

# CULTURAL PROBLEM AND SELF IDENTITY IN BRARATHI MUKHERJEE'S THE TREE BRIDE

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## *Abstract*

*Bharati Mukherjee's deals with experience of migration and acculturation in the modern multi-culturalism world but she avoids social, political and cultural criticism. She wrote many novels, short stories, essays, travel literature, journalism, and she was expert in the handle in past colonial Anglophone fiction, Asian American culture, immigration history. She focuses on the subject of reformation and national hood in the multiculturalism vs mongrelization. An essential theme of the novels of Bharati Mukherjee is racism as an important feature in Oriental and Occidental Culture. The novel are the social analysis, where the socio-political condition of the both East and West are considered as the chief subject.*

## **Introduction**

Indian diaspora is the third largest diaspora and it was very famous in Indian literature. Indian diaspora constitutes a historical and contemporary presence of people of Indian subcontinent in the other parts of the world the formation of Indian diaspora is one of the most significant demographic dislocation of modern time they can be classified as the 'sugar' and the 'masala' diaspora. Critics call these diaspora 'forced diaspora' and 'voluntary diaspora'. Vinay Lal calls it 'diaspora of labour' and diaspora of longing'. Bharathi Mukherjee's fiction reflects her preoccupation with cultural conflicts, with the results of change, and with the influence of the past on the present. Typically her protagonists are Indian women raised in a society where life is governed by tradition, as interpreted and enforced by the older members of large extended families. When such women find themselves in the very different environment of the New World, the result can be disastrous; in Mukherjee's novel *Wife* (1975), an immigrant brought to the United States after an arranged marriage feels so lost that she descends into madness and finally murders her husband. For others of Mukherjee's women protagonists, moving to a new country is liberating. In *Jasmine* (1989), a young Hindu widow who had intended to submit herself to a ritual immolation ends up on the road to California, optimistic about a future that will not be dictated either by custom or by her relatives.

Although in writing these novels Mukherjee drew on her own experience as an immigrant, *Desirable Daughter*(2002) was the first of her works that approached autobiography. The title characters of that novel are three sisters born into a family of Bengali Hindu Brahmins living in Calcutta. Like mukherjee 's sisters, one of the young women in the novel becomes a traditional Indian Wife, while another moves to the United States and assumes the life of a thoroughly Westernized professional woman. The third sister, Tara Bhattacharjee, who alone of the three has the habit of reflective thought, becomes a writer. More than either of her sisters, Tara is torn between her place in the present and her ties to the past.

Ironically, it is Tara, the real intellectual, whose marriage is arranged by her parents in keeping with ancient tradition. Tara is impressed by the brilliant Bishwapriya(“Bish”) Chatterjee, a Silon Velly multimillionaire. She realizes that she could hardly do better. In upper-class American society, however, Tara discovers that the behavior of a wife and mother is government by conventions as rigid as those she left behind. Eventually she obtain a divorce from Bish, taking their son, Rabindranath, or Rabi, with her. Living in the haight section of San Francisco with a Zen Buddhist carpenter, she thinks that at last she has attained her freedom, thought in fact her new life is also something of a stereotype.

Bharthi Mukherjee is one of the most famous female writer in literary field. Mukherjee's *The tree Bride* is a most mentionable work in her literary career. She presents the novel *The Tree Bride* is a sequel serious of the serious of the novel *Desirable Daughter*. Mukherjee explains female sufferings in society as well as in the family too. A researcher concentrates the problem of culture and self identity in *The Tree Bridge*. Mukherjee beautifully explains how the people who are migrated in to the alien nationtheir suffering in according to culture and also identity crisis. Most mention ably mukherjee explains her how female characters are face that problem. Both the novels *Desiarable Daughter and The Tree Bridge* is a autobiographical of Mukherjee. Arader can assimilate the life of Mukherjee with the novel. Mukherjee is also feminist writer too.

Culture and identity, as both being social construts, understanding the difference between culture and identity can be a problem for some. When speaking of society, people often use the term culture. This refers to the lifestyles that people embrace in becoming a part of a society. In this sense, culture is a social construct. Identity is also a social construct where the identification of people or else the manner in which they groom who they are is also influenced by the cultural attributes. Culture encompasses everything in a society and makes a profound impact on the individual's identity. This occurs in both the case of individual and group identity where the

formulation of identity is very much fueled by the role of culture in a society. This article attempts to provide a descriptive image of the two concepts while highlighting the differences.

When paying attention to culture, it can be stated that this is a term, which carries a profound meaning. Simply, it encompasses everything that makes up the lifestyles of a society. This includes traditions, values, norms, food, religion, attire, clothing, etc. this highlights that culture is a very broad concept. In other words, culture is about the making of a man or an individual.

Each society has a culture of its own that is transmitted from one generation to another, through socialization. From the birth itself, people are socialized to be a part of a culture, which is further reinforced through not only the informal institutions at play, but also the formal ones. There are different varieties to culture. Some of these are the dominant culture, sub culture, global culture, and popular culture. Culture influences the individuals of society in the creation and growth of identity.

This concept of identity can be defined as the manner in which the researcher define that. A person's identity is created due to both personal factors as well as external factors. The influence of culture through the process of socialization powers this development. Each one has different identities. This can be mainly categorized as personal identity and group identity.

Personal identity refers to how one define our self as an individual. Group identity, on the other hand, allows to define in relation to others. The various ethnicities, nationalities, religions, gender, class, caste are some of the categories under which are formulates our group identity. Identities not only promote a sense of belonging, which is essential for humans as social beings, but allow people to fit into a group and be identified as part of it.

### **Conclusion:**

The cultural space that is created is crisscrossed by a series of dislocations, dissensions, and the location becomes a transcription and translation of the originary into a new ambivalent identity.

Bharati Mukherjee with her peculiar sensibility for the cross-cultural crisis in the era of globalization endeavored to dive deep into such slippage and splitting and the distorted psyche of those immigrants who had been surviving in the conflict of traditional Indian values, inherent in their personality. The uprooted immigrants and their fascination for Western mode of living that they had chosen out of their professional compulsions or for their urge to achieve a greater freedom in liberal and dynamic society of America is also an area of Mukherjee's interest.

A notable recurrent feature of Mukherjee's novels is that they tend to depict fundamentally problematical new immigrant women who as immigrant subaltern are forced to undergo a series of transformations before they can become fully-fledged, self-confident and self-aware members of American society in negotiating the fixed and static borders. In these five novels, each woman is metamorphosed from one ethnic identity into another. In the earlier two novels, *Wife and Jasmine*, this metamorphosis occurs alongside and in the wake of a physical move from India to America.

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal status with men in ancient times, through the low points of the medieval period to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India grammarians such as Patanjali and Katyayana suggest that women played a pivotal role in the Vedic culture and were given an opportunity to reach their real potential in life.

Unfortunately the position of women deteriorated during the medieval period due to the outside influences that had crept in because of the foreign invaders either militarily or culturally. Since then women have often been victims of male oppression and treated like beasts of burden.

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