

# A Lacanian Reading of Selected Works of Edward Albee and Akbar Radi

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## Abstract

Psychoanalysis might be the most absorbing approach to study modern or postmodern literature. The French psychiatrist Jacques Lacan, who has greatly contributed to psychoanalysis, believes that the unconscious is structured like language and consists of three interrelated orders which are accompanied by frustration, illusion, aggressivity, and alienation, since they present lack and loss. He also argues that difficulties can force subjects to make an elusive world to escape reality. Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and Akbar Radi's *From behind the Windows* present characters that suffer from problems which are the result of their mental fragmentation, their erotic and aggressive senses, narcissism, the bothering master/slave relation, and their lack and alienation created in the mirror stage. Consequently they are regarded as subjects that long for the mirage of identification with the mother or the ideal ego. They have tried to fill their lacks with various objects *petit a* while none of these things can help them to fill in their lacks. Drinking alcohol, creating an imaginary son or extra sound, smocking cigarette, and living behind windows show the characters' attempts to escape reality and seek refuge in an elusive world. Furthermore it can be acclaimed that like Lacanian subjects these characters have been tolerating the presence of factors like the role of father as a law maker who limits the subject or finding the mother's desire in the symbolic order. On the other hand, their dialogues depict that the signification chain has not been able to outpour their needs completely thus makes the condition worse for them. Consequently they seek refuge in a combination of reality and illusion.

*Key words: Imaginary order, symbolic order, Aggressivity, Bar, Delusion, Demand, Sign, Lacan, Albee, Radi*