

The Construction, Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Marital Relationship in Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence*

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ABSTRACT

Over the years, Indian English Fiction has entered a new phase of an incomparable portrayal of the New Indian woman who is not always happy with the constraining cultural, natural, and sexual duties allocated to her by patriarchal India's unconscious dawn. In her parental house, the woman may be a daughter or sister, and in her husband's family, she can be a wife and mother. She will also be required to perform a professional role. Above all, Nature gave her a sex-based position in which she is naturally limited. Divided between her natural and cultural roles, a woman can be only a daughter, sister, wife, or mother but never her real 'she'. She wants the freedom to think and live for herself as a human being and liberation from her womanhood. She sometimes escapes her culture-bound duties since there is no way out of her nature-bound responsibilities, particularly her function as a procreator and sexual partner.

Keywords: Marriage, Matrix, Relationships, Culture-bound, Roles.

In the present scenario, marriage, considered freedom from all patriarchic pinning, turns out to be another mode of subjugation, where women lose their identity when their whole being, including their body and soul, comes under the control of male chauvinism. Within the territories of marriage, husbands try to defile, dominate, and dehumanize them deliberately and make their lives meaningless. Deshpande's novels realistically present the decline and deterioration of the essential elements of marital love and spirituality in conjugal life, resulting in growing confusion and disgust, making sex a meaningless and monotonous metaphor. Even love marriage loses significance for them, and they lose their role as life support. The man-woman connection seems to be sustained only through sex. They share the family load evenly, but no one knows whether or not they love one another. Unconsciously doing their responsibilities deteriorates the sensation of holiness in husband-wife relations, which are destined together by the sanctified yarn of marriage for love and emotional captivity rather than living a dry and mechanical being that ends in common scorn and suspicion. This fear of living with a guy who does not love the woman as she anticipated him to be a pressing issue for new women in today's culture. The present study on Shashi Deshpande's novel *That Long Silence* makes a modest effort to evaluate the meaninglessness of married life and the role women perform in creating, deconstructing, and reconstructing the man-woman relation.



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