becoming manager of her industries, green card holder and other benefits. These dreams of *wealth* led him to abandon Durga and the children. He considered Durga's arrival as a beggar's intrusion into his privacy. He has used a filthy term 'beggar' forgetting his past on his association with Linda.

Conclusion

The novelist has successfully brought out the theme of 'deception' in married life. The novel also depicts the ability of women to take challenges in life in spite of deception of their spouse. Parents live for their children. In this novel we see mother's commitment towards children in spite of their father's desertion. We come across transformation of noble, dutiful, broken and shattered women to a bold and courageous personality. Durga gains strength from her brokenness and confidence from her desperation. It time for the patriarchic idea of weak women to be wiped away from the mind of the people. They are not weaker but men make them weak and feeble.

Work Cited

Sivasankari (2007) Deception. Indian writing publication, Chennai.