ANITA DESAI’S THE VILLAGE BY THE SEA: A STUDY OF PESSIMISM

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ABSTRACT
In *The Village by the Sea*, Anita Desai presents two protagonists, Lila and Hari, who stand against the construction of a Fertilizer Factory at Thul. Paucity and poverty of the worst type are the two phenomena in Hari’s house. The land which belonged to the family is sold to pay debts, and even animals are sold. The father is a jobless drunkard; mother is sick and bedridden; and children are ill-fed and ill-clad. Hari’s mind is tormented by the problem of his sisters’ marriages and dowry. Hari runs away to Bombay: there he comes to know that begging and coconut-selling cannot keep his body and soul together. Hari remembered Lila who had encouraged him to stand firm in the tide of life. As a good disciple to Panwallah, he has learnt a lot of wisdom of life end he decides to become a watch mender and a poultry farmer in future. Once he was out off from his family and village, and then he involved with the busy and hard life of Bombay. On his return to his village, he finds his sister, Lila, working very hard. Like her brother, Lila feels that she is completely out off from her family and society; but hard work and patience, despite aloneness and pessimism kept her on the path of duty as a social being.

KEYWORDS: Pessimism, aloneness, poverty, drunkard, rusticity, alienation.

Works cited: