

CHAPTER-V

Conclusion

The present study explores and critically engage in the metaphorical destinations in the life's journey of the characters. The journey theme of both the novels is both physical and metaphorical sense.

Jhumpa Lahiri expresses her deep love for India. She strictly adheres to her roots. The socio-political condition of India is also highlighted in both of her novels. Lahiri illustrates the struggle of her characters fighting against the odds. In 'The Lowland' and 'The Namesake', she depicts India as the land of different cultures. Her characters have close association with the ethnicity of Calcutta. They try to teach and imbibe their cultural heritage to their progenies. The individual consciousness strive for self-identity is evident in the novels.

Lahiri's specific aim is to create sensitivity in people towards their own culture. The focus was on self-awareness and national aspirations. Their richness of ethnic spirit knew no barriers. Lahiri linked her characters by common bonds of cultural unity which cannot be obliterated by national boundaries. All the Indian families shares a thread of unity among diversities. Lahiri's vision of life is enshrined in her novels. Values and traditions play a significant part in common people's life in India. She portrays its impact on the life of people.

Jhumpa Lahiri deals with diasporic identity in both the novels. The characters of the novels deal with multicultural society and pursue their new identity along with their heritage. They are often nostalgia about their cultural heritage. Despite of experiencing alienation, they have embraced socio-cultural values of the new society.

The Namesake encompasses the Bengali culture. The concept of good names and nick names are the cultural elements of Calcutta. This inflict cultural identification which exemplify their origin. The novel also focuses on the universality of human experiences along with the cultural significance. The influence of the mainstream culture on the inter-family dynamics is represented. The novel is woven in exquisite manner giving a new dimension to Indian sensibility. The novel displays the manifestation of Indian culture and customs skilfully. Indian folk elements, myths and philosophy are blended within the story.

The Lowland mostly portrays the character's insensitivity. It intersects political and personal facets. All the life experiences and historical facts are fused. First part is about Udayan's involvement and death for the Naxalite movement. Second part is about Subhash and Gauri's different interpretation of life. As Gauri distances herself to reach a new dimension away

from the ties. It gave her a new location and identity. But Subhash tried to build his relationship with Bela. It explores the notions of cultural identity, rootlessness and tradition.

Jhumpa Lahiri demonstrates about the subjects of dislocation—across lands, identities, choices and characters. The stories narrate their ceaseless struggles to acquaint their offspring with Indian customs, traditions and values. The Indian persona with foreign incitement. The characters of her novels mount to new phases of manifestations as their destinies are revealed. The succeeding generations are integrated with foreign customs and are almost contented in the realms outside their origin. They try to comprehend contrasting dilemmas and their desires.

The author remarks the sensitive twists of the characters and demonstrates the necessity of deep emotional bond between them. It might help to determine the complications and conflicts of mutual amendment. Lahiri's poignant expression of the diasporic essence within the characters intertwined as a very chaotic emotional twists is remarkable.

The framework of the dissertation comprehends these aspects prominently-

Folk Elements, Diaspora and Identity, Sense of Alienation, Dislocation, Cultural Assimilation and Intergenerational Gap.

1. Diaspora and Identity-

Jhumpa Lahiri incorporates the issue of Diaspora and Identity in both of her novels. The roles and personality of the characters demonstrate distinct concerns of identity crisis. The perplexity of establishing true self and identity in a distant land is evident in both the novels.

2. Sense of Alienation and Dislocation-

The characters of both the novels experience isolation and alienation in the new environment. Their actions and choices show the sense of alienation and dislocation. They are dislocated from their origin and starts a new life in the distant land embracing the altered cultural norms. The immigrants of both the novels such as Ashoke, Subhash and Gauri flew from Calcutta to start a new life where nobody knew them. However, they become perceptually displaced in the diasporic environment because of their inner disturbance and the past which haunted their lives.

3. Cultural Assimilation-

The characters of both the novels try to fit in the new society. Subhash, Gauri and Bela from 'The Lowland' and Ashoke, Ashima, Gogol and Sonia from 'The Namesake' integrated to the diverse culture of America. It can be observed that like Moushumi in 'The Namesake' and Gauri in 'The Lowland' totally discards their 'own' culture and assimilates into American culture which provides them freedom. It also gives them independence that reduces the burden of their past. They have entirely adopted foreign language and foreign cultural ethos. However, Ashima from 'The Namesake' plays a different role. She always tries to persuade her children to follow their Indian culture. She strictly adheres to Indian cultural ethos.

Despite their inclination towards American culture, these characters endorse some aspects of Indian cultural ethos. They often practice certain Indian cultural habits and customs. Such as most of the characters of the both the novels prefer Indian food.

4. Intergenerational Gap-

Generational gap is extensively mentioned in the works of Jhumpa Lahiri. The generational gap referred in the novels express different outlook towards life. Both the novels express two different generational outlook of immigrants. The differences perceived in opinions, interest, beliefs and actions among the first and second generation immigrants. Jhumpa cites certain instances where the different outlook of both 'The Namesake' and 'The Lowland' is evident.

Jhumpa Lahiri in 'The Namesake' mentions different attitudes towards India. Ashoke and Ashima are more confident in their hometown whereas Gogol and Sonia are timid and insecure. Moreover in 'The Lowland', Bela as a second generation immigrant is also found to be anxious and fretful in India.