



**ABSTRACT**

**MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIOUR: A PSYCHOANALYTICAL STUDY OF MALE  
PROTAGONISTS IN THE NOVELS OF ARUN JOSHI**

Adaptation is a continuous and lifelong process. Man, from birth, keeps on adapting himself to various situations. Man's progress depends on his abilities to respond to the tiring situations. Modern man faces a lot of problems in his life; most problems are not external, they are internal, basically adapting styles. This leads us to study Maladaptive Behaviour. Arun Joshi is known for his existentialist style of writing; all his novels are written in existentialist mode. But when we study them, we find that all the protagonists show a pattern of behaviour that is maladaptive. They lack proper response in tiring situations; they refuse to change their styles of living and thus creating a lot of problems for themselves. Sindi Oberoi misunderstands the meaning of detachment and he flights shy of his responsibilities, and creates problems in the lives of the surrounding people, basically in the lives of Babu and June. In the next novel, Billy wants the world of his dreams; he does not want to change himself, so he disappears in the forest. In the next novel, Ratan takes bribes as a normal routine of life. He does not know why he is taking bribe. He is split into the idealism of his father and the pragmatism of his mother. As a split personality he mars his life. In the next novel, again Som is a split personality; he is split between science and religion. He just wants to know the ultimate reality of life. He thinks that it should be science or it should be religion. He takes the absolute path of science. He thinks that everything can be explained on the basis of science but in the end, he fails. Basically, we may investigate the behaviour on the basis of adaptation. There are various psychological theories that help us to understand the behaviour of a person. Basically there are Psychoanalysis, Social Psychological theories, and Humanistic-Existential theory. Now a day an integrated approach is used and it is very successful to make a case study and giving suggestions. As we see the psychoanalysis and behaviourism are deterministic in nature, there is a little scope for the human being for the progress, and he is just like a puppet in the hands of the unconscious drives and environmental factors, but the humanistic existentialist approach provides us a scope for self actualization, as human beings are dynamic ones. Maladaptation is not a disease; it may be cured by proper guidance, so we see the last part of the novels. All protagonists' maladaptive behaviour is due to their split personalities. They are always extreme in their behaviours. They take life one-sided, they are not ready to understand the whole scenario, that make them deterministic in nature: there is no smooth working of their psychic energies – Id, Ego, and Superego. They are fixed in the images they have created incorrectly. As we know that human is a dynamic personality, some protagonists show a positive note of change in their behaviour in the end. Arun Joshi has shown the modern man's dilemma very beautifully and artistically.

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