



***Anna Karenina* in a Psychological Point of View**

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Anna Karenina is the deepest story about social transgression, love, betrayal, duty and children penned by the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy in 1878. The Russian novel features two religious fads of Tolstoy's day that deviate from traditional Russian orthodox Christianity. The first is practiced by Varonka and her guardian, Madame Stahl, whom Prince Shcherbatsky calls Pietists. Pietism was a mythical trend, popular among members of the upper classes. The second is a form of Radstockism practiced by Countess Lydia Ivanovna, whom Tolstoy surrounds with scorn and situational irony. Lydia is an example of a fake Christian who hides evil under the cloak of religion.

Russian literary realism was deeply influenced by the social, political, and intellectual atmosphere of the 19th century Russia. It is considered to be the Golden Age of Russian Literature. Literary realism attempts to represent the familiar things as they are. Realist authors chose to depict every day and banal activities and experiences.

Anna Karenina explores a diverse range of topics. Some topics include an evaluation of the feudal system that existed in Russia at the time- politics, not only in the Russian government but also at the level of the individual characters and families, religion, morality, gender and social class.

This novel is classified as a psychological novel, mainly because of Tolstoy's use of 'interior monologue.' Each major character, through self-discourse, exposes his inner life by recapitulating his motivations, his previous experiences, his plans for future action. "There into the very middle, and I shall punish him and escape from everybody and from myself." (Tolstoy, 715) The interior monologue gives verbal definition to the semi-articulate processes



of a character's consciousness. Levin's interior monologue in the novel during his key moments in his life, i.e. his experience of the bliss of love when Kitty accepts him as husband, his physical ecstasy with the peasants, and his fear when Kitty is suffering in childbirth. Tolstoy's interior monologues with respect to Levin were pleasant, confusion, happiness, etc. But Tolstoy uses the interior monologue far more extensively and movingly in his portrayal of Anna's last moments, to be exact, her suicide.

The reader gets access to the thoughts of the characters. Through the monologues, Tolstoy clearly illustrates the minds of Levin and Anna. The real psychology of Levin and Anna is shown in this novel. Levin is kind of a perplexed man who struggles or feeling uncomfortable in the novel most of the time. Anna Karenina also underwent a psychological disorder- Borderline personality disease. She was psychologically affected and met a disastrous ending in the novel.

References

Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina*. Penguin Classics, 2003