



## **Modernity in Munmun Ghosh's Thicker Than Blood**

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### **Abstract**

In the era of modernity, the traditional role of woman has completely been changed and now women are not ready to succumb before the orthodox setting of Indian society. They put so many questions before the male dominated and male oriented society which does not allow a desired freedom to the half population of the country. Now, women are in no mood to surrender before the challenges. Women are in position to show their wit and intellect to challenge the age-old convincing things Munmun Ghosh writes in the novel.

The role of the women novelists in the first two decades of the twenty first century is extremely important and influencing for several reasons altogether. They prove themselves far ahead to their male counterparts in producing some of the classics in this modern era of development. The novelists like kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Munmun Ghosh, Manju Kapur, Githa Hariharan, Madhuri Mukherjee, Chitra Banerjee, etc.-are more concerned towards the presentation of human predicament in the context of human life, ambition, emotion, passion and aspiration. They beautifully present the essence of human life with all its beauty and cultural remarks. They present woman in the context of male-dominated society. The novels like Custody and Brothers of Manju Kapur, Unhooked and Thicker than Blood of Munmun Ghosh, The Enchanters of Forest and The Palace of Illusions of Chitra Banerjee, Fugitive Histories and One Amazing Things by Githa Hariharan, etc. seem to be classics in terms of various thematic perceptions employed by the women novelists. Their handling of various thematic perceptions and stylistic devices are quite indicative of their talent and immense ability.



In the first two decades of the twenty-first century, the writers like Munmun Ghosh has attracted a large number of readers and reviewers with her two masterpieces-Unhooked and Thicker than Blood. The first novel Unhooked seems to be the intellectual brooding on the physical relationship between man and woman and deals with the essence of physical or sexual pleasure in the making of good and healthy relationship. The central protagonist of the novel fails to recognise the essence of perfection of human relationship which is quite necessary for staying in this vast world. About the quality of her novels, Dolly Thakore rightly remarks in these words

A very refreshing take on insecurities that plague educated, modern women, the language and turn of phrase that the author has used in unravelling the story is impressive<sup>1</sup>

The novels of Munmun Ghosh are more authentic in questioning some of the aspects and the role of woman in the family. Her novel Thicker than Blood deals with the question of completeness in woman's life. The novelist deals with the life of Mayuri who is the wife a rich and affluent businessman Vimal, wants to conceive a child as soon as possible because of several altogether. She applied many things to get the desired result but fails to do so. She meets doctors and go to the temple and meets with Yogis and Sadhus but does not find any success in his mission Munmun Ghosh puts question before the reader Is woman not complete without children and does motherhood and fatherhood have to be biological? The novel studies the mentality of Mayuri in the context of these vital issues and the novelist tries to get a unique debate through this novel without any hesitation.

This novel also shows the desperation of the woman to conceive a child to continue the legacy of the family. Child- bearing is considered as one of the sublime features of womanhood and religiously it is considered that without child-bearing, woman is incomplete in her duties. But child bearing is also natural and it is not only in the hands of woman. The



woman is not the machine to beget the child and apart from this, she has many duties to perform in her course of life.

Vimal and Mayuri married at good age. After a year, they are not able to produce a child and that is threatening to her. Her mother-in-law is also conscious about her child - bearing. Mayuri tells:

"These days, your mother is constantly after me to do this puja or attend that puja with her, despite knowing well that I have never been into performing rituals, my family never was. I'd rather see a doctor."<sup>2</sup>

Mayuri is more and more conscious about conceiving child in near future and that is why she suggests her husband to meet with a doctor to get some suggestion:

"Is not science or rather civilization all about bending nature to suit human needs? Why won't you meet Dr. Patel even once? Wouldn't you rush to an eye doctor if you had sight problems?"<sup>3</sup>

Mayuri does not want to miss any chance to do something for child bearing. Even a slight delay in meeting with the doctor makes her totally disturbed and distracted. When on one occasion, Vimal was little late, Mayuri became totally agitated because she was too obsessed with the question of her conceiving. She thinks

My heart dipped at once. I told myself that missing one day on the doctor's chart could not be so important. There was always another month and we were just in the beginning of our treatment, but it was not good. And then Vimal's cellphone went on the blink. No further messages. I felt lost.<sup>4</sup>

Both mayuri and Vimal would like to follow each and everything the doctor told them. Even they would like to follow shows the obsession of a woman who seems to be panic in this is able to read the mentality of a woman who is quite obsessive on the questions of conceiving.



Both Vimal and Mayuri came to realise the essence of human relationship. They overcome the timidity of blood relations and show broad perspectives in establishing new heights in adopting children from Bal Griha. They spent happy life along with their children. Now, Mayuri understands the futility of blood relations and realises the point that some relations are more and more important than blood relations. The novelist writes at the end of the novel:

Certainly, *Thicker than Blood* is one of the powerful observations in terms of human relationships, and also human bonds. Munmun Ghosh has created a wonderful character in the shape of Mayuri who emerges victorious at the end of the novel with her rediscovering of new heights in adopting two children Molly and Neel with whom she spends her life with much enthusiasm. After coming through multiple complexities and experience, she realises the importance of bonding which is far intimate than biological relationship.

## References

1. Dolly Thakore, *Theatre Personality*
2. Munmun Ghosh, *Thicker than Blood* (Delhi: Jaico Books, 2016), P. 04.
3. Ibid., p. 05.
4. Ibid., p. 18.