

A Study of Diaspora Literature: Short Story Collection of Jhumpa Lahiri

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Abstract- This paper presents actual experience of Jhumpa Lahiri as a Diasporic writer. The difficulties faced by Indian origins living and working in other countries. Resettlement and rehabilitation is also a concern for these immigrants. This paper shows the difference between first and second generation of Diasporic characters and cultural displacement. It also talks about new life style, food and traditional values in the adopted countries.

I. INTRODUCTION

When we talk about Diaspora literature we recall the novels of Jhumpa Lahiri which are full of emotions and her works are identity of immigrants trying to start a new life abroad and the cultural displacement, the characters suffer both in their native place and in adopted countries. Her works are enriched with colourful details of the Indian tradition, food and celebrations. Many Indians who moved for other States for better life and economic growth have faced many ethnic problems as they are unable to come out of their traditional values. Even they have suffered a lot in their life as they were detached from their roots. They were isolated from their communities and reminiscent their past. Indians are so attached to food, culture and tradition which were reflected in her short stories. Many Indians who are unable to survive or adapt to the new conditions, new culture and tradition are isolated.

There is a need for better cultural interaction which is a difficult thing for first generation of Diaspora whereas it's natural acceptance for second generation onwards. The nature of Diaspora changed with the change of time bringing many changes in all aspects. Many issues are raised from generation to generation which are identical. Customs shared by first

generation Indians and second generation Indians in other states changed rapidly.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Let us look into the views of Jhumpa Lahiri and her experience in United States which paves a way to her stories.

Assimilation of Indians to America is one of the themes in Interpreter of Maladies. In Jhumpa Lahiri's Mrs. Sen an Indian woman who immigrates to Boston relates herself to Bengali culture and food habits. Fish is one of the most loved foods of Bengalis. Mrs. Sen in America searches for particular variety of fishes and loves to cook it. She becomes isolated in new community and tries to search her identity by following Indian culture and tradition. She prefers to wear Sari and put bindi on her forehead distinguishing the difference between the culture of Indian woman and an American. She used to recollect her past by telling Eliot her past incidents about weddings and how people help each other and had a good time sitting together laughing, gossiping and slicing fifty kilos of vegetables for the event.

In the story "When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine" Mr. Pirzada, a botany professor was granted from the Government of Pakistan to research the foliage of New England and there he faces many problems as he has left behind his wife and seven daughters and a feeling of deep distress caused by civil war in his own country. His attachment to his family and the place is clearly noticed by Mr. Pirzada's pocket watch which is set to the local time in Dacca. We find Lilia's parents missing their homeland and they are in search of their Bengali community. They feel very happy to invite Mr. Pirzada as he too shares the same

roots. They enjoy the food and jokes together in their mother tongue and share their worries about homeland. Lilia who belongs to second generation could not understand the emotions and feelings which are shared by Mr.Pirzada and her parents. Lilia may not suffer like her parents as she is not so attached to Indian culture. She may not get disturbed about the other side of the world.

The impacts of second generation diaspora are clearly seen in Interpreter of Maladies where Mr and Mrs. Das show the characteristics of mixed culture. They look like Indians but they dress up and behave like foreigners. The argument between the couple regarding their kids, the behaviour and the truth revealed by Mrs.Das, all these incidents clearly depict the second generation characteristics.

III. CONCLUSION

Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies evokes the sadness and nostalgia of being in other part, away from their origin. Certain things in life really bewilder and baffle us, taking away from normality. It's interesting to reflect the fact that people are so mismatched when we compare their culture and tradition of different parts of the world. First and second generation of Diaspora characters are clearly seen in the short stories collection "Interpreter of Maladies".