

Alienation, Globalisation Self Realisation & Hybridization In Kiran Desai's "Inheritance of Loss"

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Abstract

Kiran Desai, the winner of the prestigious Man Booker prize for 2006, for her second novel "The Inheritance of Loss" is the daughter of Anita Desai who is also a Diasporic writer in Indian English writing. She was the third to win the Booker Prize including Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy. This article analyses the identity and the core issues of Diasporic identity. This article also examines the major characters loss, realization and redemption of self in the period of globalization. It also aims to address the dismal sentiments and emotions of her mute immigrant characters in a simplified way. Their sufferings, pains, traumas, and struggles in order to accomplish the desired facilities are worth appreciating. The novel gives an insight into their sacrifices and dedication they render as to achieve their minimum wanting for a basic living. The novel concludes by showing the major characters Jemubhai who was an embodiment and puppet of rigid English ideas of realizing his false ideals for which he sacrificed so much

Key words: Globalisation alienation, loss of self, realization and marginalization.

Introduction

Kiran Desai's 'Inheritance of Loss' abounds with themes that make it an interesting social reading. Her novel *The Inheritance of Loss* won the 2006 Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award. In January 2015, *The Economic Times* listed her as one of 20 "most influential" global Indian women. Her themes include globalization, alienation and identity and cultural chaos. In her novel 'Inheritance of loss' she tried to dive deep into the sea of human psychology and minutely discuss the issues of globalization and American dream without tressing and suggesting any particular issue. The theme of alienation has been recurrent in Indian English fiction it has become a major concern for postmodern writers and Kiran Desai daughter of Anita Desai is noexception. She has explored this contemporary issue in her second novel "The inheritance of loss" for which she took eight long years to complete. The various things which are intertwined in the novel are globalization, multiculturalism insurgency, poverty isolation and

issues related to the loss of identity. Kiran Desai explores powerfully the ill- effects of globalization and liberalisation which profess to create wealth and improve the quality of life but in reality widened the gulf between the rich and the poor. She powerfully delineates how the sense of loss has started with Jemubhai Patel, the judge who vainly attempts to become an Anglicized person and gets alienated in the process. This loss has been inherited to the next generation and epitomized in Sai, the judge's granddaughter. Her efforts to recuperate from the sense of restlessness by having a relation with Gyan, a Nepali severely impeded by the political turmoil caused by gorkhaland movement. On the other hand, Desai tries to capture what means to live between east and west and what it means to be an immigrant through the character of Biju, the cook's son.

Self realization

Kiran Desai's novels focus not on an individual story but how several people make sense of them. They view the world around them and deal with the difficulties that they have with contradictions and multiple allegiances. The book challenges the question, Who I am? Where do I belong? The entire narrative unveils the efforts of the

various characters to attain a better understanding and meaning of self. The narrative deals with the life of Jemubhai Patel a retired judge in Kalimpong along with the cook Sai, granddaughter of the judge comes to Kalimpong in order to continue her study. Gyan has been appointed as her tutor to teach science subject. On the other hand the cook's son Biju was in America in search of new heights in his life. Unfortunately he returns in India leaving behind the great Empire of New York.

Almost all the characters in the novel lost something both seeking for money or emancipation from exploitation in the nation state. They were longing for home, loss and acceptance. They lost their background, history and family for the obsession of western values, manners language and lifestyle. Though many characters in novel loses, the novel ends on a note of hope and desire the most touching thing of the novel is "loss" loss of culture, identity human relation and above all the loss of faith.

The novel also attempts to elaborate the issues the global problems faced by the third world countries. Here she displays migrant people to leave their native land in the search of global ambition and face cultural and emotional loss leaving behind the money and material; they get only humiliation and frustration. The characters in the novel are revising rather than skill oriented, they insist on imitation and loss of self and play the game of hide and seek through the narratives. After lot of struggle they realize futility of immigrant life and fight to come out from the dig of money and materialism, which was the product of globalization. They come to the conclusion that the self of human being is more important than anything in the world. The all try to recover their mistakes and move in search of emancipation of self. Finally they realize that blind following cannot solve their problems. Realities of life are naked like Biju at the end of the novel, pink powder can't hide brown skin of Jemubhai, cooks difference between reality and right values, Gyan's economic condition and otherness in own country, Sai's loss and frustration is more alive than romanticism of ideas.

Theme of Hybradization/ hybridity / Globalization

Kiran Desai's fiction emerges as a perfect model of Post colonisation with regard to hybridity. In her novels she writes of the cultural of the post-colonial migrant and the expatriate condition of hybridity. The novel ends with losses in many ways it shows glimpses of hope and optimism. In this novel, Sai's hybridization takes place more gradually as, from birth, she grows into an English Indian culture and knows nothing else. Desai has very distinctly explained through her inheritance and experiences loss of man's faith in culture and identity resulting into absolute loss of human values.

As a modern International expatriate Indian novelist, Kiran Desai experienced displacement, dislocation and cultural clash. Her novel deals with her own situation of migrancy, expatriation and alienation from her country. As we know Sai is the main character in the novel Sai is a hybrid child because her mother is the wife of a Russian man. All characters of the novel face hybridization to maintain their emotions. Sai too faces this struggle because she knows only English. She has no knowledge about any regional language She knows English method of cooking, she never uses her fingers to eat and, she does not know about Indian tradition and culture because she did not go to any temple in her life and she has no knowledge of Indian festivals. Sai believes in British culture far being superior to India. Her convent education made her foreigner to Indian culture. She has a strong impact of Westernization. Her childhood is nourished by English nuns. She is clashed by two cultures that was Indian and English, The blind imitation of the British made Sai to lose her individual identity. On her way of living in Western style Gyan calls her Western slave like her grandfather Jemubhai Patel. Kiran Desai in her novel expresses her idea that the fate of the Indians who were trapped in the East and West in the current age of multiculturalism and globalisation seems to be doomed since the age of colonisation.

References;

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