



Analysis of Women Characters in the Select Novels of Bharati Mukherjee

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ABSTRACT:

Bharati Mukherjee is a famous Diaspora writer who was born in India and settled in America. She describes herself as an American writer and she is not a hyphenated immigrant. The characters of Tara the tiger girl, Dimple the wife, and Jasmine in Jasmine are analyzed in detail about migrant women. Changes in place and time cause changes in people's behavior. The traditional experience of immigration revolves around stages such as alienation, displacement, expulsion and depression. Mukherjee breaks this and introduces feelings of acceptance, joy and joy of being part of a new nation. Feminism and feminist theory are applied to the course. This chapter considers the problems experienced and the transformation of the heroine. This paper is an attempt to analyse of female characters in Bharati Mukherjee's novels.

KEYWORDS: Female Characters, Bharati Mukherjee, Diaspora, Transformation

INTRODUCTION

Women started fighting for independence, equality, rights and freedom. Social workers combat discrimination, patriarchy, abortion, domestic violence, and all other issues that directly or indirectly affect women. Feminist theory is the extension of feminism to its theoretical and philosophical foundations. Works related to women's roles, women's lives, and feminist politics are subject to this theory. New issues concern the condition of women, gender identity, and intra- and intergender relationships. Many women writers incorporate feminism into their work, whether in prose or poetry. The fiction includes feminism as one of her major themes. Indian feminists such as Anita Desai, Nayantara Sagar, Kamala Das and Bharati Mukherjee have emerged as prominent authors over the past two decades. Bharati Mukherjee is very active on subjects such as alienation, immigrant experience, deportation, cultural clash, multiculturalism, racism, female transformation, vengeance, new morality, gender relations, and women in new countries.

BHARATI MUKHERJEE - Born in India, immigrated to Canada and later to the United States at various stages of her life. She has many novels to her literary credit. She is a woman full of energy and enthusiasm. Her novels reflect her thoughts and ideas about women. Her first novel was published in 1971 while she was in Canada. Racism was horrendous at the time. The novel deals with the culture shock of the main character, Tara, who was born in India and immigrated to the United States, when she marries an American. She suffers from her nostalgia and homesickness. Because she misses her hometown, people and culture. After seven long years, she returns to India to experience a new and different society. Tara refuses to forget her past, she doesn't want to accept her present life, and few people are brave enough to accept the new. Others fall prey to depression, despair, and loneliness.

PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN

In her first novel, "The Tiger's Daughter" - Tara is portrayed as an immigrant sandwiched between two cultures. The novel was written when the author was in expatriate phase. In a new country, racial discrimination is common. Only a few are brave enough to acclimatize the new land. Others suffer a lack of identity as they cannot decide to which place they belong to. Similarly, Dimple in 'Wife' suffers such kind of situation. Initially, she changes herself to persuade her husband. Later on, when moved to America, she wants to be free and make her own decisions. She had her own set of dreams and desires. But the limitations confined to her husband, aggravates her thoughts and she gets depressed. She can't be a dutiful wife; she can't be a dutiful wife. Her depression leads to her self-destruction and kills her husband.

Jasmine doesn't want to follow old traditions that have been going on for years. She is not worried about the scar on her forehead, but she has a positive outlook on life. She sees it as her "third eye" and she calls herself a sage. With that third eye, she will be able to glimpse new worlds to explore. Mukherjee also shows that women are no longer humble and insignificant creatures, satisfied and content with what life has to offer, but fighters who want to achieve what they deserve. So, the new woman's dreams and desires are different. Jasmine is a completely different girl from childhood. She never follows her old beliefs and worries, but she forges a new path for herself and walks it steadily, overcoming all obstacles with one spirit. In an interview with Bomb magazine, she said:

“I think of Jasmine and many of my characters, as being people who are pulling themselves out of the very traditional world in which their fate is predetermined, their destiny resigned to the stars. Traditionally, a good person accepts this. But Jasmine says, “I’m going to reposition the stars.” (The New York Times 1)

CONCLUSION

Mukherjee has explored the possibilities of freedom offered to women in a new country. Her woman characters are strong survivors, who venture out to fulfil their dreams and desires. Mukherjee believes in liberation of the heart and mind. The bold and assertive characters pervade in all her novels. The women characters project her beliefs and so she makes them to act with courage. Her heroines have pushed out of the domestic barrier of home to reach beyond geographical limits of the country itself. Mukherjee upholds the concept of globalisation calling the world a global village. Her characters convey the message to embrace the new culture and its people, when we are a part of it. Her works reflect transformation which comes inevitably when one migrates from one's own country to a foreign one. This journey has many ups and downs, which becomes clear through her protagonists. All her protagonists are women who are bold and assertive. She upholds feminist ideals through her characters.

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