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The Patriarchal Predators in AMITAV GHOSH'S *The Hungry Tide*

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ABSTRACT

In Indian Literature, The twenty first century novel *The Hungry Tide* was written in the year 2005 by Indian Writer AMITAV GHOSH. The novel *The Hungry Tide* is a Psychological novel which can be seen in the way of repression of female characters. Though many writers spring to write about the controversy themes, still in the Indian Literature some writers tends to write about the Suppression of women, Subjugation of Female in Indian Countries. The women in Indian countries are forced to be under the Male Chauvinist society. Their whole life in depended upon the male around them. Women were not allowed to go beyond their limits in ancient Indian Country. The writer brings the background of the novel in the easternmost coastal area of the Bay of Bengal. This place is known as tiny Islands, the Sundarbans. These are familiar for the man eaters (deadly tigers), which destroy the life of the innocent people living there. The female characters in the novels are *Piyali Roy*; the Marian Biologist came as a cetologist to seek the marine mammals. *Nilima*; the wife of Nirmal, she sacrificed her life for the welfare of other women in the tide countries. *Kusum*; is a modern rebellionist who fought for the Morichijhapi Massacre in 1979. *Moyna*; the wife of Fohir, she was forced to sacrifice her dreams to look after her family. All the female characters are struggling to achieve the equality and freedom among the male. The male characters Kanai Duttu makes Piyali to be pliable to impress her and Mejda tries to abuse Piyali and Fohir is illiterate fisherman who made Moyna to live a unhappy life, Nirmal lives in his own idealist world, but his wife Nilima runs after his unloving husband. So all the women are suppressed to be in a limit and their independence is prohibited. This presentation shows how women lives are ruined by Male chauvinist society.

Keywords: Inequality, rebellion, male domination, suppression.

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Amitav Ghosh is an Indian- Bengali author. He is a novelist and essayist, editor, Professor and a publisher in the Penguin Books India. Amitav Ghosh famous novels are *Sea of Poppies*(2008), *The Shadow lines*(1988), *The Glass Palace*(2000), *The Hungry Tide*(2004) etc., Ghosh's fiction is characterized by strong themes which is identified as post colonialism. His concept are Personal and unique; Ghosh's prose is too pedantic and too precise; he uses some Indian Jones- styles which bump about tigers and crocodiles. The *Hungry tide* describes about the quest for the equality of women among the male.

Piyali Roy is an American born citizen of Indian Origin. She comes to Sunder bands to make research of world's rarest species of dolphins. Piyali faces dangers in several ways; she is new to the tide country, as birth by American, Piyali faces language barrier. While traveling in train Kanai Dutt a co passenger interrupts with Piya as a translator. Piyali tries to avoid Kanai, he ruthlessly disturbs by interrupting with her. After landing in the country Piyali seeks help from the pilot guard Mejda. Mejda is an abusive man who does not listen to Piyali words and then gives her Physical abuse with his waying of looking. "But her experience with guard has bruised her confidence and she felt as though she recovering from an assault" (THT 64) later she afford with Fohir and consoles herself Fohir is an Illiterate Fisherman but innocent in heart. The nasty forest guard represents the **Oppressive Patriarchy** who debases women.

Nilima is also other outsider to the tide country. Nilima loves Nirmal a professor while pursuing college. They elope to get married, because her family was reputed family among the village. In 1950's it was hard for a women to stand alone against the society. Nilima with her western education and urban life style suffers a lot to cop up with Nirmal and life. But somehow she manages to adjust new ways of life. Nirmal her husband does not seek the adjustment of Nilima he just runs behind the idealist communist dreams.

Nirmal had no care for the Nilima as solo strong woman Nilima tries hard with the tide country and started a trust with good infrastructure such as hospital, school, guest house which was similar to NGO organization. Kanai says about Nilima as "In their family, Nilima was legendary tenacity has built Badaban" (THT 19). Even though Nilima does good things the Society consider her to a barren woman. Nilima was childless, she is failed to fulfill the Essential duty of a women. So with this reason the **patriarchal society attempted to choke her voice**. Nilima did not have her own child but she had thousands of children to take care in Badaban.

Kusum is strong lady who brought the Mission Morichihapi in Nirmal life. Kusum as a teenager travels outside the world in search of her mother. Her mother in her young age was sent for prostitution in northern states of India. Horen says, such young girls are demand in prostitution business. A man called Dilip says that her mother was send to prostitution in search of Kusum. Horen helps Kusam in spite of leaving her wife and children and travel with her to Bihar. Kusum is not allowed to live liberally in tide country. She chooses an illiterate fisherman. He died while he went to sea. The wife in the land area had nothing to do to just remind to face the widowhood. "it was the custom for their wives to change into the garments of widowhood"(THT 80). These women face the same flight and the life of abuse and exploitation, after demise of the dear ones. After being a widow she was send as refuge to Pakistan and faces new phrase of struggle in life. Kusum is torn between the love triangles of her illiterate husband, Horen and Nirmal. In spite these plight she does not allow anyone to dominate over her. She almost conquers for her own life. The Male Horen, Nirmal thinks Kusum as women **with flesh to fulfill their desire**.

Moyna is the wife of Fohir. She struggled a lot to define her identity. She survived hard to educate herself; she walked kilometers to another village to get education. Moyna is a ambitious girl who had

the dreams to achieve in life. "She was not be shy of pitting her will against the world" (THT 130). Her husband made her to catch Crabs instead of making her to work in a institution. The patriarchy family insists her to **sacrifice her dreams**. "The dream of becoming a nurse was no ordinary yearning; it was product of desire as richly and completely imagined as a novel or a poem" (THT 135). After the death of her husband the society makes Moyna to be suppressed with impoverished village norms. But Moyna strongly restrict these norms and followed her mother in law attribute and went in path of dreams and achieved her dreams.

This is the eternal tragedy of women who are considered more as 'flesh' to satisfy the hunger of men than human beings with desire and aspirations. Kanai's description as "nasty young morsel" preferred by Tiger well testified to claim. Nilima sadly says to Kanai, "you're all the same, you men. Who blame tigers when predators like you pass for human beings?"(THT 234)

The above predicaments brings out the Piya, Nilima, Kusum, Moyna are the victims of patriarchy. The rebel for the struggle of equality was hard to achieve in spite of their personal dreams to fulfill. The background of the novels sets the comparison of tigers and crocodile that

ruined the life of the innocent life of the people. The deadly animals hunt the life of people very cruelly. Likewise, the male chauvinistic society cruelly hunt the women's life as Mejda thought about abusing Piyali physically, Nirmal avoiding Nilima because she is infertile, illiterate Fohir does not have the knowledge of giving freedom to his educated wife Moyna. This patriarchal society cruelly destroyed and ruined the lives women as tigers destroyed the life of innocent people.

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