

DAUGHTER-PARENT RELATIONSHIP IN THE SELECT INDIAN ENGLISH FEMALE NOVELISTS

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ABSTRACT

The daughter-parent relationship in literary fiction has received increasing attention in the last decade. However, the literature concerning the normal daughter-parent dyad has never been formally studied, evaluated and summarized. Two predominant groups of contemporary theories, one based in psychoanalysis and the other in social learning theory, have focused on this relationship and, among other things, attempted to explain why girls tend to become like their mothers. The psychoanalytic theorists tend to emphasize daughters' unconscious internalization of maternal values and behaviours. The social learning theorists suggest that girls learn from mothers and try to be like their mothers, by consistently and positively being reinforced when they imitate their mothers' behaviour. The unique aspects of the daughter-parent relationship have psychoanalytic models. The mother is early caregiver and primary source of identification for all children. However, often if not always, a young girl's identification with her mother continues throughout life, whereas a young boy's identification with his mother is broken and switched to his father (or another male figure.) A daughter continues to identify with her care-giving mother thereby maintaining the mother daughter relationship while establishing her identity. Nancy Chodorow affirms that because of their prolonged identification with mothers, daughters generally perceive themselves as more like their mothers. The male child is still the longed for child; the desire for the male child has led to what Geeta Aravamudan describes as the "disappearing daughters" syndrome.

KEYWORDS: *Daughter-Parent Dyad, Psychoanalysis, Social Learning, Disappearing Daughters*