



A Humanistic Psychological Approach to the character of Tom
in Carol Shields' *The Republic of Love*

S.Jayakumari

Research Scholar & Assistant Professor
Department of English,
J.J. College of Arts and Science (Auto),
Sivapuram, Pudukkottai-622422

Dr.N.S.Vijayalakshmi

Assistant Professor and Research Supervisor
PG and Research Department of English,
Government Arts College for Women (Auto),
Pudukkottai- 622001.

ABSTRACT

Carol Shields is one of the most significant of Canadian novelists. Her novels celebrate humanity and the powers of the human mind to circumvent all trials through love and understanding. Shields treats her characters as individuals who respond to and grow with the expressions of life. In this she uses a humanist psychological perspective. Humanistic Psychologist, Rogers believed that people are good and creative but they became destructive only when a poor self- concept or external constraints override the valuing process. So if a person is willing to achieve self-actualization they must be in a state of congruence. This paper examines shields portrayal of Tom Avery in *The Republic of Love* as a test case, a telling example of the author's ability to analyze and understand how and why humans behave as they do.

Keywords: Humanist, Humanism, Humanistic, Humanistic Psychology, Self-actualization.