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## THE ROLE OF FEMALE CHARACTERS IN THE NOVELS OF ARUN JOSHI'S "THE FOREIGNER AND THE STRANGE CASE OF BILLY BISWAS"

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### **Abstract :**

*Though Arun Joshi belongs to the Modern age but in his writings, he gives much emphasis on male characters than female characters. From old age to modern age, many writers emphasize male characters and the role of female characters portrayed by them as secondary. In Indian literature, the role of male characters in literature is more prominent than female characters. But when Indian writers came in contact with Western philosophers and movements, their outlook towards women's character changed one. They emphasize female characters in their writings. This paper aims to focus on the role of female characters in Arun Joshi's The Foreigner and the Strange Case of Billy Biswas*

**Keywords:** female characters, Indian, western philosophers.

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### **Introduction :**

Born in 1939, Arun Joshi has had a brilliant academic career. He obtained an engineering degree from the University of Kansas and a degree in industrial management from MIT Cambridge Massachusetts. Arun Joshi came into the limelight with the publication of his very first novel, the Foreigner 1968, this is an autobiographical novel some part of this novel completed in America when Joshi was studying in America. In the novel, Sindi is a male character but apart from him some female characters like June Blyth, Mrs Blyth, Anna and Kathy also play a vital role in the novel and the second novel The Strange Case of Billy Biswas Billy alias Bimal Biswas plays a major role in the novel but some female characters like Bilasiya, Meena Chatterjee, Tula Lindagren have played an important role. In this novel, Joshi focuses on mystical urges, a compulsion which makes Billy go away. Both these novels Arun Joshi says, are primarily concerned with the religious issues and the problems of essentially the Hindu mind. Though Arun Joshi gives more emphasis on his male characters but his female characters do you need of recognition.

Role of female characters in Arun Joshi's novel

### **June Blyth :**

The role of June Blyth is more prominent than Sheila. June is an American affectionate beautiful girl. Sindi, the protagonist of the novel likes her deeply. Her mother Mrs Blyth divorced her husband and June live with her mother. She worked in a private company. Joshi

depicts June's beauty in a very precise way through Sindi, the protagonist of the novel, "As a rule, I never stare at people. But I couldn't take my eyes off this one. It wasn't that she was extremely pretty or sophisticated or anything. She had those large eyes that shone like marbles and a sweet little mouth. And she had a way of shaking her locks that made me want to touch me" (TF p.23).

He also remembers the bright future of her beauty, " I couldn't resurrect her in details but I saw the mass of golden hair, the blue eyes and the pink lips" (TF p.26).

In *The Foreigner*, Joshi shows June lead as a representative of an American girl in the novel.

She is a beautiful and straightforward girl in the novel as a bold, she invites Sindi to dance with her. In their very first meeting, she also did some love-making activities with him. So we can say that she was a very bold straightforward girl in the novel. In the novel Joshi depicts her as a bold She enjoys sex with Sindi Even before marriage.

Over time June gets involved with Sindi and as a bold girl, she expresses her opinion to Sindi regarding marriage. She wants to get married to Sindi but he is not ready to be involved in her life as her husband. He wishes to be free. His opinion about marriage is very orthodox. June's opinion about marriage is different she said there was nothing wrong "to love somebody, make somebody happy, bring up children who contribute to society" (TF p.107).

As June has the quality of helpful. She is always ready to help someone who is in need. In the novel, She gets contact with Sindi alias Surrinder Oberoi. She knows that Sindi suffers from asthma. She feels pity for Sindi and out of pity she falls in love with him. She understands that Sindi needs a girl. She makes love with Sindi to satisfy his physical needs. She also helps Baburao Khemka in his painful condition. Anna help him to draw out from his frustrated mood.

As we know June loves Sindhi very much and wants to marry him and Sindi wants to detach from her. She gets close to Babu. She thinks that she needs someone else but Babu also does not prove her as her husband he wants a wife whose background is Indian. He is not ready to leave with an American girl. Do June van with his side when he was in a big trouble. One Sindi gate contact with June and when Babu knows their affair he goes to commit suicide. So June, add that time carriage baby child in her womb. At that time C forcefully aborted her child.

So Arun Joshi presents June as prey to two irresponsible persons Sindi and Babu. Her life turns towards grief due to these two male characters in the novel.

Apart from June Blyth and Sheila, there are two minor characters in the novel Kathy and Anna

### **Kathy and Anna:**

Arun Joshi has written 5 novels and a collection of short stories. In his very first novel *The Foreigner*, he discusses the story of a youth born of an English mother and an Indian father who died in an air crash when Sindi was only four years old and he was brought up in Kenya by his uncle. So Sindi took his early education in England where he had contact with two women Anna and Kathy. Anna was a minor artist and she was divorced from her husband. She was a years old woman who gets physically involved with Sindi, the protagonist of the novel

to get back her lost youth she has self-respect so due to her self-respect she deserts Sindi without any discussion.

The role of Kathy is different though she is a married woman and spends some days with Sindi but She knows that a living relationship with an unknown man is an invalid one and she thought marriage is the sacred and had to be maintained at all (TF144)

So to live with these two women Sindi knows it is futile to leave with such women and these two women give shape to his character and personality.

### **Bilasiya :**

She is the tribal girl in the second novel the Strange Case of Billy Biswas of Arun Joshi. Bilasiya is the niece of Dhunia, the headman of a tribal village situated in the Mikala hills of central India. Arun Joshi depicts Belasia as a beautiful girl. The beauty of Bilasia is not as beautiful as Meena, Billy's wife in Delhi. Bilasia has a natural beauty as Joshi remarkably says,

"Her hair was loose. Just behind her left ear, there was a red flower. The necklace of beads glowed a little in the darkness. Her enormous eyes, only a little foggier with drink, poured out sexuality that was nearly as primeval as the forest that surrounded them" (pp.141-142).

So her role in the novel is an important one.

The next character in the Strange Case of Billy Biswas is Tuula. It is Tuula Lindagren who knows the real nature of Billy alias Bimal Biswas. She perceives beliefs and acute awareness about the modern phoney society. Billy, due to his hypersensitivity is constantly hunted by the primitive world of Mikala hills in central India. He wanted to be relieved from the sophisticated phoney society. It was Tuula Lindagren who told Romi that Billy is, " An exceptional Parson(TSCBB P22) and "feels s something inside him..... great force uncraft,..a primitive force", (TSCBB P23,)

### **Meena :**

Meena is another character in the novel. She is the daughter of a civil servant. Billy's mother introduced him when Billy came to India from America and was appointed the professor of anthology at Delhi University. So upcoming dates Billy gates married Meena. In this novel Meena's characters representation of a phoney society. Her lack of empathy and sufficient idea of human suffering leads to the fiasco.

### **Conclusion :**

Here we can say that Arun Joshi in his first two novels represents the role of female characters In a brief and they represent human values. Though Female characters in Arun Joshi's novel play a side role or supportive role to his male characters but their role is also important to mould the career of his heroes.

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