

# LOSS OF PLURALITY AND MOVE TOWARDS SINGULARITY IN JEAN KWOK'S NOVEL *MAMBO IN CHINATOWN*.

R. MARIAM RUBINA

I M.A ENGLISH

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE.

## ABSTRACT:

This paper deals with New York Times Bestselling author Jean Kwok's novel *Mambo In Chinatown*. Diaspora Literature portrays issues about the pull of ways of life undertaken on account of economic impulsions. This paper concentrates on Loss of Plurality and Move towards Singularity in Jean Kwok's novel *Mambo In Chinatown*. This is about the problem of human survival in a materialistic world where the worth of a human being is measured in terms of social status, longing to create an identity provides the necessity of survival and belonging with the natives.

**KEYWORDS:** Diaspora Literature- Class Tension- Social Status- Survival- Identity.

## LOSS OF PLURALITY AND MOVE TOWARDS SINGULARITY IN JEAN KWOK'S NOVEL *MAMBO IN CHINATOWN*

Award winning Chinese-American author arose as an immigrant, cast the shadows of her life in a deep and real way. This leads to an outbreak of Nomination on Penguin Stacks and Best Book of 2014 by Real Simple and Women's Day.

The word Diaspora originated from the Greek word meaning scattering. It refers to the dispersion of homeland, surviving under foreign impulses, constitutes a distinctive identity and status as a minority people. This signifies a constant set of negotiation and exchange between the nostalgia and desire for home country, traced of multiple challenges. Diaspora Literature prompts a life under foreign domination, engaged by the possibilities of the new location.

To navigate the over-whelming Literary culture, it is necessary to know other contemporary writers whose work has defined Diaspora Literature. Amy Tan, a celebrated writer most intimate on bringing the truths of relationship by her fluid fiction. Her work explores memory, imagination and truth provides a basis for this novel *Mambo In Chinatown*. Jamal Mahjoub is a Sudanese-British writer who lives under the double name of novelist and crime-fiction writer covers subjects to remember Homeland's history and explorations of identity.

Jean Kwok's work focuses on Culture Discrimination. She shifted her vision to the voice of an immigrant, who are truly in search of their roots and identity, suppressed due to ethnic and language diversities shown as regarding and fostering connectedness to the native domain. Jean Kwok debut herself with the novel *Girl In Translation* has created a vindictive space for an immigrant, who were the victims of two-field hierarchy. Her next work *Mambo In Chinatown*

arose in the ambience of Immigrant Literature, drew through sorrows and tears of an immigrant in a world of exposure. Jean Kwok's work picturizes the disillusionment of the ignorant people and their constant struggle to arrive at a conformity.

From the best-selling author of *Girl In Translation*, enumerated her views on Loss Of Plurality and Move Towards Singularity in her inspiring novel *Mambo In Chinatown*. Charlie Wong, a teenage girl is torn between family duties and her desire to create her own identity. An innocent girl works as a dishwasher in her father's shop who works as a noodle-maker in Chinatown struggles to get assimilated, but when she gets assimilated refuses to get rid of her conformity as a Western Ballroom Dancer. As a dishwasher, she is embroidered with poverty, affection, obedience, relationships etc. She profoundly hides her expectation of living from those of domestical backgrounds.

The immigrants mind prevails jeopardous journey whenever presses at extreme trials. Love and Poverty are cited as the major tiger-trap. Change is the common place to accelerate social and cultural trends in modern times. Most Americans value personal achievement. This is evident in the area of employment, measured in terms of power and wealth. Because the people who choose not to work are often regarded as Lazy or Immoral. So they get themselves occupied in small debts.

The journey suggest to think that self-fulfillment is a commitment to the development of one's personality, talents and potential. The degree of cultural change prevails members of sub-cultures to resist the change. The majority of people stick on to their own distinct within the broad framework of larger American society. They attempt to revolve around the fact of preserving their own Native traditions and identity, to maintain their cultural background.

Social structure is the network of inter-related status and roles that guides human interaction. Heredity plays an important role in shaping human personalities, by setting limits on individual. The manifested theme is that inherited characteristics place limits on what is possible, rather what they will do. The effects of migration led to a traditional habitat in the sprawling conglomerations of the society. The emerging pockets in metropolitan area are prone to exploitation.

The survivor is a silent rebel, seldom tries to transform the world to their private vision. They endure their sufferings quietly to preserve innocence. This character acquire a new moral awareness as they intensify their struggle for survival. Poverty fades Charlie and desire pulls her beyond which she tends to work as a receptionist in Ballroom Dancing Studio. The greater shame in America was the Guilty of Failure. Charlie's growth from the victim to the survivor heightens up when she joins the Ballroom Dancing Studio.

All these provokes to suggest the fact of psychological war between Id and Ego of Charlie Wong. Hidden strength prompts Charlie to suffer and struggle against the demeaning conditions of society, enable to pass beyond the extremes of life. Charlie was trapped between Western and Eastern traditions, when she pays attention to look after her own sister. Her father's suspicion of Charlie using Western Medicine combines her strand of belonging.

The immigrant minds are not based on a competitive model rather co-operative one. Their cherishment's gets limited to a certain extent of hard work, commitment, degree of satisfaction from the creative process. They believed their way of education is to provide skills needed to live successfully in both the Native American and Non-Native American. Charlie could not imagine a life without her father as well as the craze over Western styles sides. She could not sacrifice either of the one ,prevails a constant struggle between tradition and modern times, contrast to her father's stark, desire deep privileged to embark on his heredity in the record of history.

The immigrants survive under foreign impulses, threatened and alienated from the rest of the society, heightens up the entry of singularity amidst the plural conqueror. It gets reflected through Charlie's character. She enters in to the world of exposure and belonging despise leaving an extensive tradition considering the craze and astonishment over the sudden turn of her life.

#### WORKS CITED:

Jean Kwok. *Mambo In Chinatown*. Penguin Random House Press,2014.

Maratha Banta. *Failure and Success in America*. Princeton University, 1978. New Jersey.

T.B. Bottomore. *A Guide To Problems and Literature*. Blackie and Son Publication,1986. India.

Sukhbir Singh. *The Survivor in Contemporary American Fiction*. B.K. Publishing Corporation ,1991. New Delhi.

W. Laverne Thomas. *Sociology: The study of Human Relationships*. Harcourt Brace and Company, 1990.

Vani Prabhakar. *Social Problems: Issues and Perspectives*. Wisdom Press. New Delhi.

<[www. Bibleodyssey.org](http://www.Bibleodyssey.org)>

<[https// ezinearticles.com](https://ezinearticles.com)>