EXPERIENCING CASTRATION IN THE DRAMATIC WORLD OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: A STUDY OF SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH

MUNNI DEB MAZUMDER*; DR. DIPENDU DAS**

*PH. D. RESEARCH SCHOLAR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR ASSAM, INDIA.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR, ASSAM, INDIA.

ABSTRACT
This paper is a study in highlighting the threat of castration that has haunted Williams’ characters. Castration enhances repression as Lacan defines castration as a process of giving up of a part of one’s “Jouissance” (drive). It is a fundamental loss experienced by both the sexes. A human being is forced to acknowledge the impossibility of the fulfillment of his or her desire and so destined to feel castrated. Lacanian view of castration involves everyone as castrated experiencing the lack at every moment. Castration is one of the major themes in Williams’ plays as most of his characters are delineated as psychologically castrated. But castration is treated as an external threat with the social intervention in the play Sweet Bird of Youth, which is elaborately discussed in this paper.

KEYWORDS: castration, repression, jouissance, lack, social intervention.