

# The Problem of Family Disintegration with special reference to the Novels of Anne Tyler

## INTRODUCTION

In every part of world, the family is recognized as a distinct social unit comprising husband, wife and children. The family members interact and communicate with each other in their respective social roles. The family is deeply rooted institution in all over the world. Generally modern family gives importance to individual characteristics and personality factors. In this regard, Robert D Hess and Gerald Handel assert that in modern family the family members seek to satisfy personal needs within family and hence they maintain the family as a group but at the same time keeps individuality without complete submergence in family. Freedom acts as an organizing principle in the modern culture to give coherence to the society. In addition to freedom, a highly important explanatory factor is the relatively high economic standard of living. Freedom and wealth are mutually reinforcing factors. Due to these factors in the post-modern time family has become more delicate. The family members do not communicate with each others. They are unresponsive to each other's needs. Thus the breakdown of traditional, authoritarian forms of parenting in society at large has not been succeeded by the emergence of modern family.

Anne Tyler, a postmodern southern writer, emerged as one of the contemporary and leading novelists in the U.S.A. during 1980. Few American contemporary novelists have been steadily productive as Anne Tyler. At mid life Anne Tyler has achieved a record of publication that is little short of extraordinary: fifteen novels, more than fifty short stories, and reams of articles and highly regarded book reviews. She has written about the late twentieth-century American family in each of her novels. Her novels focus on the problems of family disintegration.