



## English

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# Psychoanalytic analysis of Harold Pinter's *The Home Coming*

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**Abstract :** *Psychoanalytic criticism itself is a form of literary criticism which uses some of the techniques of psychoanalysis in the interpretation of literature. Psychoanalysis is a form of therapy which aims to cure mental disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and the unconscious elements of the mind. These theories were put forward by Sigmund Freud, and his impact on how we think about ourselves has been incalculable. His works investigate into the states of our mind: conscious, subconscious and the unconscious. He also suggests a three part model of the human psyche: Ego, Super Ego and Id; which roughly corresponds to the conscious, subconscious*

*and the unconscious respectively. He also talked about Infantile Sexuality and Oedipus Complex. Freud's theories of psychoanalysis have a subtle implication on the plays of Harold Pinter, a great exponent of the Theatre of the Absurd which emerged after World War II as a rebellion against the essential beliefs and values both of traditional culture and traditional literature. Central to this earlier tradition had been the assumptions that man is a rational creature who lives in an, at least partially intelligible universe, that he is capable of heroism and dignity even in defeat. The Absurdist stood tall against these assumptions and projected a world full of disillusionments, anxiety and lacking solution. Besides Camus, Sartre and Beckett, Harold Pinter remains one of the major cultural forces of his time. The 1930's was the period of World War II. As a result there was a racial conflict in the society which filled him with a sense of fear, awe and disillusionment. This sense of fear and awe finds an expression in the plays of Harold Pinter, which are classed as 'Comedies of Menace'. Pinter's mastery can be seen in projecting this sense of isolation, disillusionments and anxiety in most of his plays like 'The Room' (1957), 'The Birthday Party' (1958), 'The Dumb Waiter' (1959), 'The Caretaker' (1960) and 'The Home Coming' (1965) .*

**Key words :** *Psychoanalytic criticism, New drama, Naturalistic drama, Drama of the Absurd.*