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Comparative Study Of Cultural Conflict In The Works Of Anita Desai And Jhumpa Lahari

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Cultural conflict is a type of conflict that occurs when different cultural values and beliefs clash. Cultural conflict is likely to emerge when the rules and values of one cultural group are substantially different from another, and members of the cultures come in contact with each other. The confrontation of Indians with the western left dilemma in the Indians the essence of western culture is individual freedom and intellectual Liberty at the same time Indian culture is family oriented and spiritualistic even after Western education Indian remains tradition oriented

Key words: - cultural conflict, values, beliefs, clash

The interpreter of maladies and the Name Sake both deal with the problems of the immigrants in an alien land; the yearnings of the exile and the emotional bewilderment. Being an immigrant herself, Lahari deeply feels the importance of family bonds which tie people to their homelands. She has undergone the trauma of failing to find her identity in a world where she could never have a sense of belongingness. Therefore she tries to fall back upon the treasured memories of imaginary homeland which with its vibrant colors and versatility gives life to her starving existence.

The major characters in the novel "Bye-bye Blackbird" portrays the dilemma of immigration Racial prejudice as well as cultural orientation made the lives of Dev and Adit complicated. Adit's English wife Sarah also suffers the problems of adjustment to an alien culture.

The namesake continuous to develop further the theme of cultural Alienation and loss of Identity depicted in the interpreter of Melodies. In her debut novel Lahari tries to capture the experience and cultural dilemma of 30 years' struggle of Ganguly family, for their integration and assimilation into alien culture. She follows the story of Gogol, born born to an Indian immigrant couple who have come to create a new life of opportunities for themselves in the university suburbs of Boston. The name Gogol is taken from his father's obsession with reading Russian novels especially the author nikolai gogol his father's miraculous escape in an Indian train crash is credited to a bulky copy of novel so that the parents decide that Gogol is the perfect name for their first born boy. The seed of cultural dilemma starts germinating as Gogol grows older and becomes more eager to fit in with his peers.

He begins to hate his name, it isn't American, and it isn't even Bengali. He hates that it is one more thing that sets him apart from his American friends. So when he is old enough he changes his name to his formal name Nikhil which sounds far more sophisticated. After graduating and going through a number of relationships with American girls, it is his father's sudden death which forces Gogol to look back at his own culture that he had earlier dismissed. In order to please his mother and friends, he attempts an ill-fated marriage to a Bengali childhood friend. It ends in disaster as he struggles to try and balance the American and Bengali culture cultural backgrounds of his life.

It will not be wrong to say that Lahiri's focus is on the hidden layers of the Psyche and the inner turmoil of the characters who find themselves entrapped in the midst of two cultures.

In Anita Desai's work *Dev and Adil* depicts extreme different attitude of the immigrants towards the host country. Adit is inclined towards the western culture. He was high influenced by the English culture. In contrast to this Dev dislike the Western way of life. Dev doesn't have a plan to settle in England. As a result his observation of European culture was objective and disinterested. He always ponders over the disparity between the Indian and western culture. Dev and Aditi were victims of racial discrimination. Both of them were suffering from sense of non- belongingness and identity crisis. This resulted a psychic disequilibrium. But they could manage themselves from yielding to such feelings.

In Jhumpa Lahiri's novel *In order to preserve their culture in the foreign land*, the first generation immigrants train their children in the Bengali language, literature and history and expose them to their religious customs, traditions, beliefs, food habits and social mannerisms. Along with this, they also train them in the ways of the new land and its social customs. In the novel Ashima teaches Gogol to memorise a children's poem by Tagore and the names of deities adorning the ten-headed Durga.

In Anita Desai's work the cultural difference made Dev and Aditi's life miserable. Being Indians both lost their identity. They were uprooted from their homeland and could not properly re-root themselves in the host land. One can see the role of cultural dichotomy in the despair and depression felt by them.

Dev's transformation is like that of postcolonial. He adores as well as dislike England. He was puzzled in front of accept and rejection. He was suffering both intellectually and emotionally. His mental perception and experience are contradictory. Sometimes he hated London, Sometimes loved. "He goes through the entire gamut of love- hate relationship that exists between the colonialist and the colonized, before his final reconciliation." While visiting England he had an aim but the daily life he was confronting disturbed him much. He has social and cultural prejudice. The cause of his suffering was his mind which was wavering between the two cultures. For him England is a Dreamland but he had to pay with his individuality for this. He was a puzzled in front of the choices. In the beginning he felt the fruitlessness of his stay in England. Later he could understand he has to involve in some adventure. He visited the countryside with great reluctance but this journey has an impact on his mind he could find the magic off London in the countryside his longest day there brought in his life a new feeling of adventure and adventure not of discovery but of recognition those places could stir his feelings. He could free his soul there. Here the nature could heal him. The Scenic beauty of England's countryside charmed him.

All the immigrants try their best to preserve their Heritage and culture; they cannot help but imbibe the social and cultural tradition of the host country.

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