

Abstract

The proposed research aims at bringing out the paradox of duplicity and split selves in Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin*. The process of splitting and the effects of split on one's personality are analyzed in this dissertation. Although the recurring themes of disunity and duplicity have been discussed by other critics but these explorations have not been applied to Atwood's Booker Prize winner novel *The Blind Assassin*. Critics have taken a very limited approach to understand theme of split selves in this work. This research employs in-depth study of duality and multiplicity of selves. Each part of split selves functions as a whole individual having mind of its own thus creating multiple responses from a single person.

Atwood's characters, in general, are the victim of divided selves. They are living in double displaced world and continuously struggle to establish a connection between their divided mind and body. This research also scrutinizes Atwood's narration in *The Blind Assassin*. Not only her novels but her poetry also resonates with the struggle between mind and body. For this I have taken the example of her poem *Miss July Grows Older*. In this poem Miss July is manipulated in the name of 'Beauty Myth' and this manipulation leads towards her conflicting personalities.

My aim in this research is to explore how Margaret Atwood as an author employs paradoxical duality in narration and the way narratives are built through split selves. The aim of this research is to see if the split remains constant towards the end of the novel or the characters succeed in reforming their conflicting personalities and also inspect how Atwoodian characters defy 'the spiral of silence' and construct their own narratives.