



Diaspora In Indian Female Writers: A Study

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Abstract:

Generally diasporic literature deals with alienation, displacement, existential rootlessness, nostalgia and quest for identity. It also addresses issues related to disintegration or amalgamation of cultures. Diaspora Theory with its various features has influenced the literature of every language of the world. Diasporic literature chiefly speaks of diasporic experience at various levels-customs, place, language, myths, geographical displacement, beliefs, changes adopted and constraints. Indian diaspora is constantly involved in redefining India and Indianess. Diasporic writing is the work of exile who has experienced unsettlement at the existential and metaphysical levels. This paper focuses on Diaspora Indian writers and their writings.

Keywords: *Nastalgia, Diaspora Writers*

Introduction

The word 'Diaspora' is derived from the Greek word diaspeiro, literally means scattering or dispersion of the people from their homeland. Immigration proves a pleasant experience only to a few immigrants who succeed in assimilating themselves with new geographical, social, cultural and psychological environment. To most of the diasporic writers immigration is not a delectable experience. They often find themselves sandwiched between two cultures. The immigrant writers reflect, on the one hand, their attachment to the motherland and on the other hand their feeling of alienation and rootlessness. Indian Diaspora writers are at the center stage since last decade because of their capturing works.

Kamla Markandeya born in Mysore in a Hindu family. She is a writer as well as journalist and activist. She settled in London because of her marriage to English man. She used to

make visits to India during intervals. Her ten novels are 'Two Virgins', 'The Nowhere Man', 'Possession', 'The Coffer Dams', 'A Handful of Rice', 'A Silence of Desire', 'The Pleasure City/Shalimar in the American Edition' and 'The Golden Honey Comb'. Her novel 'Nectar in a Sieve' is translated into more than dozen languages. Kamla Karkandeya is ahead of twenty years in predicting the diasporic experiences in her work 'The Nowhere Man'.

Jhumpa Lahiri was born to Indian parents who settled in the USA after her birth. Her debut collection of short stories 'Interpreter of Maladies' (1999) brought laurels to her by clinching Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Her 'Low Land' is the story of blood relationship that was brutally spoiled by politics. In her first novel 'The Namesake' and in her short story collections, she is successful in presenting

discontentment as the core in the families she portrays.

Anita Desai is an Indian writer and Professor of Humanities at Massachusetts. Her works mainly focus on family in particular, matters about women. 'Clear Light of the Day' present the importance of family life. In 'Custody' she describe the problem of alienation of college teacher from his deep rooted culture. There is the stream of consciousness in the novel 'Cry the Peacock'. In 'Bye Bye Black Bird', she deals with the problem of adoptability.

Meena Alexander is an internationally acclaimed poet, writer and scholar, born in India and brought up Indian and Sudan. She is the writer of numerous collections of poetry, essays and works of fiction, literary memoirs and literary criticism. The novel 'Nampally Road' brightly portrays contemporary Indian women's struggle to cut together her past.

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is poet, fiction and short story writer, essayist, book reviewer and author. Her short story collection 'Arranged Marriage' and other stories brought her the credit of winning the American Book Award in 1995. Sometimes her focus is on the experiences of South Asian migrants.

Anita Nair is an Indian author of English language. Her novel 'Ladies Coupe' is about a middle aged Indian unmarried woman on her journey of self-discovery which transforms the life of the protagonist and changes into a new woman.

Kiran Desai is one of the most highly praised Indian writers of second generation and the daughter of Anita Desai. Her novel 'The Inheritance of Loss' won the 2006 Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle

Award for fiction. It is a lengthy novel that reaches into the lives of the middle class and the very poor which blends colloquial and more literary styles; and yet it communicates nothing so much as now impossible it is to live a big, ambitious and exuberant life. It shows that although we live in this mixed-up, Messy, globalised world, for many people the dominant response is fear of change, based on a deep desire for security. The story is centered on two main characters: Biju and Sai.

Bharati Mukherjee was an Indian American-Canadian writer and professor emerita in the department of English at the University of California, Berkeley. She was the author of a number of novels and short story collections, as well as works of non-fiction. She was born in India and died in New York, U.S. Her novels The Tiger's Daughter (1971), Wife (1975), Jasmine (1989), The Holder of the World (1993), Leave It to me (1997), Desirable Daughters (2002), The Tree Bridge (2004), Miss New India (2011). Her 'The Tiger's Daughter' is an immigrant novel about returning home following seven years of living abroad.

Sunetra Gupta born in Bengali family settled in London who spent her childhood in Ethiopia, Zambia and Liberia. Her works mainly presents stream of consciousness style entering on the interior monologues of the characters. Her writings reflect cultures, human understanding, considerations and histories. Her debut novel 'Memories of Rain' published in 1992 won her Sahitya Academy Award in 1996. The novel is centered on the protagonist Mani, an Indian woman who had come to England after having married the English Anthony, decides

to leave her untrustworthy husband and returns to India with her daughter.

Meera Sayal born in an immigrant Punjabi family in England. She is writer, playwright, singer, journalist, actress and a British Indian comedian. Her parent came to Britain from New Delhi. She was awarded the MBE in the New Years Honours List of 1997.

In '*The House of Hidden Mothers*' she takes on the issue of India's booming surrogacy industry. Western couple pays a young woman to have their child and then fly home with a baby.

Conclusion

The roots of Diaspora spreading from time to time had been representing their homeland culture and their nostalgia through their works. The indissoluble attachment to one's ground and roots is the common under current in all works. Writers try to show how their characters struggle to establish their diasporic space in different settings. The Diaspora Indian English Novel is an important genre that portrays the experience and spirit of Indian immigrants in the broadest sense. Diaspora's Indian female writers can attract readers of Indian English literature in a compassionate unpretentious style, while conveying a sense of the universal experience of immigrants on behalf of Indian immigrants.

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