

CULTURAL IDENTITY IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S *THE KITE RUNNER*

N.Sasikala Devi

M.Phil Research Scholar, Urumu Dhanalakshmi College, Trichy.

S.kandasamy

Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, Urumu Dhanalakshmi
College, Trichy

ABSTRACT

Cultural identity refers to a person's sense of belonging to a particular culture. This process involves learning about and accepting traditions, heritage, language, religion, ancestry, aesthetics, thinking patterns and social structures of a culture. Normally, people internalize the beliefs, values, norms and social practices of their culture and identity themselves with that culture. The culture becomes a part of their self-concept. However, some studies have noted that existing cultural identity theory may not account for the fact that different individuals and groups may not react or interpret events, happenings, attitudes, etc. In the same ways as other individuals or groups. Even with natural groups, it is portrayed in trait attributes, "which is not different from those used to characterize individuals" (www.Goodreads.com). Therefore, instead of learning behavior and knowledge from cultural or religious groups, people may be learning social norms from the media to build on their cultural identity. Language may also be an important factor in culture identity. The communication that comes with sharing a language promotes connections and roots to ancestors and cultural histories. Cultural identity based on the statement that Amir's internal conflict and analyze the issue of cultural identity using the concept of Stuart Hall's cultural identity. Conclusion it gives the finding of the study of the cultural identity.

INTRODUCTION

Myron Lusting notes that cultural Identities are central to a person's sense of self. That is because culture identities "are central, dynamic and multifaceted components of one's self concept" (www.Goodreads.com). The people in Afghanistan have been nearly isolated for centuries and over time other people have fled to Afghanistan to escape persecution or harsh rulers in outside lands. Once in the region, the mountains and fertile valleys have encouraged the people to stay, making the country quite diverse and still fairly isolated.

I was kidnapped by Sunni insurgents near Fallujab, in Iraq, ambushed by the Taliban in the Korengal valley in Afghanistan and injured in a car accident that killed my driver while covering the Taliban occupation of the Swat Valley in Pakistan (www.brainyquote.com).

The people of Afghanistan tend to maintain a lifestyle that caused their migration to the region in the beginning. Through the country's isolation due to the mountains the people can do as they please and live in any manner they choose. Historically the people have lived off the land

and raised animals to survive as the waters from the mountains are plentiful and valleys provide enough food for any mountain valley's population to remain hidden or simply left alone.

The practice of Islam rituals led to a very fragmented nation in which the Pashtuns, Tajiks and Uzbeks, among many others, differ in opinions but agree in that they seek independence from the other groups and outside parties. Historically it has been difficult to enforce laws in Afghanistan's wilderness, so that the people have learned to rule themselves in small groups. It has also led to strengthening family and clan ties, while also widening the differences between groups.

The young people are severed from the ideals and positively sanctioned statuses, feelings of alienation or social isolation develop. Social isolation in the country results in undesired treatment and status. The social status of a person includes economic, employment, education and cultural loss. Due to such a difference, a person's cultural identity suffers.

The story opens in Kabul. Amir is the narrator and one of the main characters of the novel. He grows up in a luxurious home in Kabul, Afghanistan, with his father Baba. They have two Hazara servants, Ali and his son Hassan. Hassan is Amir's closest playmate. Amir feels he is a disappointing son to Baba, but he is close to Baba's friend Rahim Rhan. Amir and Hassan fly kites and read stories together, though Hassan does household work while Amir goes to school. One day three boys named Assef, Wali and Kamal threaten Amir, but Hassan scares them away with his slingshot.

In the winter there is a big-fighting tournament where boys try to cut each other's kites with glass-covered strings, and then 'kite runners' chase after the fallen kites. Amir wins tournament, and then Hassan goes to retrieve by Assef, Wali, and Kamal. Amir watches as Kamal and Wali hold Hassan down and Assef rapes him. Amir runs away, and later both he and Hassan pretend nothing has happened.

The Quest for cultural Identity is differences become his or her identity in society when they are interacting with one another. And identity is used to know the social status, such as races. Ethnicity, sexual orientation, material status, etc. besides, Cultural Identity is that part of a person's self concept group. From those definitions, it can be concluded that cultural Identity is one's feelings belongs to particular factor in forming identity.

Stuart Hall explains that cultural identities reflect the common on historical experiences and shared cultural that show us a "one people". For example is the language, the Afghans which lived speak with in Kabul speak with Dari as their language to communicate others. Language

being use as one of the sign to describe that they as one people. Since the language is the one of kind of cultural, it means that they all shared their culture through language.

Besides, the strength of the cultural identities involves the degree to which they our culture as important in the way they define themselves. The tend to see the culture as important in how we define ourselves . In another culture than when are in our own cultures. People are more aware of our cultural identities when they found themselves in another culture than when they are in their own culture. In addition, based on the problem that is Amir truing to apply his original culture in his host country in his family wants his culture still exits although they are America. Because of that the suitable theory will be Diaspora.

Afghanistan is the land of many ethnic groups, that is why the country has so many different cultures yet they are all call themselves proudly an Afghan. The culture of Afghanistan reflects its ancient roots and position as a crossroads for invading ethnic groups and traditions.

CONCLUSION

The cultural identity refers to a person's sense of belongs to a particular culture or group. This process involves learning about and accepting traditions, heritage, language, religion, ancestry, aesthetics, thinking patterns and social structure of a culture. The culture identity in Afghanistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a landlocked country that is located in south Asia. Afghanistan is a culturally mixed nation, a crossroads between the East and the west and has been an ancient focal point of trade and migration. It has an important geostrategic location, connecting South Asia, Central Asia, Central Asia and Southwest Asia. In the 19th century, Afghanistan became a buffer state in 'The Great Game' played between the British Indian Empire and Russian Empire. On august 19, 1919, following the United Kingdom over its foreign affairs.

Cultural identity because they have different cultural even they come from the same country, Afghanistan. It has the purpoe to find out the issue of cultural identity in both of them. Their cultural identities influence their life that creates many conflicts such as internal conflict, ethnic conflict and inter-religion conflict. Amir comes from the richest family and the reputable family in Kabul. He is a Pashtun and Sunni Muslim. A Pashtun is majority ethnic group and superior ethnic in Afghanistan that always does cruelty toward the majority ethnic group. His father is successful business man. Besides, his mother is lecturer.

Amir and Hassan have the cultural identity that is stable and cannot be changed by anything. Hassan always accept anything from the Pashtun, Then Amir still sticks his cultural identity even Amir lives in America. He undergoes Diaspora like he wants to marry. He chooses

a woman that comes from Pashtun. He wants to keep alive his ancient standard of pride and honor. Then he uses the Afghan wedding and he does not adopt a son from other breed.

Amir can solve his problem by departing for Afghanistan. He departs for Afghanistan with the situation is dangerous, because of many foreign countries and militants enter to Afghanistan. He wants to bring a son of Hassan in the orphanage in Afghanistan. His return to Afghanistan which the dangerous condition shows that Amir has internal conflict deeply, so that, he wants to sacrifice himself to escape from his problems.

WORKS CITED

Anonymous. *Literature Composition Essays*, Fiction, Poetry, and Drama, New

York: Longman, 2003. Print.

Farkhan, Muhammad. *Penulisan Karya Ilmiah*. Jakarta: Cella, 2006. Print.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. London: Bloomsburry, 2003. Print.

Rahman, Mushtafa Abd. *Afghanistan di Tengah Aruns Perubahan*, Jakarta:

Kompas, 2002. Print.

Robert, Edger V. *Writing Themes about Literature*. New Jersey, 1997. Print.