
TO BE OR NOT TO BE A “MOTHER”: A Study of Bertolt Brecht’s
Mother Courage and Her Children and Indira Goswami’s “The Offspring”

Gutimali Goswami

Abstract

This paper is a comparative analysis of two female characters, one from the west and the other from the east and is an effort to revisit the notion that surrounds the concept of being a “mother”. Done in the attempt to defend Anna Fierling, nicknamed Mother Courage, from Bertolt Brecht’s play *Mother Courage and Her Children* and Damayanti, from Indira Goswami’s short story “The Offspring”, we analyse the social, political, economic and cultural situations that contribute in the germination of these unconventional mothers. For the same, the paper has been divided into four parts, wherein the introductory section, it discusses the concept of motherhood, mothering and a mother. In the next section, we further the discussion with the character of Mother Courage and the idea of a feminine mother or a feminist mother. The following section is an investigation of the character of Damayanti and the power of choice that often is criticized vastly when utilized by a woman. Finally, in the conclusion of this paper, an attempt has been made to encourage readers to be a female and an ungendered form of powerful existence or Shakti for the upliftment of our society and a better tomorrow.

Keywords: Bertolt Brecht, Mother Courage, Indira Goswami, Damayanti.