

ABSTRACT

The study of Jhumpa Lahiri's novels suggest the roots, origin, family bonds and traditional elements. The emotional and spiritual bond is clearly found in Jhumpa Lahiri's stories. The majority of Jhumpa Lahiri's stories are about exile, about people living far from home and moving to new world. Both 'The Lowland' and 'The Namesake' explore the ideas of isolation and identity, not only personal but also cultural. When their cultural and ethnic identity is blurred in a foreign land, their personal identity, signified strongly by their name also stands vulnerable to change. The characters in both the novels frequently encounter crisis of identity, which is tied to inabilities to reconcile the American identity with their Indian identity.

Lahiri's novels present the multicultural society. On one hand, the first generation Indian American try to maintain their Indian identity by observing specific traditions and following habits such as eating with hand, wearing sari, vermilion, etc. On the other hand, their children find themselves on intense pressure to come to terms with regard to identity as they are in contact with the multiculturalism more than their parents. Even among the second generation children, some are more concerned with their heritage.