



**Dissimulation, Narcissism and Schizophrenia: Symbolic Narratives of Late  
Capitalism in Shobhaa`De's Novels**



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**ABSTRACT**

*This paper argues that De uses the seventies' Hindi film formula plots such as doubling of characters, i.e. Ram aur Shyam or Sita aur Gita plots, puranahaveli narratives and gender scripting for providing a symbolic structure to her stories. It reads her novels at a symbolic allegorical level rather than realistic. This reading is especially focused on the novels Sisters and Strange Obsession but also covers Starry Nights and Sultry Days. Secondly, set in the modern day twentieth century capitalist milieu De's novels are especially focused on a critique of the en, London, pp85-103.*

*progress of neo-nationalist neo-capitalism in the Indian context and that their symbolic structures are directed to this purpose. Her stories characterize these capitalist forces as ridden with narcissism, schizophrenia and dissembling in a media driven world of the hyperreal.*

**KEY WORDS**

*symbolic narratives, realism, formula Hindi film, doubling of character, haveli narrative, gender script, neo national, neo capitalism, feminine, narcissism, schizophrenia, dissimulation.*