

**Juxtaposition of Communistic and Psychological Facets: A
Study of Select Works of Doris Lessing**

A

Thesis

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Declaration

I do hereby acknowledge that:

1. The thesis entitled “Juxtaposition of Communistic and Psychological Facets: A Study of Select Works of Doris Lessing” is a presentation of my original work completed under the kind guidance of my adviser Dr. Ajoy Batta. Every effort has been made to incorporate the opportune suggestions provided by the Departmental Doctoral Board of Lovely Professional University, Phagwara.
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The candidate has pursued the prescribed coursework of research, and she has incorporated all the suggestions given by the Department Doctoral Board of the university during her tenure of the whole course.

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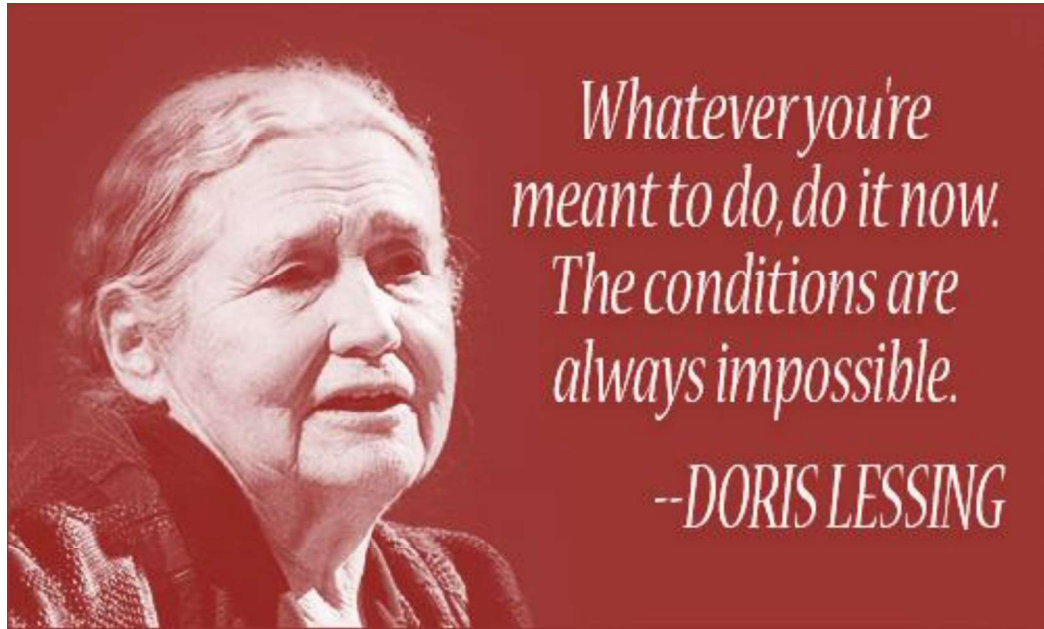
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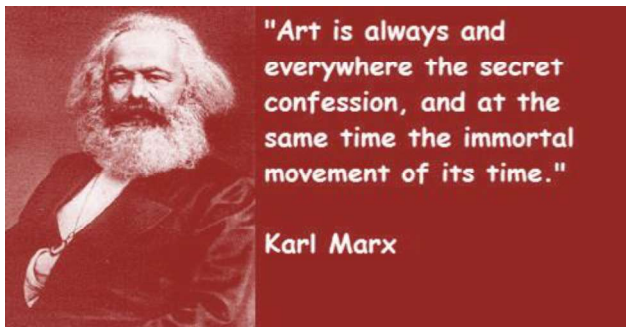
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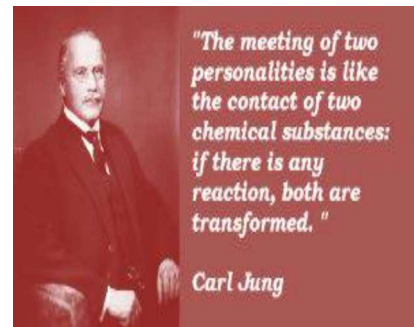
**Juxtaposition of Communistic and Psychological Facets: A Study of
Select Works of Doris Lessing**



Doris Lessing (1919-2013)



Karl Marx (1818-1883)



Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961)

Introduction

Literature has always been influenced by different ideologies and theories. A literary text may be either product of the society or the history of its time. No literary text is devoid of its time and the influences of that period on a writer's mind. A literary text which exists in social and political contexts is an outcome of these contexts which a writer experiences during a period. Doris Lessing is one of such writers whose fiction is the outcome of her age. Most of her fiction has embedded itself into the cultural ethos since the time of its publication. The dystopia she presents is a nightmarish, but the true nightmare vision of her works is the process by which this world where three means four and freedom means enslavement comes to existence. Many perspectives have been offered on her fiction and many critics have lauded their positions. Two of the most fruitful avenues of investigation are Marxist and psychoanalytical criticism. Both theories offer a different and unique yet complimentary position on the individual and the whole. Through the lenses of psychoanalytic and Marxist theories, Lessing exemplifies a totalitarian dystopia in order to display the effect of the use and abuse of class struggle, alienation and behaviour on the human experience.

Marxist theory focuses on the society as a whole like Lessing has portrayed the African society struggling for its identity. Psychoanalytic criticism addresses many of the same topics as that of Marxist, but does so from a much more individualized and sub-surface perspective that Lessing has portrayed through her individual characters. The theory is concerned with the unconscious and how this unconscious manifests conscious. The two theories offer different perspectives, but they also work quite well together-especially in regards to the fiction of Doris

Lessing. Marxist criticism looks at the world from the perspective of the masses (e.g. Africa as a whole), while psychoanalytic theory examines the world from the perspective of the individual (e.g. Mary, Anna and Martha characters of Lessing). While each can be used, each also sees its own conclusions as ultimate. The Marxist reading of Lessing's fiction examines society as a whole while the psychoanalytical reading examines the minds and experiences of each individual character.

The title of the present thesis is 'Juxtaposition of Communistic and Psychological Facets: A Study of Select Works of Doris Lessing'. The thesis explores the discrimination done to people on the basis of colour and how this discrimination has a negative effect on the mental setup of a character leading towards the psychological breakdown of a personality. The research also explores the consequences of a mental breakdown. This research has taken seven novels and two short story collections of Doris Lessing viz. *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook*, *The Children of Violence* series, It has five novels collected together to form a series. The novels are; *Martha Quest*, *A Proper Marriage*, *A Ripple from Storm*, *Landlocked*, and finally *The Four Gated City* and her two main collection of short stories namely *The African Stories* consists of *This Was the Old Chief's Country* and the other volume of this category is known as *The Sun Between Their Feet*. Lessing in all these novels has portrayed discrimination, class struggle, alienation and mental breakdown of her characters. Lessing through her writing has aptly brought the social issues of time in to the notice of the whole world. Her motif behind all this was to bring a social change, equality and brotherhood.

Chapter one entitled 'Brief Candle: A Peep into Doris Lessing's Life and Achievements' is divided into different parts. The first part talks about the introduction and about personal life of Lessing. It gives brief introduction about the writer. Another part with give information about Lessing's literary career. Part third is about Lessing as a realist writer. Then another part focuses on the theories of communism and psychoanalysis. The last part of the chapter shows relationship between Lessing and communism and finally on Lessing and Psychoanalysis.

Chapter two entitled 'Marxist and Psycho-Analytical Reading of *The Grass is Singing*' first gives introduction about the novel. It further shows the racism in the novel. This racism becomes the cause of all the social evils in a society. It explores both the theories with reference to the text. It further goes on showing the Marxist approach of the writer and the main motif behind the philosophy. The last part of the chapter explores the causes and consequences of a psychological breakdown in a personality of an individual.

Chapter Three entitled as '*The Golden Notebook: Communistic and Psychological Approach*' focuses on the different themes in the novel. It further explains the causes of the breakdown of a personality into fragments. It shows the agony and the pain that its main characters feel throughout their lives. It also explains that how an individual represents universal in the pain and sufferings. The last part of the chapter shows the unification of the personality of an individual.

The Chapter four is 'Quest for Identity in *The Children of Violence*' which is a series of five different novels namely *Children of Violence Series* (1952-1969). It has five novels collected together to form a series. The novels are; *Martha Quest* (1952),

A Proper Marriage (1954), *A Ripple from Storm* (1958), *Landlocked* (1965), and finally *The Four Gated City* (1969) focuses on the journey of Martha Quest towards a Self Quest. It further shows that how racial discrimination leads towards alienation and finally towards the trauma and psychological breakdown of a personality. It also traces the character's unconscious mind towards conscious mind battling with each other for the identity of the self.

The fifth chapter is "Narrators and Protagonists: A Study of Lessing's Short Stories". It is based on the two collections of short stories known as *This Was the Old Chief's Country* (1973) and the other volume of this category is known as *The Sun Between Their Feet* (1973). All the two collection are collectively known as *African Stories*. These stories depict the discrimination and injustice to people on the basis of colour and race. The chapter explores the love of Lessing for Africa and the wilderness in Africa. This chapter further explores that how the writer has used narrators as her mouth pieces to point out the cruelty of the people. The chapter also shows the social change that Lessing wants to bring in the society.

The main aim of the present study is discussing the Communistic and Psychological Facets through the select works. The main objectives are:

- Finding the Psychological and Communistic Facets of life that can shape the characters of Doris Lessing.
- Analyzing the Communistic Aspects of the characters by applying Marxist Theory.
- Analyzing the Psychological aspects of the characters by applying Psycho-Analytical Theory of Carl Gustav Jung.

- Examining the lives of characters who are sometimes victims but at the same time the oppressors.
- To compile the contribution of the works of Doris Lessing to the society and particularly to the world of Literature.

The present research implements comparative and analytical approaches to trace out the communistic and psychological facets in the select works of Doris Lessing with an application of Marxism and Psychoanalysis theories. The formatting of this research strictly abides to the MLA 7th edition. This research work endeavours to accumulate the resources from different libraries like Punjab University, University of Jammu, Kashmir University, British Council Library Chandigarh, and British Council Library Delhi. The present work makes a consistent search from online resources available. This research work is assisted by already published research articles in the indexed journals and literary magazines.

The scope of the present research is to help the readers to have a better understanding of different facets in a piece of literature. This research work will help the readers of Doris Lessing to get the better understanding in social and psychological forms in order to achieve the balance between inner and outer modes of perception. It will be draw parallels between Marxist and Psycho-Analytical perspectives in the fiction of Lessing is its contribution to the society in the field of Social and Psychological study of a literary text. The present research has tried to bring these facets at a global platform. This research has opened gates for different researches to be conducted on Lessing's different facets like that of Sufism and Science Fiction.

Abstract

Doris Lessing is the world renowned British writer and the winner of 2007 Nobel Prize. During the tenure of her writing she was actively involved in various social and political activities so as to bring a social change. She had wrote more than fifty works including- novels, short-stories, plays, autobiographies and operas. Some of her novels have been made into films. She has seen the harsh realities of her times and through writing she revolted against these menaces in the society. She was actively involved in politics what we can say Communist Party and fought for the racial discrimination in Africa.

The present research work provides a complete modest study of the select novels and short stories of Doris Lessing. This study attempts to make a comprehensive critical and analytical comments on her select fiction with a special emphasis on the Communistic and Psychological Facets of life. Literary theory in the realm of literature emerged in 20th century providing incredible insights into a literary text. Different theories have drawn from factors understanding a piece of literature and then its interpretation, social, political, or philosophical. All her novels have a positive impact on the mind of its readers to uplift mankind and its living conditions. In her novels all characters but specially the protagonists face self-alienation and quest for their self identity.

This research work provides a ground for two literary theories. Marxism Theory which regards a piece of literature as a product of social, economic or political production and Psycho-analytical Theory that understands a piece of literature as a product of repressed thoughts derived from the psyche of the writer itself. Doris Lessing has been a model for writers to be followed, social reformer, and a communist writer. Most of her fiction is best seller throughout the world as she has realistically

projected the clear image of her society. Lessing has an ability to discuss the burning issues of human relationships and particularly of individual's relation within himself, man-woman relationship, their relationship with society and master-slave relationship. She believes in a frank narration of the incidents related to people and their society. This research presents Doris Lessing as a realistic writer who prefers shedding light upon the reality and cruelty of the world in which one lives instead of something that is imaginary and superficial.

Doris Lessing's motif was to bring social justice for all. She goes beyond the defined categories of class, race, ideology and gender, to grasp the totality of human mental processes and collective consciousness. The thesis aimed to analyze Doris Lessing's novels *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook*, *The Children of Violence* and her collection of short stories *The African Stories* in terms of Communistic and Psychological facets

She was the follower of Marxist Philosophy whose Slogan was to make a free and classless society. They demanded for the discrimination free society and this philosophy or ideology is quite clear in the writings of Doris Lessing. This research work will bring out this Communistic Philosophy as propagated by Karl Marx in her selected work. The novel *The Grass is Singing* is her debut novel but at the same time made Lessing as one of the most eminent writer of post war period. The novel is like a chronicle of the apartheid in life of Sothern Rhodesian society. it can also be called a detective story. The story puzzles its readers that what happens? And how did it happen?. The answer to every question begins a new mystery. The novel is further a story of racial discrimination and the outcomes of this discrimination. The main characters of the novel are oppressors and the oppressed. Lessing tried her best to bring out that what is going on in the heart of a person or her character. The novelist goes on

showing that how much a person depends on his/her dreams and memories, dependence on fatal weakness and finally the meaning of life disappears.

Her fiction is remarkable for portraying the stark reality. The themes of subjugation, alienation, search for identity and realisation of self, economic inequality and first and foremost the unhealthy relation between men and women have been the chief causes for the oppression of women. All these aspects are present in the novel *The Grass is Singing*, where its protagonist Mary Turner fall the victim of such injustice. This research work explores the psychological agony faced by the characters and how the anxieties actually bring about self-development. It also highlights that human emotions, relationships and situations are the essence of human existence. Lessing's fiction has a positive impact on her readers and grows psychologically strong; the characters have the capacity to wrestle with the existential concerns and uplift humanity and improve their conditions.

The Golden Notebook Lessing has shown the dangerous effects of compartmentalization and gives the message of unity. She questions the realism through the character of its protagonist Anna Wulf. Her motive was to present the fragmented reality of the modern society and to bring different aspects together. In writing this novel, Lessing brought the themes of individual versus collective, fiction versus fact, personal versus universal and then dreams versus reality. Her motives were firm while writing fiction. When one makes close observation of her works can understand that there has been definitely some firm intentions behind her writing. She is a true communist who always struggled for the identity of an individual.

Children of Violence series analysis the Lessing understands Marxist and Psycho-analytical Theory as a basic cure to treat the inhumanity in the world and

especially in Southern Rhodesia. She has shown the miseries and pains that the natives face in the country of her childhood. The situation is similar of Karl Marx's time when capitalists exploited the middle class people. Lessing presents Martha Quest as her protagonist in this series as a revolutionist who revolts against her society and race. Martha leaves everything like home, family, husband and children in order to serve the society and mankind

In *African Stories*, it is clear that Lessing is a committed writer of her age. Her aim behind the writing is to bring a social change. Her commitment for humanity came from understanding her own self and the world in which she lives. Throughout the period of writing these two volumes, her concern to social change remained same. These stories taught the readers and the world how one can bring a change. She through these stories portrayed her strong desire of social justice for all categories of people. The background of most of these stories is Africa and the in-human treatment of one individual towards another on the basis of colour and racial superiority. Lessing made Marxist Philosophy as her weapon to make a classless society. In these stories, she has projected her communistic and psycho-analytical study of most of the characters. Her characters quest for the individuality as well the individuality of their fellow beings. They suffer from pain, agony, alienation and desolation in such a vast landscape of Africa. She fights for the identity of self, for this identity she moved from bush to farm, from farm to city, from childhood to adulthood, from adolescence to marriage and then to motherhood.

Her fiction most keenly questions our morality and spirituality as human beings. With the changing times it is realized that it is no longer possible to create a politics-free fictional universe. Lessing, due to her Rhodesian background and her involvement with leftist politics, brings a sharply developed political sense to fiction. In the above

mentioned novels, Lessing was especially preoccupied with the correlation between individual and political groups. In these novels she calls up the nightmares old and new which shadow humanity: colonialism, capitalism, imperialism and communism. But her political vision is never allowed to override her human concerns. One of the important influences on the Lessing's writing is the horrible and miserable condition of people in Africa. It is the place where she was grown up. She saw how black natives are treated by white settlers and how they were discriminated and exploited. This discrimination on the basis of colour made her a strong aversion towards racism and colonialism. It made her to have a sympathetic towards blacks and concerned about the amelioration for them.

Chapter 1

Brief Candle: A Peep into Doris Lessing's Life and Achievements

The present research work provides a complete modest study of the select novels and short stories of Doris Lessing. This study attempts to make a comprehensive critical and analytical comments on her select fiction with a special emphasis on the Communistic and Psychological Facets of life. Literary theory in the realm of literature emerged in 20th century providing incredible insights into a literary text. Different theories have drawn from factors understanding a piece of literature and then its interpretation, social, political, or philosophical.

This research work provides a ground for two literary theories. Marxism Theory which regards a piece of literature as a product of social, economic or political production and Psycho-analytical Theory that understands a piece of literature as a product of repressed thoughts derived from the psyche of the writer itself. Doris Lessing has been a model for writers to be followed, social reformer, and a communist writer. Most of her fiction is best seller throughout the world as she has realistically projected the clear image of her society. Lessing has an ability to discuss the burning issues of human relationships and particularly of individual's relation within himself, man-woman relationship, their relationship with society and master-slave relationship. She believes in a frank narration of the incidents related to people and their society. This research presents Doris Lessing as a realistic writer who prefers shedding light upon the reality and cruelty of the world in which one lives instead of something that is imaginary and superficial. This fact can be seen in her oeuvre, analysing communistic, psychoanalytical and autobiographical elements of life. Her novels are based on the themes of reality addressing the issues related to people all around the

world. Lessing has witnessed the shameful treatment of individuals in their own country leading to their alienation and this alienation towards their psychological breakdown. This alienation and breakdown became her prime concern to project throughout her works. She has grown in a country where injustice was everywhere. She heard the voice of these deprived voiceless people and taught her how to bring a change in the society by writing about it and at the same time by joining the politics to bring a change.

Doris Lessing (1919-2013) is one of the important British writers of twentieth century and is worldly acknowledged in the field of literature. Doris May Tayler now as Doris Lessing is a British novelist, poet, playwright, biographer, short story writer and liberatist. She was born in then Persia now Iran on 22nd October, 1919 to parents Captain Alfred Tayler and Emily Maude Tayler, both British. Her father who was a clerk in the Imperial Bank of Persia was crippled during World War I. Her mother worked as a nurse in order to support her family. In 1925, the family moved from Persia to Southern Rhodesia for maize farming in order to prosper in life but failed. They lived a hard life of a little pleasure but much more with pain. Lessing's childhood was a mixture of a little pleasure and more pain. It was miserable for both of herself and her brother Harry. Her parents were very much rigid especially her mother who had made some strict rules to be followed at home. Lessing's childhood was miserable with her father's worst and bitter memories regarding the World War I where he became a crippled which they couldn't forget. This failure and frustration of her parents left a horrible mark on her life and made her childhood very miserable. In school she learnt about the metaphysical issues such on the purification of body and soul and of the hell, affliction, castigation and retribution. At the age of thirteen she

left her formal education. She was only fifteen when she left her home doing a number of odd jobs like a nursemaid, telephone operator, office worker and journalist. Lessing is self-educated, she herself mentions in her Nobel Speech that she did not have books to read and neither her family encouraged her writing nor she had any model to follow like other writers and around this particular time she had started reading sociology and politics and at the same time started writing. She says:

Take V.S. Naipaul. He mentions that the Indian Vedas were close behind the memory of his family. His father encouraged him to write, and when he got to England he would visit the British Library. So he was close to the great tradition. Let us take John Coetzee. He was not only close to the great tradition, he was the tradition: he taught literature in Cape Town. And how sorry I am that I was never in one of his classes, taught by that wonderfully brave, bold mind. In order to write, in order to make literature, there must be a close connection with libraries, books, with the Tradition (Lessing, Nobel Lecture 2007 n.p.).

She started writing stories and sold these stories to make money. She read Charles Dickens, Walter Scott, and Rudyard Kipling and got inspired by their writings. Lessing married in 1939 to Frank Charles Wisdom only at the age of twenty. She had two children with her first husband. She divorced him in 1943 and became actively involved with Rhodesia's Communist party. In 1945, Lessing married to her fellow party member, Gottfried Lessing and had a son. This marriage was also a failure and finally got divorced in 1949. Lessing as a writer always spoke out of her mind whatever its impact might be and that was the reason she was barred for years

from entering into Rhodesia and South Africa as she outspoken her disapproval of white minority rule in both these countries. In her life and writing career, she is greatly impacted by the vision of D.H. Lawrence, Stendhal, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Simone de Beauvoir, Oliver Schreiner and Jean- Paul Sartre.

After so many failures in life, Doris Lessing moved to England with her only son from second marriage. She also had a manuscript of her first novel *The Grass is Singing* (1950). This novel highlighted the relationship between a white farmer's wife in Rhodesia and her native house servant. It also explores the complacency and shallowness of white colonial society in Southern Africa. Doris Lessing became a celebrity with its publication and afterwards wrote novels, short stories and essays based on her life in Africa that is the politics of gender discrimination, the role of individual within the family and in the society. Doris Lessing's fiction is autobiographical, emerging out of her experiences in Persia (Iran) and Africa. She was aware of the cultural clashes, injustices related to racial inequality, the struggle of opposing elements within an individual's own personality, and the conflict between the individual consciousness and the collective consciousness.

Lessing wrote more than fifty books addressing issues like, racial injustice, feminism, communism, Sufism, and other themes. Most of Lessing's characters are auto-biographical. She emerges as a socialist and a moralist in her fiction. Lessing always depicts the harsh reality of her society in her works. She wrote about feminism but for her more important is the racial discrimination of which she herself had firsthand experience.

Lessing was honoured with many prestigious awards and honours throughout her life. Some of the important accolades that Lessing received include: Somerset Maugham Award (1954), Booker Prize for Fiction (1971), France's Prix Medicis (1976), WH Smith Literary Award (1985), Companion of Honour (1999), David Cohen British Literature Prize and Prince of Asturias Prize for Literature (2001) and the highest awards in the world of literature, Nobel Prize for Literature (2007). The Nobel Prize Organisation explains Lessing as, "That epicist of the female experience, who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny" (Nigel Reynolds, 2007 n.p.). Lessing's expression on receiving the Prize are as, "I've won all the prizes in Europe, every bloody one. I'm delighted to win them all, the whole lot . . . It's a royal flush" (Lessing, Nobel Lecture 2007, n.p.). She is the eldest and eleventh lady of the world to receive the prize.

Alexandra Schwartz in her report entitled "On Doris Lessing and Not Saying Thank You" in *The New Yorker* on the Nobel Prize of Lessing states:

At eighty-nine, Lessing was the oldest writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, and the eleventh woman to do so. She was born in Persia, in 1919, to British parents, and she grew up on their failed farm in what was then Southern Rhodesia. As a young woman, she rejected the brutal, racist colonial system that she inherited, as well as the sexism that had crushed her mother's life, and which nearly crushed hers after she married, at the age of nineteen (Schwartz 2013 n.p.).

Some of her most and widely acknowledged works that presents her major themes are, *The Grass is Singing* is her first full length novel. It was very successful

and was reprinted seven times and has been translated into many languages. The novel is about humiliation, frustration, hate and the story of lost hopes and revenge. Lessing in most of her novels has written about the hypocrisy of her society and the relation between whites and blacks. The novel is one of the best examples of such type. It is her debut novel and is also autobiographical in nature. The main theme of the novel is that it portrays the race discrimination in Africa. This discrimination has dreadful results. The theme can be understood as, “Mary Turner, wife of Richard Turner, a farmer at Ngesi, was found murdered on the front verandah of their homestead yesterday morning, the houseboy, who has been arrested, has confessed to the crime” (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 9). It tells the story of a white couple who represent the white race and manifest the racist view of their society. They treat their black labours very rudely and harshly both in the farm and in the house. The protagonist of the novel is Mary Turner. She proves to be a best example of discrimination. She never had contact with the natives and was not prepared to have African in her house as servants. The only thing in her mind towards natives was hatred and cruelty. In her house she punished the natives for negligible faults and kept on changing dozens of her servants in a short span of time. As the novel progresses, its protagonist Mary Turner realises her cruelties and then becomes totally dependent on her native servant Moses who finally murders her and takes the revenge of the discrimination that these natives face. Lessing’s themes are basically social and psychological. *The Grass is Singing* portrays human isolation, agony, alienation both because of the family and by her society that its main characters face.

The other fictional work published after the success of her first novel is a collection of short stories volume one collectively known as *This Was the Old Chief's*

Country (1973) and the other volume of this category is known as *The Sun Between Their Feet* (1973). All the two collections are collectively known as *African Stories*. These stories depict the discrimination and injustice to people on the basis of colour and race. Lessing in the preface of the 1964 collection of the stories comments as, “To wake up every morning with one’s eyes on a fresh evidence of inhumanity; to be reminded twenty times a day of injustice . . . and while the cruelties of the white man towards the black men are the heaviest counts in the indictment against humanity” (Lessing, Preface *This was the Old Chief’s Country* 7-8). The collection contains all her long and short stories that have a common theme and African setting. These stories are wonderfully evocative of author’s homeland. Every story has a different tale to tell and in a quite different way. Every story depicts Africa in their own perception and realise the readers to feel the same landscape, agony, pain and finally the transformation that every character of the story demands.

The other category following to her prominent works is the *Children of Violence Series* (1952-1969). It has five novels collected together to form a series. The novels are; *Martha Quest* (1952), *A Proper Marriage* (1954), *A Ripple From Storm* (1958), *Landlocked* (1965), and finally *The Four Gated City* (1969).

Martha Quest (1952) is a story about the protagonist Martha who is a rebel. She was introduced to her readers as a girl of fifteen living with her parents in African forms. She has been presented a girl of passions, less educated and self experienced. She remains always disappointed in her life both with her parents and with the society. Martha’s quest can be understood as:

She was adolescent, and therefore bound to be unhappy; British, and therefore uneasy and defensive; in the fourth decade of the twentieth century, and therefore inescapable beset with problems of race and class; female and obliged to repudiate the shackled women of the past. She was tormented with guilt and responsibility and self-consciousness . . . (Lessing, *Martha Quest* 12)

She slowly and gradually breaks the chains and moves towards town where she works as a typist. Here in this new world beyond the narrowness of her parents and surroundings begins to encounter the life she was so eager to know and to experience. In this story the background is also Africa like other writings of Lessing. *Martha Quest* presents the African life in a tough manner in the forms, all pervading and horrifying experiences of racial discrimination and antagonism. The novel further portrays the artificial democracy and the highly sophisticated life of sub-urban.

A Proper Marriage (1954) is a second novel of this series. It can also be read as a separate novel but is woven in a connected thread to the *Martha Quest*. It carries forward the story of Martha. Martha who left her farm life for the city life becomes disillusioned with its hectic schedule of life and craves for freedom. She finds herself psychologically disillusioned. Her view of life can be understood as, “Martha thought: here is another person who is complete-finished in his way as Stella is in hers. Whereas she herself was formless, graceless, and unpredictable, a mere lump of clay. She rejected even the sight of him, and returned to her own preoccupations” (Lessing, *A Proper Marriage* 11). The novel then progresses and shows Martha a married lady. She becomes more and more rebellious in her new life and in a new role, with every

passing day. As time passes, she delivers a baby that also becomes a new constraint in the way of her freedom. Then the story moves towards the outbreak of war and Mr Douglas departs with the army.

The third novel of the series is *A Ripple from the Storm* (1958). The novel is an attempt by the writer to show the psychology of a group who have organised themselves against the society. The novel shows that how a Communistic group in a small African town is formed and their main motive was to bring a social change. The discrimination is clear by this quote as depicted by the narrator as, “There was a bench set in the grass beside the path. Jackie stepped high over the clumps of lilies to sit on the bench. On the back was written: For Europeans only . . . Bloody white fascists” (Lessing, *A Ripple from the Storm* 24). Lessing wants to bring out the heights of discrimination in Africa. She made her characters a mouthpiece to speak her inner feelings. Martha was now a divorcee from her first marriage and marries the leader of the group who himself was a German refugee. The novel charts Martha’s personal and political experiences in British Africa torn in racial discrimination. It depicts the evil menaces of World War II. All the novels of the series of *Children of Violence* are masterpiece in itself. All the novels are perfectly woven in a particular theme and combined to make a masterpiece.

The fourth novel of this series is *Landlocked* (1965). The aftermath of World War II makes Martha completely disillusioned in her life and with the Communist Party. Her second marriage to the leader of the party lands nowhere. Her life becomes totally illusioned both personally and socially. She then falls in love and disaapointed here also. Her life becomes more and more suffocating. The time depicted in the novel

are the last months of the war that had ruined whole Europe but at the same time flooded the message of equality among all people irrespective of race and colour. Martha's life became miserable. The narrator comments as:

The smile, however, was dry: she wiped it off her face. It was there too often, and too often did she have to push it away, and make harmless the attitude of mind it came from. She had to survive, she knew that; this phase of her life was sticking it out, waiting, keeping herself ready for when 'life' would begin . . . Martha now was in a determination to survive like everyone else in the world, these days, as she told herself; it was in a watchfulness, a tension of the will that was like a small flickering of light, like the perpetual tiny dance of lightning on the horizon from a storm so far over the earth's curve it could only show reflected on the sky. Martha was holding herself together—like everybody else. (Lessing, *Landlocked* 11-12)

Most of the people have realised this change. The last novel of this series is *The Four Gated City* concludes the series of *Children of Violence*, which has been a major literary success for the writer. The whole series develops through its central character Martha Quest from her birth in Africa to the end of World War II. The series develops from her birth, adolescence, to her marriages and finally the consequences of World War II. The novel has its setting in the London. It depicts the post-war London and Martha as a part of Cold War, Swinging London and Aldermaston Marches and portrays the poverty of people because of war, painful insights of people and social

anarchy. It covers the whole twentieth century and ends by illusion that the world in grip of World War III.

The Golden Notebook (1962) is considered as a master piece by Doris Lessing. Most of the critics consider it a feminist masterpiece. This novel has proved to be a literary example followed by various feminist authors. The novel explores the radical politics of its times. The novel has its protagonist Anna Wulf and cost her personal and social breakdown. The main theme of the novel is ‘breakdown’ and ‘fragmentation.’ Lessing in the very beginning of the novel comments on its main theme as, “the two women were alone in the London flat. ‘The point is,’ said Anna, as her friend came back from the telephone on the landing, ‘the point is, that as far as I can see, everything’s is cracking up’ (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 25). It accounts Anna’s fractured life. The novel was together weaved in four notebooks kept by Anna, each notebook for a particular purpose such as for life in Africa, her affiliations with the Communist Party, her broken love affair and her writings and the fifth one that binds them altogether is *The Golden Notebook*. Lessing comments her motif of writing this novel and the duty of the artist as:

The theme of ‘the artist’ had to relate to another, subjectivity. When I began writing there was pressure on writers not to be ‘subjective . . . And one day we will leave behind the driving egotism of individual art. We will return to an art which will express not man’s self-divisions and separateness from his fellows but his responsibility for his fellows and his brotherhood. (Lessing, Preface *The Golden Notebook* 12)

Anna keeps four notebooks where she records her life about her different activities and wants to tie them last in one notebook that she calls The Golden Notebook. The main characters of the novel are Anna Wulf and her friend Molly Jacobs. Anna keeps four notebooks each notebook for a special purpose. These four notebooks depict the fragmented personality of Anna. She is also a writer and disillusioned with the society like that of Lessing herself.

The other notable work of this category is *The Memoirs of a Survivor* (1974) is a novel of human miseries leading to a social breakdown. The novel has its settings in London where social order has broken down leading to communication breakdown and scarcity of food and other essential items. *New York Times* writes about the novel as, “Lessing's message, recognizable from her previous work, is close to W. H. Auden's 'We must love one another or die'” (New York Times n.p.). Its protagonist is a middle aged woman who watches all these scenes from the window. People are roaming here and there. Then she finds a little child at her door and then she took charge of raising that child (girl). This book Lessing calls it an autobiographical attempt. It talks about the past, present and future. It also tells us that it is our present time that can save mankind from complete destruction.

Shikasta (1979) is the other novel which is a science fiction. It is a story of a fallen paradise. It is also name of a fictional planet. The novel tells the history of Shikasta planet in the influence of three big empires namely Canopus, Sirius and their enemy Puttiora. George Stade in *New York Times* talks about the novel as, “forces us to think about ... what we are, how we got that way and where we are going . . . false hopes . . . theosophical emanations, cosmic influences, occult powers, spiritual

visitations and stellar vibrations” (New York Times n.p.). The novel records the documents leading towards the degeneration of the whole century and leading towards Apocalypse. The main themes of the novel are Sufism, realism and science fiction.

The Good Terrorist (1985) is the most vivid example of Lessing’s tendency towards interrogating the psychological aspects behind political radicalism. It tells the story of revolutionist Alice who lives in London attempting to show their disgrace and hatred towards modern society. Rogers in a review on *The Guardian* comments on the novel as, “a novel in unsparing close-up . . . witty and angry at human stupidity and destructiveness” (The Guardian n.p.). Alice the protagonist falls for a group of radicals and becomes a terrorist. These radicals call themselves as ‘Freeborn British Communists’. They make explosives and kill the innocent people. It all has an impact in the mind setup of Alice who blames her terrorist involved in such inhuman activities.

The Fifth Child (1988) is a gothic fiction portraying the breakdown of domestic happiness. The novel is a story of a happily married couple Lovatt’s and have four children. But the blissfulness of the family breaks down by the birth of their fifth child Ben. The narrator comments about the novel as, “It’s because you don’t want to. It’s not you who is carrying this . . . (Lessing, *The Fifth Child* 47). When Harriet gives birth to her fifth child she finds it hard since the beginning of her pregnancy, she gets irritated and finally delivers the child. He is very much violent character and terrifies his family. His existence shaken their belief in their religion and their traditional family existence.

The last novel of this category is *Alfred and Emily* (2008). It is actually a novella. In its first half its protagonist imagines that what has happened if her parents have not married. The other half of the story returns towards the reality where Alfred has lost his leg and meets Emily his future wife and then both left for Persia and then to Southern Rhodesia. The novella also like Lessing's novels has autobiographical elements.

Lessing had a firm belief in humanistic philosophy and wrote about the fragmentation, oppression, breakdown, about human conditions, anti-colonialism, racial discrimination, anti-war, and finally justice and gender inequality. Her main motif behind all this was to bring a social change. In a book by Carey Kaplan and Ellen Cronan Rose, entitled *Doris Lessing: The Alchemy of Survival*, they have called her an "alchemical writer changing the lives of people" (Rose 20). This work has served as an introduction for people to know about Doris Lessing's writing concerns and her techniques. It helps the readers of Lessing to know about her political, social, psychological and philosophical complexities of life. It serves as an example that how Lessing has changed the lives of people by using literature as a weapon compared to that of alchemy that changes the whole chemical. She fights for the equality of every human being in the society irrespective of caste, colour, creed or sex to acknowledge their own identity.

Lessing through her realistic novels and passion wants to make understand her readers the reality beyond perceptions. One of the important critics on Lessing, Roberta Rubenstein in her book summarises her views on the works of Lessing as, "Her efforts to break through not only the intellectual blinders to perception and

knowledge, and conventional assumptions concerning the nature of reality itself, but also the limitations of verbal expression, should assure her stature as one of the major, unique and visionary writers of our time” (Rubenstein 256). This book serves as an important source to bring out the glimpses of the realistic writings of the author. In a book published on Lessing by Susan Watkins entitled *Remembering Home: Nation and Identity in The Recent Writing of Doris Lessing* states, “Her works have addressed the complex questions about gender and class. This work has its main focus on how the writer has used notions of city, home and their related memories. Its main focus is on gender and racial discrimination” (Watkins 290). This racial discrimination had affected its characters mentally who later becomes victims or succumb in their lives. This book is an important source of information about Lessing and her writing notions and the intentions behind her writing.

In another research work entitled “Individuals in Search of Wholeness in Doris Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook* and *Children of Violence*” by Indra J Mercy talks about the feministic view of Doris Lessing. She comments:

In Lessing’s fictional societies she portrays the double oppression of women in the family and in the society and at the same time she also focuses on the white female characters in the text and the oppression that they too face. Hence, Lessing’s focus is on how all female characters are required to live according to societal expectations in Rhodesia as she lived. (Mercy 200)

Lessing in these above mentioned works has shown the oppression of her female characters. They got oppressed not only in home but also in the society. They lost their

identity and through the rest of their lives fight for their identity and individuality. They become victims of the society and lead the life of aliens in their own society. It affects their social and personal development and they become the psychological wreck.

In a research paper by Joy Wang entitled “White Postcolonial Guilt in Doris Lessing's *The Grass Is Singing*” has examined the postcolonial guilt through its protagonist, Mary Turner a white female having relationship with her black servant Moses and finally became a vehicle or main base for the White Postcolonial Guilt:

In its conclusion, Doris Lessing's *The Grass Is Singing* can be read as a narrative quest for redemption that ends in a frustrating deadlock. At the same time that it demonstrates the corrosive effects of racism, it also suggests that there is a limit to the extent that white guilt can be productive in and of itself. In the case of those who already live in some form of dispossession - those who suffer under patriarchy or dire poverty, for example - the added dimensions of racial guilt are depicted as psychic burdens leading to collapse. (Wang 44)

Joy Wang has shown through this paper the realistic themes of Lessing. It is a source to have some of the important information about her motive of writing. Through it, Lessing has given the voice to those who are voice less and are the deprived classes of the society. She has been praised by most of her critics.

Lyer in his paper “The Unexplored Universe of Doris Lessing” discussed Lessing from different angles. First, she focused on Doris Lessing as a realistic writer

whose aim was to make change in the society because she always believed that the main goal of art is to bring a positive change in society in order to make the world a better place to live in. Lyer stated that: “Lessing implied that it was realism that held the key to effect the social change she hoped to bring through her writings” (Lyer 66). She has shown that Lessing has focused mainly on politics because according to her politics is the most influential one and also controlling other ideologies. Lyer further says: “Politics, it is suggested, is the most powerful and most dangerous of ideologies because it is inherently divisive; political thought is marked by its` crippling partiality” (Lyer 70-71). This book provides significant information about what inspires the writers in their lives. Lessing wants to make an individual’s thoughts and feelings general and not personal.

Lessing wants to express her disillusion which she had faced herself by using fiction as a weapon. It is shown by Anca Georgescu as:

The Golden Notebook, however, is the counterpoint; Lessing, through Anna, expresses thus her disillusion with both realism and the notion of an encompassing view of life. Aiming to ‘break a form’ and ‘certain forms of consciousness’, . . . As a consequence, discontinuity achieves a significance that does not allow it to be simply subsumed under a higher unity; fragmentation, gaps, and lapses are precisely what allow for the unexpected. (Georgescu 716)

Fiction has been considered as the most social oriented because it has depicted society through its chaos and upheavals since its beginning and has achieved its goal in arousing the consciousness among its society. Novels have depicted social values and

human feelings, had presented society in the manner as its individuals had made it. The good novelist is one who records these events in the piece of literature which is his weapon.

Bharati N. Belsare in her research work “The Theme of Marginality and Techniques of Coping with it in Doris Lessing’s Fiction” has talked about the marginality of characters of Lessing on the basis of gender and colour. She states, “She is an intensely committed writer, who empathizes with the people at the margin, who are away from the centre of the structure of power and tries to bring dignity to the marginalized individuals and groups, in her fiction. Lessing is a votary of the principle of art for life’s sake rather than the auto telic principle of art for art’s sake” (Belsare 229). Her characters are thrown away from the normal status of a society and thus suffer from a loss. They lost their self, their identity and feel suffocated even in their own land. Lessing uses various literary techniques like satire, parody, irony etc to express these thoughts so that she can help those marginalised people by speaking on their behalf through her writing.

S Sajeesh in the research work entitles “The Healer and the Healed an Exploration into the Analysand Patterning in Doris Lessing’s Self Representational Novels and Autobiographies” has shown that Lessing’s characters have the capacity to get self healed. She states that, “A comparison between Lessing’s narrative technique in her autobiographies and her fictional works reveals the intrapersonal dialogues created within her as well as in her protagonists’ minds. This confirms her strong belief that the individual can have an intuitive access into one’s own psyche, realize one’s own *self* in crisis, and lead oneself ahead towards self recovery” (Sajeesh 178).

Her characters are autobiographical and like Lessing have the tendency to self heal and find their place in their own society. The novelist should not be biased and must be frank and fearless and keen observer of the society. His /her writing should arouse the feelings among its readers and should control his imagination. The novelist should present his world through his writings. It is the duty of a writer to bring out the inner as well as outer follies of society.

Lessing's fiction is autobiographical based on her own experiences in her life drawing from her painful childhood memories towards her active participation in social and political issues of her time. She has highlighted the conflict between the cultures, racial inequality and individuals struggle for the survival. She always spoke unpalatable truth and worked as a moralist to write about Africa. She is among the major writers of twentieth century. She is a prolific writer; all her novels are very technical. Most of her novels are interconnected on a single theme like alienation, politics, oppression, women, communism and fragmentation of an individual. Her themes are principally concerned with the characters psychology, relationship between men and women, their sexuality, work, and politics. Her novels are an effort to break the social norms.

From the analysis of the above mentioned books, reviews, articles and research works, it is clear that many facets of Doris Lessing's writings have been explored and many facets have yet to be explored. This research work explores the Communistic and Psychological facets in the select works of Doris Lessing. This work adds to the existing field of literature and especially about knowing the Doris Lessing and her writings, her Communistic and Psychoanalytical aspects. She has chosen a realistic

world for her writing. She has portrayed the cruelties of the real world through her fictional works. She has talked about the issues that were important to people around her. She broke the silence about women issues, spoke out for black people, and wrote about her society which was totally filled with the images of cruelty. In spite of Lessing's contribution to the field of literature, her fiction has not been fully explored; no elaborate work has been carried on exploring the Communistic and Psychological aspects in her fiction. Therefore the main purpose of the research is to fill this lacuna and to highlight how Lessing completely differed from other writers of her time.

Doris Lessing is one among the writers who are capable of presenting the interpretations depending particularly on the perspectives adopted from different approaches of life, as psychoanalytical, autobiographical, racial, and communistic viewpoints. The diversity of these implications is the main characteristic of her select fictional works. It is sure that the present work discloses all these elements from the select works which would support this research hypothesis. Therefore, this research cite these critics about the novel, the author, fields of knowledge, such as psychoanalysis and social and political movements for equality between human beings. Her themes concern about social, political and racial issues. Her political themes are based on her involvement with the Communist Party. They have communistic approach. In analyzing the Communistic facet of Doris Lessing in her fiction, the theory of Marxism will be applied to carry out the research work by Karl Marx. The main principles of Marxism Theory are:

Historical Materialism: It is the materialistic view of history. It states that the history of any society develops because of the inevitable changes in economic and social

changes. The historical materialism defines how to make a change in society as human beings always look towards their freedom (T. Borodulina, *On Historical Materialism*).

Class Struggle: It is the fundamental part of the Marxism Theory. It is a contradiction between upper and lower classes of society. The upper classes enjoy a prestigious position in society and are always in power. The lower class belongs to the working class. Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels perceived this class struggle between the proletariats and bourgeois. The conflict is because of the struggle for better options for survival to the lower classes of a society (T. Borodulina, *On Historical Materialism*).

Alienation: The word “Alienation” means separation. Alienation makes the existence of human beings strange in the world and particularly in their own society. They feel themselves alienated and other. This alienation can be overcome by resolving all the class struggle. Every human being should be given equal opportunities to excel in their life. Every society can success only when all its individuals are equally treated. So the main motif of Marxism Theory was to abolish the class conflict in every society (T. Borodulina, *On Historical Materialism*).

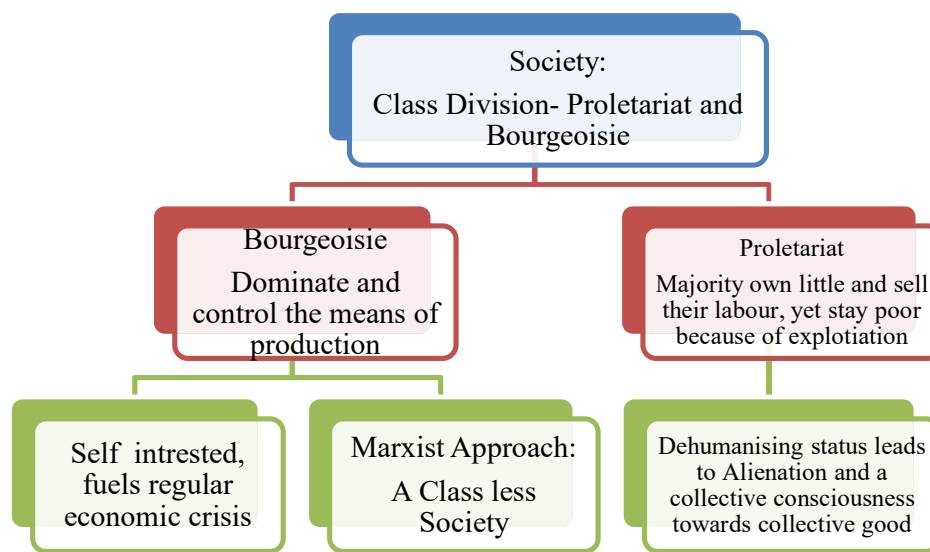


Fig. 1.1: Marxist Approach of an Ideal Society

By applying this theory, the communistic approach of Lessing will be pointed out. She throughout her life has remained a firm believer of communistic philosophy for eradicating the class struggle of the people. She has seen how people are discriminated on the basis of colour and race.

The word communism has been derived from a French word 'Communisme' which was used to designate social situations but in modern times it becomes more associated with political and economic organisations. The community in which the property and wealth of the society is owned by a classless and there is community centered social order, it is known as communism. Communism is such a socio-economic philosophy that works for the establishment of such a society that should be classless, free society where there is no sense of alienation, humanity should be free from any sort of oppression. The Communistic philosophy propagates that in the world a person works as per his abilities and should receive as his needs which means the full human freedom. But today the word is closely associated with Marxism- *The Communist Manifesto* (1840), an ideology of the sociologist Karl Marx. This ideology gained support throughout Europe and Soviet Union in Russia became the world's first Marxist state. Before Karl Marx, various historical groups have followed the communistic approach, the early Christianity supported a common ownership of the people and sharing of it to everyone is based on the teachings of *New Testament*. During the early modern period, various groups in Europe supported communist ideas. *The City of the Sun* by Tommaso Campanella (1601) is a philosophical work. It is one among the Utopian works that supported a society where its products should be equally shared. The writer comments, "The great ruler among them is a priest whom they call by the name Hoh, though we should call him Metaphysic. He is head over all,

in temporal and spiritual matters, and all business and lawsuits are settled by him, as the supreme authority” (Campanella, *The City of the Sun* 4). The society is in a hillside with pure air and climate. There is equal division of labour and no one sits idle. Those who work very hard get more love and praise. It is an idealistic society and every one works as per his aptitude. There is no servant in the society and no service is considered unworthy that leads to the dignity of work. The citizens of the society have common food, houses, honours and amusements from children to grown up, male or female.

During the English Civil War, the Roundheads supported the distribution of wealth on equal basis. The eighteenth century French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau in his, *The Social Contract* (1762), had given the basis of a political order purely based on popular sovereignty in spite of the rule by monarchs. Rousseau wants a society that embers freedom and the self-rule in France. Rousseau comments that, “Man was born free, and he is everywhere in chains . . . those who think themselves the master of others are indeed greater slaves than they” (Rousseau, *The Social Contract* 1-2). He wants a classless society and freedom for the citizens of civil society. Rousseau wants her citizens to sign a moral contract where one restraints its behaviour and live in harmony within a community. It will lead to the rationality among individuals where the individuals can check their desires and impulses and live rationally and morally.

In 1840, it was Karl Marx (1818-1883), who published his theories on communism now called as Marxism and was financially supported by Friedrich Engels (1820-1895). They both fled from German. Friedrich Engels published his chronicles on the *Condition of the Working Class in England*, which highlighted the

struggle for the survival of the working classes. Karl Marx said that the existing society is nothing but the history of class struggle. In 1848, he published his most influential work *The Communist Manifesto*, which has proved to be the most influential communist text. The main slogan of the communism was: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. This slogan was put forward by Karl Marx with fellow being Friedrich Engels in changing the world. They stated this class struggle as:

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Throughout history we see the oppressor and oppressed in constant opposition to each other. This fight is sometimes hidden and sometimes open. However, each time, the fight ends in either a revolutionary reconstruction of society or in the classes' common ruin.

(Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* 25)

In a capitalist state the privilege is enjoyed by a few but in a communist state the privilege is shared by all. They wanted a classless society where people should work in harmony, solve their problems friendly without any violence, and everybody will work according to his abilities but will receive as per his needs.

There is a close relation between communism and literature. It has examined literature with its social, political and economic context to which it has been written or has received. It explores the relationship between the society and the artist. Communist criticism had focused on social, political and economic aspects of society through art and literature and to represent the elements of class struggle more clearly. It will be through this literature that class struggle can be eradicated and illuminated from the society. The communism which is a theory for social change has begun with

the Golden Age of ancient Greek where the concept of harmony and communal bliss was privileged without any private property. The father of ancient philosophy Plato had outlined a society which has been also called as aristocratic communism, a society with communal holding of its social property. He comments, "Age isn't easy for a good man if he's poor, nor will a bad man ever be cheerful with himself even if he's rich" (Plato, *Republic Book 1-3*). He further comments on the just man and the unjust man as:

They will feed on barley-meal and flour of wheat, baking and kneading them, making noble cakes and loaves; these they will serve up on a mat of reeds or on clean leaves, themselves reclining the while upon beds strewn with yew or myrtle. And they and their children will feast, drinking of the wine which they have made, wearing garlands on their heads, and hymning the praises of the gods, in happy converse with one another . . . and they will roast myrtle-berries and acorns at the fire, drinking in moderation. And with such a diet they may be expected to live in peace and health to a good old age, and bequeath a similar life to their children after them. (Plato, *Republic Book 2 372*)

Plato wants a society called 'Republic'. He wants to have justice between just man with unjust man. His work is considered as one of the biggest masterpiece in the field of philosophy. He through justice wants to show that who among the two is happier, the just man or the unjust man. Philosophy and literature had worked like the faces of a coin and this combination had brought out the best elements within these disciplines.

One of the most important communist works is Sir Thomas More's novel *Utopia*, a 16th century novel which has given the concept of a perfect or a class free society, what one can say a perfect society, "It were much better to make such good provisions by which every man might be put in a method how to live, and so be preserved from the fatal necessity of stealing and dying for it (More, *Utopia Book 1*). He wants a society that should be classless. He is the first person to use the word to represent an imaginary island where people share common things related to culture and the ways of living. He wants a good place where every individual can develop with full growth and development.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky in 1866 in his work *Crime and Punishment* had explored Carl Jung's idea of 'Superman'. He has pointed out the huge gulf between upper and lower classes of the society.

Brother, brother, what are you saying? Why, you have shed blood?" cried Dounia in despair. "Which all men shed," he put in almost frantically, "which flows and has always flowed in streams, which is spilt like champagne, and for which men are crowned in the Capitol and are called afterwards benefactors of mankind. . . If I had succeeded I should have been crowned with glory, but now I'm trapped. (Dostoyevsky, *Part 6, Chapter 7*)

He further talks as, "You're a gentleman," they used to say. "You shouldn't hack about with an axe; that's not a gentleman's work" (Dostoyevsky, *Epilogue 2*). He has given us the picture of a society in which a lower class is always dominated by the higher class and about their sins and maintains the sense of realism. He satirises the upper

classes of society who meagrely treat lower class people and call themselves gentlemen. He wants equality for all people and equal punishment if an individual commits a crime.

Animal Farm (1945) by George Orwell is a satire on Russian Revolution. It is a fable that shows the rise of the dictatorship and the oppression of common people. The novella gives an example of class structure who claims to stand for the equality of its creatures.

Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short . . . No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth. (Orwell, *Chapter 1*)

The most important feature of the novella is that it shows both dictators and oppressors in an impressive way and the writer succeeds in portraying the evils of his society through this piece of work. They treat all animals equally. There should be no discrimination between animals, all of them are equal. There is no superiority or inferiority.

In *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck comments, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lif up his fellow, but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him up” (Steinbeck, *Chapter 28*, 533). where he has wonderfully pointed out the fact that the greatest cause behind human sufferings is not any misfortune or any natural calamity but his fellow beings, the people in higher ranks cause the social,

economic and historical circumstances that separate people of high class and low class. There should be given first priority to humans and not to any materialistic thing like money or property. All such things should be abolished from every society. Doris Lessing has stated the colour prejudice as, “Colour prejudice is the symptomatic of the atrophy of the imagination that prevents us from seeing over selves in every creature that breathes under the sun” (Lessing, *African Stories* 8).

Doris Lessing is one among the greatest writers of the contemporary period who has written about present political, social, spiritual and psychological issues of the life focused especially on topics like mysticism, racism, feminism and especially on communism. Doris Lessing is very much influenced by the great communist Karl Marx and his philosophy of communism. She always fought for the rights of people and was also an active member of the pro- communist movement and in 1952 was a member of the Communist Party. She has observed the sufferings of the people since from her childhood who had been the victims of this class struggle and as a writer she has pointed out it in her works. The critics have drawn the conclusions from her writing that they are drawn from own real experiences that she herself has observed.

Doris Lessing started her literary career in 1950s and has written on the theme of alienation, racism, class discrimination, and gender bias which most of her protagonists face. Most of the Doris Lessing’s fiction has focused on political issues of her time. Her works like short story collection *African Stories* and the novels *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook* and *Children of Violence* series are the examples with communistic perspectives. In these fictional works, Lessing has locked the reality of her time which she herself has experienced in life. Her fiction, which was

published many decades before is as fresh today as they were when they have been first published.

All her fiction expresses her main concern for a communistic society that should provide equality, fraternity and justice to all of its members. *The Golden Notebook* is a complicated novel about a writer named Anna. The novel has some autobiographical elements in it. She lives in a confusing world of politicians, lovers and her desire to be a free woman. The protagonist keeps four notebooks to record her events in life.

The same can be seen in the novel *The Golden Notebook* where Anna says: “The point is ...that as far as I can see, everything’s cracking up” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 25). These notebooks have four different colours and make the book complex in its structure. The blue notebook records her daily events of her life, the black notebook records her life in Africa and her life as a writer, and the red notebook records her political life and with politics of her time and the yellow notebooks records her ideas and drafts for her stories which she uses as a writer.

In *The Grass is Singing*, Lessing portrayed the cruelties of white rulers to blacks of Africa. Doris Lessing has observed the inadequate political and social structures like oppression of women and particularly of Blacks. This oppression has led to the breakdown of many people over there. This alienation, fragmentation and violence is because of the relationship between the individuals and their social systems. This theme is prevalent in Doris Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing*, where its main characters fall the victims of the class struggle. Lessing always spoke about

class struggle between the blacks and whites. Sigmund Krancberg in his article, “Karl Marx and Democracy” points out this class struggle as:

It is customary to speak of Karl Marx as a great humanist because of his glowing protests against the cruel exploitation of the working classes under the conditions of extreme laissez-faire capitalism in the nineteenth century. . . . founded on democratic principles and ideals leading to the emancipation of mankind. (Krancberg 23)

The heroin of the novel *The Grass is Singing*, Mary Turner has emerged as a struggle between her personal self and the social forces that shape her individuality. Mary has also behaved in a capitalistic way with her servants proving her supremacy over the Blacks. The murder of Mary by the hands of Moses depicts the lack of love and trust in between Whites and Blacks. These Whites have destroyed the happiness and the lives of the Blacks. Doris Lessing’s writing has multiple aspects like physical, social and mental horror especially of the Apartheid in Africa. Lessing through her writing has presented the reality of the society through the imagination and through this piece of literature she made it a weapon to bring out the ugly face of the society. Her writings are the true examples of the realistic literature. Doris Lessing in a conversation with Florence Howe states that: “She did write from the women’s point of view but then she was essentially writing about the right of the individual” (Howe 34). The characters in her novels are psychologically affected because of the social and political system of the time.

The Golden Notebook contains anti-war and anti-Stalinist theme and mostly the theme of Communism that wholly and solely shapes the life of a character and finally

leading towards complete breakdown. Anna Wulf, the protagonist like Doris Lessing is a writer living all alone with her daughter and keeps four different notebooks where she records her social, mental and political experiences of her life. The four notebooks are different in colours like; Black, Red, Blue and Yellow. The colours chosen for a particular notebook is related to its background. The Black notebook is about her experiences of her life in Africa mostly before and during the World War II and encouraged her to write down her first novel *The Frontiers of War*. Her political experiences are locked in the Red notebook as red stands for communism. The author remains an active member of the communist party then comes the Yellow notebook where she writes her own love affair in the form of a novel and the last notebook is the Blue notebook contains her memories, her dreams which she wrote in the form of a diary. All these notebooks have the themes of threat of nuclear conflagration, Cold War, Communism, Marxism, Stalinism and the struggle of a its characters for work, love and particularly about politics.

Doris Lessing was banned for visiting to Rhodesia and Africa because she was against the white laws and was only allowed after their independence. The years which Doris Lessing spent in Africa has deep influence on her writing, “Africa belongs to the Africans, the sooner they take it back, the better. But a country also belongs to those who feel at home in it” (Lessing, *African Stories* 11). She further says about the love she has for Africa in her Nobel Speech as:

My mind is full of splendid memories of Africa which I can revive and look at whenever I want. How about those sunsets, gold and purple and orange, spreading across the sky at evening. How about butterflies and moths and bees on the aromatic bushes of the Kalahari? . . . but how

about the sky at night, still unpolluted, black and wonderful, full of restless stars. (Lessing, “Nobelprize Speech 2007”)

Lessing’s novels are also moulded on psycho-analytical base. Her novels portray the psychology of its characters. Her characters have faced the pain, agony, alienation and discrimination leading towards their psychological imbalance. In order to analyse the Psycho-analytical aspects in the fiction of Doris Lessing, the theory of Psychoanalysis by Carl Gustav Jung has applied to carry out the research work. The Psychoanalytical Theory of Jung explained the literary works in accordance to the presence of narrative images, archetypes, and image patterns. His psychology has given us the concept of Archetypes, Personal Unconsciousness and Collective Unconsciousness.

Personal Unconscious: These are those experiences that are repressed and are forgotten. They are particular to every individual. These thoughts and feelings vary from person to person. Every person has some particular memories regarding his/her life and society (Boeree, “Personality Theories”).

Collective Unconscious: It includes all those repressed thoughts that are common to all people. They may be ancestor’s experiences and the universal concepts may be mother, water, God, etc. All these thoughts are transmitted from generation to generation. These thoughts may be same for the people of every society and every culture. All these concepts emerge what Carl Jung called Archetypes (Boeree, “Personality Theories”).

Archetypes: They have their origin from collective unconscious. Archetypes are emotionally collected association of inherited images. These images can be presented through delusions, dreams, and fantasies. But dreams are the main source of archetypes and are related to the existence of human beings. The main examples as given by Jung are as follows: Persona, Shadow, Anima/Animus, Great Mother, Hero and The Self (Boeree, “Personality Theories”).

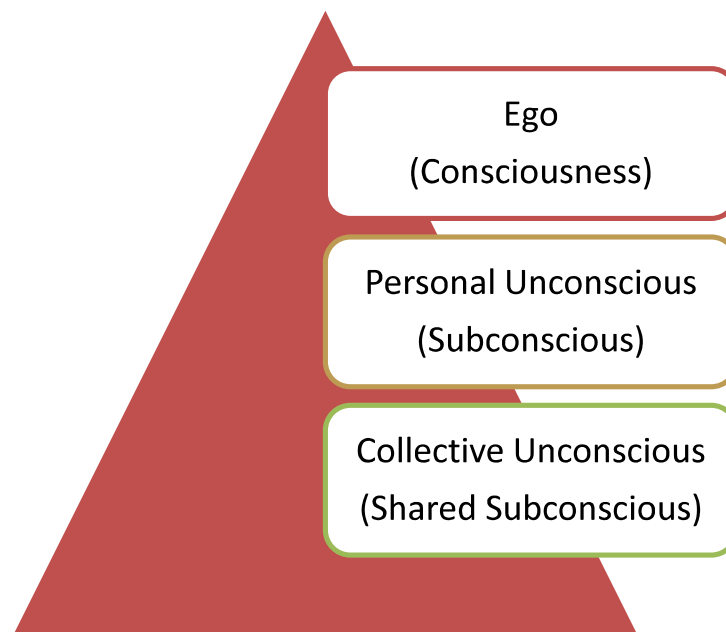


Fig. 1.2 : Jung's Model of Human Psyche

The word 'psychology' has its origin in two Greek words 'psyche' and 'logos'. The word 'psyche' in Greek language refers to 'spirit' or 'soul' and the word 'logos' refers to 'discourse' or 'study'. Psychology is defined as a scientific and systematic study of human behaviour, human mental activity and his experience. Psychology is primarily concerned with the understanding of human behaviour.

Psychology is defined as the study of human mind and human behaviour including aspects like study of conscious and unconscious experiences. It is used to

understand people. We can understand person's social and personal behaviour. It is psychology that explores both human behaviour and mental processes had been linked with social sciences, philosophy and humanities. John Raphael Staude in a research article titled "From Depth Psychology to Depth Sociology: Freud, Jung, and Lévi-Strauss" talked about the concern of the psychologists towards the study of human behaviour as, "The general problem that concerned Freud, Jung, and Levi-Strauss was to discover and explain a hidden order in the mental and cultural life of mankind. Each of them assumed a universality and collectivity of human nature at its deepest, archaic levels that flew in the face of the historical and cultural relativism" (Staude 304).

Carl Jung- the disciple of Sigmund Freud was a philosopher, psychoanalyst who treated human self as a result of all of his psychic processes. Jung proposed another more important and deeper level of unconscious mind that he called it as a collective unconsciousness that is common to all human beings. This collective unconsciousness can be shared by people of a culture, racial memories and primordial images and experiences of their existence which Carl Jung called Archetypes. Sigmund Freud believed that literature is an expression of authors repressed desires and conflicts while Carl Jung regarded it as an expression of author's collective unconscious. According to Jung literature provides its readers to access to the archetypal images that might be buried in racial memories and helping the readers in revitalising the psyche of any culture as its whole. Archetypes according to Carl Jung are those thoughts and images that have same meaning across cultures throughout the world like literature, religion, dreams and art. Doris Lessing in an interview to Jonah Raskin in 1969 tells about the importance of dreams in her life and in literary career as:

Dreams have always been important to me. The hidden domain of our mind communicates with us through dreams. I dream a great deal and I scrutinize my dreams. The unconscious artist who resides in our depth is a very economical individual with a few symbols a dream can define the whole of one's life, and warn us of the future, too. (Raskin 14)

Jung further believes that symbols from different nations and cultures are most often very similar only because they have their origin from archetypes that are shared by whole human race. It is our past that becomes basis for our psyche and influencing our behaviour. The main important archetypes according to Carl Jung are: The "Persona" or can be called as a mask. It is the outward face that every individual presents to the world. It conceals the real identity and is a public face totally different from what he actually is. The other archetype is "anima/animus", can be defined as the mirror image of biological sex. It can be defined as the masculine side of female and feminine side of males. Their psyche features the characters of one of the other. "Shadow" is the other archetype. According to Carl Jung it is the animal side of human personality. It is the source behind our creative as well as destructive energies. Finally it is the "Self" that provides sense in the unity of experience. It leads towards the realisation of selfhood. Carl Jung in his book *The Undiscovered Self* has argued that most of the problems that modern man faces are only because of his progressive alienation. He claims that archetypes are because of the collective experiences of both man and woman living together. Valentina Mikluc in his research article based on psychoanalytical study states:

The Grass is Singing deals with later stages of the struggle between the social feeling and the animal feeling through an example of a maladjusted woman who forces herself to death by failing to find a sustainable balance between the two. The object of her desire is a black servant she wants to hate, and the way the story unravels points out that the devastating consequences of racial segregation affect everybody involved in the destructive system, no matter what their skin colour is. (Mikluc 211)

Literature and Psychology are closely associated with each other. Literature has always portrayed the feelings of its characters through their emotional reactions and by the inner state of these characters. Literature has always emphasised in bringing out the inner self of characters. The earliest example of the psychological novel is *Pamela* (1740) by Samuel Richardson. He comments as, “Her person made me her lover; but her mind made her my wife” (Richardson 474). The distinction between mind and body has an impact on the personality of an individual. In order to lead a better life it is necessary that head and heart should function synchronously. These are by chance psychological in sense but the actual trend of psychological novel reached its full bloom only during the twentieth century coinciding with the discoveries and theories of the father of psychology Sigmund Freud. The main Psychological novels were the works of Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoyevsky. The other followers of it were Henry James, Marcel Proust, Franz Kafka, the technique, stream-of-consciousness by James Joyce and William Faulkner, and Virginia Woolf are the examples of the psychological novelists. In the psychological novels, there was a drastic shift from the concept ‘who did it?’ Towards the concept ‘why did he do it?’

The psychological novel has a subordinate plot which depends on the probing alienation of its characters. It does not follow any chronological sequence but occurs as per characters' memories, contemplation, thoughts and dreams. In psychological novel more emphasis is laid on character and its motivation rather than on structure and its form. Alfred Jarry in his work *The Supermale* (1902) brings the importance of psychological novel as, "The theatre, bringing impersonal masks to life, is only for those who are virile enough to create new life: either as a conflict of passions subtler than those we already know, or as a complete new character" (Jarry). He has used psychological aspects to explore the sociological aspects of life. He had questioned the phallogocentrism of the society.

Franz Kafka in his most accomplished work *The Metamorphosis* (1915) has given us Gregor Samsa's physical and emotional torments of his own family which leads to his mental and psychological illness.

If I didn't have my parents to think about I'd have given in my notice a long time ago, I'd have gone up to the boss and told him just what I think, tell him everything I would, let him know just what I feel. He'd fall right off his desk! And it's a funny sort of business to be sitting up there at your desk, talking down at your subordinates from up there, especially when you have to go right up close because the boss is hard of hearing. (Kafka, *Chapter 1*)

He was disturbed in his life both at the home and in the work place. He didn't have the courage to speak up and fight all these illusions of mind. His life gets tormented and

finally leads a complete metamorphosis where no one understands him and his feelings.

In the world of literature, fiction had become the most advocative and emotional form for expression throughout the world. Fiction has been the chronicle for the vicissitudes of common people as these people have passed from cultural, economical, political and sociological subjugation to many shades and hues. The novelists have made a permanent impact in the minds of their readers. Mercy Famila in her research article *Humanisim in Dorris Lessing's Novels: An Overview* points out the role of some of the major post-war novelists as:

Some of the major Post-War novelists namely John Wain, Iris Murdoch, William Golding, Kingsley Amis, Doris Lessing and Angus Wilson, who deal with the transfiguration of the British class structure in the twentieth century, are essentially concerned with human values and in their novels the essential focus is always upon the consciousness of their characters. (Famila 2)

The writers are the witnesses to the gender discrimination, political conflicts, and other social conflicts faced by them from time to time. One among such prolific writers is Doris Lessing who observed and studied the problems of common individual in their society. In the fiction of Doris Lessing, men, women are struggling for their identity. Their dreams, fears and hopes have made them to face the traumatic experiences of their life. In the novel *The Golden Notebook* Lessing comments as, "It seems to me that ever since I can remember anything the real thing that has been

happening in the world was death and destruction. It seems to me it is stronger than life” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 216).

The protagonist of *The Grass is Singing* emerges as a conflict between her personal life and the society that are responsible for it. She since her childhood has been brought up as a crippled and repelled by the love and intimacy of her parents. She has suffered from destruction of her consciousness, alienation and fragmentation of her personality. Mary’s emptiness in her life since her childhood had become a catalyst in her life and had increased her alienation and anxiety. Her married life has also proved a failure because of the ineffectiveness of her husband who was a failure in his life. There is finally deterioration of her personality under stress which is cause of her loss in life. She finally becomes insane, her end dramatises her complete breakdown. A British psychiatrist R.D. Laing in her book *The Divided Self* has said about such kind of mental state, Mary’s state of mind resembles that of Laing’s statement:

The full terror of the experience of the world as liable at any moment to crash in and obliterate all identity as a gas will rush in and obliterate a vacuum. The individual feels that, like the vacuum, he is empty. But this emptiness is him. Although in other ways he longs for the emptiness to be filled, he dreads the possibility of this happening because he has come to feel that all he can be is the awful nothingness of just this very vacuum. (Laing 45)

With the passage of time Mary’s insanity increases leading towards her fatal end:

Now it seemed as if the night were closing in on her, and the little house was bending over her like a candle, melting in the heat. She

heard the crack, crack: the restless moving of the iron above and it seemed to her that a vast black body, like a human spider, was crawling over the roof, trying to get inside....She was shut in a small black box, the walls closing in on her, the roof pressing down'. (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 252)

Thus we can say that misunderstanding, inequality and lack of love and feelings in marriage lead to its failure. The novel *The Golden Notebook* is influenced by the preoccupations of Laing and Carl Jung's psychology. Anna's mental state can be clearer by: "The walls of this flat close in on us. Day after we are both mad" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 502).

Carl Jung always talked about the impact of dreams on one's personality. Goldenberg in his research article states the effects of dreams on mind as stated by Jung himself as, "Jung says that for much of his life he placed great value on not disclosing anything about the dreams and fantasies which had made the greatest impression on him" (Goldenberg 384). In an interview to Margarete Von Schwerzkopf, Lessing records that she had kept a diary that she calls dream research to record her dreams and experiences. She also talks about the protagonists dreams to her readers:

Each morning as I wake I take up my scratch pad to hold onto my nightly dreams. However, it is infinitely difficult to capture in words the atmosphere of a dream, this mixture of delusion and truth, fog and light. (Von Schwerzkopf 106)

Lessing has explored the inner world of her protagonists; they through their life yearn for their identity. Her novels are almost an extended in the form of flashback, financial, marital and social encounters of its characters. Relationship in the life of a human being forms the base for a meaningful survival. The characters of Doris Lessing fall into the common problems, social, personal and emotional which had stabilised their own identity. A research scholar K.A.Agalya, in his research work on *Role of Women in Fictions of Anita Nair* has pointed out the oppression of women in this manner as:

Silence is a symbol of oppression, a characteristic of the subaltern condition, while speech signifies self-expression and liberation. The last chapter is a summation of the arguments in the previous chapters. For the women of the present time, life is an assertion of individuality, independence and finding a voice. It is not the external life that always matters but the internal sufferings and the resuscitation or regeneration in every way is essential for today's women. (Agalya 245)

We also find the elements of oppression, suppression and alienation in Lessing's works. Her central characters were always struggling to shape their identity. They are disillusioned in their lives and search for their identity, wholeness and for their survival in their own country.

Lessing through her writing has focused on the ugly relation between individuals on the basis of racial discrimination, position of individuals in a society where one class dominates the other and the psychoanalysis of the angst of these oppressed individuals. She as a writer has not written about the imaginary world but of

the realistic world of cruelty which is surrounding every human being. Her tragic situation of individuals, their psychic analysis, racism problems and thus moulding their lives accordingly. She is a bold writer who prefers to reflect the cruelty of the real world rather than creating fanciful things. She tackles issues that are important to people around the world. She breaks the silence of her society which was filled with these images of cruelty.

Chapter 2

Marxist and Psycho-Analytical Reading of *The Grass is Singing*

The Grass is Singing is the first novel by Doris Lessing published in 1950 by the publisher Michael Joseph in United Kingdom. It is published again in America in the year 1950 by Thomas Y. Crowell. The first paperback is published in the year 1964 by Ballantine Books. The novel also got republished in 1973 by the Heinemann African Writers Series. It is adapted in a movie in the year 1981 by a Swedish company, presented by Chibote Limited and The Swedish Film Institute. The film is named as *Killing Heat*.

Lessing in the preface to the novel states that the title of the novel *The Grass is Singing* is taken from *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot's from these lines:

This decayed hole among the mountains in the faint moonlight, the grass is singing over the tumbled graves, about the chapel there is the empty chapel, only the wind's home. It has no windows, and the door swings, Dry bones can harm no one. Only a cock stood on the rooftree co co rico, co co rico. In a flash of lightning then a damp gust bringing rain (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 7).

The novel was widely acclaimed by critics and made Lessing a prominent figure in the literary genre. The various reviews about the novel at the time of its publication are as follows:

“The New Statesman” defines the debut novel *The Grass is Singing* of Lessing as, “Original and Striking. . . full of those terrifying touches of the truth, seldom

mentioned but instantly recognised” (New Statesman). It means that the novel truly depicts the society of its time which Lessing herself has faced. The other review published in the magazine “Independent on Sunday” defines the novel as:

“*The Grass is Singing*” focuses on the blighted life of a woman whose spirit is destroyed by a disastrous marriage and by an environment to which she couldn't respond. More than any other white African writer of her generation, Doris Lessing is aware of the seductive cruelty of colonialism, and is one of our strongest, fiercest voices against injustice, racism and sexual hypocrisy (Fiammetta Rocco n.p.).

Lessing's fiction has been appreciated by every critic for its humanistic and realistic approach. By the publication of her very first novel, she emerged as one of the most eminent novelist unafraid of criticism to talk about the harsh realities of a society. Dominic Head in his edited book *The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English* talks about Lessing and her works and states the novel *The Grass is Singing* as, “*The Grass is Singing* (1950), a powerful study of a white woman's obsession with her black servant, announced the interest in the private action of the mind which distinguishes many of her later novels” (Head 642). The novel truly presents Mary Turner as a powerful white racist who ill treats her native servants. She has been taught since from her childhood that they (natives) are not humans like whites and one should not talk to them as they are only to harm the whites. In another review about the novel in “The Times”, that goes like this, “Doris Lessing responds more passionately than most writers to people or situations: often she responds with hate or rancour, but always with passion. In "*The Grass is Singing*", you can feel the dynamo-

like throb of a formidable talent; by its side, most novels of 1950 look like crochet-work” (The Times). The novel is a chronicle of the apartheid in life of Sothern Rhodesian society. It is also called a detective story that puzzles its readers that what happens? How did it happen? And answer to every question begins a new mystery.

Lessing is the most acknowledged and versatile writer born in Iran and then brought up in Sothern Rhodesia. Her main themes deal with major political and social concerns such as: Feminism, Marxism, Environmentalism, Psycho-analysis, and Racial Oppression. This novel is Lessing’s debut novel. Lessing’s works are political, historical as well as serious in nature. She has written within and beyond the colonial perspectives of her time. She has understood the limitations of African colonial society and wrote beyond the colonial myth that whites are superior and blacks and whites will never mix. She has transgressed all the social and political boundaries of her time and went through continuous criticism. Since its publication, priority was given to form and style, diction, irony, morality, social, personal and emotional issues.

The Grass is Singing is a tragic novel portraying a failed marriage, racial discrimination and apartheid in Southern Rhodesia. It is a story of a white couple Mr and Mrs Turner. Dick Turner is a failed farmer and his wife Mary Turner belongs to the town and prefers to live life of a town girl. She hates the farms and the blacks. It is also a psychological portrayal of lives in Africa in confusion and white supremacy. The novel begins with the death scene of the protagonist of the novel Mary Turner and recounts her tragic experiences in her life before and after marriage. Mary’s parents have emigrated from Persia to Southern Rhodesia in order to have their fortune in maize farming, but continuously fail in their efforts. Mary’s childhood was miserable

and full of pains and sorrows. She dreams her life out of all these miseries and pains and as she grows up, she leaves her home and settles in a city by becoming a professional secretary. She enjoys her life being single and supported herself alone, without the interference of anybody. As time passes, she still remains in her own world without thinking that she grows older day after day and year after year. Society doesn't allow her further to live the life of her own. One day she finds some of her friends mocking at her. They want her to stop behaving like a child and should get married. Mary gets shocked about the reaction of her friends and then she finally decides to get married as soon as possible. She finally meets Dick Turner, who is also a British emigrant and is a farmer. Mary who was also from the veld finds it very difficult to go back to such an atmosphere from where she has come out some years before. This time the situation is different and she motivated herself that she will not face her childhood memories at all and it will be a new beginning in her life. They got married and then moved towards the veld. Her life in town and her life in the farm became two contrasting things. She becomes dependent on her husband and is without any friend or any social connection. Her love for her is devoid of true love. Her relation with her servants and the workers in the farm is also abominable. She proves a true racist and fires her native servants' one after the other.

Mary joins her husband in his fields and forgets the city life. She had never imagined this type of life. Mary and Dick are totally opposite to each other in their nature and way of life, Mary loves to live in city as an independent but Dick loves to work in his farms. As the time passes Mary realises that she can't escape from this life and has to live like other people. This marriage seems to be a failure for her for beyond her imagination. Dick also finds nothing reliable and lovable in this marriage

and there develops cold feet in their relation. Mary's false pride didn't allow her to mix with anybody especially with her neighbours Mr and Mrs Charlie Slatter, who most of the times tried to have friendship with her, but she didn't allow it to happen. She was disillusioned with her life with Dick that made her unsocial. All this resulted in deterioration of her mental and social condition. Once she attempted to escape from this life and tried to return to her normal life before her marriage in the city but the society didn't accept her and was drawn back by Dick on the farms. Society has always played a role in shaping and reshaping the life of Mary, with the passage of time Mary became used to such conditions. When Mary returned back from an escape Dick got an attack of malaria. She took due care of him and also of the fields. She proved to be stricter than any other white and treats the natives (blacks) harshly. She even strikes a native with a whip, for her they are hardly human beings. She wants Dick to follow the same method of doing the work. She proved harsh to the house servants and as a result no servant stayed further with them. Then finally the field worker whom she whipped in the fields came to work in the house. His name was Moses and became the new servant in the Turner's house. Mary's attitude towards blacks and the fear of black's particularly of Moses makes her more aggressive and sharper towards blacks. Her fear of Moses brings change in her behaviour and she treats him like a human otherwise her attitude towards natives was rude. This behaviour of Mary towards the blacks proves fatal for her and is finally murdered by Moses. It is the revenge that Moses took for being rude and harsh to the natives.

It is the murder of a white master by a black servant. The entire novel tells the story how all this happen. The novel is set in South Africa between 1940-1950 as the exact date is not given. The rule in Africa is strict Apartheid. Mary a white lady works

as a secretary in the city all alone and quite happy in her life. She doesn't like company of men and spends most of her time in movies, enjoying her own way of life without the interference of any body. The novel is written in the extended form of mental, social, financial flashbacks in the lives of South African white farmers Mary and Dick Turner. They throughout their lives struggle to make their living. The novel opens describing the circumstances after the death of Mary Turner murdered by her black servant namely Moses. The investigation about the murder is carried out by a police inspector Denham. The other members' presents on the spot were Charlie Slatter, Turner's neighbour and newly appointed farm assistant manager Tony Martson. The rest of the novel focuses on the Mary and Dick Turner's life, their feelings and also on their experiences set in some years before Mary's death. The protagonist of the novel *The Grass is Singing*, Mary Turner falls the victim of this class conscious society. The opening of the novel is with a newspaper heading as:

Murder Mystery, Mary Turner, wife of Richard Turner, a farmer at Ngesi, was found murdered on the front verandah of their homestead yesterday morning. The houseboy, who has been arrested, has confessed to the crime. No motive has been discovered. It is thought he was in search of valuables. (9)

Lessing is a humanist writer and her works present the true reality of British society. Her focus in this novel was to point out the humanist and common issues and imbued those with political issues. The hatred towards blacks is common to all whites as stated by Mercy J as, "The main character Mary's extreme hatred for the black African characters could be defined as psychological hopelessness as she has been

infused with racist notions. The inferiority of the black characters and the notion of white supremacy have been instilled in her psyche by the other white racist members of the society” (Mercy 119). This humanist concern of writer has also been stated by Mercy Famila in her research paper “Humanisim in Dorris Lessing’s Novels: An Overview”, as, “The novelist's function has always been to know human nature and to convey to the mankind in fictional terms the most thorough knowledge of human nature and the happiest delineation of its varieties” (Famila 2).

Lessing has always proved a realist writer for the cause of a society. She lived at that time of the world, which was governed by strict rules of social standards and where class and social standings were of immense importance. The main proponents of class struggle are Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. They concentrated much of their work to fight for the class differences between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. Lessing, throughout her fiction had shown this class difference and the struggle between these classes. In a research paper by Aditya Kumar Panda gives the Marxist view of literature and literary text as, “Marxism, literature belongs to the superstructure which is a product of the base realities. Marxist approach relates literary text to the society, to the history and cultural and political systems in which it is created. It does not consider a literary text, devoid of its writer and the influences on the writer. A writer is a product of his own age which is itself a product of many ages (Panda 2015). The true literature depicts its social, political and cultural aspects through that piece of literature. Terry Eagleton, the most influential Marxist states it as, “the social mentality of an age is conditioned by that age's social relations. This is nowhere quite as evident as in the history of art and literature” (Eagleton 5). Lessing

has always put the social and political issues of her times in her writings and is visible through her characters that are at one or the hand struggling to survive.

The novel shows the social, political and psychological turmoil of its characters and is realistic in its nature. Lessing adopted a conflicting perspective to look at this world as a place where class division and antagonism determine society's every activity. The critics write about her that she had faced all this in her own life, "an expert in unsettlement" (Sage, 11). She strongly believed in a classless society. She believed that in South Africa, the Whites have controlled the Blacks (Natives). She was always against this class struggle and believed in full fledged classless society. *The Grass is Singing* depicts the class struggle and the consequences of the class struggle on its characters. Mary Turner depicts as a ruling white class who treats blacks like dirt. Lessing's theory of writing deals with the assumption that the capitals in the society have always been exploiting the lower labour class and thus control the economy and the society as well. Dick and Mary Turner are very poor beings belonging to white race in South Africa, but their supremacy on blacks is quite visible because being so poor they still have a black servant to do their odd jobs. Lessing comments, "Presently an elderly native brought in the tray, and put it on the table. This is the new missus, said Dick to him. This is Samson, Mary, the old boy kept his eyes on the ground and said, Good morning missus, and then he added politely to Dick as if this was expected of him, very nice, very nice boss" (57). This shows the hypocrisy of the whites. Lessing was against this cruelty of class barrier and portrayed her novels in order to make the mass conscious about the results of this injustice. Her works are deeply autobiographical in nature and this autobiographical element of Lessing is clear by the statement of Celine as:

Lessing is a product of the British colonial system. From the day of her birth in Kermanshah in 1919, to the day she left Southern Rhodesia in 1949, she has experienced the stifling influence of colonialism, in its worst forms. She detested it and wanted a way out of it. She found the philosophy of Marxism most appealing because it promised total liberation for the colonial situation, both personal and social and even international. (Celine 38-39)

Her fiction emerges out her personal memories and her membership of the politics and at the same time her concern about social issues. She got banned from visiting to Rhodesia and Africa because she was totally against the white rule in both the countries. She was only allowed after their independence of them from the brutal British rule. Elena et.al in a research paper on Doris Lessing states it as:

After seven-year absence, Lessing returned to Southern Rhodesia in 1956, in order to revisit the country of her childhood. at the end of her trip-during which she had been under constant surveillance by the political police- her presence was declared undesirable in both Southern Rhodesia and South Africa because of her political views. (Elena, et al 23)

She wants to convey that how she was treated by the people of her own race just only because she supports the people of other race who were treated not less than animals. She works for the betterment of common man transcending race, region and religion.

The novel is about the clash between the cultures because of inequality between the humans of two different races where one neglects the other and becomes the cause of gross injustice, inequality and the struggle for independence. Lessing is a prominent figure in the world of literature to support Marxist Philosophy. E. Celine in the research work entitled “Marxism in the novels of Doris Lessing” states it as:

Lessing was attracted to Marxism due to various reasons. The existence of double standards in the colony, the oppression of the black by the white and the self imprisonment of the whites under the code of white superiority are some of the factors that compelled her to search for a remedy and she found Marxism as a highly promising philosophy designed to eradicate the ills of the world. (Celine 36)

Many critics have rightly labelled her as a “Marxist”, because of the evolution of her ideas. A critic namely Ruth Whittaker comments like, “Like a highly sensitive cosmic seismograph, she has a striking ability to detect cultural shifts in the universal consciousness before they actually manifest. This makes her work prophetic” (Whittaker 3). Lessing has written in her autobiographical work, *Going Home*, that the Rhodesian Communist party attracted her not as an interested person in politics, only to fulfil her duty and responsibility towards the society. She states it as:

Communism was a great, marvelous vision which was much bigger than merely eliminating poverty and redistributing wealth and that sort of thing. It was a vision of a society where every individual was immensely important, where there was no emphasis on colour, class, or creed, there was no hurting each other. Every person had a chance, and

the right to develop himself. This was the dream, and it's why people are socialists, why, I was. (Lessing, *Going Home* 5)

Lessing tried her best to remain firm and strong towards her support for the up rise of the working class. She faced negative criticism from her society but still remained firm. In *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx states the role of a communist and a communistic society as:

When, in the course of development, class distinctions have disappeared, and all production has been concentrated in the hands of a vast association of the whole nation, the public power will lose its political character. Political power, properly so called, is merely the organised power of one class for oppressing another . . . In place of the old bourgeois society, with its classes and class antagonisms, we shall have an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all. (22)

Lessing as a writer prefers to write about the reality instead of creating some imaginary world. She has been always against the ill or inhuman treatment of whites to their black servants. They believe that if blacks were educated, they get spoiled. The whites are and will always remain superior to blacks. They were afraid of the natives and can go for any brutal activity as for whites; they are savages and the same is the opinion of Mary. She didn't like natives as she had been taught from her childhood and also grown up in the environment where natives were treated as in humans and nasty that can harm the whites. She comments, "In her childhood she had been forbidden to walk out alone, and when she had asked why, she had been told in

the furtive lowered but matter-of-fact voice she associated with her mother, that they were nasty and might do horrible things to her” (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 59). Lessing has always said that she listens that what is going on all around and then finally records those events in her writing. She has shown the brutalities of white colonisers on the natives who ill treats them both in the farms and in the houses as well. Celine explains this brutality of individuals as:

The natives were brutally removed from the land and they were bought as hired labourers. They were treated as uncivilized brutes and were subjected to physical and psychological brutalities. Lessing has witnessed these in her colonial country. The ill-treatment of the black by the white finds ample reference in her works. The very first novel *The Grass is singing* expresses this painful reality. (Celine 12)

Lessing in her works records the brutalities of individuals on the basis of colour. People on the basis of colour discriminate each other. In her autobiographical work *Under My Skin*, she comments her duty as a writer is free to choose her subject for writing. She comments:

I was able to be freer than most because I am a writer, with the psychological make-up of a writer that sets you at a distance from what you are writing about. The whole process of writing is a setting at a distance. That is the value of it- to the writer, and to the people who read the results of this process, which takes the raw, the individual, the uncriticized, the unexamined, into the realm of the general. (Lessing, *Under My Skin* 397)

The Grass is Singing is a story of her personal experiences and the novel is the whirlwind of a class struggle in South Africa where the whites didn't accept blacks as humans and most of the times humiliate them in one or the other way. Mary Turner an example of class struggle finally meets her doom because of the injustice done towards the natives. Mary didn't accept the blacks as humans, not equal to them. The laws were also rigid for the blacks, "one could not put a black man close to a white woman, even though she were dead, and murdered by him", (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 15).

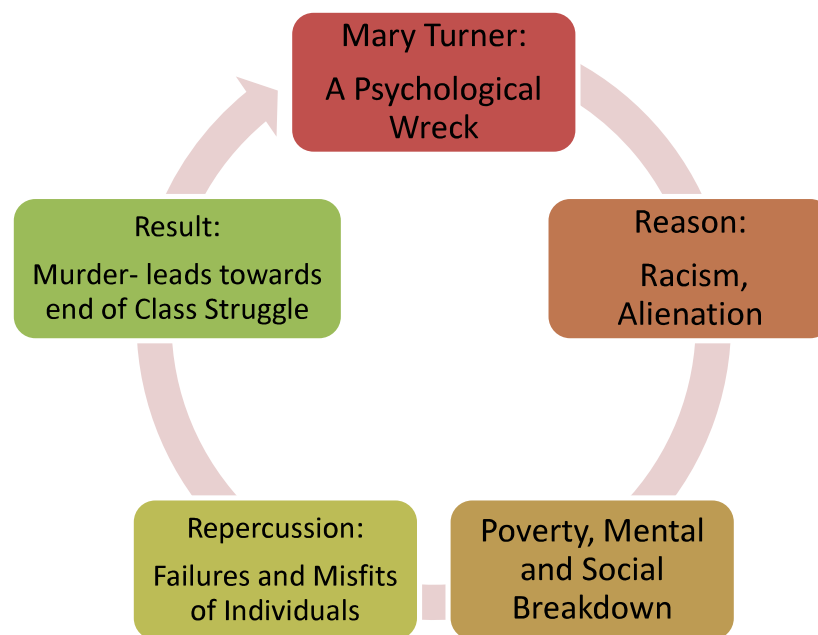


Fig. 2.1 : Mary Turner and White Supremacy

This shows the height of cruelty by whites to blacks. Mary Turner has served as an epitome of this inequality of the people because of the discrimination based on colour. She always ill treats the blacks and can't bear their presence even in her home as servants and thus kicks them out of their job very often. The old Samson was blamed of stealing and was kicked off from his job without any explanation:

She knew there had been enough raisins put out for the pudding, but when they came to eat it, there were hardly any. And the boy denied stealing them. . . So Samson, who earned a pound a month, was docked two shillings. He accepted the information with a shut sullen face, saying nothing to her, but appealing to Dick, who told him that he was to take orders from Mary. (64)

All the whites treat blacks like animals but at some occasions they have affection for them. Dick had some feelings for the old Samson but at the same time uses the word 'nigger' to describe him. When the old man (Samson) left Turner's house, Dick felt sorry for him only because he has served him for several years when he was not even married. But Mary felt it very bad that any white person should feel bad for a black. She didn't accept this gesture of her husband. Her expressions as shown by the narrator are:

Mary watched the farewell scene that took place on the back steps from the doorway. She was filled with wonder, and even repulsion. Dick was really sorry to see the end of this nigger! She could not understand any white person feeling anything personal about a native; it made Dick seem really horrible to her. (65)

On the one side Mary was quite happy to throw the black out of her house but at the same time hated Dick for his feelings for blacks. In 1848, Karl Marx and Engels published their combined work, *The Communist Manifesto* where their chief concern was to dissolve the capitalism that makes the exploitation of workers. These workers were exploited and asked them to rise against this class consciousness and can only be

achieved by revolutionary struggle. The working class has to rise against the ruling class and establish a purely communistic society. The communistic society will abolish the private ownership and all its beings will be treated equally. *The Communist Manifesto* explains this class struggle as:

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Free man and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journey man, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes. (Marx, Engels 5)

Marx believes that the path a society follows has been same since the beginning of the time. Every society is based on a class defined by means of its production and establishing a communist society can eliminate all these inequalities from the society. The same concern is of Lessing who wants to abolish this class struggle and to establish a communistic society where every human being is equal otherwise it may lead to disastrous consequences as can be seen in the novel *The Grass is Singing*. Lessing being a white still hates the white rule in Africa because of its inequality and injustice to the natives. This rule of white colonials has badly haunted her from her childhood. In her book titled *Elements of literature*, Lessing wrote that, "It is not merely a question of preventing evil, but of strengthening a vision of a good which may defeat the evil" (Lessing, *Elements of literature* 1146). Her vision of life is very clear and her writing is influenced by the common people and has

a direct effect on the readers. She in her book *The Small Personal Voice*, talks about, “The novelist talks, as an individual to individuals, in a small personal voice” (Lessing, *The Small Personal Voice* 4-5). Lessing’s firm belief in Marxist philosophy lead her to work for the cause of the oppressed people of the society. It is the duty of writer to portray the reality through his/her art of writing. The Marxist approach to literature can be understood by this statement by Panda in his research work as:

Literary texts are woven around the experience of the human who exists and the existence of many things which human perceives. Our living world can be compartmentalized as society, history, culture, and politics under one big unstable compartment called time. And no literary text and writer can by-pass any of these compartments. This is what a Marxist approach does and it is relevant today and will be relevant tomorrow also. (Panda 2015)

One of the darkest times in the history of Africa was Apartheid. It not only hampered the African prosperity but also stirred the conscience of Africans. Lessing was actively involved for the cause of Africans. Blacks were very much oppressed by whites during Apartheid and this oppression is shown in her works. She in her work *Going Home* wrote about the Africa and the cruel treatment they get in the hands of British: “Africa belongs to Africans . . . The sooner they take it back, the better” (Lessing, *Going Home* 11). In these lines she openly challenges the British rule in Africa who considered Africa as their personal property and ill treated its peoples, for they are not less than savages. She tried all her best to capture the predicaments of the blacks and the Europeans dirty intention of obliterating their happy lives. She always

fought for the poor natives and was even against her white race to have equality between the people. In her book *Under my Skin* she states: “Again we paid them much more than the pitiful customary wage and again white housewives arrived reproachfully or ferociously to say we were spoiling the natives” (241-242). Apartheid came to an end in 1994 and the history of Africa changed.

Lessing’s work portrayed the clear pictures of colonial tribulations especially towards Africans. *The Grass is Singing* is a piece of work by Lessing that focuses on the politics of race, conflicting relations between blacks and whites, relation between master and servant and the use of psychoanalytical status of its characters. In a research paper by Rohini Jha, she finds that Doris Lessing has represented her time through her works. She says, “I think she wrote reality of the real society with the help of imaginary characters. Doris Lessing has presented a true example of taking benefits from literature and making literature a revolutionary weapon to dig the ugly soiled maladies of the society” (Jha 124). Mary in the novel has proved an exact example of this Apartheid, colour discrimination etc. Mary’s character has been emerged from the result of the interaction between her social and personal forces and shaped her. It marked a prominent picture on her mind and her behaviour towards blacks was according to that mental setup. She never treated them equal. She shouted on them even on the meagre issues as, “That night, at supper, he laid the table badly, and she flew at him, in a frenzy of annoyance, while Dick sat and watched her uneasily. When the native had gone out, he said: ‘You have to take easy, you know, with a new boy.’ ‘But I told him! If I have told him once I have told him fifty times!’”(67).

This shows the cruelty of whites to blacks. If white tells anything to blacks, the blacks have to follow that whole heartedly. Mary's attitude was very harsh towards blacks. "The next day at lunch, the servant dropped a plate through nervousness, and she dismissed him at once . . . She was consumed with hatred" (68). The Turner's changed their servants like clothes, everyday a new servant was found in the house but the servant could hardly sustain the behaviour of Mary Turner. The white laws are also biased that if a native works in a house of white he would never meet his eyes because they are superior to blacks. But Mary was so harsh that she found it also a dishonest nature of a native, "It made her angry that he would never meet her eyes. She didn't know it was part of the native code of politeness not to look a superior in the face; she thought it was merely further evidence of their shifty and dishonest nature" (68). The aim of Lessing was to bring a change in the society where the people are ill treated because of the difference in colour. Terry Eagleton states great art as, "All great art is socially progressive in the sense that . . . it realizes the vital 'world-historical' forces of an epoch which makes for change and growth" (Eagleton, 27). Per Wastberg speaks of Lessing's writing as, "She often begins by observing her characters from within and then moving outside them, to strip them of their illusions from an objective distance" (Nobel Foundation 2007). He further says in the Nobel Prize award ceremony that, "She has given voice to the silent and the refugees and homeless of our century from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe" (Nobel Foundation 2007). This effort by Lessing shows that she worked for the people who really suffered and to bring the reality of the people in front of the world not to have sympathy for natives but to work to solve their problems. This inequality on the basis of race is dominant in Mary Turner; she made discrimination between blacks and whites. Her treatment to blacks is not acceptable,

for her they are insignificant and even forget to feed them at times. “She never thought of natives as people who had to eat or sleep: they were either there, or they were not, and what their lives were when they were out of her sight she had never paused to think” (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 74). Mostly the whites are alike. The blacks work hard for them but still they didn’t recognise their dignity of labour as:

Whenever two or more farmers are gathered together, it is decreed that they should discuss nothing but the shortcomings and deficiencies of their natives. They talk about their labourers with a persistent irritation sounding in their voices: individual natives they might like, but as a genus, they loathe them to the point of neurosis . . . They have no idea of the dignity of labour, no idea of improving themselves by hard work.

(Lessing 76)

Mary’s discrimination is at its height, the narrator comments, “She took the keys off the hook in the wardrobe, they were put there so the native servant should not know where they were and take himself to the store to steal when she was not looking” (95). So, the concern of the writer is to eradicate this menace from the society and develop a harmonious growth of personality.

Lyer in his article “The Unexplored Universe of Doris Lessing” studies Lessing from various perspectives. She called her a realist writer whose chief concern was to bring change in the society. She says, “Lessing implied that it was realism that held the key to effect the social change she hoped to bring through her writings” (Lyer 66). Another critic namely Janik accesses her writing as, “How enthusiastic a reader or critic may be about any one of Lessing’s novel may have to do with her or his

preference for these realistic, modernist, or visionary modes, for the personal and social issues they address come out of the same humanistic sensibility” (Janik 203).

From the above references it can be seen that Lessing is well considered as a realistic writer discussing the issues of human beings. She reflects people’s experiences in their real life as witnessed by being a part of that society. She always tried to project the issues of class conflict through her works in order to develop a collective consciousness of the people towards the problems of these societies. She has always fought for the equality between the people of different races. She leaves her children from her first marriage in order to give them in a better place totally free from this racism which has a lifelong effect on her mind, she further writes, “I explained to them [her children] that they would understand later why I had left. I was going to change this ugly world; they would live in a beautiful and perfect world where there would be no race hatred, injustice, and so forth (Lessing, *Under my Skin* 262). The novel *The Grass is Singing* is an apt example of class struggle in Africa. Buyu in her research work argues about the intention of Lessing in her writing as:

The conflict between the society and the individual can be noticed from the beginning of the novel. First of all, it is essential to comprehend the features of the society in South Africa. It is a white coloniser society in which there is such a great discrimination against the African people that the English do not accept these black people as human beings and all their laws are set up according to this dogma. (Buyu 24)

Lessing tried to explore every aspect through this novel to eradicate this menace particularly from African society and in general from the whole world by

making literature as a weapon. She writes, “But not a bee ever went near his hives; perhaps because they were African bees, and did not like hives made after an English pattern” (87). Lessing presents Mary treating the natives badly and never gave these natives their rights. If she does this, she will lose control over them. Mary was rude to natives in the home but when Dick had an attack of malaria, she took over the fields and proved much crueller to them than before. She even didn’t allow wiping out their sweat without her permission:

When one of the men paused for a moment in his work to rest, or to wipe the running sweat from his eyes, she waited one minute by her watch, and then called sharply to him to begin again . . . when they stopped without permission, to straighten their backs and wipe off the sweat, she kept them at it until sundown, and went back to the house satisfied with herself, not even tired. (112)

At the end of the day Mary feels proud as a boss of about more than 80 natives. She has been so rude to the natives that she cuts off their wages that they have earned after such hardships and struggle, “and, really, she liked it. The sensation of being boss over perhaps eighty black workers gave her new confidence; it was a good feeling, keeping them under her will, making them do as she wanted”(113). The cost of a black servant was only five pounds and the contract was for one year. This shows the height of inequality and injustice to blacks. They work like animals and were meagrely paid. The whites treat the natives as their own property. The other white character represented by Lessing to show the white supremacy is Charlie Slatter, a land owner who also ill treats the blacks and encourages other whites to treat their servants badly

otherwise they will ask for their rights. If it happens they would lose all power and control over them. The narrator states, “and above all he was hard with his farm labourers . . . you shall not mind killing if it is necessary. He had once killed a native in a fit of anger” (14). He likes blacks to some extent when: “Charlie, who liked his natives either one or the other: properly dressed according to their station, or in loincloths. He could not bear the half-civilized native” (15). Lessing wants to encourage the natives to ask for their rights and their equal status. Iyer says: “Lessing implied that it was realism that held the key to effect the social change she hoped to bring through her writings” (Iyer 66). When once Mary talks to a native in less authoritarian voice, Charlie an epitome of white supremacy becomes very angry because his motive is to treat the natives cruelly otherwise their attitude, submission and their behaviour towards their masters will change. They should always be servants and the whites should always rule them, “At the same time they held a gleam of secret satisfaction that sent the blood to Charlie’s head. “Why don’t you get rid of him? Why do you let him speak to you like that?” (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 204). Some of the whites believe that these natives should not be given education; it would make them aware of their social and political rights which may lead to disastrous consequences and may cause disturbance between the laws between blacks and whites. When Mary listens to Moses (native) talking in English, she gets annoyed because she feels that if he knows English, she has to treat him in a better way as compared to other natives. For whites the blacks should be taught the dignity of the labour and their obedience to white master as, ““Mission boy” and he replied. “The only decent one I’ve ever had”. Like most Africans, Dick did not like mission boys, they “Knew too

much.” And in any case they should not be taught to read and write: they should be taught the dignity of labour and general usefulness to the white man (177).

This slave-master relationship between black and white should be maintained in order to make their lives happier and their labour cheaper and easier. Mercy Famila’s view of Lessing to reform the society can be understood by:

Among twentieth century English novelists, Doris Lessing is intensely committed to active persuasion to reform society. She talks of the "sense of duty" that makes her join organizations and defends her own support of Communism. Her sense of social responsibility leads her to search for her values and for the literary material among the working classes in London . . . It clearly shows that Doris Lessing is one of those novelists who are ready to 'stand with the unfortunate'. (Famila 3)

Mary’s hatred towards blacks was in its epitome. She even hated the children who were mostly seven to eight years of the age. For her they are none less than animals, “She hated their half- naked, thick-muscled black bodies stooping in the mindless rhythm of their work. She hated their sullenness, their averted eyes when they spoke to her, their veiled insolence: and she hated more than anything, with a violent physical repulsion, the heavy smell that came from them, a hot, sour animal smell (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 115). The laws also allow them to treat the blacks as they like, “They- the law-makers and the Civil Service- who interfered with the natural right of a white farmer to treat his labour as he pleased” (120). Moreover Lessing has shown the examples of the people who make difference only because of colour, being an active

member of the Communist party, she finds it her primary concern to go against her own race and work for the cause of a oppressed race of native Africans in order to bring a massive change in the society. She dreamt of a classless society irrespective of any race or region. Lessing provided examples of the racists and their unjust attitudes towards the natives in order to bring a social change. Mary appears to be more racist than any other white who also at times have proven racists. Her racist acts have been shown through various examples, one more such example is: “Then came a native to the back door, asking for work. He wanted seventeen shillings a month. She beat him down by two, feeling pleased with herself because of her victory over him” (70).

From her behaviour and attitude it is clear that how she abuses the native by giving him less than the money that he deserves. Lessing in her book *Under My Skin* (1994) says that British people were afraid of these natives because they can commit crimes without being fear of get to be punished. The native’s attitude towards his punishment is: “I have done wrong, and I know it,’ he might say, ‘therefore let me be punished.’ Well, it was the tradition to face punishment, and really there was something rather fine about it” (Lessing, *Under My Skin* 6). In the novel *The Grass is Singing*, the white people believe that the natives are competent of committing any kind of crime. So when they heard about the murder of Mary Turner by the hands of her native servant, it was a normal thing for them. The behaviour of the whites forces the native to commit crimes and same thing happened in Mary Turner’s case. Her hatred and false pride became the cause of her doom.

Both Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in their lives have mainly concentrated on the class injustice between the working and ruling classes which they termed as

Proletariat and Bourgeoisie. Lessing followed the same philosophy and wrote about this class struggle in most of her fiction- novels and short stories. Through her writing she has given voice to the voiceless and made them to revolt against the harsh realities of their societies. Throughout this novel, the struggle of individuals is present. This struggle defined by Terry Eagleton in his book entitled *Marxism and Literary Criticism* as:

Marxism is a scientific theory of human societies and of the practice of transforming them; and what that means, rather more concretely, is that the narrative Marxism has to deliver is the story of the struggles of men and women to free themselves from certain forms of exploitation and oppression. (Eagleton, Xii)

Mary becomes completely dependent on Moses but her pride didn't allow her to accept it and treats Moses as dirt. She in simpler way cannot abide these blacks. Finally Moses kills Mary. It is a sort of revolt that the blacks want for their oppression. It is not only representing Moses but the whole black race that wants to revolt against this oppression. Lessing's motif behind this negative act of the native is to show some preconceptions could be dangerous for both the servant and the master. Lessing has observed all this in firsthand experience being the member of that particular society. The reaction of people on Mary's death seems to be normal:

People all over the country must have glanced at the paragraph with its sensational heading and felt a little spurt of anger mingled with what was almost satisfaction, as if some belief had been confirmed, as if something had happened which could only have been expected. When

natives steal, murder or rape, that is the feeling white people have (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 1).

Lessing unlike most of the writers doesn't hesitate in revealing the ruthlessness, self interest, greed, moral turpitude and cruelty of British settlers in Africa. These British people depend on these Africans to clean their dirt. Moses proves an example of revenge that the natives have against white because of the class betrayal. This class struggle has such an impact that even in the sorrow or the tragedy of a white, the black can't touch him whatever his status may be. It is clear from this quotation:

Dick Turner comes out of the bush by the house with two whining dogs at his heels. He was off his head, talking crazily to himself, wandering in and out of the bush with his hands full of leaves and earth. They let him be, while keeping an eye on him, for he was a white man, though mad, and black men, even when policemen, do not lay hands on white flesh (12).

The fate that Turners experience is because of their own attitude and behaviour towards the natives by not treating them humans. Buyu explains the situation as, "The reader can easily comprehend that in such a society, the individual cannot survive if he/she wishes to live according to his/her interests. This is the chief flaw in the tragedy of the Turners, especially for Mary Turner, who refuses the demands of the collective, which causes her to suffer from alienation, isolation and an inevitable madness that comes out as a result" (Buyu 25-26).

Most of the works of Lessing is autobiographical having the influences of her own traumatic life. She has moved from one place to another in order to settle down and lead an undisturbed life. All this has brought variation in the themes of her writing career. Mary's life is full of psychological problems and had accompanied her towards the end of her life. Literature and psychoanalytical concepts are associated with each other. Carl Jung in his *Collected Works of CG Jung* defines the relation between art and psychology as:

Analytical psychology is seen as different from medical psychology. The latter must be discarded when examining a work of art, for a work of art is not a disease, and requires a different analytical approach. Two basic types of art are identified and some criteria provided for differentiating between them. The first (introverted) is the result of the artist's assertion of his own conscious aims upon his material; the second (extraverted) is characterized by the artist's complete identification with his work. (Jung 65)

Through dreams, the author expresses unconscious desires that he/she wants to bring out to the whole world. In a masters dissertation Gul Buyu defines the relation between literature and psychology as:

Literature encompasses numerous branches such as anthropology, psychology, sociology, philosophy and politics. Yet the most remarkable relations can be established between literature and psychology. The mystery in the nature of the human being has been, thus, the main concern of most writers due to the fact that this has great

significance in the continuation of life and the world in general. (Buyu
1)

When Mary is introduced as a city girl she doesn't have any psychological problem and is happy in her own world, living all alone, an independent life, "She was very happy. She seemed born for typing and shorthand and book-keeping and the comfortable routine of an office. She liked things to happen safely one after another in a pattern, and she liked particularly, the friendly impersonality of it. By the time she was twenty, she had a good job, her own friends, a niche in the town" (Lessing 35). Her independence was the reason behind her happy and cheerful life: "Till she was twenty-five nothing happened to break the smooth and comfortable life she ledShe was very happy: that was perhaps her only positive quality, for there was nothing else distinctive about her, though at twenty-five she was at her prettiest" (33). The society doesn't allow her to be alone. Her happiness was over when she herself heard her friends talking about her. The people were very close to her and she has full faith upon them. They talked about her sense of dressing, living alone etc. The narrator says that:

She was alone; and heard people talking in low voices, and caught her own name. She rose to go inside and declare herself: it was typical of her that her first thought was, how unpleasant it would be for her friends to know she had overheard. Then she sank down again, and waited for a suitable moment to pretend she had just come in from the garden. (40)

Mary was shocked with the behaviour of her friends. She never thought that her friends would make her a point of discussion. She wanted to live life as she likes beautiful, young, and her friends love her sincerely. This can be understood by these lines, “She was friend to half the town. And in the evening she always went to sundowner parties that prolonged themselves till midnight, or danced, or went to the pictures” (38).

Sigmund Freud in his *Structural Theory* has divided personality into Id, Ego and Superego respectively. Myles in her research paper states: “ At the same time agglomerating around abnormal consciousness, fragmentation, self division, breakdown and subjective distortions of perception and the implicit questions about the external perspective of events”(Myles 25). Mary’s social circle around her whom she treat her close friends form the superego. It had an adverse effect on her when she found them talking on her and her way of dressing. She has been realised for the first time that how much she differs from the society she live in. The society wants her to change her way of life, at the age of thirty she lives like a girl in her early teens. The conversation of her friends about her is:

She’s not fifteen any longer: it is ridiculous! Someone should tell her about her clothes”. “How old is she?” “Must be well over thirty. She has been going strong for years. She was working long before I began working, and that was a good twelve years ago”. “Why doesn’t she marry? She must have had plenty of chances. There was a dry chuckle. ‘I don’t think so. My husband was keen on her himself once, but he

thinks she will never marry. She just isn't like that, isn't like that at all.

Something missing somewhere'. (40)

All this shows that whatever the society may be civilized or uncivilized the role of woman is fixed in it.

Carl Jung in his book *Collected Works of CG Jung*, makes it clear that it is the collective unconsciousness that motivates the writer to write down the repressed thoughts. It is stated as, "The reasons for approaching literature from the viewpoint of analytical psychology and the role of the human psyche in both disciplines are outlined. Psychology, a study of psychic processes, can be applied to the study of literature, for the human psyche is the womb of all the arts and sciences" (84-85). Mary's friends believe that being at the age of thirty she should marry anybody who comes to her. Green as a critic states: "Lessing's focus on the individual in its relation with the collective" (Green76). This critical observation on Lessing shows that how she has shown the relation between an individual's personal life and the society's obligations for an individual and how it has its impact on the psychological setup of an individual.

The other segment is ego which Mary becomes conscious of after the realisation by her friends. She afterwards starts working more and more in order to make herself busy in work but her mind doesn't allow her and then she starts to bring change in her life to obey the society. She changes everything from her hairstyle to her clothes and starts to think for marriage which hardly means anything important in her life and her life changes accordingly. Her marriage was just a formality which she embraces only for the society. It was void of love. Hardy's view about marriage that

fits best to Mary: "Marriage should be primarily for the happiness of the parties themselves rather than for any abstract notion of good of the community" (Sage 25). But Mary's was totally opposite case. All this bring a radical change in her life which was going smooth before all these happenings. All this triggers Mary's psychological problems. In her personality arises two types of conflicts; external and internal. The conflict between her and her husband Dick is the result of this external conflict. They both having feuds to one another that lead towards the failure of their marriage. The conflict can be seen as:

So Samson, who earned a pound a month, was docked two shillings. He accepted the information with a shut sullen face, saying nothing to her.....Mary began to question him closely as to why he was needed; but Dick touched her arm warningly and shook his head. "Why shouldn't I ask him?" she demanded. "He's lying, isn't he?" "Of course he's lying," said Dick irritably. "Of course. That is not the point. You can't keep him against his will. (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 64-65)

They are totally different to each other in their dreams, lifestyles, imagination and their future. Their marriage was an accident and not out of love. It was the need for them to get married. Their treatment to the servants is also conflicting like, "Listen to me," said Dick curtly. "I work hard enough, don't I? All day I am down on the lands with these lazy black savages, fighting them to get some work out of them. You know that. I won't come back home to this damned fight, fight, fight in the house. Do you understand? I will not have it. And you should learn sense" (78). Mary loves to live in the city while Dick he loves his lands and want to spend his whole life there.

As time passes to live in the farms became difficult for her starts having a psychological effect on her because the life she has imagined was totally different from it. Buyu (2007) in her master's thesis states this condition as: "Likewise, *The Grass is Singing* displays the suffering of an individual in a world which she finds hard to fit in" (Buyu 22). In his research paper on Lessing, V. Mikluc defines the novel in psycho-analytical perspective as:

The Grass is Singing deals with later stages of the struggle between the social feeling and the animal feeling through an example of a maladjusted woman who forces herself to death by failing to find a sustainable balance between the two. The object of her desire is a black servant she wants to hate, and the way the story unravels points out that the devastating consequences of racial segregation affect everybody involved in the destructive system, no matter what their skin colour is. (Mikluc 211)

Lessing through her writing has altered the focus of readers from plot to the characters and plunged particularly into the unconscious of her protagonists by portraying out the darkest sides of their life. Mary always behaved in a capitalistic way to her servants and other people surrounding her. Her alienation because of her false pride adds more to it. Elena et al states, "It is important to see that the seeds of Mary Turner's eventual breakdown are shown years earlier, in her progressive alienation from herself. Her inability to handle the black the black servants-a male/female relationship, to which the tension of black/white roles is added" (Elena et al 27). It is very clear because of the contradiction between her present life and the life she wants

to live in. She only imagines the life in the town and plans to live in town along with Dick. The narrator states it as: “And she began to think, during those gray wastes of time, how it would be when Dick at last made some money and they could go and live in town again” (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 97). But Dick was totally of contradictory mentality. His life is only up to farms where he is the boss and didn't have to follow somebody's orders. But Mary dreams of her life as an independent in the town as it was before her marriage. Her feelings are represented as:

It was during those two hours of half-conscious that she allowed herself to dream about that beautiful lost time when she worked in an office... and lived as she pleased, before “ people made her get married.” That was how she put it to herself....Slowly, slowly, over weeks, she persuaded herself into the belief that she would only need to get into the train and go back into town for that lovely peaceful life, the life she was made for, to begin again. (97)

These contradictory mentalities of husband and wife became the cause of their psychological break down. Day after day Mary's psychic gets destroyed. Their marriage worsens day after day. Mary's condition also deteriorates after every passing day. Buyu in the research work explains the mental condition of Mary as, “However, day by day, their marriage gets worse and Mary finds herself living in a desert where she is suffering from extreme hot weather, which almost suffocates her, and this physical pain symbolises her struggle against her repressed memories which try to get out of her unconscious. Her biggest fear has been to become like her mother and ironically day by day she becomes so” (Buyu 34). She feels the same pain that her

mother has felt. Here Lessing compares her sufferings too collectively with whole female psyche. Mary while arguing with Dick notices these things as:

She was speaking in a new voice for her, a voice she had never used before in her life. It was taken direct from her mother when she had had those scenes over money with her father. It was not the voice of Mary, the individual, but the voice of the suffering female, who wanted to show her husband she just would not be treated like that. In a moment she would begin to cry, as her mother had cried on these occasions, in a kind of dignified, martyred rage (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 96).

The other reason behind their psychological problems is the failure in every work under taken by them especially by Dick and their life become miserable. Rowe on the psychological state of Mary Turner State, “nevertheless, the most important aspect of the novel is that it is psychological and it focuses on the crises of an individual who is caught up in contradictory feelings and desires” (Rowe14). Marriage has negative impact on Mary’s social and personal life. She has been the victim of the disastrous marriage of her parents and she escapes from it. The narrator states, “But all women became conscious, sooner or later, of that impalpable, but steel-strong pressure to get married, and Mary, who was not at all susceptible to atmosphere, or the things people imply, was brought face to face with it suddenly, and most unpleasantly” (*The Grass is Singing* 40). Mary’s marriage takes her back to her past. Dick’s failure takes her to her subconscious where she resembles with her mother. The life becomes a nightmare from which she can’t escape. She finds herself weak and couldn’t fight with

the circumstances and finally becomes trapped in loneliness that leads her towards depression.

After many years of her marriage, Mary passes many periods that have an adverse effect on her psyche. It happens because she is not willing to modify or even to change her life. We have seen Mary who loves to read books before marriage but after marriage she becomes so reluctant even to have a book in her hand. She was quite sociable and extrovert but after marriage she becomes unsocial and introvert, not willing even to communicate with anybody. She isolates from others and ceases her feelings to herself only and these repressed feelings subvert her psychological life. Her unsuccessful marriage, isolation and pessimistic attitude add more ingredients to her subvert psychic life. She was caught in a dark future. Buyu defines the whole chronology of the novel having a negative effect on Mary's psychology as, "The novel begins to tell the life of Mary in a chronological order focusing on her unhappy childhood, and then the happy days in town, her desperate marriage at the age of thirty, coming to the village as a result of her marriage to Dick, the broken illusions of both, Mary's brutal treatment towards the natives, the economic collapse of the couple" (Buyu 23)

It is shown by the narrator as, "She was letting everything slide, except what was forced on her attention. Her horizon had been narrowed to the house. The chickens began to die; she murmured something about disease; and then understood that she had forgotten to feed them for a week" (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 149). Being alone since from days now Mary has turned to be a psychological wreck. Her behaviour has been totally changed. She only wants to sleep in order to escape from

her life. Her life has become meaningless. This pessimism paves way to her depression. The meaninglessness in her life is clear by this passage by V. Mikluc as:

The noise of nature, i.e. eros, causes headaches and heaviness in her limbs. Hot, low, heavy sky and the hot, painful neck that is going to be broken by the end of her story are the images that make the pulsing noise even louder. Right before her death, Mary frantically runs to all the places that make coordinates of her unsuccessful journey through life. (Mikluc 212)

There are various factors behind it as has been shown earlier that her disastrous marriage is also one factor to it. The other factor is their poor economic stability, her incompatibility with her native servants, her hatred for natives and the presence and dominance of Moses became the cause of all her destruction. Moses became the main cause of her depression and destruction. This is shown by the narrator as, “She was tight and controlled in his presence; she kept him working as long as she could, relentless over every speck of dust and every misplaced glass or plate-that she noticed” (148). This internal and external conflicts in Mary are because of an individual’s obligations to the society. She is so occupied with her thoughts that she forgets each and every thing. The narrator states it:

Her mind, nine-tenths of the time, was a soft aching blank. She would begin a sentence and forget to finish it. Dick became accustomed to the way she would say three words, and then, her face becoming suddenly null and empty, lapse into silence. What she had been going to say had

gone clean out of her head. If he gently prompted her to continue, she looked up, not seeing him, and did not answer. (149)

Sometimes she talks to herself loudly and at the same time is afraid of her servant who has been her reason of this destruction as stated in these lines, “Once she was roused by a noise, and realized it was herself, talking out loud in the living room in a low angry voice. . . . She was afraid, jerked back into herself, shrinking from the vision of herself talking like a mad woman in the corner of the sofa” (149-150). The narrator further says about her depression in this way: “She laughed without knowing why” (199). She was such a psychological wreck that her servant helps her in dressing and this is caught by Tony Martson another Englishman. He gets very much annoyed. She is so much terrified of Moses that she can’t express her feelings to anybody. The fear of Moses leaves her restless. He is the reason behind her breakdown, narrator describes it as, “Will you go? shouted Tony. He could have killed this native: he wanted to take him by his throat and squeeze the life out of him” (188).

For psychologists, all this happens because of a conflict between Superego and Id which forced her to do the things beyond her own wishes and desires. The Ego was a referee between Mary’s wishes and the obligation by her society. And make her ego to sink down in many psychological problems which became the cause of her breakdown. Dick and Tony are aware of Mary’s situation. Dick at times afraid Mary’s such psychic condition. Tony calls such condition of Mary as: “Complete nervous breakdown” (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 184). It can be understood as, “Tony, witness of this scene, refrained from looking at Dick. He was grieved for them both. He had learned to like Dick very much; his feeling for him was sincere and personal.

As for Mary, while he was sorry for her, what could be said about a woman who simply wasn't there? "A case for a psychologist," he said again, trying to reassure himself" (184). In order to analyse a personality, psychologists have used two concepts- transference and free association. These two concepts are aptly applicable to judge the personality of Mary. Applying free association to make analysis of Mary's personality, it is not applicable to her because she had always repressed her feelings in front of what society demands to her. Change in personality is psychological effect of self and the philosophical function between a mind and the world. So the political system shapes and reshapes the personality of a person as stated:

The Jungian model of psychic growth through the accommodation of opposing drives is analogous to the dialectical paradigm. In this sense duality can be understood as both a psychological configuration within the self and a philosophical function defining the relationship between a mind and the world. (Elena et al 29)

The other concept is transference and is used to analyse her personality. It is applicable to Mary's psychic status as she transfers the relation of pain and miseries of her parents to her painful and miserable relationship with Dick: "Mary, with the memory of her own mother recurring more and more frequently, like an older, sardonic double of herself walking beside her, followed the course her upbringing made inevitable" (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 90). The narrator further state: "She identified herself with her mother, clinging to her most passionately and pityingly after all these years, understanding now something of what she had really felt and suffered" (135).

So, every incident becomes a catalyst in Mary's life to increase her alienation and anxiety: the poverty, the heat, her neighbours, their successive failures in their lands. She hates Dick for his failures and automatically hates herself. Fink in his book on Lacan and his *Mirror Stage Theory* has associated with the character of Mary. First of all when the child finds his own image in the mirror, then identifies it, like this child Mary fixes her image with that of a little girl which for time being is admired in the society. But in actual she a mature who should get married that is her actual image. The people around her make her realise her real image which she doesn't want to accept and is shocked. It becomes the cause of her psychological problems as she has been realised her own actual image with her true self which she had never recognised. This is shown as, "He suggested, since he could not afford to send her for a holiday, that she might go into town and stay with some of her friends. She appeared horrified. The thought of meeting people, and most particularly those people who had known her when she was young and happy, made her feel as if she were raw all over, her nerves exposed on shrinking surface" (133). Dreams reveal secrets and problems related to the personality of an individual. Janik, the critic defines the novel *The Grass is Singing* as: Mary feels a loss of her "proper" control as a white person and discomfort at her growing awareness of a sexual attraction to Moses, which is manifested in nightmares and in daytime bouts of anxiety and disorientation" (Janik 198). The other dream that makes her sacred of being alone when Mary imagines death of Dick and her isolation from the native. At the same time she feels happy on Dick's death but the sense of guilt indulges in her happiness. It is shown as, "In her dream the conviction grew that Dick was dead-that Dick was dead and that the black man was waiting next door for her coming. Slowly she sat up, disentangling her feet from the clinging

weight of the coat, trying to control her terror” (163). It is result of her conflicting personality. The political system of a place is directly related or directly influences the individuals of that society. Mary is one among such case who has been the victim of her own prejudice about the race. She becomes emotionally crippled. Elena et al defines the breakdown as, “Viewed in both individual self-division and social absurdity, chaos is first confronted as a result of the external world and then recognised as a consequence upon inner reality. In each case, violence, fragmentation, and self-division are indicative of a breakdown within the self, which is connected to relationships and social institutions” (Elena et al 25). This presence of contradictory feelings in a single person shows the signs of psychological imbalance in the individual’s personality. The above dream shows the native supporting Mary in the death of Dick. In another situation she finds the native taking her care. All these thoughts are contradictory.

After making the analysis of the novel, the researcher concludes that as a literary piece, *The Grass is Singing* has a close relationship with the social reality of the African society at the time of British rule. At the time when the novel was written class conscious was among the British people and influenced every aspect of human life. There was only one relation that is master-servant relation. It made one class oppressor and the other oppressed and thus consequences were very fatal. It affected its characters both socially and personally. It caused a struggle among its characters. In *The Grass is Singing*, Lessing’s perspectives had been offered by many critics, but the most important perspectives are Marxism and Psychoanalytical. These theories together offer a quite unique position of the novel. By the lenses of these two theories, Lessing exemplified totalitarian dystopia to bring out its effects on the individual

personally and socially. Marxist lays focus on disparity between the people on the bases of class, Psychoanalytical criticism addresses topic that are much more individualised. It is concerned with the individuals unconscious and how it manifests itself like in dreams, oppression and projection. These two theories offer separate perspectives but can also work together as shown in the novel *The Grass is Singing*. Marxism theory looks towards the perspectives as a whole while as the Psychoanalytical theory examines from the individual's perspective. Doris Lessing holds a specific place in the history of English Literature. She belongs to the category of writers who are the most fearless and frank. Her main themes vary from social, political and personal conflicts. Her literary art towards the readers presents a deep insight of its characters, their psyche and their emotional behaviour. Her characters first have the phase of self analysis, then their relation with other persons (interpersonal) and lastly their relation with society (social relations). She has exposed the meanness, hypocrisy and the double standard of the characters in her novels. Most of the characters found them-selves caged and lonely and finally leading to their social and mental breakdown and had portrayed the agony, pain, plight and sufferings of her characters denying them of their equal rights. The novel can be better understood by Diane Sherwood Smith's thesis entitled as "A Thematic Study of Doris Lessing's Children of Violence", comments, "In this novel racism is viewed as a debilitating compartmentalization of the mind that takes away Mary's mind and ultimately her life, and it leaves society paralyzed with an irrational fear and paranoia. What man will refuse to face consciously will haunt his unconscious, leaving him exiled from a land of joy and freedom, man's rightful domain" (Smith 4).

Lessing as a realistic writer never hesitated to jot down the reality of the cruel treatment to people on the base of colour or race, domination of one person on another. She had definitely dealt with themes as Marxism and Psychoanalysis. Whenever the reader reads her works, he/she feels like a true incident is happening in front of him/her. The reason behind it is that she has observed all this in her life, had faced the cruelties of colonialism, racism and apartheid. All this brings a positive variation in her themes. The novel suggests its readers try to eradicate all types of inequality among people because everyone has equal right to live. She has always focused to convey her views about the problems of a particular group of people by using her artistic taste and people to accept it by her creativity of mixing reality with fiction which was her motif. It lastly shows that how societies are responsible for the breakdown of a personality because of his/her own prejudice. Doris Lessing has made her religion to serve the people and work for the cause of the oppressed classes whether she may belong them or not. Through her writing she holds a mirror to the society and asks people how long they will leave oppressing people. She also asks them are they really ready to change or their conscious allows them to ill treat others only because there is colour bar. Jha's view about Doris Lessing is, "I think she wrote reality of the real society with the help of imaginary characters. Doris Lessing has presented a true example of taking benefits from literature and making literature a revolutionary weapon to dig the ugly soiled maladies of the society" (Jha 125). Freud in his book *Beyond the Pleasure* gives the role of person while framing their destiny as, "psycho-analysis has always taken the view that their fate is for the most part arranged by themselves and determined by early infantile influences" (Freud, *Beyond the Pleasure* 23). Mary Turner did the same for herself. She marries Dick not out of

love but out of desperation and thereafter leading towards her downfall and complete breakdown.

After a comparative analysis the novel *The Grass is Singing* in light of Marxist Philosophy and Psychoanalytical Theory, it is clear that Lessing has been a realistic novelist throughout her life. She followed the philosophy advocated by Karl Marx to fight the class struggle. According to Karl Marx literature is outcome of human experiences, their society, and culture. Lessing through her protagonist portrayed the class struggle and the evil effects of this class struggle in her society. Mary Turner proved to be a best example of white colonial rule in Africa. So, at last we can say that Lessing's interest lies in probing the psychological study of the characters of her fiction which can be seen by using the example of Mary Turner. Every character has a particular psychological dimension and the individual's life reacts accordingly to that situation and Lessing in the novel *The Grass is Singing* definitely succeeded in depicting Mary Turner's psychological breakdown which is related to her actions and their reactions portrayed by the author very keenly and clearly.

Chapter 3

The Golden Notebook: Communistic and Psychological Approach

The Golden Notebook was first published in 1962 by Michael Joseph in United Kingdom. The novel was published in America in the same year (1962) by Simon and Schuster. It is also available in an audio version as, Doris Lessing Reads *The Golden Notebook*. The audio was recorded in the year 1986, released by Caedmon by Harper Collins. *The Golden Notebook* by Lessing and is considered among the major works of the 20th century. The novel in 1976 received the French Medicis for Foreigners Award. It is translated into many languages. Different reviewers and critics have praised the novel. Some of the views of reviewers and critics are as:

Abigail Wheatley, a freelance writer in an article, “The Significance of The Golden Notebook” on Doris Lessing praises the novel as, “This book is significant, not only to women, but to the culture as a whole. President of America, Barrack Obama has counted it as one on a list of books important to him, and it was honoured by Time Magazine as one of the 100 best English-language novels since 1923” (Wheatley 206). Natasha Walter, the reviewer of the magazine “Independent” calls the novel a landmark in the world of literature. She comments, “A landmark novel, a book that both changed and explained a generation . . . Lessing is one of the finest writers of the century” (Walter, Independent). She praises Lessing and her writing as a landmark in the history of literature. Malcolm Bradbury in “Mail on Sunday”, a magazine labels *The Golden Notebook* as Lessing’s finest work among all her works. It states, “Lessing’s finest work. *The Golden Notebook* captured the heady mix of the early sixties, when not just novels but political certainties were dissolving” (Bradbury, Mail on Sunday). “The Guardian” calls it, “This ambitious novel has no equal” (Guardian).

Irving Howe in the magazine “New Republic” in an article on Doris Lessing’s *The Golden Notebook*, she calls the novel a work of high seriousness as, “By any final reckoning *The Golden Notebook* is a work of high seriousness. That I have omitted to mention important characters and elements of plot hardly matters, for this novel will be discussed repeatedly in the years to come. It is the most absorbing and exciting piece of new fiction I have read in a decade” (Howe, New Republic 1). He further marked her writing is full of dense intelligence and is clear through the various subjects she holds a time in a single novel. Her narrative technique is also praiseworthy. The main thing Locke praised her for the information regarding the social and political evasion within inner self.

This novel is one of the Lessing’s best works. Most of the critics have praised it for true, experimental and at the same time fascinating in its order and form. She has chosen those topics that had remained controversial at her time. The novel is considered as a masterpiece of Lessing. It explores the social and mental breakdown of its protagonist. It is an analysis of communistic approach of the author from 1930s to 1950s. It reflects the attitude of the people of its time and is regarded as author’s master piece. It has touched the feminist issues of its times. When the story opens Anna Wulf visits her friend Molly Jacobs after a long period of time, “Anna meets her friend Molly in the summer of 1957 after a separation” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 25). They live in London and are independent, Anna works as a writer and Molly as an actress and consider them free women who are not tied up in any social and personal conventions. Anna and Molly are divorced living with their children. Anna had a daughter Janet and Molly had a son Tommy. Anna and Molly were busy in their gossip when Richard Portman arrives; he is Molly’s ex-husband and wants to

talk about his son Tommy who is presently living with his mother. They have been divorced only after a short period of time of their marriage. Richard has married another lady namely Marion and have three sons, but Richard is very much worried about his son Tommy. They all are concerned for the betterment of Tommy who being at the age of twenty sits all alone in his room. His father Richard offers him (Tommy) many jobs in his companies but Tommy rejects the offers and wants to prove himself without any help. Tommy is influenced by the idealistic philosophy of his mother and her friend Anna who have been the activists in British Communist Party. Richard leaves without resolving the issue of Tommy. The ladies start again their gossip. They discuss about Anna's writer's block. She has written a novel *Frontiers of War* and it has been a bestseller and at the same time Anna doesn't want to write another because she does not like the old traditional way writing novels based on some fantasy and imagination, so she writes in diaries that no one can see it. In these diaries she records the true experiences of her time which no other writer has done.

After the meeting with Molly, Anna reaches back to her home and starts writing in her notebooks. She has kept four different notebooks for different experiences in her life: black, red, yellow and blue are the colours of these notebooks. The black notebook is about her life in Africa where she had spent more than fifteen years of her life. It also records her thoughts about communistic philosophy during WWII. She has many friends there who share the same thought of the communism. Among her friend's Paul and Jimmy are in military, May rose, a beautiful white African whose is also disillusioned by the World War. Her other friend is Willi who is a refugee of Germany. They both share a single room but they don't have any strong feeling for one another. The story takes places most of the times at Mashopi Hotel, a

beautiful place in Africa. At this place they enjoy life by drinking heavily and then discuss sex and politics of the racial discrimination in Africa. During their visit to the hotel Paul discusses his friend Jackson about the story narrated by the black cook that racial discrimination or what we can say oppression of these blacks is very bad in Africa. The landlady of the hotel Mrs. Boothby gets threatened when she listens it and bans the meeting of the poor black cook to that of Paul. After some time she finds them both again and then all at a sudden she dismisses the black cook from his job without any fault. It itself presents an example. The landlady frightens for her own security and in order to save her honour she dismisses the poor black from his job without committing any crime. He has been shot out of his job only to show the white supremacy. The cook has worked to them with whole heartedly for fifteen years but was shot out without any regard.

In Yellow notebook which she writes in the form of a novel. The main characters are Ella representing Anna and Julia represents her friend Molly. The novel written by Ella represents Anna personal experiences and her love for Micheal who is none other than Paul represented in Black notebook. Ella works as an editor in some magazine. Once her boss Patricia Brent invites her to a party at home where she first meets Paul, who is a psychiatrist. Paul is already married but still both Ella and Paul start a love affair. Ella feels more passionate about Paul. With the passage of time Ella becomes more serious in the relation. As time passes, their love affair disintegrates and Paul went to Nigeria leaving Ella behind.

In Blue notebook, Anna writes about her relation with Max (Willi) who is her ex-husband and the father of Janet. She also notes her experiences with Mrs. Marks a

psychoanalyst therapist with whom Anna recounts her memories about war, peace, and then the Cold War. Her therapist encourages her to write again in order to pour out her feelings that have paralysed her life. She suffers from what is known as the writer's block as she finds herself unable to continue her writing. There are many reasons behind it but the main reason of her block is that she wants to write truth. She feels that she can't express herself fully in the words. This becomes the reason behind her madness. Emotional intimacy becomes other cause behind her breakdown. It may be Anna or Ella both struggle throughout their lives in search of true love but fail. They enjoy sex with men but starve for true love and relation. There is no emotional bond between them and their lovers.

Anna finds so many lovers in her life but as she gets emotionally attached to them, they left her. There is no security in the relations. Only a few men in the novel are emotionally strong and one among them is Tommy, who decides to work for the betterment of mankind. As the novel proceeds, we find Molly at the end decides to marry and sounds her life towards stability and security. But Anna remains free women till the end of the novel. Anna always remained as the staunchest follower of the communistic philosophy and worked for the proletarian revolution but gets disillusioned with it. It leads her towards personal crisis resulting in her breakdown. When Anna's relationship with Micheal ends, she feels the emotional disorder. She has relationships with other men especially with married which prove to be unsatisfactory and without any emotional intimacy. Anna tries to transform her dilemmas in the shape of novel making Ella as her mouthpiece. Ella represents the feelings and thoughts of Anna and Anna's feelings and thoughts to some extent of that of Doris Lessing who has worked for the justice and equality of mankind.

The main themes of the novel are emotional and mental breakdown, Cold War, politics, women's struggle, love, and maternity. But the main theme of the novel is fragmentation; through the character of its protagonist Anna Wulf this fragmentation is quite clear. Being a writer she even fragments her writing into different notebooks. It also reflects fragmentation of a society. Anna wants to bring all things together like that in her fifth notebook. The novel shows a complete breakdown of Anna and her attempt to overcome from situation where she leads towards madness. Robert Mc Crum in an article explains the theme and importance of the novel *The Golden Notebook* as:

Theme of “breakdown” or “crack up” and psychic “self-healing” is Lessing’s declared “central theme”. Her novel, she insisted, was never intended to be “a useful weapon in the sex war”. The Golden Notebook is about one woman’s search for personal and political identity, told in several voices. A tour de force of multiple narratives, it is not exactly a masterpiece of English style, but a great fictional rooming-house with many inhabitants, heartbreaks and arguments – a defiant and ambitious work that remade many readers’ idea of fiction and its uses. (Mc Crum 2015)

The Golden Notebook purely depicts ambitions, problems, behaviours and particularly the concerns of the present time. The central character of the novel Anna Wulf reflects the elements of the writer herself and contains autobiographical elements and the protagonist of the novel herself as an author writes her autobiography through the character of Ella. The novel interlaces the social, emotional and political conflicts

in the character of Anna and Ella. Lessing wrote what pleases her and that attracts her most instead of pleasing others. Her writing emerged from her inner self and this novel serves the best example which reflects the real life of the time instead of any imaginary or fictional world. *The Golden Notebook* confirmed Lessing's prominent place among leading British authors. Her topics mainly include social, cultural, political and psychological conflicts and the conflicts between women and men. Lessing being a realistic author has poured her every experience into the life her fictional characters especially through the character of Anna Wulf. She always explored the realistic themes that have eventually led towards the social, mental and political breakdown of the characters. J Mercy in her research work states the theme of social injustice in the works of Lessing as:

Considered among the most significant writers, Lessing explores many important ideologies and social issues of the twentieth century in her prolific body of work especially in the novels. Her oeuvre displays a broad spectrum of interests and concerns, ranging from racism, communism and feminism to psychology and mysticism. She began her career, particularly the writing fiction in the realist mode that focused on the theme of racial injustice. (Mercy 10)

It contains an anti-war and anti-Stalinist theme and mostly the theme of Communism that wholly and solely shapes the life of a character and finally leading towards complete breakdown. Anna Wulf, the protagonist like Lessing is a writer living all alone with her daughter and keeps four different notebooks where she records her social, mental and political experiences of her life. The four notebooks are

different in colours like; Black, Red, Blue and Yellow. The colours chosen for a particular notebook is related to its background. The Black notebook is about her experiences of her life in Africa mostly before and during the World War II and encouraged her to write down her first novel *The Frontiers of War*. Her political experiences are locked in the Red notebook as red stands for communism. The author remains an active member of the communist party then comes the Yellow notebook where she writes her own love affair in the form of a novel and the last notebook is the Blue notebook contains her memories, her dreams which she wrote in the form of a diary. All these notebooks have the themes of threat of nuclear conflagration, Cold War, Communism, Marxism, Stalinism and the struggle of its characters for work, love and particularly about politics. The Golden Notebook explores the social, political breakdown of the characters and that finally leads to their mental breakdown as, “This theme of ‘breakdown’, that sometimes when people ‘crack up’ it is a way of self-healing, of the inner self’s dismissing false dichotomies and divisions, has of course been written about by other people, as well as by me, since then. But this is where, apart from the odd short story, I first wrote about it. Here it is rougher, more close to experience” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 8). Lessing stated the theme of breakdown as a major theme in this novel. This fragmentation leads towards personal, psychological and social breakdown of a character. This breakdown is quite visible in the protagonist of the novel Anna. Abigail Wheatley further in her article entitled “The Significance of The Golden Notebook” explains the theme of fragmentation in the life of Anna as:

Lessing’s intended focus and theme of the novel is fragmentation. The character of Anna suffers a mental breakdown, echoing the confusion

and necessary compartmentalization of the notebook narrative. Anna has to parse herself and experiences out into different written works, and when trying to bring them together, she finds herself losing her mind. This is a direct illustration of what Lessing saw the role of women becoming as women found themselves trying to navigate life experience, politics, family, and personal feelings. (Wheetely 2015)

Lessing has chosen an author Anna Wulf as her mouth piece to spoke out her inner feelings. It arises because of the inequality in relationships, sex, beliefs, work and politics. S. Sajeesh in the research work states the breakdown of Anna's because of identity crisis as, "The cause of Anna's breakdown is her identity crisis. Anna experiences an inner breakdown, which appears close to a schizophrenic episode" (Sajeesh 108). Anna is a single parent and depends on the money got from the publication of her first novel *The Frontiers of War* and then after finds a block and becomes incapable of writing any other novel because of her social breakdown as, "Yet I am incapable of writing the only kind of novel which interests me: a book powered with an intellectual or moral passion strong enough to create order, to create a new way of looking at life. It is because I am too diffused. I have decided never to write another novel" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 76).

The novel has been divided into six different sections first sections and Anna records all her experiences in these sections. S. Sajeesh in his research works explains the novel as a fragmented novel as, "Since the beginning of the novel, Anna faces the problem of self definition. Anna's identity crisis can be attributed to her inability to define herself. The compartmentalized structure of the novel symbolizes Anna's

desperate struggle to integrate her multiple selves. Anna has to act various roles in life that include her roles as mother, wife, friend, lover, and an active communist” (Sajeesh 108-109). Anna has remained as an active member of British Communist Party. So in order to avoid the conflict, she keeps four different notebooks, “I keep four notebooks,” Anna explains to herself, “a black note- book, which is to do with Anna Wulf the writer; a red notebook, concerned with politics; a yellow notebook, in which I make stories out of my experience; and a blue notebook which tries to be a diary” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 418). Lessing’s creativity to have a story within a story is to explore every horizon of her mind and her experience. The novel is a scenario of the Communistic approach that has crippled the life of its protagonist Anna and her struggle to come out of this through the psychological therapy, so as to behave like a normal human being. Lessing in her novel has chosen the Communist party as an extension of her own feelings and through the representation of her characters. *The Golden Notebook* is the Emblem of this type of connotations. Lessing has expressed it as:

I decided that to give the ideological ‘feel’ of our mid-century, it would have to be set among Socialists and Marxists, because it has been inside the various chapters of socialism that the great debates of our time have gone on; the movements of various chapters of socialism that the great revolutions, have been seen by their participants as movements of retreat. But ‘Marxism’ and its various offshoots has fermented ideas everywhere, and so fast and energetically that, once ‘way out’, it has already been absorbed, has become part of ordinary thinking. (11)

Maria in her research work, "Liberating Literature" has explained the role of Anna Wulf which in turn is Lessing herself wants to have, "connections between the dynamics of gender relations, the history of the Left, postcolonial struggles, the nature of love, the insights and limitations of psychoanalysis, and the crisis in literary representation – all at once" (Maria 109). Lessing has been successful in bringing difference between the realistic and modernistic features. She through her work has embodied to bring a radical change in the society of her time. She used the Marxist Communism to bring justice to the oppressed people not only in Africa but throughout the world. *The Golden Notebook* has been used as an emblem in the analysis of this Marxist Communism. Lessing's novel is an emblem towards the notion of reality and enlightenment. Anna Wulf who is a writer and is a member of British Communist Party keeps four different diaries of four different colours and is fragmented like her life full of chaos. The diaries furthermore signify Anna's disillusionment to different ideologies. Every notebook presents a fragmented character. The first notebook of the series is Black in colour and express her disillusion with intelligentsia to curb the identity of the writer. Red notebook expresses Anna's disillusionment with the Marxist Communism for its anarchy, over excitement and hegemony. Yellow notebook unfolds Anna's experiences that she felt because of the emotional crisis that leads to failure in her life in every field. She fails in every relationship in her life being a wife, a mistress and as a mother. The fourth notebook in the series is the Blue notebook; it records Anna's routine life which is full of disillusion of anxiety and pressure that is both social and personal. In *The Golden Notebook*, Lessing depicts Marxist Communism only totalitarian discourse that chiefly aims to bring a social change, justice for those who are oppressed.

The aim of Communism is to make world aware of the human oppression on the basis of colour, race and class where one race of people oppresses other race on the basis of colour that is privileged in Africa. Communist tried to abolish this sort of oppression consequently results in intelligentsia, ir-resistance and identity crisis. Doris Lessing in her novel *The Golden Notebook* has keenly observed and then depicted the same thing in her writing. Lessing being a Communist questions the reality in order to bring out the metonymical elements of Marxist Philosophy. She points out communist fascism in the form of repressed intelligentsia leading towards split in the identity of the comrades, “Lessing talks about the failure of Communism in terms of conforming itself to Marxism as a theory, which in turn, seeks speculative unity, without the consideration of multiplicity in Communism in the form of Stalinism Trotskyism, and Maoism” (Lyotard, 1988).

Lessing was very active member of Communist party and has always fought for the equality of people in her writings. She throughout her life tried to write down the reality through its relation to Communism. Doris Lessing in the preface of 1972 of *The Golden Notebook* points out the failures within the communists as:

A person who has been influenced by Marxism takes it for granted that an event in Siberia will affect one in Botswana. I think it is possible that Marxism was the first attempt, for our time, outside the formal religions, at a world-mind, a world ethic. It went wrong, could not prevent itself from dividing and sub-dividing, like all the other religions, into smaller chapels, sects and creeds. But it was an attempt.

Lessing has herself stated the theme of breakdown in the preface of her novel and the motive behind writing the novel is, “And one day we will leave behind the driving egotism of individual art. We will return to an art which will express not man’s self-divisions and separateness from his fellows but his responsibility for his fellows and his brotherhood Once a pressure or a current has started, there is no way of avoiding it” (12). Here the intention of the writer is towards her support to the Communist party that works for the oppressed people throughout world. Lessing makes art as a weapon to fight this injustice. And she has started fighting for the rights of people in Africa who had been the victims of colour prejudice, “like, for instance, trying to fight colour prejudice in Southern Africa” (12). She further says about it like this, “thoughts and themes I had been holding in my mind for years came together” (10). It is the theme of justice and equality for all. Line after line in this, Lessing claims that her main aim was to develop Marxist thinking among the people and for this, *The Golden Notebook* serves the duty, “I decided that to give the ideological ‘feel’ of our mid-century, it would have to be set among socialists and Marxists . . . but it was dominant, and in a novel of the sort I was trying to do, had to be central” (11). Lessing’s has given her characters an ample freedom to get involved in the public domain. Her involvement with the communist party is because of her own identity as stated by Sajeesh, “Anna’s involvement with Communism and her relationship with her Communist colleagues are among the main reasons for her intensified identity crisis and schizophrenia. In fact, she joins the Communist party in order to gain a sense of integration, hoping that this will prevent her from further breakdown” (Sajeesh 110). Most of the characters in *The Golden Notebook* have been

the active members of the Communist party and have involved their lives for the cause of society. Celine in the research work portrays the Marxist approach of Lessing as:

She openly confessed that she was a Marxist and praised Marxism as an inspirer of to work for humanism and that it was "born out of the eternal aspiration of man for peace and happiness" and claimed that the youth who avoid the Marxian principles are cutting themselves off from one third of humanity, because Marxism is still a driving force in many parts of the world especially in the underdeveloped and developing countries. Lessing believes that Marxism will not die, it will resurrect under some other name. (Celine 7-8)

Anna the protagonist has been attracted Marxist philosophy. She associates herself with other human beings, if a person harms himself later or sooner it will affect him also. Anna's Marxist approach is clear as, "As for the rest-well, it is no accident that I got intelligent criticism from the people who were, or who had been, Marxist. They saw what I was trying to do. This is because Marxism looks at things as a whole and in relation to each other-or tries to, but its limitations are not the point for the moment" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 14). It can be read in different ways depending upon the viewers approach. It is a single novel of multiple themes. One among them is the theme of politics particularly the politics of the principle of Marxism and his theory of idealistic philosophy. This political activity by the author leads towards the psychological breakdown of the author. It highlights the colour bar consciousness of its time. Anna states two main concerns that make the structure of *The Golden Notebook*, as:

Two interrelated concerns underpin *The Golden Notebook's* structure: first, it dramatises Lessing's conviction that the fragmentation of society is such that it cannot be contained by traditional novelistic forms; second, it investigates the collapse of Marxism, which for Lessing was an ethical concern. It suggests that, with its dissolution, no systematic world-view is possible any longer. These twin concerns undermine Lessing's faith in the realist novel. (Acna 716-717)

Lessing portrays the complexities of a society where love, freedom and particularly the approach of a person towards the Communism are questioned at various levels. Her motive for being the member of the Communist party was to discuss her personal and political approaches as written in the preface of *The Golden Notebook* is that nothing is personal for her. The voice raised by one person is definitely shared by others. She comments, "At last I understood that the way over, or through this dilemma, the unease at writing about 'petty personal problems' was to recognise that nothing is personal, in the sense that it is uniquely one's own. Writing about oneself, one is writing about others, since your problems, pains, pleasures, emotions- and your extraordinary and remarkable ideas- can't be yours alone" (13). A research paper on Lessing by Spilka states this point of Lessing as, "the fragmented consciousness of a woman whose impulses as a writer, a socialist, and a person are to unify her personal, social, and fictive experiences" (Spilka 223). All the characters of the Communist party are battling themselves for leaving the party. Anna has been disillusioned by the condition of the party and as she wants to leave it. She gives the condition of the party as, "That socialism is in the doldrums in this country And everywhere else" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 40). Anna wants to part away from

the party but she can't because the party has been the part of her own identity. The politics has presented a special place in the life of Anna. All notebooks had presented a depressed and fragmented Anna and has worked for the equality of the Africans during the WWII. She states, "This war was presented to us as a crusade against the evil doctrines of Hitler, against racialism, etc., yet the whole of that enormous land-mass, about half the total area of Africa, was conducted on precisely Hitler's assumption- that some human beings are better than others because of their race" (78-79).

Anna has been the member of the party because of her own self. The Communist party has become an integral part of Anna's life. The other female members of the Communist party have defined of the need of the party as, "This country's full of women going mad all by themselves. A pause, then she added, with a slight aggressiveness, the other side of the self-doubt, the guilt shown by women I'd talked to: 'Well, I used to be the same until I joined the Party and got myself a purpose in life'" (161). Anna wants to clear that the Communist Party is for the people who in real sense wants to serve the mankind without any material value, "The Communist Party is largely composed of people who aren't really political at all, but who have a powerful sense of service. And then there are those who are lonely, and the Party is their family" (162). This is one of the reasons that Doris Lessing's history of the Party is in the form of notebooks. She wants to make an individual's thoughts and feeling general and not personal. Lessing wants to express her disillusion which she had faced herself by using fiction as a weapon. It is shown by Anca Georgescu as:

Aiming to 'break a form' and 'certain forms of consciousness', Lessing 'commits' herself to fragmentation and discontinuity. For despite the rhetoric of wholeness informing this encyclopaedic novel, her emphasis is on the complexity of experience, its difficulty to integrate, the difficulty of achieving coherence without inevitably succumbing to reduction. As a consequence, discontinuity achieves a significance that does not allow it to be simply subsumed under a higher unity; fragmentation, gaps, and lapses are precisely what allow for the unexpected. (Georgescu 716)

All the fragmented notebooks are filled with that of cuttings from newspapers, Anna's writing, her friends' letters, and stories and her mental state that how Anna collects these pieces to make an order out of it. Her life lead her towards breakdown but it is only the responsibility of being a mother that motivates her which other things can help to get that realisation. Sometimes the novel seems too fractured and to some extent frustrating and at the same time an honest book depicting even the harsh realities of its times. Anna being a member of a communist party experienced the behaviour of the party people who instead of working for others fight with each other. Anna is mirrored through her notebooks. Her friend Molly like other people in the communist group is disenchanted. Throughout her life she has been a failure, failure in marriage and failure as a mother. She feels proud being a free woman.

Anna finally tries to compile all her experiences in a single notebook which she calls the Golden notebook. She at the end wants to forget everything and moves towards the mission of self-healing but encounters another man namely Saul Green

who is much more fragmented than Anna. He possesses a changeable personality. He is very much disturbed in his life. He finds a degree of equality between his and Anna's failings in their lives. Anna faces the breakdown throughout the novel and then goes through the psychiatric therapy. Her psychiatrist tells her that she feels the cracks inside herself that becomes the cause of instability in life. Most of the times Anna feels that she is feeling that very soon a new type of women will emerge from her. She frightens that she is moving towards madness. It leads towards other disorders like she loses grip in reality. The motive of Doris Lessing behind it is to bring Anna close towards the reality that she has faced. This breakdown is also seen in politics where the party members get disillusioned by their own initiative towards the betterment of mankind as people lost their jobs and the Cold War in United States and Russia relating to breakdown of the trust. The other breakdown is in the marriage and in man-woman relationship. This failure in personal life can be understood as pointed out by S. Sajeesh as:

Another element which can be attributed to Anna's identity crisis and her mental breakdown is her willingness to involve in self-destructive interpersonal relationships. Marriage, which Anna expects to be the way for self-protection, in turn becomes a cage in which she is trapped emotionally, forever. In the Black Notebook, Anna sees how her marriage with Michael bound her inside the cage of domesticity. Similarly, she watches her own condition through Molly and Marion, who are the other victims of marriage. (Sajeesh 112)

Lessing has shown various relationships that have fallen the victims of emotional fallacy. Anna's life is full of chaos that surrounds her life from every side and struggles throughout her life to reconcile between her political and psychological atmosphere that surrounds her. She finds everything cracking up, "The point is, that as far as I can see, everything's cracking up" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 25). Anna has struggled throughout her to maintain her identity as a woman, as a mother, as a writer and also as a political activist. She becomes self-destructive in her interpersonal relations as stated by Sajeesh in his research work. He comments, "The self-destructive nature of Anna's interpersonal relationships can also be observed in Anna's relationship with her daughter Janet. Anna's self disintegration is also caused by the self-fragmentation which she creates while playing the role of a mother. She fails to integrate her roles as Janet's mother and Michael's mistress" (Sajeesh 116).

Anna is an emotionally and physically self-sufficient lady who is always committed towards her duty for her party as being its passionate activist whose only concern is to serve mankind but craves for love in her own life. *The Golden Notebook* reflected those subjects which had been the taboos of a particular time in which the novel was published. The political theme of the novel shows the crimes in Soviet Union, collapsing of the Communist Party and other related issues and interlacing the political conflicts leading towards the emotional conflicts in the lives of the characters, "She keeps four, and not one because, as she recognizes, she has to separate things off from each other, out of fear of chaos, of formlessness- of breakdown. Pressures, inner and outer, end the Notebooks; a heavy black line is drawn across the page of one after another" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 7). The theme of division and unification of self holds the central theme; the division in note-books give clear indication of the

fragmented personality of Anna. The Black notebook is for the dark side of Anna titled as The Dark, her experience in Africa. Red notebook is titled The British Communist Party, containing her thoughts, feelings and reflections being a member of the party and her work for it. The title of Yellow notebook is The Shadow of The Third, Anna's own experiences through the character of Ella. The title of Blue notebook is Tommy Appeared to be Accusing his Mother, it recounts her psychological aspects in the form of dreams as, "The four notebooks were identical, about eighteen inches square, with shiny covers, like the texture of a cheap watered silk. But the colours distinguished them –black, red, yellow and blue Then a title appeared, as if Anna had, almost automatically, divided herself into four, and then, from the nature of what she had written, named these divisions. And this is what had happened" (71).

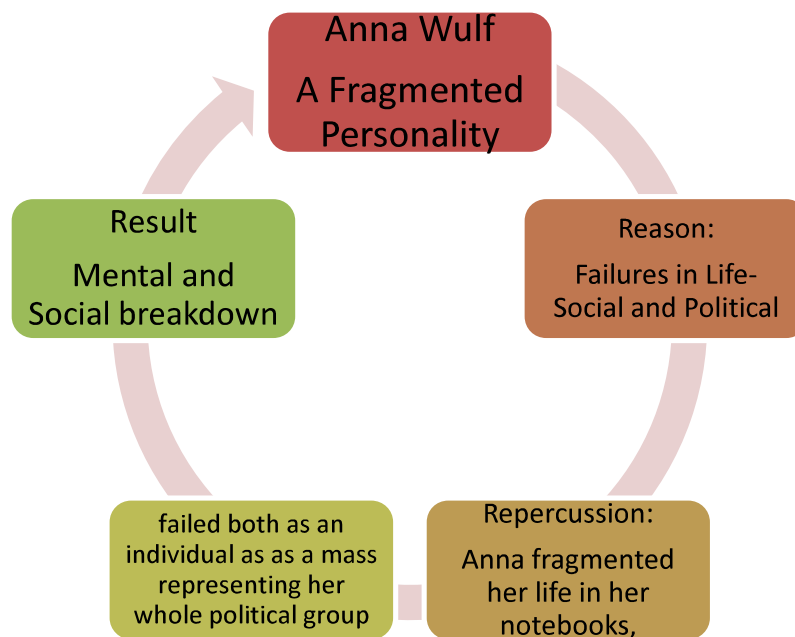


Fig. 3.1 : Anna Wulf's Breakdown

Anca Georgescu in her research has shown the fragmented personality of Lessing and her protagonist Anna and the motif behind this fragmentation comments as, “But in an effort to resist the pull of madness and the dissolution of the self in chaos, Anna can only maintain a hold on reality by dividing her experience into four categories. The four notebooks are, in short, an admission of defeat” (Georgescu 716). Her defeat in every field of life is visible in every notebook. The personality of Anna is so confused and fragmented that at times she mingles the experiences that belongs to one notebook and writes in another notebook. Anna tells her story of reality in every notebook which is based on her memories of certain places, persons or related to certain events. In her Black notebook, she records her love and struggle for the sake of Africans during the Second World War II, and her experience in the Communist party, she took all the pains for the justice of the African people who have been ill treated by the White settlers. She along with her party members tried to change the colour bar injustice in Africa where she has spent most of the time of her life. The Irish Monthly, 1936 defines the role of Communists as:

Communists become the ardent champions of all claims, the indefatigable advocates of all discontents. To the peasants they promise to sell their grain, their wine, their cattle, and their sugar. They have special demands for young women, for intellectuals, for workers, for the weak, for soldiers and for conscripts, all of whom can read about their particular demands in their own publication. (The Irish Monthly 662)

Lessing's main motive was to find the identity of its characters for that she has chosen the Communistic Philosophy and Marxism. Anna's personality is framed on these principles and lead towards Anna's psychic disorder. Anna has always tried to write down the truth in the word rather refused by everybody. Her friend Molly's view on the writing of Anna, "No. And certainly not from you. After all, you aren't someone who writes little novels about emotions. You write about what's real" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 57). In this expression of her friend, Anna tells her back that all it echoes from her communistic approach towards the betterment of mankind, "If Marxism means anything, it means that a little novel about emotions should reflect "what's real" since the emotions are a function and a product of a society . . ." (57). The novel connects the personal to the political. Anna and Molly consider themselves as free women, who are enjoying their lives without any social responsibility living an independent life. They both are involved in the communist party to bring social change. *The Golden Notebook* is well considered as a prototype for the exploration of political and social features that lead towards exploring the psychological features of its protagonist's consciousness. In a research article by Sundus Javid in 2013 has pointed out the motif of Doris Lessing in *The Golden Notebook*. Her writing portrays the society of her time as, "When a woman writer is regarded upon as different. It is rarely attributed to her conscious doing, but rather to her different temperament, her position in society or simply because she is a woman" (Javid 29). It is a realistic novel. M.H Abram explains the realistic novel as quoted by Brooks 1990 as, "For M. H. Abrams, the term modernism "involves a deliberate radical break with the traditional bases both of Western culture and Western art and that the precursors of this break are thinkers who questioned the certainties that had

hitherto provided a support to social organization, religion, morality and the conception of the human self" (Brooks 120). Anna Wulf plays a role of comrade in a Communist party. In her Black Notebook, she jots down experiences in Africa written in the novel *Frontiers of War*. She explains different causes for writing this particular novel but the main aim was to bring out the oppression only on the basis of colour. The main theme we can say is the colour bar stated as:

The novel is 'about' a colour problem. I said nothing in it that wasn't true. But the emotion it came out of was something frightening, the unhealthy, feverish, illicit excitement of wartime, a lying nostalgia, a longing for license, for freedom, for the jungle, for formlessness. It is so clear to me that I can't read that novel now without feeling ashamed It is an immoral novel because that terrible lying nostalgia lights every sentence. (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 77)

The novel *Frontiers of War* recollects Anna's experiences in Africa. The novel is a story of a man in the Royal Air Force during the war years and is being transferred to Africa. There, he falls in love with an African lady. Anna's novel has been a great success and was praised everywhere. The novel's setting is in Africa where Anna has spent her most of the time and understands the pain and agony of its people. There she has lived with other comrades of the Communist party. Anna believes that the greatest quality of her novel is that it made a reputation for her. The difficult job is to understand the human nature because it remains changing on continuously, "It is the malady of some of the best people of this time; some can stand the pressure of it; others crack under it; it is a new sensibility, a half-unconscious attempt towards a new

imaginative comprehension. But it is fatal to art. I am interested only in stretching myself, in living as fully as I can” (76). Anna remained the member of British Communist Party officially from 1950 to 1954. She has been disenchanted by the communist group of people whom she had been in Africa. On arriving London, Anna had left everything but was still the member of Communist Party, “It’s as I foresaw, the only discussions I have about politics where I say what I think are with people who have been in the Party and have now left. Their attitude towards me frankly tolerant” (153). Lessing’s heroines were very strong but still suffer emotional disturbances in a society which is mostly dominant in socio-political domains and causing them to be psychological wreck for the higher levels towards identity and liberation. It is clear by a research article published by A. Valar Selvi and she points out it as, “Doris Lessing can be designated as a pioneer in discerning social trends, anticipating rather than merely confirming them. *The Golden Notebook* is highly intellectual, politically involved “free women” preceded the women’s liberation movement” (Selvi 144).

Anna Wulf works voluntary for the British Communist Party that she has been the part of Communist Party in Africa and has kept a stand for the injustice of colour bar in Africa. She has fragmented life and spends some time with a Jungian Psychiatrist for treating her growing ennui and the loss of feeling in her life towards others and about herself. She has seen the destruction in the world being associated with the people in Africa and is afraid of this death and destruction, “She is frozen” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 216). And further she says, “Why is she frozen? She is Afraid. What of? Of death. She nodded, and I broke in across the game and said: No, not of my death. It seems to me that ever since I can remember anything the real thing that has happening in the world was death and destruction. It seems to me it is

stronger than life” (216). This mental imbalance points out that Anna is disturbed within and outside and has brought a complete breakdown of her. She has failed both as a member of Communist party and as a writer. This segmentation in life has paused development in her life both as an artist and as a person. Her alienation is not personal but is social and is because of the disillusion with a Communist Party. Anca states this expression as:

Anna’s writing block is related to her personal sense of alienation, but cannot be explained by it alone. To speak of her struggle to write in terms of a personal block is to dismiss the issue, to imply that it is Anna’s problem rather than a social one. This is misleading, for Anna’s refusal to write stems from deeply held reservations about the validity and meaningfulness of art in the post-war world. She is experiencing a creative drought, which manifests itself in her personal inability to write, but its origin is social. (Anca 718)

Her depression is because of the abrupt end of her involvement to that of the party and her relation with Micheal. He leaves her and she is unable to come out of the situation. She becomes sick day by day. The novel has been widely praised and labelled as the most influential novel of post-war period and is not a novel with a limited emotion. Lessing always wrote that was real in the world, “No. And certainly not from you. After all, you aren’t someone who writes little novels about the emotions. You write about what’s real” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 57). Anna who wants to get rid of her inner schism and then she embraces the British Communist Party. Her decision to join the Communist party is written down by her as, “I came home thinking that

somewhere at the back of my mind when I joined the Party was a need for wholeness, for an end to the split, divided, unsatisfactory way we all live. Yet joining the Party intensified the split- not the business of belonging to an organisation whose every tenet, on paper, anyway, contradicts the ideas of the society we live in” (157). With the passage of time Anna becomes disillusioned with the Communist party. Then afterwards whatever she writes, become very critical for the party as:

I came home thinking that somewhere at the back of my mind when I joined the party was a need for. Wholeness for an end to the split, divided, unsatisfactory way we all live .Yet joined the party intensified the split not the business of belonging to an organization whose every talents on paper, anyway contradiction the ideas of the society we live in but something much deeper than that. Or at any rate, more difficult to understand. (157)

It reflects the atmosphere of a Communistic people who have been disillusioned with the party. Most of the members of the Communist party have dissatisfied with the party and left themselves impassive. The same procedure happens to Anna Wulf and then she decided to leave the party. She confronted it in front of her lover Micheal who was also a comrade. Anna then started pasting newspaper cuttings in her notebook suggesting that the whole world is going to be violent and uphold the true and pure ideals for freedom. Anna loves Micheal very much and he is also the father of Juliet. Micheal leaves Anna after having a very deep and close relationship and it in turn badly affects Anna. She has left everything she once loved very deeply either Micheal or the Communist party. It has an adverse effect on Anna that for eighteen

months, she didn't mention any thing in her Blue notebook but some short scribbling. She wants this notebook to be the true experience and truthful among the other notebooks. Her frustration arouses because of her failure in relationship and she then all of it stops writing this notebook. She only points black lines in it. These black lines also suggest her life has been reached to a point where everything is dark or impossible. Anna writes about it as, "I drew that line because I didn't want to write it As if writing about it sucks me even further into danger" (42). Anna disheartened by both men and communism finds her personality more and more cracking up. This fragmentation in her personality paralysis her whole life both socially and personally. Anna left both the Party and writing not because she can't write but only because she wants to point out the reality of the world and can't compromise with this principle. She finds it her responsibility towards the society. For her literature should involve the reality of a society and not to evade any social or political issue. Anca in her work states this as:

Anna has not so much lost the power to produce novels, as she has lost faith in their relevance. There are two reasons for this: she fears that to write while society faces problems that may lead to its collapse is an abdication of responsibility, a turning away to the consolation of art. She fears that society has become chaotic and horrifying. Literature, she believes, should engage social reality, should get involved in the conflicts of its time, and not evade them. This view, which is a plea for commitment in art, contains the seeds of Anna's crisis. (Anca 718)

Anna's personality divided into four different notebooks. Instead of one diary she keeps four which clearly indicates her fragmentation, "In each, the first page or two showed broken scribbling and half-sentences. Then a title appeared, as if Anna had, almost automatically, divided herself into four, and then, from the nature of what she had written, named these divisions" (71). Lessing has maintained an order in her life through these notebooks. They present her psychology related to both present and the past. In one hand she has been shown us the picture of mid- twentieth century, where a women is claimed to be free but at the same time they should understand that what this freedom is for them. Bergonzi in the book *The Situation of The Novel 1970* has explained this type of freedom as, "On the face of it Anna has achieved a degree of personal freedom that the new woman of Ibsen and Shaw could scarcely have dreamed of; she is as free as any man in all major spheres of life, professional, intellectual and above all, sexual" (Bergonzi 237). Anna has used four notebooks instead of one makes it more to appreciate as a perfect transcription leading towards an actual experience. Her quest towards freedom has political dimension and it consequently leads to psychological dimension and all this widens her rift leading towards her breakdown. She feels some sort of emotional void in her life and moves towards insanity. She finds herself more and more retrieving towards silence. *The Golden Notebook* has the influence of Carl Jung's psychoanalysis. It contains Jung's personal and collective unconsciousness.

Kumari, Prasannasree in their research paper on *The Golden Notebook* has claimed it as, "*The Golden Note book* reveals some of the major preoccupations of Jung and Laing like the unconscious, the link between the individual and the collective, dreams, neurosis, split self insanity" (Kumari and .Prasannasree 27). In a

research work by S. Sajeesh states the influence of dreams and archetypes as, “Lessing’s interest in exploring her character’s subjectivity is evident in her great interest in probing into their dreams. Similarly, her protagonists see their dreams as self-reflective experiences. Often, dreams enable them to keep an inner dialogue within themselves. They also realize their inner struggles by using the medium of dreams” (Sajeesh 120). Lessing’s characters search for their identity through self-analysis and she made dreams as a weapon to achieve this self-discovery. In the novel she uses this dream technique to make the self-recovery of her protagonist Anna through her dream as stated by Sajeesh comments, “Lessing’s writing throws a searchlight on her protagonists’ distant dream voyages that are always set in their inner worlds. In fact through her protagonists Lessing emphasizes that the act of dreaming is an act of self-analysis, and the intrapersonal communication which they establish through dreaming creates an analyst-analysand pattern” (Sajeesh 121). In a book on Doris Lessing by Alka Kumar titled as *Doris Lessing: Journey in Evolution* has presented this type of life has a new beginning. She states it as, “The tendency to compartmentalize and artificially divide physical and mental reality is disruptive and Detrimental” (Kumar 38). She further says, “And that breaking is a necessary prerequisite for a new beginning” (Kumar 47). Lessing has very much influence of various writers on her writing and among them one is D. H. Lawrence. Like him, Lessing has used erotic energy in order to recover the mental health of its characters. The same strategy Lessing applied on Anna who achieves her stability only through erotic energy. She plays a role of lover to Saul Green. He is also much more fragmented than her. He is also ex-communist, disenchanted with his party in America. Saul was introduced to her by her friend Molly. He wants to stay there only

for a short spell of time. But the time Anna spends with Saul leads towards more and more madness, “The walls of this flat close in us. Day after day we’re alone here. I’m conscious that we are both mad. He says, with a yell of laughter: ‘Yeah, I’m crazy, it’s taken me all my short life to recognise it, and now what? Suppose I prefer being crazy, what then?’” (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 502). Anna then reaches a stage where she confronts her inner self. This erotic energy brings a comfort in her life. It heals Anna at the end releases her from the lifelong fragmentation as, “All the madness and the hate had gone . . . We played the new records, and made love, and the two people, Saul and Anna, who were mad, were somewhere else in another room somewhere . . . We have been alone..So I sit and write. I see I’ve written –happiness. That’s enough” (508-509). The thought of abandoning has paralysed the life of Anna. She throughout her life has struggled for the equality and justice of the oppressed but all at a sudden, she had left the Party. This thought haunted her more and more and leading her towards a psychological collapse of her personality as stated by Anca, “Anna’s torments derive from her passionate empathy with suffering and oppression. She is paralyzed at the thought that her failure to participate in social struggle means that she has abandoned it” (Anca 718-719).

It leads to Anna’s mental breakdown, hampering her ability as a writer and towards her treatment of psychotherapist. She is so much broken down that she can’t find her life in a single piece. In the last part of the novel Anna mentions an American writer Saul Green. Saul helps Anna to come out of her ideological confusion about the role a writer should be in the society. Anna’s writing has analysed her frustration in a society which is male- dominated. But at the end, Anna ties up all her thoughts and feelings collectively in one notebook known as *The Golden Notebook*. Thus the

fragmented personality of Anna Wulf gets united and also her writing in a single notebook. Baysar Taniyan remarks it as:

Finally, in the golden-coloured notebook, Anna synthesizes the various experiences kept separate in the other books, so that they approximate to a kind of wholeness. Attaining this integration enables her to begin to write again. Anna's major motive in separating aspects of her life is to impose a certain order on chaos. However, in the final part, Anna realizes that by allowing the chaos in, she could create something as an artist. She abandons her notebooks and records events solely in the Golden notebook which, in itself, welcomes dissolution and separation. (Taniyan 10)

The novel had its title from the final notebook *The Golden Notebook*. It holds Anna's mental recovery resulting from fragmentation to fusion. Anna explains it as:

Then the film went very fast, it flicked fast, like a dream, on faces I've seen once in the street, and have forgotten, on the slow movement of an arm, on the movement of a pair of eyes, all saying the same thing- the film was now beyond my experience, beyond Ella's, beyond the notebooks, because there was a fusion and instead of seeing separate scenes, people, faces, movements, glances, they were all together. (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 551)

She finally decides to write down again for the sake of those who can't speak up their feelings. Lessing has been always known for her intensity and the reality that her

writing possesses. She brought out the atrocities of Marxist Communism through the piece of work, *The Golden Notebook*. She has talked about the disillusionment of the comrades of the Communist party and has led towards the many crises within the party and leading towards identity crisis. It further brings a psychological change in the life of these comrades. It has its adverse effect on the personality of its protagonist, Anna Wulf. She is so much frustrated from her life that she becomes a psychological wreck and has to go for a psychological consultation of a psychiatrist that she calls Mother Sugar. S. Sajeesh explains this psychiatric session of Anna as:

While the act of dreaming, diary-writing and notebook-keeping are her intrapersonal narrative strategies that work towards her self-healing, certain interpersonal relationships she establishes are therapeutic, which provide her insight into her various inner conflicts. In *The Golden Notebook* it is Anna's realization of her identity crisis and her 'writer's block' that make her come to the Jungian psychoanalyst, Mrs. Marks, for help. Anna believes that her interactions with a second person would relieve her from her inner breakdown. (Sajeesh 126)

Anna on the advice of Mrs. Mark's keeps a diary and was advised by her to note down everything in that diary. Anna then keeps a diary and records every activity of her even the analytical sessions that she had with Mrs. Marks. Anna notes down in the diary about the dreams as, "I had the bad dream again- I was menaced by the anarchic principle, this time in the shape of an inhuman sort of dwarf. In the dream was Mrs. Marks, very large and powerful; like a kind of amiable witch" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*, 227). This theme of breakdown is prevalent throughout the novel by

observing the fragmented personality of most of its characters. *The Golden Notebook* is to some extent autobiographical and contains Lessing's personal feelings that she presents through the character of Anna Wulf. She faced all these disillusionment in her life. Lightfoot in 1975 in his research work has shown that how Lessing has put her own name in this novel as:

Doris Lessing has put her own name on the title page of *The Golden Notebook* as the author. It is she who acts as the impersonal, detached editorial commentator in the book, assumes responsibility for the consciousness-shattering juxtapositions of realistic fiction and fictional reality, and deserves the acclaim for achieving a breakthrough in form and consciousness. (Lightfoot 283)

Lessing's concluding views about writer and writing are more clear by this concluding remarks of the novel as, "And one day we will leave behind the driving egotism of individual art. We will return to an art which will express not man's self-divisions and separateness from his fellows and his brotherhood" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 12). She asks every writer to write for the people all around the world and not as individual.

The novel has shown the dangerous effects of compartmentalization and gives the message of unity as, "Yet the essence of the book, the organization of it, everything in it, says implicitly and explicitly, that we must not divide things off, must not compartmentalize" (10). Lessing in *The Golden Notebook* questions the realism through the character of its protagonist Anna Wulf. Her motive was to present the fragmented reality of the modern society and to bring different aspects together. In

writing the novel *The Golden Notebook*, she brought the themes of individual versus collective, fiction versus fact, personal versus universal and then dreams versus reality. Her motives were firm while writing fiction. When one makes close observation of her works can understand that there has been definitely some firm intentions behind her writing. She is a true communist who always struggled for the identity of an individual. Her writing portrays the personal issues related to the universal. In analysing her personal self she relates them to heal other selves in a community. So, in projecting the self, Lessing explored and then healed the self. Through this novel, she not only represents Anna's private self but a universal self.

Chapter 4

Quest for Identity in the *Children of Violence*

Children of Violence is a series of five novels published from 1952- 1969. The series was first published by Michael Joseph; Mac Gibbon & Kee in United Kingdom. *Martha Quest* published in the year 1952; in 1954 *A Proper Marriage* is Published, *A Ripple from the Storm* in 1958, *Landlocked* in 1965 and then the last novel *The Four-Gated City* is published in 1969. Its American edition was first published in the year 1964, 1966 and 1969 respectively by Simon and Schuster; Alfred A. Knopf in a sequence of three, *Martha Quest* and *A Proper Marriage* then *A Ripple from the Storm* and *Landlocked* and then finally *The Four-Gated City*. All the novels are in a sequence depicting the life of its protagonist Martha Quest from her childhood to adolescence and to her death. First four novels of the series are set in Southern Rhodesia from 1930 to 1940. The fifth novel is set in London which shows the whole world is in a strong grip of the World War III. The reviews on various magazines about the series of novels are as:

In the “Sunday Times” C. P. Snow wrote of Lessing when *Martha Quest* appeared as, “She is one of the most powerfully equipped young novelists now writing,” (Times, 18 Nov. 2013). Another review in “The Observer” by John Davenport wrote for Lessing as, “Miss Lessing is extremely gifted. Her book combines sympathy and objectivity to a remarkable degree.” (Obsever, 15 Mar. 2012).

Martha Quest (1952) published by Michael Joseph in United Kingdom tells the story of its protagonist Martha Quest who is a rebel throughout the story. It is the first

book of the *Children of Violence* series and the story covers years from 1934 to 1938. Martha is an intelligent girl who observes everything with keenness. As she observes, the world seems to have gone awry. When the narrator introduces the readers to Martha, she is fifteen years old girl living in Africa with her parents who are working on African farms. Martha is passionate, avid for self-knowledge and remains most of the times bitter and narrow minded. As the time passes, she being a rebel breaks this bondage of her home and moves towards city to take a job as a typist. At city she encounters the life of what she is eagerly looking for. The story of Martha is autobiographical as it resembles to Lessing's own experiences in Africa. It depicts the life in the veld, superficial atmosphere of racial discrimination and sophistications of the life in the city. The novel is an autobiographical drawing upon Lessing's childhood memories, her involvement with politics and her concern towards social concerns. The novels through its protagonist decry the oppression of black natives by white colonisers and want to dominate with their own culture in Africa. As time passes, Martha notices discrepancies of the white people who speak something else but in meaning meant something different. She observes the attitudes and behaviours of these white settlers towards the black natives, she feels to be unhappy and at the same time displaced. She finds relief only in literature where she finds spiritual support to her soul. Martha uses these great books to shape her theory of the world.

The second novel of the series is *A Proper Marriage* (1954) published by Michael Joseph in United Kingdom. It is a separate novel and carries forwards the life of Martha. As Martha becomes disillusioned with the life in the city and soon gets married to Knowell Douglas. She leaves her job in the city and becomes dedicated wife and with the arrival of a baby gets busier in her life. As time passes, Martha finds

herself giving up her hopes, dreams and ideals as an individual. She finds herself changed because of the marriage. The story further shows Martha's rebellious nature towards her new life. She becomes disillusioned with her marriage and then with the arrival of a baby in their life, her freedom seems to be snatched. The novel further shows the outbreak of war and Douglas left with the army. She is unable to handle her baby Caroline. After one year Douglas returns back from the war having an ulcer. The whole family then moves in a big bungalow. They have servants there. Martha treats black servants in a good manner. Being a communist, she knows the rights of equality among people. Her philosophy of life teaches her to struggle for the rights of people. But like other British people Martha's mother always tells her that she doesn't know how to handle these black servants. They should be less treated as humans the common phrases used for Martha are the she has spoiled the natives but she ignored all this criticism. She joins communist group and lectures at various occasions for the equality and class struggle and finally leaves Douglas. In the first novel Martha wants to escape from her mother to experience the life in city. In this novel, she wants to escape from marriage, her husband and her child. She wants to be free without any strings attached to her. She wants to live her dreams. She becomes a victim of violence not of physical violence but of the social violence that she can't further tolerate. She fails as a wife and as a mother but wins the battle of self-standing and independent living for herself not for others.

The third novel of the series is *A Ripple from the Storm* (1958) published by Michael Joseph in United Kingdom. Its American edition was published in 1966 by Simon and Schuster. This novel focuses on that how a communist group came into existence in African small town. The group is the result of the Soviet Union of 1942,

1943 and 1944 respectively. Martha becomes active member of the group and divorced from her first marriage now marries a German refugee, Anton Hesse who is their group leader. Martha resembles to that of Lessing who is a divorcee from her first marriage and joins Communist group and then marries a German refugee, Gottfried Lessing. Lessing through this novel makes an attempt where she describes the psychology of a group who are against their own society and at the same time the psychology of a single individual behaving in a communal way. As time passes, we came to know that how the group fails and also their ideology. The novel opens a new chapter in the life of Martha. Her divorce from Douglas and moving forward is not cherished in her society. She keeps herself busy becomes weak for not feeding herself. Her mother's attitude makes her sick. People most of the times ask her that how did she feel after leaving her daughter (Caroline), when she doesn't want to think about her past life that she altogether left. She doesn't like to be a mother all she wants is freedom. She doesn't like to think of her past but is busy with what is happening with the communists, with the society, with whites and blacks and how the situation could be improved.

The fourth novel of the series is *Landlocked* (1965) published by Mac Gibbon & Kee in United Kingdom. Its American edition was published in the year 1966 by Simon and Schuster. This novel is the last in series set in Africa. It depicts the last months of WWII that has ruined Europe but at the same time has the message of equality among people. Martha's story as a struggler towards the oppressors continues. She becomes more politically engaged with the communist group and fights for the rights of African people. Her daughter Caroline grows and believes that Douglas second wife is her mother. Martha thinks that one day her daughter will be grateful to

her for letting her free in her life. The novel brings out Martha's love affair with Thomas who lives together and share a same bed. Thomas is a Polish Jew, and is married with children. It is with this love affair Martha realises a new side of herself. She first time enjoys her body and the way Thomas touches her. It is the time when she has fallen in love but was aware of the relation that can end at any time. This relation takes Martha to a new side of life where she becomes more emancipated at different stage of womanhood. The World War II and fight among countries that changes the map of the world is background of the novel. Martha and her friends are great supporters of communism and opponents of the capitalism. As the war finishes everyone wants to move from Africa, Martha also gets a chance to leave for Britain and she doesn't leave this opportunity. She wants to live for her own. She gets finally divorced from her second marriage and free from all responsibilities and boundaries wants to adventure her new phase of life. She wants to move away from her mother, from a society that always oppressed her and looking towards a future that will definitely bring a new realm in her life.

The last novel of the series of *Children of Violence* is *The Four-Gated City* (1969) published by Mac Gibbon and Kee in United Kingdom. The novel is published in America on 1969 by Alfred A. Knopf. The novel is set in Britain after WWII. It depicts the post-war London and Martha as a part of Cold War, Swinging London and Aldermaston Marches. The novel portrays the poverty of people because of war, painful insights of people and social anarchy. In the year 1997 Martha dies in an island of Scotland. It covers the whole twentieth century and ends by illusion of that the world in grip of World War III.

The Children of Violence series is based on the self analysis of its protagonist Martha Quest; she goes through complex processes for the search of herself. Most of the novels of the series are set in Africa and traces the agonies and miseries of African people. The main themes are Communism, Feminism, and Psycho-analysis for self discovery. Lessing's writing covers many facets like, sociology, psychology and politics. The series describes the evolution of Martha Quest from her teenage in the Africa to her adulthood and finally her death in 1979 in Scotland. Celine explains the *Children of Violence* series as, "The novels unfold for us Martha Quest's life from 1936 to 1997, taking us through her restless adolescence, eventful and mature adulthood and to her prophetic death in 1997 in a nuclear holocaust, which destroys the entire world" (Celine 38). During this cycle Martha changes from various names and recognitions like Matty in the city, after her first marriage becomes Mrs Knowell and then on her second marriage becomes Mrs Hesse having no identity of her own. She throughout the series fights for her own identity and for the identity of the natives.

Most of the writings of Lessing focus on the realist themes projecting the clear image of the people and the society in which they live. Her fiction is most autobiographical emerging from her personal experiences in Africa. The series of five novels is about the growth of the consciousness of its heroine Martha. Nancy Ferro in her research paper "Doris Lessing: Children of Violence" states the motive of Lessing behind this series is:

Setting out to read these books, you move into the inner and outer life of a woman named Martha. She's a lot like a lot of us--unhappy childhood, self-destructive early marriage, communist party activity,

search after herself and some kind of truthful engagement with the world. But most of all Martha, like all of us, is a child of violence. . . . Her growing-up years were orchestrated by the anxious, foreboding peace of the twenties and thirties, and World War II ushered Martha, along with the modern world, into maturity. (Ferro 18)

Lessing compares Martha with every individual who suffers in the hands of their society. E. Celine in the research work “Marxism in the Novels of Doris Lessing”, states the spirit of Lessing writing the series as, “In *The Children of Violence* series Lessing attempts to express her experiences of Africa, and her growth and understanding of life in its complexities through her autobiographical heroine Martha Quest. Lessing shares with Martha her quest for freedom, hatred of oppression, sensitivity of mind and the visionary spirit” (Celine 37). Violence is no solution and people should live in harmony with each other. Lessing through Martha’s character shows the roles assigned to her by the society as a daughter, as a wife and then as a mother. Martha to some extent tries to fulfil all her responsibilities but then she rejects all these traditional roles in order to find her own identity. Mrs Carson in the novel *A Ripple from the Storm* proves an example of white coloniser’s attitude towards natives. The narrator portrays her as:

The widow Carson’s life was a long drama played against fantasies about her servants. She never kept one longer than a month; they left for the most part in a state of bewilderment . . . Mrs Carson, late at night, standing motionless under the big jacaranda tree at the gate, watching the house. She was engaged in some dream of a black

marauder breaking into the house in spite of all its bars and barricades and finding it empty. As for Martha, she slept as usual with her windows and doors open. (Lessing, *A Ripple from the Storm* 31-32)

Lessing made a comparison between two people of same society where one believes in the equality of all individuals while as the other is an epitome of injustice. Mrs Carson always has ill intentions and treats the natives' only criminals. It is the realistic view of Martha that makes her to behave with justice with all individuals irrespective of race or colour.

In a research article by Elizabeth Maslen "Narrators and Readers in Three Novels" states that, "Lessing has been writing novels for more than thirty years now, and throughout that period she has shown remarkable versatility in manipulating the relationship between narrator and reader" (Maslen 4). When first reader is introduced to Martha, she is fifteen years girl, "They were Mrs Quest and Mrs Van Rensberg; and Martha Quest, a girl of fifteen, sat on the steps in full sunshine, clumsily twisting herself to keep the glare from her book with her own shadow" (Lessing, *Martha Quest* 3). Martha lives with her parents in the farm. This novel examines her growth from her childhood to a young lady with a vision of her dreams and career. She reads lot of books and Cohen brothers provide her books on psychology, economics and sociology. She wants to have that vision of freedom that she reads in these books. The narrator comments:

She was like a bird flitting from branch to darkening branch of an immense tree; but the tree rose as if it had no trunk, from a mist. She read as if this were a process discovered by herself; as if there had

never been a guide to it. She reads like a bird collecting twigs for a nest. She picked up each new book, using the author's name as a sanction, as if the book were something separate and self-contained, a world in itself. (259)

Lessing has seen the influence of colonialism in most of the worst form and she found soothing effect in the philosophy of Marxism to liberate her personal and social conflicts, "she has experienced the stifling influence of colonialism, in its worst forms. She detested it and wanted a way out of it. She found the philosophy of Marxism most appealing because it promised total liberation for the colonial situation, both personal and social and even international" (Celine 39). Martha since from her childhood dreams of a free life but her mother always treats her little girl who can't do anything of her own. Mrs Quest always interfered in her matters of self decisions. Her mother's interference has negative effect on Martha; if she wants to dress of her own her mother doesn't allow her to do so as:

I'm sixteen, said Martha, between set teeth, in a stifled voice; and she looked towards her father, for help. But he quickly turned away, and measured medicine into a glass. 'My dear, nice girls don't wear clothes like this until...' 'I'm not a nice girl,' broke in Martha, and suddenly burst into laughter. Mrs Quest joined her in a relieved peal, and said, 'Really my dear, you are ridiculous'. (Lessing, *Martha Quest* 23)

Mrs Quest has great expectations from her daughter as she knows that she is quite intelligent and will definitely make a good career. She often talks to her friend Mrs Van Rensberg about Martha and her career. She comments:

Mrs Quest aggressively stated that Martha was clever and would have a career. That the Dutchwoman could remain calm and good-natured on such occasions was proof of considerable inner strength, for Mrs Quest used the word 'career' not in terms of something that Martha might actually do, such as doctoring, or the law, but as a kind of stick to beat the world with, as if she were saying, 'My daughter will be somebody, whereas yours will only be married'. (6)

Everyone believes that Martha being an intelligent girl will do something worthy in her life but Martha is confused about her dreams and desires. Her only desire was to leave her home and to get a job in the town. She dreamed about this freedom day and night and finally leaves her home to do a job in the town. Mohammad Kaosar Ahmed in his research work "A Psychoanalytic-Feminist Reading of Martha's "Battle" with Mrs. Quest in Doris Lessing's Martha Quest" states the personality of Miss Martha as, "Lessing's Martha Quest, the first volume of *The Children of Violence* Series, presents an ordinarily curious and rebellious English adolescent, Martha Quest, coming of age against the colourful backdrop of the African landscape" (Ahmed 33). Martha's desire to get a job tormented her as she wants to free herself from her home and the veld. The quest for identity is shown in the research work as:

In order to establish an identity which she could be satisfied with she tries to break away from her mother. Because of this Martha makes decisions which have profound effects on her future: for example,

instead of passing the matriculation exam and going to the university, Martha ends up moving into town to work as a secretary. (225)

She wants to explore her potential and her knowledge. She wants to be free from the cliches of her mother because for her mother means domination. Her mother's influence means the influence of the society that always haunted her and made her irritable. C. Renuka in her research work entitled "Doris Lessing and the Dimensions of Freedom with Special Reference to Children of Violence" states Martha's rebellious attitude as, "What we see is a gradual shift of focus, from-a close scrutiny of individual experiences of Martha's marriage and motherhood to a wide-angle vision which encompasses the entire planet, the universe of human experience" (Renuka 118). She represents the collectively all human civilization who dreams of freedom. When she leaves the veld and comes to town her mother even influences her there by changing the settings of her room as per her own taste and Martha feels tormented by this influence of her mother as:

Martha gazed around the room with as much dislike as if it had been contaminated. She looked into her drawers, and every crease and fold of her clothing spoke of her mother's will. . . . She flung all the clothes out onto the floor, and then rearranged them to her own taste, though no outsider would have seen any difference; she pushed the bed back to what she imagined had been its old position. (Lessing, *Martha Quest* 119)

The research work shows the individuality of Martha as:

As a result Martha eventually learns to analyse her feelings of individuation and gains stability and external independence. When it comes to Martha's surroundings, Martha feels a constant tension between how she sees herself and how she is expected to behave by people in general. (225)

She finally gets a job in the town and starts her new life. She lives alone as an independent girl and in due course meets Donovan who takes her to the parties, smoking, clubs and drinks. Still living in the town, Martha is not quite sure what she really wanted. She then breaks with Donovan and develops a relationship with Adolf. The relation also fails; she needs a man who should be superior to her and others. Martha's friends don't like her friendship with Adolf who is a Jew. They prevent her from meeting him and finally she quits this relation. E. Celine in the research work "Marxism in the novels of Doris Lessing" states the ill-treatment to both Jews and blacks as, "Lessing too witnessed similar situations in her country in Southern Rhodesia where the Jews were hated and the blacks were ill treated"(Celine 14-15). Martha afterwards comes to know about her capabilities and realises that she had wasted these years of her life. She works hard and excels in her job of typing. She reads voraciously to balance her personality. Lessing has named her protagonist in such a manner that from the name that readers can understand that there is quest for something. 'Quest' means search and Martha searches her identity for her individuation. In a research work, the struggle of Martha is shown as:

Martha is not able to find balance in her personality; instead, she struggles with the conception she has of herself, and the conception

given to her by her surroundings. The social side of Martha's development is shown to be shaped by her relationships. . . (226)

Martha represents outsider in contemporary British Society. She is a white settler living in a Colony that is different from her motherland. Martha remains all time haunted by the atmosphere of racial discrimination, the sense of exile and homelessness brings alienation in her life. Celine in her research work compares Martha with Lessing as, “*Children of Violence* exposes a heroine who is in revolt against the very structure of the capitalist society which perpetuated exploitation and discrimination not only of the black but also of the weaker section of the society” (Celine 25). Lessing has also felt this pain of homelessness by herself. Zhang Chunming in a research paper entitled “Doris Lessing’s Cultural Trauma and Traumatic Writing” states traumatic effect of homelessness on her mind and leading towards alienation as:

Martha is doomed to have a complicated complex of Africa. She thinks that Africa is her home, but she is also an alien white settler. She has the same opinion with her parents though she does not like to admit. This ambiguous attitude and marginal social position cause her cultural traumas. It is not individual trauma, but collective trauma existing in the mind of many generations continuously rooting in the society. (Chunming 39)

The sense of being in exile always haunts Martha. This traumatic feeling because of cultural trauma is expressed through Martha who fights for the rights of blacks in Africa being a member of the Communist group. The approach of

communistic group can be understood when all the members were discussing about their meetings. The narrator states:

They were talking of how the four of them would meet after the war, and continue this friendship which was subordinate to the Revolution. They did not specify the country where they would meet: the world was open to them. As Jackie often remarked: when you're a communist you can go to any country in the world and be with friends at once . . . : they were part of the great band of international brothers. (Lessing, *A Ripple from the Storm* 39-40)

E. Celine portrays the view of Karl Marx on a Communistic society as:

According to him (Marx) Society has always been divided between the oppressor and the oppressed, and they stand in constant opposition to each other. From the primitive communist society, with the introduction of private property emerged the master servant, freeman slave society; and from this society developed the patrician and plebeian, and this in turn gave way for the lord and serf form and finally to the present form of society, the bourgeois and proletariat. (Celine 17-18)

Martha believes in experiences and reading is one of the greatest experiences for her. She believes that knowledge of life can only be gained through experiences. She fights collectively for all the oppressed people of the society in Africa. E Celine in his research work explores that how Lessing being different from other writers wrote for the people of Africa as, "Doris Lessing seems to have listened to Africa as no other

writer has been able to do. Africa is a place that taught her the necessity for a change in Society and prompted her to seek an answer through the left politics” (Celine 5). Lessing’s main concern of writing is that from a personal to collective. She gives the picture of a communist and his ideology that how the communists dedicate their lives for the betterment of mankind. Her intention can be understood as:

‘A communist, comrades, is a person who is utterly, totally, dedicated to the cause of freeing humanity. A communist must consider himself a dead man on leave. A communist is hated despised, feared and hunted by the capitalists of the world. A communist must be prepared to give up everything: his family, his wife, his children, at a word from the party. (Lessing, *A Ripple from the Storm* 44)

Lessing accepts that she has written from personal to collective. Lessing in *A Small Personal Voice*, mentions the *Children of Violence* as “a study of the individual conscience in its relations with the collective” (Lessing, *A Small Personal Voice* 14).

Lessing’s concern for the social cause become her motive in her life. In order to achieve this she made writing as her weapon and knowledge her power. She was not more educated but made herself to read more and more to have the knowledge of the world. Lessing always read to gain knowledge of the world like others she didn’t read for her enjoyment. She gained the knowledge that helped her in the intentions behind that reading. She mostly studied nineteenth century literature and those contemporary political works that shaped her ethical concerns. In her essay *The Small Person Voice*, Lessing confesses that her literary preferences are, “For me the highest point of literature was the novel of the nineteenth century, the work of Tolstoy, Stendhal,

Dostoevsky, Balzac, Turgenev, Chekhov; the works of the great realists” (Lessing, *The Small Person Voice* 4). In *Landlocked*, Anton Hesse, Martha’s second husband and her lover Thomas are outsiders in the African country. Their circle is only a small group of White colonisers who are against the racism. They have many dreams and ideas for the rescue natives but their identity as white colonisers for the African people puts a halt on their plans and actions. Hung Shu-Ming in the research work “Inter-Subjectivity in the Fiction of Doris Lessing” this otherness for Martha as:

In this novel Lessing, describes the experience of the young girl Martha as she develops into adolescence, including her attempt to break away from her white settler family to begin to shape an identity for herself. The novel is set at the end of the 1930s in South Africa. Lessing set out to portray a central female character who experiences intensely a sense of “otherness” in her interaction with those around her, while she also shows sympathy towards people who are treated as “others” in her environment. (Shu- Ming 63)

Martha’s quest for the self-realisation is because of the unresolved and unsolved conflicts are between her own self and with the other people. Lessing categorises people on the basis of life style in Southern Rhodesia. People living in the farms, people living in the town and people of both the farm and the town. Lessing portrays the dialectical relationship of Marxism exists between the individual circumstances and that of the political and social life in which one lives. At the age of fifteen it seems that Martha has inherited these contradictions of the age as:

Martha had gained a clear picture of herself, from the outside. She was adolescent, and therefore bound to be unhappy; British, and therefore uneasy and defensive; in the fourth decade of the twentieth century, and therefore inescapably beset with problems of race and class; female, and obliged to repudiate the shackled women of the past. She was tormented with guilt and responsibility and self-consciousness;. (Lessing, *Martha Quest* 12)

This historical dialectics can be clearly understood by the explanation given by Darshan Pal Sidhu in his research work entitled “Politics and the Novel: A Study of Doris Lessing’s Children of Violence Sequence” as, “Historical dialectics with all its political repercussions can impinge upon the life-force even before a child is born. Martha, like Lessing herself, is the product of 1919 war because war was what had brought her parents together. These portraits have a character of being “historical clichés” both psychologically and sociologically” (Sidhu 45). In *A Ripple from the Storm* the imperial attitude of white colonisers can be understood from the character Mr Maynard as:

He started the car, and turned to say: ‘I want to give you some advice, young woman. You’d better leave the Kaffirs alone. And you don’t suppose they understand one word of what you say to them, do you? . . . ‘What do you suppose you are going to change? We happen to be in power, so we use power. What is history? A record of misery, brutality and stupidity. That’s all. That’s all it ever will be. What does it matter

who runs a country? It's always a bunch of knaves administering a pack of fools. (Lessing, *A Ripple from the Storm* 64)

Lessing through Mr Maynard wants to show the real imperial tendency of British in Africa. Martha's mother always had a part to play in the life of her daughter. She doesn't like this attitude of her mother and felt suffocated in the company of her mother. The conversation between Martha and her mother is as:

'Oh, my dear,' said Mrs Quest helplessly. She had known quite well that Martha was doing this, but to be bold so now was another thing. 'What would happen if a native attacked you?' 'I should scream for help,' said Martha flippantly. 'Oh, my dear. . . . 'Oh, don't be ridiculous,' said Martha angrily. 'If a native raped me, then he'd be hung and I'd be a national heroine, so he wouldn't do it, even if he wanted to, and why should he?' 'My dear, read the newspapers, white girls are always being ra-attacked.' (Lessing, *Martha Quest* 50)

The quarrels between Martha and her mother are quoted by Celine as, "Lessing reports many quarrels between Martha and her mother arising from their difference in views. For Martha every quarrel is a fight for freedom, either for herself or for the natives" (Celine 240-241). The argue between Martha and her mother when she asks her to visit the town alone and the mother didn't allow her and warns her that the natives are nasty and are always ready to harm the whites. It had a deep impression on the mentality of Martha throughout her life. She felt that if her mother has not nagged in life she might have been a different person. The pressure of the mother she felt doesn't want to repeat with her child.

Martha's intention was to protect her child from those circumstances that she had felt herself. Her child should develop into a full personality of her own. She doesn't want to be the child's enemy. To grow fully one needs freedom. She wants her child free. She comments, "Martha, the maternal force, the maternal Martha, that enemy, would not be allowed to enter the picture" (Lessing, *A Ripple from the Storm* 430). She divorces her first husband whom she first finds a realist like her but in actual state was something else. He doesn't allow her to attend the meetings of communist party and should not treat blacks with love and care but like other colonisers treat them. Celine states the cause of divorce of Martha as, "His insistence that she should not attend the communist meetings, and that she should keep the blacks in their place, causes Martha to leave him, and she chooses the party as her first loyalty" (Celine 57). Martha becomes more involved in the communist party. Day after day, she paves way out of her family and the household. She keeps her daughter in the hands of a servant that both her mother and husband didn't like. Mrs Quest is not satisfied with her daughter and her attitude to faith on the native servants and leaving her house in the hands of these natives who for white colonisers are only thieves. Martha wants a free life but felt most of the times suffocated in her house in presence of her mother and husband. Being a communist, she wants freedom for an individual. Martha accepts the Marxist philosophy as pointed out by E. Celine in her research work "Marxism in the Novels of Doris Lessing" as, "Martha's desire to liberate herself from the system leads her to accept Marxism . . . The young enthusiastic members were inspired by the ideology of brotherhood promised by Marxism. They work towards its establishment by organising meetings where the black are treated equals, visiting the local's habitation, to educate them of their rights" (Celine 26).

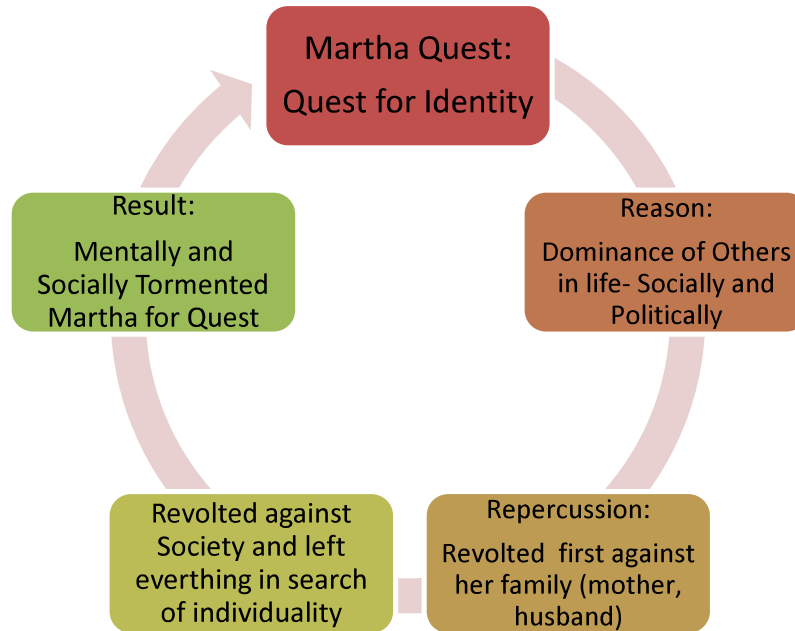


Fig. 4.1 : Martha's Quest for Identity

Lessing's has tried every new form in her writing as she has written novels, drama, essays, poetry and short stories. Her themes were very different and always new. Her themes may be on colonial Africa, racial discrimination, social and mental breakdown and even nuclear disasters. All these themes are prevalent in her *Children of Violence Series*. Lessing's theme of self-quest and her quest for wholeness are similar to that of Carl Jung's concept of Self-Individuation. Norris Brock Johnson in the research paper states the Carl Jung's concept of individuation as:

Carl G. Jung illustrates the intellectual hegemony inhering in presumed universal statements about the nature of human nature . . . Jung is concerned with the relationship of the structure of the psyche to the structure of male/female sexuality. Jung's major contribution to the study of psychology is his concept of individuation - the personal discovery and acceptance of the Self. (Johnson 47)

The central theme of her *Children of Violence* series is the quest of Martha for individuation. It can be understood by this research article as, “*Children of Violence* series takes as its central theme Martha’s quest for individuation. She wants to achieve psychological independence by getting freedom from the clutches of parental protection and the isolated farm life” (Sajeesh 21-22). Martha’s mental disturbances make her to analyse her relationships and how these relationships has lead towards Martha’s psychological bondage. Martha through her dreams paves her way to her inner consciousness and provides Martha self-understanding. The theme of the series is Martha’s quest for self and self-hood. Lessing tackles the unconscious issues of African natives like their fears and racial injustices. Sajeesh in the research work states that:

According to Jung *self* is always in a quest towards ‘individuation’. Even psychological disorders can be seen as an attempt of the human self to achieve individuation. This is an experience of wholeness. Human psyche has an ability to heal itself like other parts of the body. Again, critics have studied Lessing’s works with reference to the archetypal concepts of Jung. (Sajeesh 22)

Lessing made mental breakdown of her characters and then their recovery as an important theme of her writing. The series discusses that how Martha’s experiences her fragmented life. Her internal fragmentation leads towards her external breakdown and she fails as a daughter, lover, wife, as a mother and then finally as a social activist. This entire breakdown leads towards her loss of identity states, “Lessing’s view of mental breakdown is quite different from the conventional view and very similar to

anti-psychiatric concepts. To her, it is an intelligible and potentially healing response to conflicting social demands when the schizoid individual is filled with extreme ontological security for his/her own identity” (Sajeesh 23-24). Carl Jung talks about dreams which serve as a means of communication from unconscious mind as:

The dream is a little hidden door in the innermost and most secret recesses of the psyche, opening into that cosmic night which was psyche long before there was any ego-consciousness, and which will remain psyche no matter how far our ego consciousness may extend; ... in dreams we put on the likeness of that more universal truer, more eternal man dwelling in the darkness of primordial night. There he is still the whole, and the whole is in him, indistinguishable from nature and bare of all ego-hood. Out of these all-uniting depths arises the dream, be it never so immoral. (Jung 46)

Lessing through the dreams of her characters conveys their psychoanalytical conditions. Her protagonist, Martha Quest of the *Children of Violence* series go through the apocalyptic world of dreams. Hajer Elarem In his research work states the influence of psychologist on Lessing as, “Greatly influenced by Carl G. Jung and R. D. Laing after 1960, she put a premium on dreams and the non-rational and saw madness as a state of great creative potential. She viewed it as a dynamic process leading to change and a healing reconciliation within the person concerned” (Elarem 156). In the fourth novel *Landlocked* the dreams of Martha depict her unconscious mind. In her dreams, Martha finds a large house with decayed rooms, “crumbling drily under her eyes into a pile of dust, broken brick, a jut of ant-eaten rafter, a slant of

rusting iron” (Lessing, *Landlocked* 21). It is a symbol of disintegrating psyche. Jung in his book *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* states about the house he had built for himself, “The ground floor stood for the first level of the unconscious. The deeper I went, the more alien and the darker the scene became. In the cave, I discovered remains of a primitive culture, that is the world of the primitive man within myself—a world which can scarcely be reached or illuminated by consciousness” (Jung 18). The same imagery is to be found in the novel where Martha finds a large house with many. This house becomes a psyche model:

She lived precariously, in a house with half a dozen rooms, each room full of people ... unable to leave the rooms they were in to visit the others, unable even to understand them, since they did not know the languages spoken in the other rooms) then what was she waiting for, in waiting for (as she knew she did) a man? Why, someone who would unify her elements, a man would be like a roof, or like a fire burning in the centre of the empty space. (Lessing, *Landlocked* 37)

This compartmentalization is of the Martha’s inner psyche and this decomposition of Martha can be further understood in a dream where she found ants weaving her soul. The dream is as:

The house on the kopje, collapsed into a mess of ant-tunnelled mud, ant-consumed grass, where red ant-made tunnels wove a net, like red veins, over the burial mound of Martha’s soul, over the rotting wood, rotting grass, subsiding mud; and bushes and trees, held at bay so long (but only just, only very precariously) by the Quests’ tenancy, came

striding in, marching over the fragments of substance originally
snatched from the bush. (Lessing, *Landlocked* 21)

This crumbling and damaged house tells about Martha's unconscious mind and the development towards the chaotic psyche. She finds herself fragmented. At this juncture Martha feels spiritually dead and fragmented. This fragmentation is because of the failures she faced in her life such as a member of a communist party, as a wife and as a mother and then finally a lover. In her life she searched for wholeness but found herself fragmented. All this leads to her psychic decomposition and manifested through her dreams and craves for the quest of selfhood. Lessing throughout her writing has been greatly concerned about the interpersonal relationships. Her autobiographical as well as fictional works most of the often deal with the self-destructive and self-constructive nature of relationships. In *Martha Quest*, Lessing wants to expose the futility of white colonisers. The sense of claustrophobia of Martha was common to all white colonisers in Africa. They were filled with the sense of dissatisfaction with African experiences and with their servants. These colonisers have come to Africa to make their fortunes but have failed and were living a life full of frustration. Johnson in his research paper states the dreams lead towards self realisation of Jung as, "Dreams are another category of device mediating the relationship between the ego and the collective unconscious" (Johnson 48).

World War remained always a great influence in the life of Martha. The nostalgic murmurings of her parents about the War echoed her childhood and had a deep effect on her 'self.' In the twin novels *A Proper Marriage* and *A Ripple from the Storm*, points out the effects of War on an individual and the collective psyche of the

generation. Lessing in this series talks of a generation who witnessed holocaust and had deep effect on the body and soul. The people and the youth of the colony lead a euphoric phase as, “they danced and sang mindless . . . swallowed up in the sharp, exquisite knowledge of loss and impending change that came over the seas and continents from Europe; and underneath it all, a riding tide of excitement that was like a poison (78). Historical consciousness has been the major interest of Lessing because it is based upon social environment and in the region of the politics. Carl Jung states the importance of history in shaping the psyche of an individual. A person is the product of the history and through his psyche presents his/her individuality. John Raphael staude in her research paper states the relation between human psyche and history as, “According to Jung, the collective unconscious, buried in the structure of the brain, discloses its living presence only through the medium of dreams, symbols and creative fantasy” (Staudé 317). Sidhu in her research work states the motive of Lessing for writing this fiction as:

Children of Violence is an attempt to understand the terrible responsibility for what has been lost in terms of human and spiritual values. History cannot be repudiated but it can certainly be reviewed. As one of its substructures, Lessing’s novel sequence reviews history . . . the colonizer’s psyche, the conscious as well as unconscious gestures—as a metaphor for her own attempt to write a different kind of fiction. (Sidhu 51)

The novel series *Children of Violence* owes its greater part to the complexity in exploring the cultural psychosis that is directly the outcome of colonization. Lessing’s

struggles to the freedom of people throughout the series of novel as stated by Celine as, “she longs also for the deliverance of the blacks, whom unlike the other whites she considers, human beings. She feels their oppression and isolation and envisages a land where they will be free and treated as human beings and equals” (Celine 59). Martha throughout her life has played the role of a rebellious daughter, a wife, a mother and also a comrade of the communist party. She realised her own self only after she was in London. In London, Martha had psychiatric sessions to know her identity. During her session with psychiatrist, Dr Lamb states her childhood experiences as, “She was always making fun of me because I wasn’t good at the boy’s things. My brother was always beating me” (Lessing, *Four Gated City* 230). Throughout the novel, Martha was unable to achieve the wholeness but in last series of the novel *The Four-Gated City* when she had sessions with her psychologists, she realised that was her true role and what is the reflection of others. She has split herself into Martha and Matty to find the distance between her past and present. Matty is the reflection of Martha, she wants to see herself as whole. As quoted by J. Mercy in her research work entitled “Individuals in Search of Wholeness in Doris Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook* and *Children of Violence*” as, “A number of scholars like Barnouw, Du Plessis and Labovitz argued that Martha’s relationship to Thomas Stern had a great importance in her process of consciousness . . . She did not look for a man because of romantic love any more but her intention was to become whole as a person” (Mercy 190). They were not tied in a bond of marriage but were sexually together and this experience was new for Martha who had been married since the age of nineteen but couldn’t find such solace ever before. Lessing makes their relation clear by this quote from the novel *Landlocked* as:

Martha and Thomas did not belong together as a man and a wife, and both could be sexually and emotionally opened without being tied to each other through marriage. This was actually something quite new for Martha . . . sometimes when they made love it was so powerful they felt afraid, as if enormous forces were waiting to invade them. But they did they did not know what is meant. (Lessing, *Landlocked* 161)

Martha through Thomas came to know her deep voice of herself. Dreams became an integral part of Martha. She started dreaming about her relation with Thomas and the fear of being lonely haunted her dreams. Mercy states Martha's dreams as, "Dreams had become a part of the creative energies, and they emerged in Martha's life at this phase. She, for example, dreamed about being on a high, rocky place which was surrounded by a shore-less sea, and across this sea sailed people she had known and even Thomas was there" (Mercy 191). Martha achieved the level of consciousness because of Thomas and the love that she experiences with him changes her inner self as:

Her experience with Thomas had been so deep, in every way, that she was changed to the point that—but here it was that she was unable to go further. . . . Some force, some power had taken hold of them both, and had made such changes in her—what, soul? (but she did not even know what words she must use) psyche? being?—that now she was changed and did not understand herself. . . . But what had been the essential quality of being with Thomas? (Lessing, *Landlocked* 222)

He (Thomas) has been the victim of violence in Europe as he was a Jew. She learnt the fragility of individuals who were the victims of violence. All this helped Martha to gain maturity in the final novel of the series *The Four-Gated City*. The Marxist society envisages a society where every human being is equal and bloom to its fullest through justice and equality. Lessing's vision for an idealistic is the very same where everyone should be treated equally without any type of prejudices. Lessing through her protagonist explains her dream city as:

And again her mind swam and shook, like clearing water, and now, instead of one black child, she saw a multitude, and so lapsed easily into her familiar daydream There were splashing fountains, and the sound of flutes, and its citizens moved, grave and beautiful, black and white and brown together, and these groups of elders paused, and smiled with pleasure at the sight of the children – the blue-eyed, fair skinned children of the North playing hand in hand with the bronze skinned, dark-eyed children of the South. Yes they smiled and approved these many fathered children, running and playing among the flowers and the trees of this fabulous and ancient city. . . (Lessing, *Martha Quest* 17)

Lessing dreams of such type of society that should be classless. People of all colours should be equally treated and should live in harmony with each other. It is the main motive of Marxist philosophy. Carl Jung explanation of dreams can be understood by this quote as:

The Swiss psychologist also believed that human beings could achieve self-knowledge by connecting themselves with their dreams and interpreting their symbolic and archetypal import. Through listening to the messages of our dreams and waking imagination, we could make contact with and reintegrate our various parts and ultimately become whole (Jung, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* 164).

The *Children of Violence* series analysis the Lessing's understanding of Marxist and Psycho-analytical Theory as a basic cure to treat the inhumanity in the world and especially in Southern Rhodesia. She has shown the miseries and pains that the natives face in the country of her childhood. The situation is Similar of Karl Marx's time when capitalists exploited the middle class people. Lessing presents Martha Quest as her protagonist in this series as a revolutionist who revolts against her society and race. Martha leaves everything like home, family, husband and children in order to serve the society and mankind. She joins the communist party as a political event to abolish the class struggle. The party has people from different parts of the world who fight for the cause of Africans. It makes Martha a strong and firm supporter of Marxism. Every novel in the series ends with new delusion. When Martha was young, she leaves her home to get a job that means freedom for her. Then she marries that becomes another prison to her and motherhood becomes one of the biggest obstacles in her freedom. She quits all these responsibilities but finds herself more and more uncomfortable in her second marriage. Her husband behaves in the same way like other husbands who always dictate what to do as a communist and as a wife. Martha again felt the same resentment and losing herself for others. She loses every hope and the futility of her efforts for her group to work for others when she finds it to

have an end very soon. It also ends her work to do for the sake of people and to bring a change in the society. She again becomes disillusioned with her life. Each novel in this series brings Martha closer to the reality and stronger as she refuses to seek the original quest for her-self identity.

Martha's vision is to work for the all classes of people irrespective of colour. She believes in the world of humanity. Martha becomes disillusioned with the life as she faces the harsh realities of the world war and the breakdown of the bond between the members of her party. It leads to the psychological breakdown of Martha and other members as they find everything in a disaster. Her mother's painful life, her father's life as a victim of war, their loneliness and her own isolated life become the chief cause of it. She finds no solution of it and finally she leaves her childhood country in order to find the peace of mind in another country where she finds no peace. Her vision finally leads her to find the world in the threat of nuclear war.

Chapter 5

Narrators and Protagonists: A Study of Lessing's Short Stories

African Stories were published in collected volumes; both the volumes were published in 1973 by Michael Joseph in United Kingdom, the first volume is *This Was The Old Chief's Country* and the second volume is *The Sun Between Their Feet*. All these collections come to be collectively known as *African Stories*. Doris Lessing has spent most of the time of her life in Africa and has been impressed by the natural beauty of the Dark Continent- its landscapes, wild jackals, pigs and other creatures has impressed her throughout her life. This experience is quite visible in her writings about Africa. These stories about Africa are full of agony that she feels for African's, the bile she had for White Settlers who oppressed the Black natives. She further goes on praising Africa for its atmosphere which she finds a chief gift from such a landscape to its writers. Doris Lessing is undoubtedly one among the powerful writers of her own century. She belongs to the circle of writer of the realistic tradition and has definitely explored the social, moral, political aspects which in turn affect the psychology of a character. Her works fall in the category of racism, feminism and her main concern was communism to work for the justice and equality of mankind irrespective of caste, colour, creed or sex. In most of her African stories, her main concern was to rule out the theme of alienation, theme of racism, injustice and oppression. Lessing's fiction is much more concerned with her political involvement with the Communist Party. This involvement is evident in most of her works where she fought for the equality of these people. These short story collections include every story about Africa contains

Lessing's joys, agonies, and complexities of African life. She has combined all her extraordinary work in these collections. Lessing herself belonged to the British settlers of Rhodesia and her father has bought thousand acres of farmland from the Matbele tribe of Rhodesia who were expelled from their homeland by these white settlers. As the time passes Lessing became aware about the racism in Africa. She became conscious of that how with the violence and threat these white settlers have taken the lands of the black natives brutally. Some of the important reviews about the collection of these short stories are as:

Lessing took the stand to work for the justice of these oppressed natives. So, her stories are full of this anguish and the guilt. These colonials have oppressed most of the part in the world along with Africa. They consolidated their political power in Africa in the form of establishing companies in the Dark Continent and it automatically shifted the power under British rule. The natives were so tortured that they can't speak for their rights, if they did; they have to be dragged out of their native land. Lessing has chosen Southern Rhodesia as the core of her African writings. It is the place where Lessing has experienced all the brutalities by the white settlers on black natives. Most of her work is autobiographical in nature. In her preface to *This Was the Old Chief's Country* 1964, this autobiographical element is as:

Writers brought up in Africa have many advantages- being at the centre of a modern battlefield; part of a society in rapid, dramatic change. But in a long run it can also be a handicap: to wake up every morning with one's eyes on a fresh evidence of inhumanity; to be reminded twenty

times a day of injustice. (Lessing, Preface *This Was the Old Chief's Country* 8)

Lessing's main concern was to bring out the injustice that African faced, through her literature wants the attention of the whole world. She has found this injustice by herself while living in the Africa, where she has spent most of her time. Swamy and Aruna in their research article "Fiction and Narrative: A Study of Doris Lessing's "Memoirs of a Survivor"" has shown the autobiographical elements of Doris Lessing in her fiction as:

Lessing's fiction is deeply autobiographical, much of it emerging out of her experiences in Africa. Drawing upon her childhood memories and her serious engagement with politics and social concerns, Lessing has written about the clash of cultures, the gross injustices of racial inequality, the struggle among opposing elements within an individual's own personality, and the conflict between the individual conscience and the collective good. (Swamy and Aruna 117)

In her *African Stories*, Lessing has shown the injustice of African people. She believes in the equality of human beings which is the maxim of the Marxist philosophy. Georgescu states the Lessing's intention behind writing *African Stories* as, "In her African writings, Doris Lessing works both within and beyond the colonial experience . . . This extended vision enables her to see beyond the false colonial myth of white superiority, of the necessity that blacks and whites should never mix" (Georgescu 166). Throughout her life and writing career, she has followed the Marxist philosophy either by being an active activist of the Communist Party or by her writing. E. Celine explains the Marxist view of writers as, "Every writer, writes with a sense of society

and that is why literature is called "criticism of life". However it is the Marxists who for the first time emphasised the role of the writer in shaping the society" (Celine 231).

Lessing herself belongs to the White settlers but was against the oppression by them to the natives. She wants to have justice for all, "Truly to understand, we have to lose the arrogance that is the white man's burden, to stop feeling superior" (Lessing, Preface *This Was the Old Chief's Country* 9). This is the Communistic approach of Lessing which shows that all human beings are equal, no one is superior. The *African Stories* has two volumes, *This Was the Old Chief's Country* and *The Sun Between Their Feet*. Yogesh Yadav in his research work comments on African Stories as:

Collected African Stories, Vol. I and II, she bitterly criticizes the racial prejudice and the white Settlers' myth of their superiority to the Black natives and exposes the hollowness of their claim to rule over them on the false pretext of civilizing the backward people of Africa. She also expresses her sympathy towards the communist movement in South Africa and its effort to establish social justice there. (Yadav 235)

The stories in these collections reflect her life long memories about Africa and give a clear picture of White Settlers and the Black natives. Lessing has represented the discrimination and injustice by Whites to Blacks in a colonial society.

Lessing is considered as a powerful realistic writer exploring the facets of social, political and psychological of her century. Spiegel (as quoted in Roberta Rubenstein, 242), relates the personal experiences with that to collective as, "The modernist features in Doris Lessing's later work do not merit the charge of either 'escapism' or 'decadence,' but represent an honest and unflinching response to a

situation which has led the author to see the very structures of our minds as the basis of our individual and collective alienation” (Rubenstein 242). Lessing’s short stories have perfectly explored these facets. The stories reflect the discrimination between individuals on the basis of colour and class leading towards fragmentation and alienation of most of the characters. This all is because of the apartheid in Africa, where one human being doesn’t find other as a human but like an animal. Celine in the research work praises Lessing and her writing as, “Doris Lessing is a writer of our period who has accepted this commitment. For her, commitment was the gift she received through her association with Marxism. Her Southern Rhodesian days and her involvement with the communist group in Southern Rhodesia, left an indelible mark upon her personality and attitudes” (Celine 234). White settlers in Africa believe that the Blacks natives can’t breathe the same air as by the Whites. Thus they became cruel in their behaviour towards the natives. In her preface 1964 to *African Stories* volume 1, *This Was the Old Chief’s Country*, Lessing experiences these cruelties as:

And the cruelties of the white man towards the black man are among the heaviest counts in the indictment against humanity, colour prejudice is not our original fault, but only one aspect of the atrophy of the imagination that prevents us from seeing ourselves in every creature that breathes under the sun. (Lessing, Preface *This Was the Old Chief’s Country* 8)

Doris Lessing is well known writer of twentieth century as a social writer writing for the society of African people, a political writer as having communistic approach in her

writings and as a psychological writer, writing about the psychology of its characters who has been the victims of the oppression on the basis of colour.

In a story titled *The Old Chief Mshlanga* has shown in clear terms the oppression of the Whites to Blacks. Lessing wants to make world aware of the oppression and injustice that people face only because one race of humans treating them superior while others as inferior. When the story *The Old Chief Mshlanga* begins, the narrator is a white girl whose father like other British's has a large unused farm. The blacks were to serve the white settlers. There was a gap between blacks and whites and even the children were taught the same injustice. The narrator states it as, "The black people on the farm were as remote as the trees and the rocks. They were an amorphous black mass, mingling and thinning and massing like tadpoles, faceless, who existed merely to serve, to say 'Yes, Bass,' take their money and go" (Lessing 14). They taught their children the same thing to take the blacks for-granted. Whites believe that it is not possible to bridge the gap between blacks and whites, "The child (white) was taught to take them (blacks) for granted: the servants in the house would come running a hundred yards to pick up a book if she dropped it. She was called 'Nkosikaas'- Chieftainess, even by the black children her own age" (14). She represents the collective unconsciousness of all white settlers in Africa, "I went by, my gun hanging awkwardly, the dogs sniffing and growling, cheated of their favourite game of chasing natives like animals" (Lessing, *The Old Chief Mshlanga* 16) and "White child, brought up to consider all natives as things to use" (17). Being a communist, Lessing finds it her sole duty to bring out the follies of a society. The Irish Monthly in an article "Communitistic Magic" states the role of a communist as, "Communists become the ardent champions of all claims, the indefatigable advocates

of all discontents. To the peasants they promise to sell their grain, their wine, their cattle, and their sugar. They have special demands for young women, for intellectuals, for workers, for the weak, for soldiers and for conscripts” (*The Irish Monthly* 662).

Maureen in a review on Doris Lessing titled as “Doris Lessing Considers Her World and the World” in New York Times wrote, "Lessing's message, recognizable from her previous work, is close to W. H. Auden's 'We must love one another or die'." Although we will inevitably be defeated and disillusioned, defeated but we must. We still need to care about other people.” (Maureen 1975). Lessing further goes on stating this injustice as when the white girl, the protagonist of *The Old Chief Mshlanga* has been taught by her parents who found themselves superior to that of natives that they are not less than animals, “Come away; you mustn’t talk to natives” (15). The girl behaves in the same manner as per other white settlers in Africa.

I whistled the dogs close in to my skirts and let the gun swing in my hand, and advanced, waiting for them to move aside, off the path, in respect for my passing. But they came on steadily, and the dogs looked up at me for the command to chase. I was angry. It was ‘cheek’ for a native not to stand off a path, the moment he caught sight of you.
(Lessing, *The Old Chief Mshlanga* 15)

In a research paper by Rashmi R. L. states the injustice of people towards the natives in Africa in the story of ‘*Old Chief Mshlanha*’ and ‘*The Second Hut*’ can be understood as, “Both the stories demonstrate Lessing’s disapproval of political prejudices and colonialism in the Southern African society. Yet, her strong belief in Marxism helps Lessing to think differently from the kind of homogeneous colonial attitude” (R. L.

196). The unnamed character realises that she is one among those whose have destroyed these Africans and then brings a sort of realisation in her. She feels guilty. Robin Visel in a research paper entitled, “A Half-Colonization: The Problem of the White Colonial Woman Writer” states the unnamed narrator of Lessing as, “In an early Lessing story, 'The Old Chief Mshlanga', the unnamed main character, a young Southern African colonial girl, ventures into 'the old Chiefs country' only to realize that she is one of its 'destroyers'” (Visel 40). Lessing through this story wants to convey the greed of the white settlers resulting in the ruin of an entire village of the natives. The narrator’s parents prove to be typical radicals who every time discriminated their native servants as:

On the rare occasions when white children met together they could amuse themselves by hailing a passing native in order to make a buffoon of him; they could set the dogs on him and watch him run; they could tease a small black child as if he were a puppy . . . it was even impossible to think of the black people who worked about the house as friends. (Lessing, *The Old Chief Mshlanga* 14-15)

The injustice was like that if a white is passing the road the natives have to be a side and stand up in the honour of the white. No matter how old the white or the black may be, if the black’s didn’t do the same then it would be below the dignity of the whites. The narrator one day on her way met the chief- the old chief Mshlanga, the narrator explains it as, “‘My Chief travels to see his brothers beyond the river.’ A Chief! I thought, understanding the pride that made the old man stand before me like an equal- more than an equal, for he showed courtesy, and I Showed none” (Lessing, *The Old*

Chief Mshlanga 15-16). Nikol Romieri in her blog entitled *The Old Chief Mshlanga-Doris Lessing*, states that how the narrator become curious to know about the identity of the old man as, “She searched for the Chief Mshlanga name in books; she traveled through his lands, and came in contact with his sons. One day she became so curious that she travelled to his village seeking him. Finally she found the Chief, but finding her presence too awkward, she quickly left and returned home” (Romieri 1).

Like Lessing, the narrator increases her knowledge about the Africa and its people by reading. She continuously read books after books to make her aware of the whole situation in Africa. The narrator states, “As I read more books about the time when this part of Africa was opened up, not much more than fifty years before, I Found Old Chief Mshlanga had been a famous man, known to all explores and prospectors” (Lessing, *The Old Chief Mshlanga* 17). The narrator changes her attitudes and a realisation comes to her. She wants the same respect for the natives. In a research paper by Reshmi R. L. states this change in the young girl as, “Her arrogance regarding that she is a white and has a power and high standard than black people is gone and a new realization dawns on her. The meeting of the girl with the old chief Mshlanga who so intrigues her that she even visits his kraal or village, changes her attitude towards the locals . . .” (R. L. 200). The attitude of the narrator towards the natives’ changes, “But I thought: this is my heritage, too; I was bred here; it is my country as well as the black man’s country; and there is plenty of room for all of us, without elbowing each other off the pavements and roads” (Lessing, *The Old Chief Mshlanga* 17). This shows the Marxist view of Lessing through the narrator who wants to live in peace and harmony with all beings irrespective of their colour and culture, “It seemed it was only necessary to let free that respect I felt when I was talking with old

Chief Mshlanga, to let both black and white people meet gently, with tolerance for each other's differences: it seemed quite easy" (18). The nature and attitude of majority of white settlers didn't change towards the natives. After a few months, the Chief's sheep trampled the lands of the narrator's father and he refused to return him back. The narrator's father proves to be a greedy person, the old man request him again and again but the white man doesn't bother about him and his condition.

One night my father's big red land was trampled down by small sharp hooves, and it was discovered that the culprits were goats from Chief Mahlangu's kraal. My father confiscated all the goats He knew he couldn't get the money from the old man. He felt he was entitled to keep the goats. As for the old Chief, he kept repeating angrily: 'Twenty goats! . . . My people cannot lose twenty goats at once'. (23)

This refusal from the narrator's father made a deep effect on her psyche. She realised that the colour prejudices is the cause of all the pain that the blacks face even in their own land. She realised that how her father's greed destroyed a whole kraal of these natives. It is the greed of all whites who forced the native to be submissive and should work only for their betterment. Lessing wants to portray the collective attitude of white settlers by depicting the personal, "we notice in her the confluence of aspects such as change versus stasis, personal verses universal, individual verses collective, fact verses fiction, imaginary verses reality etc" (Sajeesh 172). The natives were forced to live the life of an exile in their own land. They should only work for the betterment of the white settlers, "The old man sat silent, his hands dangling helplessly over his withered knees . . . Our cook stood straight and silent, his brows knotted

together. Then he spoke. 'My father says: All this land, this land you call yours, is his land, and belongs to our people' (Lessing, *The Old Chief Mshlanga* 24). Lessing wants to show the inhuman existences between the people and its consequences on mankind. Yadav through his research work wants to convey the inhuman treatment of people and Lessing's purpose as a writer as, "She therefore emphasizes the need for cooperation and co-existence in human relationships instead of self-centered individualism. If mankind has to survive, people have to shun their individual differences and accept mutual help and oneness" (Yadav 241).

The natives were forced to leave their own land and work for the whites. E. Celine states this brutality in Lessing works as, "The natives were brutally removed from the land and they were bought as hired labourers. They were treated as uncivilized brutes and were subjected to physical and psychological brutalities. Lessing has witnessed these in her colonial country. The ill-treatment of the black by the white finds ample reference in her works (Celine 12). The whites have stolen the lands of the natives. Lessing's writing has a definite motif as, "Lessing goes beyond the defined categories of class, gender, race and ideology, to grasp the totality of human mental processes and collective consciousness. By virtue of her political conviction and commitment, Lessing has always belonged to the colonized, the oppressed and the revolutionaries" (Sidhu 202). The narrator's father behaves in the same way like other settlers would behave. Petra Bittne in her research paper entitled "Literary Traditions in Contemporary Anglo-African Fiction" states the psychic dilemma of Lessing's characters as, "In a very indirect way the protagonist has been initiated into white colonial society without realizing it. The story leaves no winners; everyone is defeated in their own way: the girl is disillusioned and the natives are moved to another part of

the country, where they do not belong” (Bittne 6). Lessing through her writing has presented universal by personal attempts of analysing self, “Lessing’s focus is on marginal characters, i.e. people living on the fringes of the society. Her writing has been uniformly alerted the fragmented individual to achieve wholeness (Mercy J 9). The quest of self to collective can further be understood as, “the personal *self* as projected and analyzed, explored and healed, not only represents Lessing’s private *self*, but also a universal *self*” (Sajeesh 174-175).

In another story entitled *A Home for the Highland Cattle*, Lessing through its protagonist Marina shows her Marxist and liberal attitude and behaviour towards the natives. She is a new comer in Africa with the liberal ideas. When she makes a visit to the rooms where her servants live, feels embraced as:

On either side of the lavatories were two rooms, built as a unit. In these four rooms lived eight servants. At least officially there were eight, in practice far more. When Marina, a woman who took her responsibilities seriously, as has been indicated, looked inside the room which her servant shared with the servant from next door, she exclaimed helplessly: ‘Dear me, how awful’ the room was very. (Lessing, *A Home for the Highland Cattle* 248)

She feels bad for her servant. As Marina is new and doesn’t know the ways how to treat their servants. Her neighbours tell her their ways and experiences. They want to teach her that the natives should be treated like animals. One of the neighbours tells her that, “You must keep an eye on Charlie, (servant) anyway. He never does a stroke more than he has to. He’s bred bone lazy. You’d better keep an eye on the food too. He

steals” (257). It has communistic approach on part of the writer. Karl Marx in his *Collected Works* states the communistic revolution as, “Communist revolution would put an end to exploitation once and for all, together with every type of social enslavement and the parasitic existence of some men at the expense of others. National oppression would be eradicated; colonial oppression and bloody wars would disappear for-ever” (Marx, *Collected Works* 506).

Lessing has perfectly tackled the burning issues of Africa of her times. She wrote for a change in the society, E. Celine writes about it in the research work entitled “Marxism in the novels of Doris Lessing” as, “Doris Lessing seems to have listened to Africa as no other writer has been able to do. Africa is a place that taught her the necessity for a change in Society and prompted her to seek an answer through the left politics” (Celine 5). She belongs to white settlers but her stories focused the life of poor natives. The protagonist represents the white settlers in Africa and their perception and behaviour towards natives. Jung considers society as an important factor to determine the nature of an individual. John Raphael Staude in the research paper “From Depth Psychology to Depth Sociology: Freud, Jung, and Lévi-Strauss” points out the importance of society in shaping the individuality of a person as, “Jung considered Society to be a primary human datum. The individual could only be understood when viewed in terms of his total social context and situation . . . The individual partakes of the “collective representations” by a fusion of himself with the group” (Staude 317). It shows the injustice to people on the basis of colour. Natives have been compared to that of some commodities that can be used and thrown away. This fate was common to every native during that period of time and Lessing rose against it. Her communistic approach didn’t allow her to bear all this injustice. Lessing

has a close connection with the social and political realities which modified her whole writing career. In a research article by Reshmi R.L. titled *Cross Cultural Interchange in Doris Lessing's The Old Chief Mshlanga and The Second Hut* has pointed out the Communistic view of Doris Lessing as, "There is a close connection between Lessing's perceptiveness about political and economic realities, which help her to formulate the Marxist ideas, and her psychological and spiritual insights which provide a stable form to her works" (R. L. 196).

Lessing has always been a self defined writer as Africa gave her the opportunities to explore possibilities of spiritual growth for the social and political development. Africans were exploited by the white settlers for a quite a long period of time. Lessing wants to bring a change and this change is visible in these African stories. Lessing exposed this racism. Her stories show the injustice to the natives in their own country. One of such example is shown through the image of White girl-the protagonist in the story of "*Old Chief Mshlanga.*" Lessing's firm belief in Marxist philosophy made her to think in a different way. The two volumes of *African Stories* reflect her personal experiences perfectly depicting the picture of white and black societies. Since the beginning of this world, literature has always remained as a medium to show the violence of the world. Lessing through her writings has brought out the violence of the most civilized people of the world. She has witnessed violence of the World Wars and the aftermaths of them, firstly through her father and secondly by herself- the biggest problems that is confronted by everyone. This violence can't be ignored any more. It is through the works of Doris Lessing dared to confront with this reality of violence. As stated by Elena Anca Georgescu, "'War,' Doris Lessing once declared, 'has been then most important thing' in her life. Her fiction repeatedly

affirms this observation, for war, in its multiple guises insistently marches across the pages of Lessing's text, leaving ruin in its wake" (Georgescu 164). Injustice on the basis of colour occurred in the countries where people of different races live together. This injustice is because one race dominated the other. Africa is one of the examples of this injustice where white people oppressed the natives (blacks). In another story *The Nuisance*, the discrimination can be understood when the narrator says that the natives can play apes, so as to amuse us and our parents, "but he would never play the ape, as some Africans did, for our amusement" (Lessing, *The Nuisance* 70). The narrator further states that:

For there were two wells. The new one, used by ourselves, had fresh sparkling water that was sweet in the mouth; . . . the water of other well had a faintly unpleasant taste and was pale brown . . . Next day there came a deputation from the women of the compound. Half a dozen of them stood at the back door, arguing that if the well wasn't cleaned soon, all the children would be sick. 'I'll do it next week,' he promised, with bad grace. (72)

The discrimination doesn't end here when they came to know that the driver's wife has committed suicide instead of feeling pity for his driver, he blames his wife as, "Last of all the Long One (driver) went down to fetch up her head, which was missing. 'I thought you said your wife had gone home?' said my father. 'I thought she had. Where else could she have gone?' 'Well,' said my father at last, disgusted by the whole thing, 'if she had to kill herself, why couldn't she hang herself on a tree, instead of spoiling the well?' (73).

The whites control the whole society, its behaviour, ideology and the laws and policies are of these white people. The natives were brought up in such an atmosphere that for them the duty of their life is to serve the white. Lessing adopted Marxist Philosophy to eradicate this ill omen from her society. E. Celine states this Marxist writing of Lessing as, “Capitalism had given rise to the middle class, with its prudishness and false morality. In the colonial set up the working class consisted of the black natives, who were treated worse than animals by the superior whites. This logically prompted her to adapt the theory of Marxism” (Celine 23-24).

They (blacks) taught their children the same, to be submissive to the whites. To serve in the house of a white is an honour and pride for them. *No Witchcraft for Sale* shows such example when the servant Gideon being a servant to the whites finds it his sole duty and also teaches his son to be a servant to the whites, “Gideon, who was watching, shook his head wonderingly, and said: ‘Ah, missus, these are both children, and one will grow up to be a bass, and one will be a servant’; and Mrs Farquar smiled and said sadly, Yes, Gideon, I was thinking the same.’ She sighed. ‘It is God’s will,’ said Gideon” (Lessing 36). To serve whites for blacks is an order from God. Lessing through her works has highlighted these discriminations between whites and blacks. Through her work she wants to give voice to the voiceless African natives. She wants to realise them their status in life so that they can fight for this injustice and can end their sufferings and miseries. The chairman of Nobel Committee Per Wastberg of Swedish Academy on 2007 Nobel Prize said about Doris Lessing as, “Doris Lessing is part of both the history of literature and living literature. She has contributed to changing the way we see the world. In all probability, no other Laureates has accumulated such a volume of work” (Wastberg , Nobelprize 2007). All this is because

Lessing always remained a person involved in understanding the problems and sufferings of the people and to solve these problems by an active catalyst towards these injustices. She wants to make the world aware of these problems, sufferings and injustices. She doesn't bother even to criticize her own race. Her daring attitude made her to speak out the reality that was hidden behind the walls. Lessing's this attitude helps her to write about the reality instead of writing about fairytales in fairylands. Through her writing she has poured out her feelings about the injustice in a society of which she has been a part. Most of her important works has this injustice as a prominent theme, and *African Stories* reflect this theme perfectly one after the other story.

Lessing in her stories has used narrators who have been the victims of this injustice. Lessing is portraying her personal experiences through these stories where she had once lived and has been an important part of her life. Sidhu in the research work "Politics and the Novel: A Study of Doris Lessing's Children of Violence Sequence" states the relation between blacks and whites in *African Stories* as, "The intricacies of relationship between the white master and the black servant, its cross-impacts, are more deeply explored in Lessing's African stories, particularly the familiarity of the feudal relationship which could be possible only in the agrarian set-up of the veld" (Sidhu 71).

Lessing further goes on stating of this discrimination in the story *No Witchcraft for Sale*, which she gives through the character of Gideon. Gideon finds it his duty to serve the whites. He has been brought up in a missionary and there he has been taught

that colour difference decides the duty of a person. Gideon taught the same thing to his son as:

Gideon's youngest son, who was now a herdsboy, came especially up from the compound to see the scooter. He was afraid to come near it, but Teddy showed off in front of him. 'Piccanin,' shouted Teddy, 'get out of my way!' And he raced in circles around the black child until he was frightened, and fled back to the bush. 'Why did you frighten him?' asked Gideon, gravely reproachful. Teddy said defiantly: 'He's only a black boy, 'and laughed. (Lessing 36)

The story reveals the policy behind the behaviour of these whites towards the natives. Through these stories, Lessing has collectively depicted the feelings and sufferings of all the natives who have felt the victims of white supremacy. The social problems can only be solved by making the consciousness of people clear about their actions and their reactions. Doris Lessing found Marxist philosophy as the most suitable and exact approach to solve this problem of this injustice. She wants an overall social change. Whites hold a belief that they have every right to control other races of the world. In the story *A Home for the Highland Cattle*, Lessing explains this statement as, "The truth is that there are not ten thousand, but more likely 150,000, but the others are black, which means that they are not considered" (Lessing 242). It means that for whites, black are not human beings and couldn't bear to consider like them only because they are black in colour. A person's perception to life can be shaped through the events that the person encounters throughout the life. These events shape the whole personality or the consciousness of the person. In this same manner Lessing

consciousness is shaped through that what she has perceived throughout her life. In the research article “The Cultural Differences and Social Graces in the Select Novels of Doris Lessing” by Priscilla and Christopher states this Marxist concern of Lessing as, “Lessing perceived that the crisis in the society and the cultural differences will disappear as the people start understanding what exactly is wrong with them. She observed social issues with keenness. She felt strongly that if the society and the class is well organized, the mankind will be a well-knit unit without social cleavages” (Christopher 4713).

Lessing has a close relation to the philosophies of Karl Marx and Psychoanalyst Carl Jung. Lessing has proved to be a writer that belongs to every field of the contemporary world and literature. The natives of Africa were used and after that sold as piece of commodity by the whites. The whites were wholly and solely holding every affair regarding the law and the decision making about the lives of the natives.

African society was divided into different races only because of the colour bar. The natives were denied their basic rights only because they are black in colour and not white. The laws of whites were so harsh for the natives. If a same crime has been done by two persons, one white and the other black, the punishment had been different for them. The fixed jobs for the natives were to work as servants in the houses of whites or in the mines. In a research article “Apartheid in African Countries as Reflected in Doris Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing*” by Jadaun and Solanki states this injustice as, “The law implemented in South Africa in 1948, legalized the racial segregation of the rulers and the ruled. Although African society had been divided on the basis of colour for centuries but such legislations systematized this division and made it stricter. The

non-whites, comprised mainly of Negroes, were denied social, legal, fundamental and even human rights” (Jadaun 360). The whites were so full of prejudice that they didn’t allow their children to play with the black children. They call the natives as Negroes and call them dishonest and cheaters. To be a Negro is a curse for the whites because they have a dark colour means dark character and white or bright colour means white like pure character. This is the collective unconscious of the whites as per the theory of Carl Jung as all the whites believe that they are superior among all races of the world only because of a bright colour. Lessing defines this prejudice in the story *The Antheap* comments, “‘You get sick from the Africans, too’ . . . She said: ‘Don’t argue. You’re not to play with them. You’re too big now to play with a lot of dirty kaffirs. When you were little it was different, but now you’re a big boy’ . . . He made no attempt to go near the compound . . . So he had been made to feel” (Lessing, *The Antheap* 364).

Lessing through the mother of Tommy wants to portray the dark side of the white people in Africa. It is called the ‘Shadow’ archetype by Jung that represents the evil side of a person. They present their dark or evil side as they remain dissatisfied with the African land and their homelessness. It leads them to sense of alienation. Mary Jo Meadow in her research paper titled as “Archetypes and Patriarchy: Eliade and Jung” defines the dark or evil side of a person as:

All people experience tension between what they should or would like to be and the contrary urges appearing in themselves. Jung called this dark or shadow side of human experience the shadow archetype. Each culture, and even each individual, has a slightly different symbolic

expression for this universal archetype which commonly manifests as some form of evil spirit, demon, or devil. (Jo Meadow 188-189)

Lessing's concern was to make the world aware of the injustice on the basis of race, region and colour. The white child Tommy of *The Antheap* is taught to behave as a boss to his friends especially to Dirk a native boy as, "One day his mother called him to the back door. There stood Dirk, and he was holding between his hands a tiny duiker, the size of a thin cat. Tommy ran forward, and was about to exclaim with Dirk over the little animal, when he remembered his new status" (Lessing 365-366). Lessing through her novels has the image of the protagonists who are dissatisfied with the present situation. These protagonists want to discover their real identity. Willingly or unwillingly they try to discover their own identity and also help the others to discover their oppressed identity which may be social, psychological, political and spiritual. Tommy with the passage of time becomes dissatisfied with the hypocrisy of the white people when he came to know that Dirk is the son of Mr Macintosh's son. He is the mine owner. He has hired hundreds of Africans to work for him to make him prosper in his life. He was such a person that he didn't like anybody to interfere in his work. He simply enjoys the status of being a boss to those poor Africans, "Mr Macintosh kept his books himself. He employed no book-keeper, no clerk" (Lessing, *The Antheap* 358).

The natives work in agriculture farms producing plenty of grains while they themselves remain half-fed; they make houses for the whites while they themselves live in slums and dingy huts; they work day and night in the goldmines while their destiny never glitters. All the proverbs and philosophies that promise reward for hard

work, honesty and perseverance, prove to be false in the case of these natives. They work hard and sweat throughout their life but the promised reward goes to the whites who flourish and enjoy life. Tommy plays a role of reformist on the grounds of Marxism and wants to give justice to Dirk. Dirk was not given any right because he was born to a black woman and is half caste. Lessing has seen the people of half caste and the injustice they face. Through the picture of Tommy she wants to help Dirk who represents all these half caste people in Africa. Tommy and Dirk were good friends since from childhood but this cruel society forces them to hate each other, "They continued to sit there, a little apart, full of dislike for each other, and knowing that the dislike came from the pressure of the outside world" (Lessing, *The Antheap* 372).

Sidhu defines Lessing's *African Stories* as:

Her fiction is also not orientated towards the objectification of the blacks; rather she laments the loss of their real dignity, the loss of their myths and magic. It is her special combination of indignation and compassion that comes to the surface in the portrayal of Africa and its people. Her achievement lies in bringing to the reader an expressive realist document of a place and period that marked one of the peaks of violent action in human history. (Sidhu 77)

Lessing wants to draw the readers focus on the social pressure and how it traps and blocks the development of a personality. Tommy has to adopt himself as per his race demands him otherwise might be rejected. He can't fit himself to that society of colour bar system. Tommy started to help the Dirk to get his right as a half caste person that is not Dirk's fault. The narrator states, "Tommy's return to school after he

had been there a year, Dirk said: 'You're getting educated, but I've nothing to learn.' Tommy said: 'I'll bring back books and teach you.' He said this in a quick voice, as if ashamed, and Dirk's eyes were accusing and angry. He gave his sarcastic laugh and said: 'That's what you say, white boy'" (Lessing, *The Antheap* 372). Mr Macintosh proves an example of a typical white settler in Africa. He believes that white man is superior to the blacks. As being a part of white race, he has the every right to use the country, its land and its people as per his needs and demands to prosper in his life. Lessing has proved a best example to tackle the issues of injustice in the Africa. Her influence by the ideology of Communism is clearly visible through her works. Throughout her life she remained loyal to the Communistic philosophy of Karl Marx and tried her best to serve the society in every possible way. Lessing's political affiliation is shown by Sidhu in his research work as, "Her writings, thus, become a multifaceted commentary on the conflicting times, simultaneously revealing her acute perception of the relationship between the individual and the collective. Doris Lessing's art also reveals a profound understanding of social and historical crises" (Sidhu 30).

It is visible in every story of her where she wants to serve the humanity. Tommy like Lessing finds it difficult to bare the injustice to the blacks and thus rose against his own race as stated:

So he began to teach Dirk how to read. And for all that holiday they were together in the shed while Dirk pored over the books. He found them more difficult than Tommy did, because they were full of words for things Dirk did not know, like curtains or carpets, and teaching Dirk

to read the word carpet meant telling him all about carpets and the furnishings of a house. (Lessing, *The Antheap* 372)

For white settlers, natives can only be criminals. The whites teach their children the same thing but in case of Tommy, his attitude towards natives gets transformed because of the racism and he starts to work for their cause. He had thus a new revelation for these natives and the behaviour of the whites to them. He wants to erase the conflicts between the blacks and whites. He tries to tell the white society that blacks and whites can have good relations with tolerance to each other. The white laws work according to the demands of white people. When Tommy wants to send Dirk to school, then he realises other discrimination by the whites towards the blacks as, “‘There’s laws, white boy, laws. Anyone who lives with and after the fashion of the natives is a native. Therefore I’m a native, and I’m not entitled to go to school with the half-castes.’... ‘But then I couldn’t see my mother, because if she comes to town she’d still be a native’” (385). The mind setup of the people even the natives were like that they find it surprising that a white could be a friend to a black, “Dirk led the way to a big square hut. Tommy could see people watching him walking with the coloured boy, and turning to laugh and whisper” (386). Tommy wants his every step should be for the rehabilitation of the natives. Like Lessing, he wants Africa only for the Africans. There should be no white to spoil or use the natives for their own meagre uses, “When I grow up I’ll clear you all out, all of you, there won’t be one white man left in Africa, not one” (401). He struggled a lot to have justice for the Dirk, “I shan’t go to university unless he sends you too” (411). He even spoiled his education for the sake of others. And finally, Tommy succeeded in his struggle towards the justice for the natives, “The victory was entirely theirs, but now they had to begin again, in the long and difficult

struggle to understand what they had won and how they would use it” (413). They would start for the struggle of other Africans.

In her second volume of *African Stories, The Sun Between Their Feet*, Lessing uses the same approach to show the discrimination on the basis of colour, showing some people on the basis of colour are superior where as the rest are inferior. In the preface to second volume of *The Sun Between Their Feet*, Lessing tells about the motif writing behind the whole African stories as:

Well, there I was, with my years in Southern Africa behind me, a society of simple good and bad, with clear-cut choices, set in Africa? The plot? Only one possible plot- that a poor black boy or girl should come from a village to the white man’s rich town and . . . there he would encounter, as occurs in life, good and bad, and after much trouble and many tears he would follow the path of . . . (Lessing, Preface 10-11)

Lessing further goes on defining her love for the Africa and stood always with their struggle for their justice, “I am addicted to *The Black Madonna*, which is full of the bile that is produced in me by the thought of ‘white’ society in Southern Rhodesia as I knew and hated it” (Lessing, *Preface* 11). In a story *Spies I Have Known* of this volume by Doris Lessing shows her relation with Communist Party. The Government by these white settlers have kept their spies on their own people who were working for the African cause, “It was he who explained to us the system of the censorship operated by the Secret Police. All the incoming mail for the above dozen organizations was first put into a central box marked censor and was read-at their leisure, by certain trusted citizens” (Lessing, *Spies I Have Known* 13). The white settlers were so greedy

of power that they didn't even trust their own people. Lessing in her works wants to have a satisfactory relation of its characters to that of the land as an integral part of their social, political and cultural identity.

The Second Hut is another story of failures and loneliness of its main characters leading to their complete psychological breakdown. The story is also set in Africa. The main character of the story is Major Carruthers, who before coming to Africa has served as a soldier and has come to be a farmer in Africa. He has to build a new existence but their luck didn't favour them. They became very poor and his wife couldn't bear this condition. She became sick day after day. She didn't want to be getting better. Her alienation from her own roots and culture had an effect on her psyche as, "She had broken down through heart-break over the conditions they lived in. She did not want to get better. The harsh light from outside was shut out with dark blinds, and she turned her face to the wall and lay there, hour after hour, inert and uncomplaining, in a stoicism of defeat nothing could penetrate. Even the children hardly moved her" (Lessing 44). This poverty and wife's illness makes Major's life intolerable. His was once the most adorable beauty in England but the failure and isolation in altogether country forced her towards her social and mental breakdown.

Like other stories, this story also projected the failures of people irrespective of colour. The story shows the failure of Major Carruthers and his family who had come here only to fulfil the dream of their life-to be rich and live a comfortable life. They dream of a great farm but all failed. Mrs Carruthers tried her best to get adjusted with the situation and in the beginning she fought courageously. As time passes, she found herself more and more isolated and alienated where she gets nothing but only poverty. It all leads to her breakdown and a fear. She loves to live in her darkened room. It is

this dark room that gives her solace. Her life resembles to that of dark where she can hide her own self. Major becomes a fragmented personality between the family and the society. His home didn't comfort him as:

It was an intolerable strain, running the farm and coming back to the neglected house and the problems of food and clothing, and a sick wife who would not get better until he could offer her .One day, while he was carefully measuring out tonics for himself in the bedroom, he glanced up and saw his wife's small reddened eyes staring incredulously but ironically at him over the bedclothes. 'What are you doing?' she asked . . . She laughed, for the first time in weeks; then the slack tears began welling under her lids, and she turned to the wall again. (45)

Due to the failure in the farming Major faces a hard time. His is also a man of his own ideas and principles. He treats natives in a well manner and works for the equality of all human beings irrespective of their colour. He appoints Van Heerden as his assistant in his farms and provides him his hut that was his store house. When he appoints him, Major tells him, "I know the salary is low and the living quarters are bad, even for a single man. I've had a patch of bad luck, and I can't afford more. I'll quite understand if you refuse" (47). Van Heerden did his job with honesty and sincerity. When one day Major came to know about his wife and nine children living all in that small hut, he then decides to make a second hut for the family.

'Van Heerden,' said Major Carruthers, without preliminaries, 'why didn't you tell me you had a family?' As he spoke the Dutchman's face

changed, first flushing into guilt, then setting hard and stubborn. 'Because I've been out of work for a year, and I knew you would not take me if I told you.' . . . 'You can't keep a wife and all those children here- how many children?' 'Nine' (Lessing, *The Second Hut* 51).

Van Heerden hides the reality from his bass, because most of the white settlers didn't like to have their servant's wives with them. He expected the same from his bass whose mentality is quite different from rest of the colonisers. Major feels restless on the thought about the inconvenience caused to the Van Heerden and his family as, "All day his mind churned slowly over the necessities: this fencing was urgent, that field must be reaped at once. Yet, in spite of this, he decided it was his duty to build a second hut beside the first" (53). Major Carruthers had the same love and respect for the natives who worked for him since decades when rest of the whites face the scarcity of labourers. His native labours didn't like the Van Heerden (Dutchman). They don't want to work with him and want him to be dismissed. The boss boy (native) tells him that:

. . . the bossboy came to him, saying that unless the Dutchman went, he and his friends would leave the farm. Why? Asked Major Carruthers, knowing what the answer would be. Van Heerden was a hard worker, and the cattle were improving week by week under his care, but he could not handle natives. He shouted at them, lost his temper, treated them like dogs. (53).

The native boss-boy collectively represents the whole black community who have only hatred for these white settlers. It is his collective unconsciousness where

they find hatred for these settlers. Lessing presents him a personal figure representing the collective. It can be clear by this quote from John Raphael Staude's research paper "From Depth Psychology to Depth Sociology: Freud, Jung, and Lévi-Strauss" as, "To Jung, the essential structure and dynamics of social and cultural life reflect the underlying psychic realities in the culture . . . When Jung spoke of the "collective unconscious," he meant the collective, transpersonal dimension in the individual psyche" (Staude 316). The hatred was genuine as they ill treated them throughout their entire rule in Africa. It is the person represented the collective. Lessing's writing is the product of her own times as Sidhu clears it in his research work as:

Novelists are product of their times, and their immediate society is the principal subject of their work. As any society changes its social structure and its economic base, its artefacts are recreated within it. Situating her fiction in that soft ground where the balance between man and society is lost, Lessing portrays the individual in its ceaseless interaction with social and political forces (Sidhu 200).

This hatred results in the burning of the hut and the death of Van Heerden's child, "Still, Major knows well that any one of the Africans whom Van Heerdan has kicked or shouted at has fired the hut" (R. L. 205). At the end of the story Major Carruthers lastly decides to go back to England and apply for a job there. He really felt shocked about the inhuman behaviour of people towards each other only on the basis of colour. Reshmi in her research papers states it as:

Major recognizes that he cannot survive in Africa, and that he must admit defeat and return home. When he reaches home, he starts writing

a letter in which each word appears as a nail in the coffin of his pride as a man. Soon, he goes to his wife's room and informs that he has written an application for a job in England . . . Thus it can be assumed that it is Marxism which makes Lessing think about the positivity of the cross-cultural interchange. (R. L. 205-206)

The ending of the story when Major Carruthers couldn't face the inhuman activities and wants to go back to his own country while writing to his family.

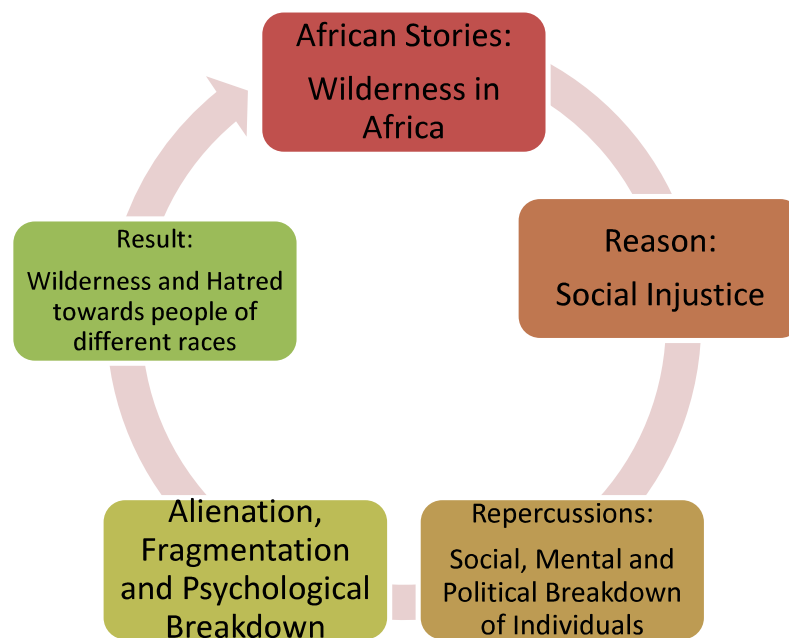


Fig. 5.1 : Alienation in short stories

In a story *Little Tembi*, Lessing's intention was to portray the communistic approach of its main characters. The story starts with Jane Mc Cluster who has been a nurse before marriage but after marriage she continues her profession by serving the natives. She finds it her duty to serve the natives. She takes the decision by her own will. She didn't believe in colour prejudices. She portrays it as, "Jane Mc Cluster, who had been a nurse before she married, started a clinic on the farm within a month of

arriving. Though she had been born and brought up in town, her experience of natives was wide, for she had been a sister in the native wards of the city hospital, by choice for years; she liked nursing natives” 104).

Lessing wants to bring out the discrimination in the world notice, “Lessing’s social/political realism is also embedded in her concept of the writer’s role. She believes a writer to be the voice and vision of those who are inarticulate” (Sidhu 202). She through her writing became successful. Most of the short stories represent her personal attitudes through that she wants a change. Casagrande and Bonnici in their research paper “Doris Lessing’s *Little Tembi* and Post-Colonial Criticism” states its motif by writer as:

Since in South Africa, the Negroes, the great majority, were discriminated by a white British and Dutch-descendant minority. This situation generated racism, oppression, degradation and objectification of the Negro by the white man, who is the only subject. Such situation, of course, led to resistance from the oppressed part. (Casagrande and Bonnici 73)

Jane proved to be a true Marxist, as she made it her duty to serve the mankind irrespective of colour. She devoted her whole time to look after their health and towards their hygiene. The narrator states her behaviour towards the natives as, “She was patient with the natives who would not at first touch food they were not used to. She persuaded and lectured. She gave the women of the compound lessons in cleanliness and baby care. She drew up diet sheets and ordered sacks of citrus from the big estates” (Lessing, *Little Tembi* 105). The other white settlers laughed at this attitude

of Jane, “Neighbours laughed at them; for it is even customary to feed natives on maize meal only” (105). The natives love this behaviour of their boss as they grow healthier day after day. Her humble nature can further be understood by her service to natives and her answer to her neighbours as, “On cold winter mornings Jane would stand dispensing cans of hot cocoa from a petrol drum with a slow fire burning under it to the natives before they went to the fields; and if a neighbour passed and laughed at her, she set her lips and said good-humouredly: ‘It’s good sound common sense, that’s what it is. (105-106). The white settlers made fun of their love towards the natives and most of the times teased them. As rest of the settlers believe that they are spoiling the natives. They are only for the service to whites. They should live like animals but Mc Clusters have a different ideology and treat them equally like other humans and didn’t discriminate them. The natives also love and respect them. Their love and feelings towards one-another were genuine. Their feelings can be understood as:

She (Jane) would spend whole mornings explaining to the women about dirt and proper feeding; if a child became ill, she would sit up all night with it, and cried bitterly if it died. The name for her among the natives was The Goodhearted One. They trusted her. Though mostly they hated and feared the white man’s medicines, they let Jane have her way, because they felt she was prompted by kindness; and day by day the crowds of natives waiting for medical attention became larger. (106)

Jane for sometime couldn’t deliver a child. She loves the little African children as she desires for a child. It is a general feeling that a woman dreams of. Carl Jung calls it mother archetype-that the feeling of mother is present in every woman, “Jane

most particularly loved the little black piccanins” (106). Her love for children can be understood with her relation with the little African child little Tembi who she saved. The boy was brought to her when he was very sick and there were fewer chances that he can survive. The narrator states their first meeting as, “Little Tembi was brought to her when she knew she could not hope to have a child of her own for at least two years” (106). The love and care she has for the little boy arouses her unconscious feelings towards a child. Her feelings towards the child can be understood as:

‘This child is not going to die,’ she said to herself. ‘I won’t let it! I won’t let it.’ It seemed to her that if she could pull little Tembi through, the life of the child she herself wanted so badly would be granted her. She sat beside the basket all day, willing the baby to live, with medicines on the table beside her, and the cookboy and the houseboy helping her where they could. (Lessing, *Little Tembi* 107)

Jane like a mother worked all day and night to save the life of the little boy like her own son irrespective of his skin colour. It shows the feelings of a lady for being a mother not a white serving the black. These mother feelings can further understood as, “Once, towards dawn of one night when the air was cold and still, the little body chilled to the touch, and there seemed no breath in it, Jane held it close to the warmth of her own breast, murmuring fiercely over and over again: ‘You will live, you will live’” (Lessing, *Little Tembi* 107). It was not the victory of a nurse towards a patient but a victory of mother feelings that made her to be firm that the child will survive. At the end she feels victorious:

After analysing Lessing's Short Stories, it is clear that she is a committed writer of her age. Her aim behind the writing is to bring a social change. Her commitment for humanity came from understanding her own self and the world in which she lives. Throughout the period of writing these two volumes, her concern to social change remained same. These stories taught the readers and the world how one can bring a change. She through these stories portrayed her strong desire of social justice for all categories of people. The background of most of these stories is Africa and the in-human treatment of one individual towards another on the basis of colour and racial superiority. Lessing made Marxist Philosophy as her weapon to make a classless society. In these stories, she has projected her communistic and psycho-analytical study of most of the characters.

Lessing's characters quest for the individuality as well the individuality of their fellow beings. They suffer from pain, agony, alienation and desolation in such a vast landscape of Africa. She fights for the identity of self, for this identity she moved from bush to farm, from farm to city, from childhood to adulthood, from adolescence to marriage and then to motherhood. She makes her stories interesting by mixing facts with the fiction. Her focus shifts from personal to collectives as she fights for the natives and not for a single individual. Lessing explored the unconscious aspects of her main characters that become the basic instinct of self-realisation. One of the most important archetype as per Jung is self-realisation and this self-realisation brings a harmony between opposing forces within a personality. Lessing balances her characters through the realisation of their self quest.

Conclusion

In the world of literature some authors devoted their lives towards writing that they have not experienced but there are authors like Doris Lessing who wrote about her personal experiences. The experiences are good as well as bad. Lessing's intention was to bring together conventionally separated facets. Her writing presents the themes like fiction verses fact, individual verses collective and stasis verses change etc. Writers are the product of their times and society is their principal subject of their work. Situating Lessing's fiction in that soft ground where the balance between man and society is lost, she portrays the individual in its ceaseless interaction with social and political forces. *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook* and *Children of Violence* portray the protagonists epic struggle against various collectives till they learn to counter their narrow prejudices and evolve a humane outlook. A keen observation of Lessing's writing shows that she is a writer with firm motives. Lessing's hard, analytic intelligence directs not only to the identity of "I" but to "We".

Her fiction most keenly questions our morality and spirituality as human beings. With the changing times it is realized that it is no longer possible to create a politics-free fictional universe. Lessing, due to her Rhodesian background and her involvement with leftist politics, brings a sharply developed political sense to fiction. In the above mentioned novels, Lessing was especially preoccupied with the correlation between individual and political groups. In these novels she calls up the nightmares old and new which shadow humanity: colonialism, capitalism, imperialism and communism. But her political vision is never allowed to override her human concerns. One of the important influences on the Lessing's writing is the horrible and

miserable condition of people in Africa. It is the place where she was grown up. She saw how black natives are treated by white settlers and how they were discriminated and exploited. This discrimination on the basis of colour made her a strong aversion towards racism and colonialism. It made her to have a sympathetic towards blacks and concerned about the amelioration for them. Her only motif was to bring social justice for all. She goes beyond the defined categories of class, race, ideology and gender, to grasp the totality of human mental processes and collective consciousness.

By virtue of her political conviction and commitment, she always belonged to the colonized, the oppressed and the revolutionaries. This study critically explores the communistic and psychological facets of characters of Doris Lessing. Through her protagonists Mary Turner, Anna Wulf, Martha Quest and others Lessing explores the abuse, alienation and mistreatment of one society with the other. It further explores the fractures caused by the conflict between the personal and universal experienced both the perpetrators and the victims. Her writing is portraying both the personal and universal dimensions that it is her attempt to analyze her characters self by offering a solution to the community to heal themselves. It doesn't represent the personal self but a universal self. Her works mainly focus on characters with multiple voices and multiple selves and want to live a life of self healing and self recovery. Her main protagonists Mary, Anna and Martha achieve an insight into their breakdowns and how they are guided by their dreams until and unless they attain self recovery and healing. Lessing's fictional works give description of her characters subjective experiences like introspective dialogue, dreams, diary writing and fantasies.

The thesis aimed to analyze Doris Lessing's novels *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook*, *The Children of Violence* and her collection of short stories *The African Stories* in terms of Communistic and Psychological facets. She is one of the outstanding novelists who depicted the African life very accurately with its varied aspects. The study has analyzed Lessing's understanding of Marxist philosophy and cure to all the ills of that society of which she herself was associated i.e. the Southern Rhodesia. The country resembled with same type of exploitation that was present in the Europe at the time of Karl Marx. Capitalistic exploitation is dominant in the Rhodesia where one race dominates the other only on the basis of colour. In the novel *The Grass is Singing*, Lessing reveals the solitary fight by its characters Mary Turner and the native servant. The novel shows the helplessness of both the blacks and whites and an inhuman policy of Apartheid. In novels like *The Grass is Singing*, *Children of Violence* and *African Stories*, Lessing bitterly criticizes the myth of white supremacy and racial prejudices on blacks and also exposes the hollowness of whites claim to rule them on the pretext of civilizing the poor Africans.

Lessing expresses her concern and involvement in communist group so as to bring social justice. Her writings offer a satire both on the crumbling empire's expatriate delusions and on the sickness of dissolution of the white supremacy in Africa. Lessing from the very beginning of her literary career reveals her concern for social justice. She uses communism to bring this change. Her novels *The Golden Notebook* and *Children of Violence* are woven on political themes. Love for mankind and enthusiasm for communism has a natural evolution in her deep rooted humanistic vision for life. She made communism as a political ideology to bring social justice and equality. Her characters like Anna, Martha etc express her political consciousness as

these characters are committed to bring a change in the society in which they live. They leave everything for the amelioration and betterment of the other people. In *The Children of Violence*, the protagonist Martha Quest since from her teenage revolts against the society and its norms. She leaves her home joins the communist group. She marries but soon leaves her family as has a belief that she has to fight a battle for equality of all and brotherhood. Lessing's close association with Marxism taught her the importance and commitment towards a social change. She dreams of an ideal world where all human beings are equal irrespective of caste, colour, creed or sex. Her world is that of humanity void of any rigidity or oppression. As a writer Lessing finds it her social responsibility to extricate mankind from the chaos of violence, cruelty and corruption from relationships. Lessing held nationalism, religion, individualism and politics responsible for dividing human beings. Martha experiences the extent of the disaster caused because of violence. Her life is marred by the presence of her father who was a victim of world war. Martha's mother is frustrated because of her husband's failure and illness. All this like the failure of her parents and her own isolated life in the veld are seen in the context of the colonial oppression and of the war. Despite all these disillusionment and confusion, two concepts loom to the forefront i.e. responsibility and commitment. She takes the responsibility of Coleridge family and saves them from the doom and to take the responsibility to reconstruct the future world.

Lessing in all the selected novels talks the odyssey of the self, their journey from the bush to the farm, from town to the city and from adolescence to marriage and then to the motherhood. Her protagonists desperately struggle to discover their own identity. All the protagonists like Mary, Anna and Martha have the question of their

identity and their motif of the self quest. They may not have discovered their identity but at the each event of their lives manages to learn a little about their self. Lessing holds a place of singular distinction in the English literature of post-war. Her uniqueness, sheer scope, number and variety have given her a unique position among the writers of twentieth century. She has written more than three dozen books on various genres from social realism to space fiction, from autobiography to mysticism to philosophy. Her literary oeuvre offers a highly perspective, though critical, social political and cultural milieu of the post-1950's world. Lessing's 'literary art' presents to the reader a deep insight into the characters psyche and emotional behaviour. In her writing, she provides three main levels of exploration. Firstly, the "individual" level - a self-analysis of the individual's character. Secondly, the "interpersonal" level - a relationship between two different individuals and lastly, - the level of "social relations" which focuses on the attitude of the protagonists towards social conventions as a whole. Freedom' is one of the most significant element in her writing. Lessing claims that "human beings are responsible and they can be free: but the prerequisite for their freedom is the choice of a creative mean between alienation and the mindlessness of the collective" (Allen 74).

Doris Lessing's fiction has shown that how there is a discrimination between the children only because one is boy and the other is girl or because one is black and the other is white and so on. Lessing through her fiction had presented a change to dig out the ugly realities of a society where people become the cause of oppression to others. Most of her fiction is realistic in nature portraying the harsh realities of society. Being a writer, Lessing made her language a strong weapon to fight against the social evils and its long traditional suppressive customs. The society plays a vital

role in shaping the social and personal life of its citizens. The discrimination on the basis of colour can be clear by this example given by Doris Lessing in her first novel *The Grass is Singing*:

Dick Turner came out of the bush by the house with two whining dogs at his heels. He was off his head, talking crazily to himself, wandering in and out of the bush with his hands full of leaves and earth. They let him be, while keeping an eye on him, for he was a white man, though mad, and black men, even when policemen, do not lay hands on white flesh. (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 12)

Mary is the protagonist of the novel who becomes the victim of this subjugation. Lessing presents Mary true to the life and society. The relation between Mary's parents was worst and full of misunderstandings and she became a cause of oppression:

He drank himself every evening into a state of cheerful fuddled good humour, coming home late to a cold dinner, which he ate by himself. His wife treated him with a cold difference. She reserved her scornful ridicule of him for when her friends came to tea. It was as if she didn't wish to give her husband the satisfaction of knowing that she cared anything for him at all, or felt anything for him, even contempt and derision. (Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* 33)

Lessing as a realistic writer never hesitated to jot down the reality of the cruel treatment to people on the base of colour or race, domination of one person on another. She had definitely dealt with themes as Marxism and Psychoanalysis.

Whenever the reader reads her works, he/she feels like a true incident is happening in front of him/her. The reason behind it is that she has observed all this in her life, had faced the cruelties of colonialism, racism and apartheid. All this brings a positive variation in her themes. The novel suggests its readers try to eradicate all types of inequality among people because everyone has equal right to live. She has always focused to convey her views about the problems of a particular group of people by using her artistic taste and people to accept it by her creativity of mixing reality with fiction which was her motif. It lastly shows that how societies are responsible for the breakdown of a personality because of his/her own prejudice.

Doris Lessing has made her religion to serve the people and work for the cause of the oppressed classes whether she may belong them or not. Through her writing she holds a mirror to the society and asks people how long they will leave oppressing people. She also asks them are they really ready to change or their conscious allows them to ill treat others only because there is colour bar. Jha's view about Doris Lessing is as:

I think she wrote reality of the real society with the help of imaginary characters. Doris Lessing has presented a true example of taking benefits from literature and making literature a revolutionary weapon to dig the ugly soiled maladies of the society. (Jha 125)

Freud in his book *Beyond the Pleasure* gives the role of person while framing their destiny as, "psycho-analysis has always taken the view that their fate is for the most part arranged by themselves and determined by early infantile influences" (Freud, *Beyond the Pleasure* 23). Mary Turner did the same for herself. She marries Dick not

out of love but out of desperation and thereafter leading towards her downfall and complete breakdown.

After a comparative analysis the novel *The Grass is Singing* in light of Marxist Philosophy and Psychoanalytical Theory, it is clear that Lessing has been a realistic novelist throughout her life. She followed the philosophy advocated by Karl Marx to fight the class struggle. According to Karl Marx literature is outcome of human experiences, their society, and culture. Lessing through her protagonist portrayed the class struggle and the evil effects of this class struggle in her society. Mary Turner proved to be a best example of white colonial rule in Africa. So, at last we can say that Lessing's interest lies in probing the psychological study of the characters of her fiction which can be seen by using the example of Mary Turner. Every character has a particular psychological dimension and the individual's life reacts accordingly to that situation and Lessing in the novel *The Grass is Singing* definitely succeeded in depicting Mary Turner's psychological breakdown which is related to her actions and their reactions portrayed by the author very keenly and clearly.

In the novel *The Golden Notebook* Lessing has shown the dangerous effects of compartmentalization and gives the message of unity as, "Yet the essence of the book, the organization of it, everything in it, says implicitly and explicitly, that we must not divide things off, must not compartmentalize" (Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* 10). She questions the realism through the character of its protagonist Anna Wulf. Her motive was to present the fragmented reality of the modern society and to bring different aspects together. In writing this novel, Lessing brought the themes of individual versus collective, fiction versus fact, personal versus universal and then

dreams versus reality. Her motives were firm while writing fiction. When one makes close observation of her works can understand that there has been definitely some firm intentions behind her writing. She is a true communist who always struggled for the identity of an individual. Her writing portrays the personal issues related to the universal. In analysing her personal self, she relates them to heal other selves in a community. So, in projecting the self, Lessing explored and then healed the self. Through this novel, she not only represents Anna's private self but a universal self.

The *Children of Violence* series analysis the Lessing understands Marxist and Psycho-analytical Theory as a basic cure to treat the inhumanity in the world and especially in Southern Rhodesia. She has shown the miseries and pains that the natives face in the country of her childhood. The situation is Similar of Karl Marx's time when capitalists exploited the middle class people. Lessing presents Martha Quest as her protagonist in this series as a revolutionist who revolts against her society and race. Martha leaves everything like home, family, husband and children in order to serve the society and mankind. She joins the communist party as a political event to abolish the class struggle. The party has people from different parts of the world who fight for the cause of Africans. It makes Martha a strong and firm supporter of Marxism.

Every novel in the series ends with new delusion. When Martha was young, she leaves her home to get a job that means freedom for her. Then she marries that becomes another prison to her and motherhood becomes one of the biggest obstacles in her freedom. She quits all these responsibilities but finds herself more and more uncomfortable in her second marriage. Her husband behaves in the same way like

other husbands who always dictate what to do as a communist and as a wife. Martha again felt the same resentment and losing herself for others. She loses every hope and the futility of her efforts for her group to work for others when she finds it to have an end very soon. It also ends her work to do for the sake of people and to bring a change in the society. She again becomes disillusioned with her life. Each novel in this series brings Martha closer to the reality and stronger as she refuses to seek the original quest for her-self identity. Martha's vision is to work for the all classes of people irrespective of colour. She believes in the world of humanity. Martha becomes disillusioned with the life as she faces the harsh realities of the world war and the breakdown of the bond between the members of her party. It leads to the psychological breakdown of Martha and other members as they find everything in a disaster. Her mother's painful life, her father's life as a victim of war, their loneliness and her own isolated life become the chief cause of it. She finds no solution of it and finally she leaves her childhood country in order to find the peace of mind in another country where she finds no peace. Her vision finally leads her to find the world in the threat of nuclear war.

Doris Lessing in her preface to the 1964 collection of *African Stories- This Was the Old Chief's Country* tells its readers the situation and circumstances that the writers face who were born and grown up in Africa.

Writers brought up in Africa have many advantages- being at the centre of a modern battlefield; part of a society in rapid, dramatic change. But in a long run it can also be a handicap: to wake up every morning with

one's eyes on a fresh evidence of inhumanity; to be reminded twenty times a day of injustice, and always the same brand of it. (Lessing 7-8)

After analysing Lessing's collection of Short Stories- *African Stories*, it is clear that she is a committed writer of her age. Her aim behind the writing is to bring a social change. Her commitment for humanity came from understanding her own self and the world in which she lives. Throughout the period of writing these two volumes, her concern to social change remained same. These stories taught the readers and the world how one can bring a change. She through these stories portrayed her strong desire of social justice for all categories of people. The background of most of these stories is Africa and the in-human treatment of one individual towards another on the basis of colour and racial superiority. Lessing made Marxist Philosophy as her weapon to make a classless society. In these stories, she has projected her communistic and psycho-analytical study of most of the characters. Her characters quest for the individuality as well the individuality of their fellow beings. They suffer from pain, agony, alienation and desolation in such a vast landscape of Africa. She fights for the identity of self, for this identity she moved from bush to farm, from farm to city, from childhood to adulthood, from adolescence to marriage and then to motherhood. She makes her stories interesting by mixing facts with the fiction. Her focus shifts from personal to collectives as she fights for the natives and not for a single individual. Lessing explored the unconscious aspects of her main characters that become the basic instinct of self-realisation. One of the most important archetype as per Jung is self-realisation and this self-realisation brings a harmony between opposing forces within a personality.

Lessing in the second preface 1973 to her *African Stories- This Was the Old Chief's Country* talks about the superiority of white people as, "Truly to understand, we have to lose the arrogance that is the white man's burden, to stop feeling superior, and this is only just beginning to happen now." (Lessing 10) Lessing's main purpose was to eradicate the social evils from the society and for this purpose she made her career in writings. Reshmi R. L. in a research article on Doris Lessing points out this facet of Lessing as:

Though in the beginning the young protagonist who is called as little Nkosikaas, has been presented as a white girl who is brought up without regard for the natives or the land, the girl's transforming attitude towards racism makes the story a different one. She gets a new revelation regarding her people and of the Africans who lived there long before English came. Later her purpose is to meet more black people to show to them her greetings, exchange courtesies like a gentle girl. (Reshmi 206)

Lessing balances her characters through the realisation of their self quest. She has never from her basic concerns like the strife between evil and good, individual versus collective. The chaos of the world is always observed by her from a humanist social perspective. While investigating the afflictions of the present world, she identifies herself with those forces of her time which will one day prevail. The deeper question that Lessing raises in the select novels *The Grass is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook*, *Children of Violence* and *African Stories* is that of the commitment to

humanity, a commitment that can motivate political involvement and can remain even if political commitment proves futile.

The study of Lessing's novels in the present research has so far exposed the truth that the basic dynamic action is the search for equilibrium in social and psychological forms in order to achieve the balance between inner and outer modes of perception. Though Lessing's characters are described as needy, clinging, and yearning for identity in their lives. She depicts them as they attain maturity towards the end by adapting themselves in the real life. While Mary, Anna and Martha and other minor characters have found no chance of survival as they wish they found solution in achieving balance, which gives them energy to mingle with the society.

The research therefore ends with the notion that Lessing's individuals realize their identity and their responsibility as a daughter, as a wife, as a mother and as a member in the social life by searching the remedy for the depression in all aspects. Then, successfully and artistically, she fulfils her search for the wholeness, and achieves the unity between the form and the content through the protagonists in her novels. Her fiction is remarkable for portraying the stark reality. The themes of subjugation, alienation, search for identity and realisation of self, economic inequality and first and foremost the unhealthy relation between men and women have been the chief causes for the oppression of women. All these aspects are present in her African works where its characters fall the victim of social injustice. This research work explored the communistic and psychological agony faced by the characters and how the anxieties actually bring about self-development. It also highlights that human emotions, relationships and situations are the essence of human existence. Lessing's

fiction has a positive impact on her readers and grows psychologically strong; the characters have the capacity to wrestle with the existential concerns and uplift humanity and improve their conditions.

Apart from the issues related to search for identity, dealing with the racism and communism, there is wide scope for further research too. The researcher may attempt to have a profound study on Lessing's fictions based on in-depth study of Lessing's fiction brings out certain areas that need investigation in greater details. Her fiction can be studied from the perspective of stylistics, Eco-criticism. The novels like *The Grass is Singing*, *A Briefing for a Descent into the Hell*, *Mara and Dann*, *Memoirs of A Survivor*, *The Cleft*, *Shikasta*, can be studied as the Eco-critical Fiction. The other things to be investigated in her novels is the philosophy of Sufism in novels like *The Cleft*, *The Golden Notebook*, *Canopus in Argos*, *A Briefing for the Descent into the Hell*, *The Good Terrorist*. Lessing's *Children of violence*, *The Golden Notebook*, *The Good Terrorist*, *The Memoirs of the Survivor*, *The Fifth Child*, can be investigated to probe the element of Heroism in Women. Her fiction can be studied for the genre of science fiction. Lessing's fiction can also be perused for the theme of Heroic women. Moreover the other areas which provides scope for a researcher is Dreams and Film Sequences, the special technique used by Lessing in characterization and theme presentation. By means of carrying out a research on these topics, the readers gain new insights into Lessing's novels.

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