

Cultural Diversity and Identity Crisis in the Selected Works of Jhumpa Lahiri

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Abstract

Jhumpa Lahiri was a greatest Indian woman writer and she discussed the practical life experiences except immigration. She writes about both male and female characters. but she gives importance to female characters. she writes women characters are not depicted as crushed under male supremacy but they miserably feel into their turbulent situation. she lets women characters to suffer, face the problem, adapt to it and to find modled and finally they become power. In general, she writers about the womens love, marriage and their family. In pacticular lahiri speaks about the expatriate experiances. She handles both the phychological and physical comforts of their respective characters lahiri produce a body of indain English literature that committed feminist and social issues.

Introduction

The term ‘Indian English literature’ Emphasizes two significant ideas; first it is a product of english literature since its medium in english. Secondly this literature constitutes of many streams that join the great ocean called indian literature. Women writers in india are moving forward with their strong and sure steps, matching the place of the world. Indian women writers mainly cocentrate and write about the social issues, political problems indian history, culture and its landscape indentity crisis and immigrant experiances. There are famous women writers like Desai, Despande, Mukherjee, Lahiri, Roy and Nayantara sahalgal etc. Their women characters are real flesh and blood protogonists who make them to look with surprise in their relationship to their sorroundings like their society, Their man, Their children, Their families, Their mental makeups and themselves.

Early Life

Nilanjana sudeshna lahiri was born on july 11, 1967 in london to Bengali immigrant parents and her family moved to the united states at the age of two. her father was a university librarian and her mother was a school teacher. Lahiri was encouraged by her grade school teachers, to retain her family nickname, Jhumpa at school after she graduated B.A in English literature form benard college and obtained these master`s degrees in English, crative writing, and comparative literature and arts. finally she got a doctorate in Renaissance studies from boston University in the 1990 s. Now lahiri working as a professor in princeton university.

Cultural Diversity and Identity Crisis

Cultural diversity and identity crisis are the most important themes of Jhumpa Lahiri. She considers herself to be an American but her works and books have all drawn heavily from the lives of immigrants in the United States. She writes both men and women characters but she gives importance to female characters. Lahiri's important works are *The Namesake*, *Interpreter of Maladies*, *The Lowland* and *Unaccustomed Earth*. Her works deal with the themes like rootlessness, quest for identity, culture and social issues.

The Namesake

Lahiri published her first novel "The Namesake" in the year of 2003. It covers a period of more than thirty years of Ganguli's family. Calcutta-born parents immigrated to America as young adults and their child Gogol and Sonia grow up there while experiencing a generation gap between them and their parents.

Unaccustomed Earth

Lahiri's second work *Unaccustomed Earth* was published in April 2008. It shows how people cope with each other. The title story *Unaccustomed Earth* is about the father of Ruma and Rumi who is retired from his pharmaceutical company after his wife's death due to a reaction of anaesthesia.

Interpreter of Maladies

Jhumpa Lahiri's short stories present a remarkable picture of the lives of people who go through the harsh journey of becoming American. In the title story *Interpreter of Maladies* deals with the Das family returns to India from America and is forced to recognize their dual identity, America in clothing, speech and body language, but Indian by heart.

Cultural diversity is the quality of diverse or different cultures, as opposed to monoculture, the global monoculture, or cultural decay. The phrase cultural diversity can also refer to having different cultures respect each other's differences. Culture which shapes us it shapes us; it shapes our identity and influences our behaviour. Culture is our 'way of being' more specifically it refers to the shared language, beliefs, values, norms, behaviours etc.

"Diversity is one true thing we have,
Is common celebrate in every day"

Awards and Achievements

- She won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction - *Interpreter of Maladies* in 2000
- She also won the 'O' Henry Award in 1999 - *Interpreter of Maladies*.
- The Man Booker Prize in 2013 - *The Lowland*
- Her short story *Unaccustomed Earth* won the Frank O'Connor Award of 35000, the richest short story prize in the world
- She got three master degrees in English, creative writing and comparative literature.
- Finally she got a doctorate in Renaissance studies from Boston University.

Conclusion

In India we have a lot of cultures and languages. The Indian people moved to other countries like Canada and America. At that time we should have followed their culture and tradition out of their compulsion. Because we are totally differentiated with our language, food, dressing code and other things also. But, it is not done by their compulsion. According to my point of view, their situation only makes them to follow such type of things. So you should respect our culture and save our culture.

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