

I. Jane Green and Modern, Post Modern Ethos

This research work attempts to justify that social issues not only create problems in the female's life but the female also becomes the anti-thetical character to destroy the family unity. In the novel under study *The Other Woman*, the two anti-thetical characters belong to distinct era. The mother-in-law is guided by unity, rationality, forms, values and fixed rule and regulation, whereas there is no fixed rules and regulation, no final center and no valuable unity for the daughter-in-law. She is guided by plurality. She is not feeling good with conservative restrictive society.

The novel *The Other Woman* focuses on Ellie black, the protagonist desires to get married and have a big and happy family. To fulfill her desire, Ellie decides to marry Dan Copper who has a big and nice family. At first, there is cooperation among the family members and everyone seems happy and cheerful. Black wants such type of family because she belongs to postmodern women. But her mother-in-law, Linda's 'controlling' nature creates problems and there appears conflict in between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. The mother figure Linda Copper wants to develop unity and intimacy among the family members. So she seems 'controlling' but there is no unification in her life. Daughter-in-law Ellie Black is marketing director for the Calden Hotel line. She is marring the ideal family but soon realizes that her perfect mother-in-law, Linda can be a perfect mother. So Linda makes the plan for the wedding but Ellie can't escape, this shows the struggle between two characters. *The Other Woman* is a novel about the love, family and friendship. Green's novel also wit as well as her warmth for and understanding human relationship. Writer shows not only the frustration comprises involved with family life but also the ever evolving nature of female friendship. As Ellies marriage and motherhood, she finds her friend but also complicating her life. She moves through

stage of her life, single women to married mom and back and back again, her with all its complications. The mother-in-law has unity and intimacy but in the middle of the novel each of the family members passes through alienated, frustrated and helpless life. The characteristics of the daughter-in-law is different from her mother-in-law. Why the mother figure seems too much controlling, why the daughter-in-law becomes more individual, why there is destruction in the family unity. It explores responses of the questions. This thesis focuses on the postmodern woman, who can't stay under the control of her mother-in-law. Especially it explores the relationship between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law which is contradictory. The mother-in-law is the representative of modern woman whereas the daughter-in-law belongs to postmodern woman.

The mother-in-law's controlling nature is not for dominating others but to help the family members. By helping them, she wants to faith and intimacy among the family members. She buys everything for the family members without knowing their choices. So she unknowingly controls other's freedom of choice. But the daughter-in-law is individualistic because she is not ready to stay under control although she compromises her freedom. She challenges the mother-in-law's oppressive nature by living separately. She determines her life through her own choice and decisions. After separation she gets freedom but it is meaningless because there is no one to share her feelings, to love her and therefore she feels alienated. To remove her isolation and frustration she desires to come back to the family. After Ellie's mother's death, her father re-marries and he does not care Ellie. There is no one to guide her and she can do everything in her own way.

As *The Other Woman* are the result of contradiction of both characters mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Ellie Black represents modern and Linda represents

postmodern characteristics. This idea has been illustrated by Cindy Shanks *The Other Woman* from the view point of Ellie, the heroine of the novel. She has little experience of family life, her mother passed from alcoholism and her father remarried, she has forever felt an outsider suddenly she finds herself welcome in to the readymade family. His mother Linda is gushing and helpful. His sister Emma is funny and witty. Richard is the youngest of the family. At first it seems wonderful experiencing the warm relationship she has never had. When Dan and Ellie begin to plan their wedding it suddenly becomes Linda's project. "She organizes and fusses work over everything. Ellie tries to confront Dan but he seems unwilling to budget because his mother is paying for their wedding. Whereas Ellie wanted a quiet celebration with a few close friends, she finds herself having a large over-the-top wedding" (1). Shanks highlights the Ellie's intention to celebrate the marriage with few friends but Linda makes great plan for the wedding.

Jean Francois Lyotard takes the postmodernism as an eclectic form of art and social cultural practices. Eclecticism has become the essence of postmodern culture and the style of the people. He gives an example of postmodern man "who listens to reggae, watches a western video, eats McDonald's food for lunch, local cuisine, wear Paris perfume in Tokyo and retro clothes in Hongkong, knowledge is a matter for T.V, Games" (271). In such context of eclectic culture, the demand of purity is futile for Lyotard. So he emphasizes that postmodernism has been always and already which nobody can stop.

Ellie Black, as a postmodernist woman, comes in opposition to the claim of Lyotard. Marriage creates obstacles but it makes their alienation and frustration that means they do not get family and happiness and there is no love within the family members. She demonstrates, "I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I'm making the

right choice that Dan is absolutely the right man for me" (63). Ellie uses her freedom without frightening her personal responsibility and also does not care about the succession. Lyotard was a foundational thinker of post modernism. He defines postmodernism as a belief on heterogeneity, multiplicity, uncertainties possibilities and open-endedness of beliefs, values, truth or knowledge. In this regard postmodernism appears to be opposite of and contrary to the traditional forms of discourses like modernism.

Moreover, in this context we can bring the concept of Lyotard:

From every direction we are being urged to put an end to experimentation. In the arts and elsewhere I have read an art historian who extols realism and is militant for the advent of a new subjectivity. I have read an critic who packages and sells 'Transavantgardism' in the market place of painting. (268)

Postmodernism is a form of experimentation. This experimentation appears in the form of art, literature and life of the people in the culture as well. It opens the possibilities of discovering newness and the differences in the society and aesthetic as well.

To remove their loneliness and childlessness, the postmodernist wants to marry and have children. In the novel Ellie also wants to marry and have a big family. She becomes very happy after being pregnant. She also gives birth to the child, Tom, but she cannot stay with the family because she cannot get individual freedom in the family. Every member has their own life style and there is also fragmentation in her family. The postmodernist women do not seek equality because they valorize the female issues.

The influential theorists, Judith Butler deconstructs the fixed identity of

female and argues:

Identity categories are never merely descriptive, but always normative and such exclusionary. If there is a fear that by no longer being to takes for granted the subject, its gender its sex or its materiality, feminism will founder, it might be wise to consider the political consequences of keeping in their place the very premises that have tried to secure subordination from the start. (255)

Postmodern female identity is not always stable, fixed and coherent but is unstable and multiple as post modern theorists have argued living in different social context and involving in different social sector, there is variation in postmodern female identity. She rejects the idea of universal or modern woman.

Ellie Black feels alienated after her mother's death because there is no family affection between her and her father and with her stepmother. She knows the value of the family who always wants a big family where there are brothers, sisters and parents together and there is affection between them. Before marriage, she has the individual freedom but she feels alienated and there is no happiness because there is no one to love her. She has father but he does not care him. She becomes self-centered and wants to create her distinct identity. In reality, family life is also fragmented and isolated in the postmodern society because Ellie's husband and father-in-law are not living together but they are enjoying their individual life in their own way. Ellie Black, the protagonist of the novel, does not succeed to revive the family.

Linda, the mother-in-law, is loving woman and wants to develop good relation among each family members but she never cares other members' choice. She unknowingly seizes others freedom of choice. She takes care of all the family members and is ready to help them.

Jane Green's novel *The Other Woman* takes various turns a tragic accidents, a separation an affair and loss of some friendships. This has been illustrated by Dev John when Ellie Black turns to Ellie Cooper. She thinks that she has got everything. She is ever dreamed of the wonderful and doting husband and the family. She has always wanted but never had. "Ever since Ellie's mother died when she was thirteen she has always yearned for a mother figure in her life and when she meets Dan's mother Linda" (34). Linda is sure that she does it. However, slowly but surely Linda begins to immerse herself in all aspects of Ellie's life which only serves to push Ellie away. After the birth of Ellie and Dan's first child Linda becomes more than Ellie can bear and rather than either of these women being mature enough to take a step back the situation and may be even try to take it out Linda just becomes overcoming and Ellie becomes a horror to both Linda and her husband Dan.

Kimberly Weiss, a critic who writes:

"I'm sorry", Linda says uncomfortably, unable to look me in the eye. "I knew you were looking forward to buying the baby things, and I shouldn't have bought them instead, and really, I didn't mean to upset you, I just didn't think, I was just so excited to see all those gorgeous things and I realize now how thoughtless it was and . . . ". (84)

The daughter-in-law says her mother in law is witch, the readers are expected to believe it. In fact, the mother-in-law seems nicer than the daughter in law. Imagine, having mother in law buy you baby things or pay for your wedding or come with you on the dream vacation they are paying for! Even when grandma drops the baby on his head, Ellie is more upset by the older woman's ignoring of her tough love parenting routine than by her son's ridiculously unrealistic injury, which she recounts in the same bored tone as she describes her outfits. Ellie is much more concerned about her

individuality and becomes upset. She wants to resist her mother-in-law but Michael's warning to Linda and Linda's thought of helping remove her anger. Ellie challenges modern issue which is belongs to mother in law. Mother in law wants to unity between family members but Ellie does not want unity. She refuses love of motherhood and also wants to create distinct identity form the family. She is different from modernist woman and loves to become postmodernist woman.

Habermas theorizes the concept of modernity by looking at the history of the word modern itself.

The word 'modern' in its Latin form 'modernus' was used for the first time in the late fifth century in order to distinguish the present, which had become officially Christian, from the Roman and Pagan part. With varying content, the term 'modern' again and again expresses the consciousness of an epoch that relates itself to the past of antiquity, in order to view itself as the result of a transition from the old to the new.

(276)

He finds that the word 'modern' was employed in the late 5th century. In order to distinguish 5th century period from the 4th century. In this definition of modern it refers to the present which is different from the past. In 20th century modern means novelty, newness, and innovation. During 1960s some scholars started to arguing that modernity of the time has not brought anything new but it was repeated what was in the past.

In the novel, Linda wants to unity among the family members. She wants to talk everyday with her daughter in law. But in reality it has disturbed Ellie's freedom and there occurs clash between mother in law and daughter in law. There is no social issues to control them, but the female controls female. The mother in law's desire and

interests are controlled by females, her mother and mother in law and now she wants to control her daughter and daughter in law. She controls Ellie's wedding and invite three hundred people without asking about their interest. Linda calls Ellie's wedding as her own wedding, not only that she calls Ellie's child her own child and she buys Ellie's child her own child and she buys everything to the child, so, she seizes her chance to enjoy the first pleasure of motherhood. Linda appears to be controlling but she does not want to do so. Linda, (mother-in-law) wants to talk with Ellie everyday but it disturbs Ellie's freedom and Ellie stops to come in contact with the family and starts to live separately. The desire is unfulfilled in the postmodern lifestyle because unity of family is impossible.

Marie Hashima Loften is an another critic of the novel. In a book reporter she illustrates:

Ellie black's relationship with her mother-in-law slowly evolves from one of friendship to that of an adversary. The two women meet while Dan and Ellie are dating. Ellie' own mother was an alcoholic and so Ellie never truly knew what it was like to have a maternal figure in her life .meting Linda cooper is not a bad experience the ellie is looking forward to becoming friends with her future mother-in-law. (1)

Ellie is totally independent and individually free women her alcoholic mother died earlier and she never truly has the experience of maternal love ,so she is in search of a good family and also wants to become friends with her future mother-in-law to fulfill the maternal figure. But there arises conflict between them because the mother-in-laws controlling nature controls Ellie freedom Ellie as post modernist women knows the value of the family but cannot bear others oppression.

This project focuses on Jane Green's *The Other Woman* (2006), a story of

postmodern woman, who can't stay under the control of her mother-in-law. This research focuses social issues not only create problem in the female's life but the female also becomes the anti-thetical character to destroy the family unity. The two anti-thetical character belongs from distinct era. It is new perspective for the development which is helpful for the new researcher. This research also helps the new woman who only blames the social issues.

The thesis has been organized in three chapters. The first chapter deals about the introduction to the whole thesis. This chapter discusses the modern and post-modernism as the theoretical tool or methodology in which it mentions the various theorists' ideas. Similarly, second chapter deals with textual analysis, where the events and experiences are linked by using the tool to meet the objective of the research paper. At last, the last chapter is conclusion which ultimately sums up above mentioned chapters and gives idea on how women can retain individuals freedom even by living in a family.

II. Conflict of Modern and Postmodern Attitude *The Other Woman*

Jane Green's *The Other Woman* justifies that social issues not only create problem in the female's life but the female also becomes the anti-thetical character to destroy the family unity. Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, Ellie Black, the protagonist of the novel, is a marketing director for the Calden Hotel Line. She is guided by plurality. She is not feeling good with conservative restrictive society. Mother-in-law is guided by unity, rationality, forms, values and fixed rules and regulation. Mother-in-law (Linda), is modern woman. She knows family values and fixed rules and regulation. So, she loves her family member and has good relationship with her family. So, she buys baby thing first but her daughter-in-law does not like. Ellie wants to buy baby things in her own choice.

The word 'modern' was first time used in fifth century. Fifth century was time of Christianity. Modern is taken as always happening phenomena. Modern refers to the present which is different from the past. This word reappears during the era of Renaissance age in the time. In this age modern meant revival of classical, Greek and Roman. Here, modern is found having its root in the classical. Again, it reappeared during 18th century period. In it, the meaning of the word modern was associated with infinite progress of knowledge, advancement of society, exercise of the mind in the spirit of classical works, desire for newness in life and so on. Lastly, it again appears during 20th century as a part of modernism. In it too, modern meant novelty, newness and innovation. It is basically connected to the nature of art and literature.

Lyotard, a foundational thinker of post-modernism, defines post-modernism as incredulity to grand narrative. "In the arts and elsewhere, I have read an art historian who extols realism and is militant for the advent of a new subjectivity" (268). It opposes the totalizing claims of grand narrative theories like that of enlightenment,

Christianity, Marxism and Realism. In defining post-modernity, Lyotard shows that throughout history, society has been under the influence of grand narratives. The problems of grand narrative arguments are universalizing the knowledge, marginalizing the local issues and homogenizing the diversities of the society. Therefore, post modernism is a belief on heterogeneity, multiplicity, uncertainties, possibilities and open-endedness of beliefs, values, truth or knowledge. In this regard postmodernism appears to be opposite of and contrary to the traditional forms of discourses like enlightenment or modernism.

Lyotard also defines postmodernism as a form of experimentation:

Habermas considers that the remedy for this splintering of culture and its separation from life can only come from changing the status of aesthetic experience when it is no longer primarily expressed in judgement of taste; but when it is used to explore a living historical situation, that is, when it is put in relation with problems of existence.

(268)

This experimentation appears in the form of art, literature and life of the people in the culture as well. In the mode of experimentation, it goes against the established norms and the convention. It also opens the possibilities of discovering newness and the differences in the society and aesthetic as well. While defining postmodernism as a form of experimentation, Lyotard attacks those thinkers like Habermas who oppose the spirit of experimentation. In this regard to postmodernism helps to promote the rise of culture of differences, plurality and heterogeneity. For example: the experimentation on art and literature helps to introduce new mode of writing and expressing the ideas while defining post modernism as a form of experimentation.

The term modern, for Habermas, repeatedly expresses "the consciousness of

an epoch" relating itself to the "part of antiquity to see itself as something new" (277). He again says, "The term "modern" appeared and reappeared exactly during those periods in Europe when the consciousness of a new epoch formed itself through a renewed relationship to the ancients- whenever, moreover, antiquity was considered a model to be recovered through same kind of imitation" (92).

The best example of this relationship can be seen in the ideals of French enlightenment for the "infinite progress of knowledge and the infinite advance toward social and moral betterment" (92). Thus modernity for Habermas was the project of enlightenment of the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Enlightenment was found on science and its future.

In the text, Mother-in-law (Linda) and Daughter-in-law (Ellie), represent modern and postmodern issues respectively. Linda, the mother-in-law buys the "baby things" without caring Ellie's choice but the father-in-law, Michael Cooper, is careful about daughter-in-law (Ellie's) freedom of choice and he warns Linda to beg sorry with Ellie. "I am ready to shout and scream if need be, to tell Linda exactly how I feel about her, and the very last thing I expected was to see Linda in tears" (84). Linda and Ellie are talking about the baby thing, which is buying for baby but Ellie didn't like, she wants to buy herself.

In postmodernist criticism as Linda Hutcheon activities the term 'postmodern' has appeared to be more casually bandied about than carefully defined. It was a mere 'moment'. In Linda Hutcheon's perspectives the multiplicity and complexity of the cultural phenomena gather together under this heading. There is certainly no shortage of differing opinions and competing models of postmodernism, but the critics are not the only ones to blame for the sometimes confusing number of explanations and descriptions. In the field of architecture in the 1970s, and referred to works that were

'doubly coded', as the influential architecture theorist Charles Jencks put it: that is, new and modern(ist), but also historical, although in a parodic and ironic way.

The term 'postmodern' spread to other art forms that also demonstrated a paradoxical mixing of seeming opposites: the traditional and the new, history, the self-conscious quoting of other art.

The mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law are guided by different aspect. So, Mother-in-law is guided by unity. She knows about family values and individual freedom. The family relation is interrelated. Modern is stable, fixed and coherent but postmodern is unstable and multiple.

After Ellie's engagement with Dan Cooper, there is constant phone calls of Linda to Ellie. Ellie wants some private time and there is no one to disturb her. She vents her anger upon the encroachment of her personal freedom, "I turn the phone off immediately, inwardly cursing that bloody woman, it's not urgent and can certainly wait until this meeting is over" (47). Ellie has the freedom to turn-off the phone and stay in the meeting. Against the background of this difficult relationship between the characters, this thesis focuses on family values from the perspective of modernism and postmodernism. The major character Ellie Black is individually free after her mother's death, but she feels alienated and lonely because there is no intimacy between her and her father. So, she is in search of a big and happy family.

Lyotard criticizes postmodernism is the essential condition of modernism. "Thinkers of the 1960 and 1970 avantgardes spread at a reign of terror in the use of language, and that the conditions for a fruitful exchange must be resotrd by imposing on the intellectuals a common way of speaking" (268). Postmodernism, in this sense, is avant-garde that changes one tradition of modernism into another modernism.

Modern is different from postmodern. Ellie is different from her mother-in-law. Linda

says, "They belonged to my mother, then I wore them to my own wedding and now I want you to have them and wear them to yours." (42). But Ellie refuses to mother-in-laws jewels to wear and she refuses, "I cannot accept them" (42). Ellie's choice is different from her mother-in-law. What is suitable to the mother-in-law is not suitable for the daughter-in-law.

Jane Green has also attempted to reveal the new woman's world who began to feel alienated by what they saw as the policing of their life. Now-a-days woman wants to call themselves postmodernist. They didn't want to modern or traditional activities.

Richard Tarnus criticizes the postmodern mind as the complex human mind. Complex thinking rejecting the modern thinking, postmodernism believes on the multiplicity and plurality of truth. Modernism believes on the singularity, rationality of truth.

Ellie wants to enjoy freely with Dan and ignores all phone calls, special, from her mother-in-laws which is clear from her expressions, Linda and Michael phone the next morning at eight o'clock, first the hotel phone rings and I refuse to let Dan answer it, knowing it can only be my in-laws and furthermore knowing they will want to come and see us to say good bye. Then Dan's mobile rings, and then mind. We ignore them all" (74).

She wants some private time and ignores the in-laws also. She has faith with her in-laws but she refuses to meet them. There are constant phone calls, but she refuses to meet them. Here, she seems feminist she also refuse Dan to answer the phone. Before going for honeymoon, they visit their in-laws and they talk about their wedding. There arises conflict between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. In this situation, Linda contends, "One day you will have a daughter and she will get married, and then, please God, you will get to have your wedding" (74). She asserts

that it is not Ellie's wedding but it is her own wedding and she further says, "When I married Michael, whose wedding you think it was? Mine? No, do not be silly. It was my mother's wedding. But your time will come" (74). Not only that, after the birth of the baby, Linda buys everything without concerning Ellie's choice and without giving Ellie a chance to enjoy the first pleasure of motherhood. Linda has no regard for Ellie's feeling or opinions. And she further says, "it's not your child!" I want to spit. "It's mine. I should be buying these things! Not you!" (82).

There is conflict between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law like postmodern critics Lyotard (in Jeneke's sense) solution proves to be better adapted than the anti-modern solution. "Eclecticism is the degree zero of contemporary general culture: One listens to reggae, watches a western, eats McDonald's food for lunch and local cuisine for dinner, wears Paris perfume in Tokyo and 'retro' clothes in Hong-Kong: knowledge is a matter for TV games" (271).

In this essay, mother-in-law likes family unity and relation whereas daughter in law does not like family unity and relation. Ellie wants postmodern activities and Linda wants modern activities. The two women are in a conflict. The mother-in-law's desire and interests are controlled by females, her mother and her mother-in-law and now she wants to control her daughter-in-law. She controls Ellie's wedding as her own wedding and invite 300 people without asking about her interest. She calls Ellie's wedding as her own wedding. Not only that, she calls Ellie's child her own child, buys everything to the child, seizes her chance to enjoy the first pleasure of motherhood.

Now, Ellie is in confusion whether to resist her and enjoy her freedom or to support for the family. She is a freedom seeker woman, but she does not want to destroy the family relation. At this moment, Michael, Linda's husband warns Linda, "You know that Ellie couldn't wait to buy the baby things, and you know she was

waiting until now because she didn't want to tempt fate, but you couldn't wait, could you, you had to steal her thunder" (82). Michael, the father-in-law is a caring person. He wants to provide freedom to Ellie and also wants to develop the good relation among the family members. Linda replies, "I was not trying to steal her thunder, I was trying to help them out" (83). Linda appears to be controlling to help them and wants to develop good relation and is even ready to beg sorry. "I'm sorry, I know you were looking forward to buying the baby things, and I shouldn't have bought them instead, and really, I didn't mean to upset you" (84). Ellie also forgives and she says, "five minutes later we are friends again" (85). Ellie is much more concerned about her individuality and becomes upset and also wants to resist her mother-in-law but Michael's warning to Linda and Linda's thought of helping remove her anger. Ellie challenges modern issue which is belongs to mother-in-law. Mother-in-law wants unity between family relation but Ellie demonstrates, "I hated everybody except the tiny little helpless baby kicking and screaming in my arms" (88). For Ellie, the child is everything and she loves its kick and scream. She becomes happy when she gives birth to baby and is even ready to stay the whole night to nurse him. Ellie is different from the modernist and wants to create distinct identity or become different from *The Other Woman*. Each time Linda and Michael come to visit them, Linda wants to take Tom from her arms. At that time Ellie turns away and argues. "No, I'm not ready to have anyone else hold him" (89). The mother-in-law visit and hold that the child is a family responsibility and so is love among each family member Ellie's refuses love of motherhood, and also wants to create distinct identity from the family. She further says, "I've taken three month's maternity leave from work" (89) which proves her too much love towards the child for whom she misses work, buzz and the routine. Not only that if she leaves Tom with someone else, she feels physically sick.

Furthermore, Ellie spends her whole time for the child, wanders around and sits in the playground watching the older children. Her friends, Lisa and Trish are also there and they start to share the birthing stories and tips. Without worrying about anything, she only focuses on her new life as a mother. There is the development of motherhood in Ellie and spend her whole time in taking care of Tom. Although Ellie love the family, she does not like the possessive nature of Linda and there arises problem with the family member. Fran, her friend, asks her about the relation with mother-in-law and she says "It wasn't good" (94) because Ellie wants to run her life in her own way. Ellie begins to think about her individual life and she contends, "I had a career! I'm a successful professional! I'm not just a mother, I'm a person too!" (97). She rethinks her whole life and cares about her duties and responsibilities as a mother of child. This sense of responsibilities does not fulfill all her dreams and she talks about her other duties:

Although now that I'm supposed to be going to work in a couple of weeks, I'm starting to rethink the whole thing, I never thought for a second, I'd be the kind of woman who would be satisfied with just looking after a baby, but now that I'm home I love it. Seriously, it's the most fulfilling wonderful thing, I've ever done, and I'm not sure I'm ready to go back to work. I just have to figure out a way to broach the subject with Dan. (97)

As a postmodern woman, Ellie is not satisfied with one thing because she has many things to do to fulfill her desire and the duties for the family and society. Only by looking after a baby, she cannot be a new female. She has to develop her career; she has to work in different field and for that she reads the newspaper, watches the new from time to time and knows what is going on in the world. Marie Hashima criticizes

throughout the book, "Ellie blames her woes on her mother-in-law, but is Linda really to blame?" this had problem with the way Ellie reacted to the "other woman" (105) in her life.

Linda, the mother-in-law, wants to talk with Ellie everyday but it disturbs Ellie's freedom and there occurs clash between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Ellie to starts to comment Linda negatively with her sister-in-law, Emma. She contends, "I swear your mother is completely mad" (106). Ellie is even ready to call her mother-in-law mad because Linda disturbs her private time by calling everyday and she also does not think of her choice. Ellie stops to come in contact with the family and starts to live separately where she can get her freedom but there is no one to love her and share her emotional feelings.

Ellie wants to develop good relation in the family, problems arise. Dan starts to leave the house each morning and spends the rest of the day with growing ups talking about grown-up things and "not having to take responsibility for anyone other than himself. Not when he is still perceived by everyone who knows him as the same Old Dan Cooper, producer extraordinary, who just happens to now have a son" (100). Dan also enjoys his freedom. Furthermore, the possessive nature of Linda is not bearable to Ellie and a conflict arises between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law.

Linda leaves the following message everyday, "How is my darling grandson?" says the message that she leaves everyday, numerous times, on the answering machine. "How's my darling baby?" She croons, as I shake my head wanting to shake her: he's not your baby, you silly cow. He's my baby" (100).

Linda is also a loving woman and she takes care of all family members and she also knows the value of the family, but never thinks Ellie's choice and desire. She also seizes the pleasure of motherhood of Ellie. Ellie starts to share her problem with

her friend Lisa and Trish. "I tell Lisa and Trish that I am at war with my mother-in-law, and everytime I refuse to accept one of these gifts, send her away, inform her that we already have that toy, or that coat, or that mobile, I am winning a battle, on the way to winning the war" (101).

Ellie starts to resist Linda's possessive nature by refusing everything from her and enjoy her freedom. It fulfills the notion of postmodernism where the females do not hate the social issues because they have different identity from society, but there is a conflict within females. Habermas in his modernist theories and forms Modernity – An unfinished project writes to the ideas of Daniel Bell, "the crisis of the developed societies of the west are to be traced back to split between culture and society. Modernist culture has come penetrate the values of everyday life: the life-world is infected by modernism" (278). Habermas agrees that there are problems in modernity, but he suggests to look at modernity in two categories: Cultural modernity and Societal modernity. Daniel Bell are related to societal modernization rather than cultural modernity. The problem of cultural modernity is separation of art world from life world in the name of art of art's sake.

Like this, Ellie Black (daughter-in-law) and Linda (mother-in-law) have conflict in the novel. Ellie wants to show her individual life and she makes her life different from other woman. In the novel, there is no social issue to oppress but females oppress the female. The hatred of mother-in-law is growing within Ellie because Linda has "no sense of boundaries", and also does not know when to back off, to give me, us, space" (102). So by hating and separating from her, Ellie finds mental peace and freedom. Furthermore, Ellie also knows that Linda wants to help her but she has no idea about when to stop and provide freedom to her. If there is any freedom and if our choices are controlled by others, there is no value of life Ellie says,

"she is trying to take over my life" (104). Linda shows her oppressive nature. Ellie starts to hate Linda and enjoy her freedom. She also reads somewhere, "the brightest children are the ones whose parents talk to them a lot, even about the most inconsequential things, and of course Tom is agencies in the making, so I do my best to nature that by chatting to him all day long, usually about complete rubbish (124).

So she does her best to nurture Tom by chatting to him all day for long time. She dislikes Linda's nature of walking Tom up and playing with him. Ellie says: "I told you", Michael speaks up for the 1st time, shaking his head and looking at Linda. "I told you not to come in" (130). Ellie does not like her mother in law and she refuses her. Ellie wants to live with her child in own way. So, she (Ellie) further says, "She is here and she woke Tom up from his nap and she's been playing with him, and know what he's like when he hasn't had enough sleep. Now he's going to be horrible later on. I can't believe she did that. I just can't believe it" (130).

Linda is with grandchild. She is playing with him but Ellie does not like and she says her, you what's Tom like. So, this shows the conflict between mother in law and daughter in law. Sometimes Ellie's friends ask her about the experience of motherhood. She says "Lovely Exhausting, but lovely" (154). In this statement, she valorizes the female identity and motherhood. Postmodern woman is a multiple woman, who wants to focus on choice and empowerment for develop of her individual life. It is extraordinary and changes her life.

Linda wants to become good mother and grandmother and also wants to develop good relation among the family members, but her nature of controlling leads the family towards destruction. "Poor woman she gave up her life for her children and now her children do not want to know. Emma's permanently exasperated by her, Richard only phones when he wants something, and Dan has me now. And Tom a

family of his own" (149).

Linda is only concerned about the family relation but she does not care about their freedom of choice. So her position in the family is problematic. At this moment Ellie shows her sympathy to Linda.

The conflict between mother-in-law and daughter in law increases when Tom faces an accident and we notice, "Linda and Michael rushing round a corner, tears streaming down Linda's face" (159). This shows Linda's and Michael's love towards the child. The baby has broken his leg and fractured wrist but the serious thing is, he got head injuries, Ellie starts to cry:

This cannot be happening to me, I keep thinking. How can this be happening? I lost my mother when I was a child. Isn't that enough tragedy for one life time? What have I done that's so awful that this could be happening to me again, why me? Why us? Why this tiny helpless baby? (160)

Ellie shows her love towards the baby and to her mother as well as to her whole family. Ellie, as a post modernist woman, has to face such type of destruction. Now she is only interested in Tom. She does not take care of other family members. Linda wants to talk to her and begs for her forgiveness because she repents for dropping the child accidentally, but Ellie refuses to listen and forgive her. After seventeenth day, they sign the discharge paper. Linda is sitting in the waiting room and reaches out to hand to Tom, "I move my body to shield him from her, won't allow her to touch him, not anymore" (162). Here is a conflict between mother in law and daughter in law. Linda softly says, "just let me look at him" then Ellie replies, "you cannot look at him and you cannot hold him. You need to know not that I will never ever forgive you for what you did. Do you understand? I. Will. Never. Forgive. You" (163).

The conflict between Linda and Ellie is mother in law and daughter in law increases. Ellie not only refuses Linda to touch the child but also refuses to look at him. Ellie wants to run on her own choices and Linda also has plenty of love towards the child. She wants to look at the child. Ellie does not like herself from Michael and Linda and spends the Christmas Day with her father and enjoys her freedom. Ellie is separated from Linda. Ellie does not stop to curse her, "How dare Linda – even the thought of her name makes my blood boil these days- pick up Tom? How does she deliberately ignore my wishes? If that stupid woman had just left him alone, Tom would have been? (164). Now Ellie becomes free and remembers the possessive nature of Linda which leads the family towards destruction. This event does not only separates her from the family but it also separates her from Dan. Even though there is the separation between Ellie and other family members. Ellie says, I read each letter in the beginning, now I don't even open them, just put them straight in the trash bin. I used to read them impassively, snoring with derision when she asked to see Tom. As if I would let her near my son ever again" (165).

Ellie and Linda have conflict for the child Tom. Tom is her own child not to give mother-in-law. Furthermore Ellie says, "Dan has started to leave the house before I got up. I'm always awake, but I lie there pretending to be asleep my body filled with tension, my breaths short and tight, counting the minutes until the front door closes and I can finally relax" (165).

Ellie and Dan have discussed about their personal thing. So Ellie has filled with tension. Here is conflict between family members and she has pretend only but Dan leaves the house before Ellie get up. Eventhough there is separation between Ellie and other family members, there is love between Ellie and Emma, "Emma still thinks of me as family. She loves me" (201). This shows how important the family is

even though Ellie has avoided her calls for weeks and acted as if she wants nothing more to do with her. Emma loves her because she knows the importance of the family. Ellie, further demonstrates her thought she does know the problem of Linda and she sympathizes her and she further says:

"Linda? Are you still there?"

"Yes , Ellie," she says and her voice is soft now

"I'm still here." I say even though I hadn't planned for that. "Can we meet? May be for lunch?" (227)

Although Ellie refuses to speak with Linda for months she feels sorry for that because she know she there is the destruction of the family by an accident and it is not Linda's fault.

Linda wants to become good mother and grand mother and also wants to develop good relation among the family members but her nature of controlling leads the family towards destruction. Ellie further says:

Poor woman she gave up her life for her children and now her children do not want to know. Emma's permanently exasperated by her, Richard only phones when he wants something, and Dan has me now. And Tom a family of his own. (149)

Ellie's mother in law is really a mother so she gives life for her children but her children don't know her. Here shows the conflict between family members. All members are in their own way. Linda looks her daughter, Emma says, "They belonged to my mother, then I wore them to my own wedding and now I want you to have them and wear them to yours" (42). Emma says that Linda's diamond necklace and earrings belonged to her. Here shows the conflict between mother and daughter and Ellie says: "But I can't accept them" (42). Linda says: "No, Ellie. I always said that they would go

to the 1st one in the family to get married, and Dan is the 1st, and you're now part of our family?"

Furthermore, Ellie says:

No, really, it is, Remember I don't have a mother. I haven't had a mother since I was thirteen I've dreamed of marrying into a family exactly like this for almost twenty years. And you know what, Linda is lovely and she's welcomed me into her family. I can't imagine ever having a problem with her. (34)

However slowly but surely Linda begins to learn herself in all aspects of Ellie's life which only serves to push Ellie away. After the birth on Ellie and Dan's first child Linda becomes more than Ellie can bear and rather than either of these women being mature enough to take a step back from the situation becomes more over bearing and Ellie becomes a horror to both Linda and her husband Dan. This takes various turns a tragic accident, a separation, and loss of some friendships.

Ellie does not believe in mother in law. Ellie says: I'm sorry, Linda". I fake an apologetic voice, "But Dan's been shooting in the North and he's exhausted, and I've had a really tough week. I think we're just going to have an early night . . ." (48). Ellie does not blame her mother in law and Ellie says sorry.

Furthermore Ellie says, "She dragged me out of a big meeting saying it was urgent, then tricked me into turning down her dinner invitation tonight before telling me you would already accepted" (49). Her mother in law invites daughter in law Ellie hang on a minute, and she says, I didn't accept anything" (49).

Ellie's has no mother, Dan says his mother loves family and she bears everything but Ellie does not hear his saying. Dan says, "She's my mother, Ellie, and whatever you think about her she's only trying to do the best for us" (50). Ellie think

of her, "She's not a bad woman. She loves me and she wants me to be happy, and she thinks, she thought" – he looks at me pointedly– "that welcoming you into our family would be the way to do it. It should be making me happy, but instead I'm just watching you get more and more wound up by this and I don't understand why" (50). Ellie's wants Linda is a good woman and wants to see with her family but Ellie doesn't understand.

Ellie thinks that her future mother in law is involved in every tiny aspect of her life but it interrupts her private time. Ellie says, "Because I didn't want to seem ungrateful, and I realized a long time ago that this was not my wedding, this was her wedding, and that the easiest thing I could do would be to give it up and let her get on with it" (55). Ellie further says her future mother in law is like her and Ellie lacks her mother, she feels lucky. She says, "I thought, before this, that I would be the luckiest girl in the world if my future mother in law, whoever she might be, would take me under her wing and claim me as the daughter she never had of course I now see that I'm far too independent for that. That I don't just want any mother, I want my mother, and that that simply isn't going to happen. There isn't anybody who can take her place" (57).

Ellie is running in her own choice and she never doubts it. She knows that he is in touch with Sophia before the couple of years she confidently says, "And there are the obligatory things through her twenties, and a three year relationship that ended a couple of years ago because he just couldn't see himself spending the rest of his life with her, and a few months before meeting me, Lainey, who had run off with the actor" (64). She also talks about family planning with her friend Anna and asked her, "Have you thought about planning a family at all?" (64).

In the text mother in law phoned Ellie (daughter in law), Ellie hears everything

and she feels sick. Ellie says, "Oh, my God. It was one thing hating her but quite another having her no quite how much I hated her, and trust me," (94). Ellie further says, "I sat there feeling sick and scared, and far too much of a coward to call her back. I was immobile until Dan get home, at which point I relayed the story to him in a frightened feeble voice, leaving out quite how bad my venting session was simply saying she may have heard some things that were not too kind" (94). Linda wants to make family in her own hand but Ellie is postmodern woman she wants freedom and she hears mother in law saying and mother in law is not kind.

In the text Ellie says about family value and she is satisfied by a mother and a member of family, "Those moments of loving, of caring and kindness, of knowing exactly why we married each other and exactly why we plan to be together until death us do part seem so rare these days" (99). Ellie further says, "I suppose that if anyone had wanted me, warned of the exhaustion, the loneliness, the loss of identity, I would either have thought they were lying or assumed that it may happen to other women, to other couples, but wouldn't happen to us" (99). Ellie thinks her individual life, she is lonely and has no identity but now she gets married life and family.

Ellie says, "Linda phones and when I don't pick up or return her calls, she drops in unnoticed and its becoming a daily occurrence. I have tried pretending to be out, but she knows which car to look for on the street, and I have never been much of a liar, so reluctantly I let her in" (101).

Linda (mother in law) and Ellie (daughter in law) follow distinct way. Ellie belongs to post modern woman and she does not accept mother in law phone. Ellie has guided by irrationality and also does not follow fixed rule guided by fixed rules and regulation.

Analyses like Bell's cites Peter Steinfelds,

The struggles takes the form of exposing every manifestation of what could be considered an oppositionist mentality and tracing its 'logic' so as to link it to various forms of extremism: drawing the connection between modernism and nihilism between government regulation and totalitarianism, between criticism of arms expenditures and subservience to communism between women's liberation or homosexual rights and the destruction of the family between the left generally and terrorism, anti-Semitism and fascism. (64)

In the text Linda follow modern and critics, Bell cites Peter Steinfels he says neo-conservatism shifts onto cultural modernism. It takes relationship between the welcomed process of societal modernization and lamented cultural development like Linda also wants to keep her family happy. Post modernist thinker like Linda believes, "to get rid of the uncompleted project of modernism" (268).

In the text Ellie knows, "I know exactly how much he hates it when he walks in and I've had a bad day ad take it out on him and by the same token how relieved he is, how happy, when have had a good day, when Linda managed not to intrude on my serenity, and I am loving and warm to my husband" (102).

Ellie and Dan have no relation between them. After Ellie knows her husband is happy. They have good relation Linda managed all thing and Ellie and Dan have good relation. Ellie post modern believed she wants to individual freedom. Linda believes modern issues always she always wants to make her family unity. Dan also knows her mother is right and "She is only trying to help" (103). Ellie says "I didn't think it was possible to hate someone this much, but I swear, she's the mother in law from hell" (103). Mother in law wants to her family. She does not know other happy, she belongs to modern woman and she like only unity. But Ellie does not like

possessive nature of mother in law, she is only hates her. Ellie further says, "Okay, admittedly she's saying some stupid things, but I think she's probably just and incredibly insensitive woman who doesn't know where the boundaries are. Because, let's face it, she has been incredibly good to you" (103). The conflict between Ellie and Linda, Linda wants to keep her family in her own choice but she doesn't know other choice.

Ellie further says, mother in law wants to love her family but Ellie doesn't like her mother in law. Ellie contends:

"I try," I says, "but she doesn't get the message. Every day, for God's sake! What does she want to talk to me about every day? I don't even pick up the phone anymore. If I see her name come up, I let the machine get it, and even then, if she's let a message and I don't call her back, she just keeps ringing and putting the phone down until I answer. I swear, your mother is completely mad". (106)

Ellie wants to live alone but Linda disturbs her, here shows the conflict between females.

Lyotard believes post modern culture refers to a variety of economic, political, social and cultural transformations avant-garde spread a reign of terror in the use of language" (268).

Habermas believes modernity claim that it has 'unfulfilled potential' and the resources to overcome its limitations and destructive effects, "The avant-garde understands itself as invading unknown territory, exposing itself to the danger of sudden, shocking encounters, conquering an as yet unoccupied future" (277).

Afterward, Ellie says, "I'm helping Linda wash up, she turns to me in the kitchen, her face flushed with sun and wine. "I never knew you had such lovely

friends". She says I shrug. "You never asked. You sound surprised . . . are you surprised they're lovely" (135).

After the separation from the family Ellie knows the Linda, She is so lovely. This shows the good relation between Ellie and Linda. Ellie further says, she is happy with her mother in law and she also knows the role of the mother. She thinks, "being a first time mother is the hardest job in the world, so isolated and lonely and only way you get through it is to have other friends in the same boat, I think it's lovely that you all get on so well and all the babies are the same age" (136). Ellie believes plurality and first she wants big and happy family and in the middle she wants to live only own way and she knows about mother in law and mother's role. This shows the relation between mother in law and daughter in law. Modernist critics Lyotard believes plurality and he also belongs to Ellie.

Linda makes a joke she is genuinely pissed off, "She's one of my best friends. I'd appreciate it if you didn't talk about my friend like that." "You're right" (136). Linda knows the value of family and she has also best friend. Dan laughs, putting his arms around Ellie as she starts to relax. He starts to laugh then sits with Ellie on the bed and takes her face in this hands, looking at me very intently as he is stops laughing, "Ellie, I love you. I love Tom. I love being married to you and having a family with you, and I would never have an affair. Not to mention the fact that, although I can recognize that Lisa is a beautiful woman, I have never been attracted to her in the slightest" (141). This shows the good relation between Ellie, Dan and Tom. Habermas believes that modernists favour organization, reflected the value of western or European thought "modernity creates its own self- enclosed canons of being classic" (277).

In the text there is conflict between Ellie and Dan. "with both of us lying in

bed, not talking, barely moving, pretending to sleep, although I can tell from his breathing that he is not sleeping, and I know, from previous experience, that I will probably lie here until the early hour of the morning, heart pounding with anger, wanting everything to revert back to normal but not having the ability to say I'm sorry" (142). Ellie and Dan always say never go to sleep on an argument. It were that easy. "when we do row, we always go to sleep on it, and when we wake there are same silence, the some resentments, the same recriminations" (143).

This shows the conflict between Ellie and Dan. Ellie further says, this morning she pretends to be asleep and wants to look at Dan, "talk to him, be around him, and I lie in bed, listening to him get up and leave the room. I plan on following him, to give Tom his breakfast, but the next thing I know I wake up again, groggily reach for my watch on the bedside table" (143).

In the text, she wants to live alone, and pretends to leave the room. She believes in multiculturalism. Postmodernists believe in multiculturalism.

She loves being a mother, and now she is experiencing the joys of female friendship, "I love being a woman. I live the way that you can share anything and everything with your girlfriends, that you are not judged but accepted for who you are" (145). Ellie is so lucky to have found friendships like this stage in my life. Ellie also knows the value of friendship.

In the text Ellie's marriage and she is hating Dan. Ellie wants to leave her husband, she really makes the wrong choice, "those feelings have passed, have been left behind with the darkness. And I tend to discredit them, to call them my night sweats. But perhaps they're not. Perhaps I'm not supposed to feel this different, perhaps it means I made the wrong choice. I made the wrong marriage" (151). This shows Ellie and Dan have marriage, she wants to run her life in own way.

Ellie thinks to about her individual life, she contends, "but tonight I'm not willing to adjust. Not willing to make any concessions at all. Tonight want to forget that I'm married, that I have responsibilities. Tonight I will be on holiday from my life. And I'm going to have a good time if it kills me" (151). This shows, Ellie has confused to her life.

In the text Charlie Dutton is asking Ellie something, but she can't look at him. He says "Ellie! You're a grown woman! Compose yourself! You're a wife and a mother and a grown up! Stop behaving like a child" (155). Dutton shows the life of woman.

Ellie knows something "terrible and happened and world stop moving". "It's Tom," Dan whispers. "There been an accident" (158). This shows Ellie is not aware that happens immediately after that, this also shows tragic accident.

She says, "Linda tried to talk to me once. I had left Tom's room, desperate for some air, and she came over to me and started to speak, started to say something, but I couldn't deal with it, couldn't even look at her so I just turned and walked away, left her standing in midsentence" (161). This shows the conflict between mother in law and daughter in law. Mother in law belong to modern woman and daughter in law belongs to post modern woman. They are guided by different era.

Ellie further says, "all I'm interested in is Tom. Linda doesn't exist for me right now. I'm not sure she ever will again" (161). This also shows the conflict between mother in law and daughter in law.

Ellie says, "On the day we leave, the day after Tom was finally given the all clears Linda is sitting the waiting room by herself. Dan is still inside signing the discharge papers and organizing the insurance. I am cruddling Tom n my arms and about to go downstairs, from where we will take the rental car straight to the airport to

my home" (162).

Ellie shows her love towards the baby and whole family. Ellie as a post modernist woman has to face such type of destruction. Now she is only interested in Tom, she does not care of other family members.

Ellie says, "she caught herself, and in doing so dropped my son" (163). This shows the Linda's love towards child. Ellie further says, "I know he's fine now. I know that's all that matters, but all I keep thinking about is Linda dropping my precious boy down the stairs, reaching out her hands to protect herself, putting herself before my son" (164). This shows the love towards family relation. Linda as a modern woman has to know the family unity.

In the text Ellie says the problem in relation. She keeps pushing, this may be the end of the marriage but she can't let it go quite this easily. "I can't let the marriage end on this note of silence, on this lack of communication, suddenly I want to know all the things I haven't asked him for the last six months, now I want to know" (170). This shows the problem in family relation. Here Dan and Ellie have problem. Ellie further says "Look", I sign. "It's not permanent. Maybe we just need some space to reassess. I don't think we should talk about... Divorce... or anything". Oh, God Divorce. The very mention of the word sends shivers down my spine. "we can hope this is just a phase: (171). This shows Ellie and Dan have not permanent relation, there arises some problem.

Ellie says well, you obviously see him however you want. You can come over anytime or maybe on weekends. Ellie doesn't know. She has not done this before. They work something out. She thinks finally shock starts to sink in, even though I can hardly believe that this conversation has so quickly become a reality. "We've spent months screaming at each other, sleeping with our backs to each other, barely

speaking to each other, and now that we're actually managing to have a calm conversation our marriage is ending" (171). This shows the fragment relationship between Ellie and Dan. Here is conflict between wife and husband. Suddenly everything is completely different Ellie's marriage is over. They are just separating, it is only temporary, "who am I kidding? My marriage is a failure and I'm on my own" (171). This show the conflict between Dan and Ellie. Ellie goes and she packs a few things, "Dan says I goes and stay at her parents' until things are a bit more sorted out. "He leaves and I hear him go into the bedroom, then the sound of drawers and cupboard doors being opened, the sound of the clothes being shoved into a sports bag" (171). Ellie and Dan show the value of family.

Ellie believe this is real, that they have actually had this conversation that her husband is leaving. She get up and stand in the doorway of the bedroom she is watching him, she is wanting him to say more wanting them to talk more. "Wanting one of us to fight for this marriage, to turn everything back to normal, even if normal mean those long silences of the past six months, not speaking, not touching, not talking. Anything rather than this" (172). This shows the problem of Ellie and Dan.

After a while Ellie hear footsteps in the hall and then she hear Tom's door being opened, and finally, very quietly, "I hear Dan start to cry", "And I start crying too" (172). This shows Ellie and Dan love towards their baby. And also it shows the value of the family. Ellie and Dan are separated in past the six months, but it is just a temporary separation, an absence and they find better way.

"My eye catches our wedding photograph, mocking me from its prime position on the mantelpiece. God, look how happy we were. How I thought I was marrying the perfect man, marrying into the perfect family. And how ironic that I expected Linda, Linda without whom none of this would have happened, to step into

the role of mother to be the mother I'd always dreamed of" (172). This shows nostalgia of Ellie, first there shows separation of the family and after she gets better life in the family. Ellie feels love for him. She wants to pick him up and squeezes him. She finds a way of merging their body with his again, but she leaves him bedroom and fall exhausted onto her own bed. "I do sleep. I lie facing Dan's side, something I haven't done for month's unable to look at him, unwilling to be anywhere near him, and I empty my dead of thoughts until, finally, finally, I fall into a deep , dreamless sleep" (173). This shows good relationship between Ellie and Dan.

Ellie wishes her friend, she is loyal to her. She knows the value of friendship so much. There is good friendship between them but they have not changed at all. Ellie sees Lisa perhaps more often than Ellie did before, but Lisa and Ellie have so much in common now, "both being single mothers and Trish, however much she loves me and wants to help, couldn't possibly understand how different, how difficult, it is to be a single mother" (185). This shows the value of friendship between Ellie and Lisa. They also know the difficult of mother.

In the text Ellie is fine, she says about her family but Emma brings so many memories before accident which for so long seemed to obliterate all that had happened before it. "I remember Linda hugging me. I remember her squeezing me tight at my wedding and telling me I was another daughter in her family. I remember earrings she gave me, her excitement when I had Tom, he desire to be involved in everything, her genuine happiness for me" (202). This shows the value of the family. Ellie remembers her past time ad she also knows value of mother in law. Habermas also believes modernism like Linda. She loves her family and Linda also wants care her daughter in law. Ellie also remembers her mother in law.

Habermas says, "Individual epochs lose their distinct forces. Historical

memory is replaced by the heroic affinity of the present with the extremes of history" (277). This shows the sense of time where in decadence immediately recognizes itself in the barbaric, the wild and the primitive.

Furthermore, Ellie imagines, "She puts her arms around me and hug me, and I think that although she may not be my mother, she's not bad second and I am so, so sorry for everything" (233). This shows the love between the mother in law and daughter in law in Ellie's mind. In reality, she is suffering from nostalgia. Ellie further says:

She is gradually starts to soften, as we sit nursing cappuccinos, I tell her again how sorry I am and start to explain why I couldn't talk to her, why I blamed her, but I stop. There is nothing left to say. I don't even know myself why I felt so strongly. The anger has disappeared so completely and so thoroughly that it hasn't even left a shadow, and I know that nothing in the world could justify to her why I refused to see her, or stopped her from being part of our family for so long. (233)

This shows Ellie's expressions of her experience while she is alienated from the family. She first of all begs sorry to Linda and talks about everything why she refuses to meet her. She becomes angry and wants to live separately where she can get individual freedom and can run her life as her choice or wish. Moreover, Ellie cannot forget the family and also thinks that it is not justifiable to refuse Linda in her life. When she starts to live separately, she shows the important role of the family for each member and wants to become closer with Linda. By sharing everything, she wants to unity the family. Ellie also talks about Michael's affair with Lisa but Linda laughs and she says, "Happily my husband isn't the type to have an affair, otherwise, I would have been seriously worried" (235). This shows Linda's faith with her husband and

her family. She is a caring woman and wants to help each family member because she knows the importance of family unity.

Likewise, Michael also knows the importance of family unity and he is using a trick to bring all family members and surprises Linda on her sixtieth birthday. Ellie says, "We have become the family I always dreamed of having" (238). This is only Ellie's imagination but in reality every character lives separately and there is alienation and fragmentation. To re-establish the family norms and values is only her desire. That desire is unfulfilled in the postmodern lifestyle because unity of family is impossible. Only life goes ahead on fragmentation in the postmodern society. Postmodernists depict such a kind of reality which can be found in Green's novel *The Other Woman* through the postmodern like Linda, she wants the unity of family.

There is fragmentation in the family because of the selfish nature of family members becomes responsible towards the family, its unity. Thus, family becomes the source of happiness if there is understanding within the members.

III. The Individualistic Nature of Woman Leads Towards the Family Destruction

The social issue not creates problems in the female's life but the female also becomes the anti-thetical character to destroy the family unity. The freedom seeking woman also valorizes the family because freedom is not sufficient for her. If she only searches her own way she becomes lonely and there is no one to share her feelings. To remove their alienation and frustration, post modernists try to come back towards the family where they can get happiness. But, in real life, they cannot get such environment and they are compelled to live fragmented and loneliness life.

The Other Woman is written from the view point of Ellie, the heroine of the novel. Ellie Black as a representative of post-modernist woman challenges the modern woman view that marriage creates obstacles for a woman. If post-modernist women are only concerned about their equal rights and individual freedom and they are not paying attention towards the family. Only freedom is not sufficient for them. But for the post modernists family plays a great role for their happiness. But unfortunately, there is impossible to get unity in family due to the fragmented lifestyle in the post modern culture. They realize the family value because without family, their freedom is meaningless because there is no one to care for and share their problems. The postmodern women become responsible towards the family but they cannot stay under control. Moreover, they want to run their life as their choice by fulfilling the responsibility towards the family.

Ellie Black is a post modernist woman. She wants to free. She can go out of house and she does job in public sphere. She is marketing director for the Calden Hotel Line. Although her job is enjoyable, she wants to get married and has a family. She has always wished to be a part of a big family. Family is necessary to get happiness and remove the loneliness, alienation and frustration. When Ellie meets

Dan she believes he is the man of her dreams.

There is no social issue to control them. The mother in law's desire and interests are controlled by her elder females, her mother and mother in law and now she wants control her daughter and daughter in law. Linda controls Ellie's wedding as her own wedding. Not only that she calls Ellie's child as her own child and buys everything to the child and seizes her chance to enjoy the first pleasure of motherhood. Thus, there is no social issue to blame and the problem is within families which is also the issue of postmodernism and modernism.

Ellie uses her own freedom. She wants to act as her wish and starts to detach from each family member. She even thinks that her marriage with Dan is over but she shows her faith in the family. She also remembers Linda's hugging, telling her that she was another daughter in her family. Her excitement when Ellie had Tom makes her not to avoid the family. After many years of separation from the family, Ellie knows that her father in law, Michael leaves Linda for Lisa, which arose sympathy towards Linda. This shows Ellie's love towards the family, Ellie feels sorry for Linda as she refused to speak with her for months because she knows that there is the destruction of the family by an accident and it's not Linda's fault. At last, Ellie wants to meet Linda, begs sorry and shares everything with her. But she cannot go back. It is only nostalgic feelings.

Ellie, as a postmodernist woman comes to signify the awakening of woman into a realization of her place and position in family and society. She is conscious of her own desire. She is not satisfied with doing one thing fulfill her own desire and the duties for the family and society. She is much more careful for the important events of her life such as marriage, parenthood, family planning, participation in community activities and so on. As a conscious woman, she knows what is going on in the world

by reading newspaper and watching news.

Furthermore Linda, modernist woman, the mother-in-law, is also a loving woman and wants to develop good relation among each family members, but she never cares about other members' choice. She unknowingly seize others' choice. She takes care all the family members and is ready to help them because she knows the value of the family and wants to develop faith and intimacy within themselves for the happiness of the family. Moreover, the father in law, Michael also becomes responsible to the family and he warns Linda to beg sorry with Ellie. Emma, the sister-in-law also calls Ellie and shares her feelings and takes care of Ellie although Ellie is detached from the family. Ellie has avoided her calls for weeks but Emma becomes responsible because she knows the value of the family and wants to develop good relation.

The postmodernist women re-valorize the identity and marriage. Ellie Black, the protagonist, also becomes happy after getting married or after joining in the big and happy family. Being a part of family she can get her real identity. She becomes very happy after giving birth to the child, Tom. She takes three month's maternity leave from world and spends whole time for the child. After her detachment from the family, there is also detachment with her husband, Dan Cooper. From her friends, she knows that he has an affair with a girl. She becomes lonely and there comes a man Charlie Dotton in her life. They talk, laugh and have fun but she is not being ready to sleep with him. Ellie, as a postmodernist woman is not satisfied in her fixed identity as a mother. By doing her profession and involving in different social sector, there is variation in her identity.

To sum up, Jane Green, as a woman novelist, has given primary importance to family for a woman within her own desire. The individuality of a woman and the

value of the family go together. Women are not satisfied without family. Although they are free to do everything but there is no happiness and she feels alienated there is no one to love her and share her feeling. So, at the end of the novel, she tries to rejoin with the family which is the source of happiness. But in reality, family life is also fragmented and isolated in the postmodern society because Ellie's husband and father in law are not living together but they are enjoying their individual life in their own way. Thus protagonist of the novel does not succeed to revive the family and she is only desiring to establish the unity of modern family values and norms. Her freedom is not controlled by society, but it is irresponsibility of the family members. They create problem. If each family members are responsible and helpful, there is no destruction and fragmentation.

Works Cited

Green, Jane. *The Other Woman*. London: Routledge, 2006.

Habermas, Jurgen. "Modernity: An Incomplete Project." *Critical Theory Since 1965*.

Ed. Hazard Adams. Florida: Florida State University Press. 1986: 71-82.

John, Dev. Rev. of *The Other Woman*. 25 March 2005: n. pag. 15 July 2014.

Lofton, Marie Hashima. Rev. of *The Other Woman*. 14 Jan. 2011: n. pag. 15 July

2014.

Lyotard, Jean-Francois. "Answering the Question: What is Postmodernism?" *Critical*

Theory Since 1965. Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle. Florida: University Press

of Florida, 1986: 71-82.

Peter Steinfels. *The Neo-conservative*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979.

Shanks, Cindy. Rev. of *The Other Woman*. 11 Sept. 2011: n. pag. 15 July 2014.

Tarnas, Richard. *The Passion of the Western Mind*. New York: Ballantine Books,

1991.

Weiss, Kimberly. Rev. of *The Other Woman*. 18 April 2005: n. pag. 15 July 2014.