



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2017; 3(6): 643-644
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 01-04-2017
Accepted: 02-05-2017

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Diasporic Dream and Struggle for Self Identity of Jasmine in the Novel Jasmine by Bharti Mukherjee

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Abstract

The term diaspora is used to refer to any person or ethnic population included to leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout the other parts of the world and the ensuing developments in their dispersal and culture. The migration of Indians as professionals, labourers and traders to the rest of the world is a continuing saga of Indian migration. Indian females when migrate in an another country what effect comes in her psychology that is clarified by Bharti Mukherjee in her novel Jasmine. But that diaspora is a kind of diasporic dream for her. Jasmine has the urge to go abroad because of the suffocated atmosphere for female survival in her own native place India (Hasnapur). This whole journey is her struggle for self-Identity. She realises her self-identity in her complete freedom and in her finding out the best suitable circumstances in which she can live freely.

Keywords: Culture, migration, self-identity, freedom

Introduction

In the history of Indian English women novelists Bharti Mukherjee, an Indian American writer has occupied a prominent place. Her fiction explores the nature of American identity through the perspective of an illegal immigrant. Her characteristics are like the Third World Immigrants who attempts to assimilate into North American life style.

She explains that her task as an author is to make her unknown world comprehensible to main stream American readers. Besides this, her novels also represent a quest for identity and fulfilment which are traced through a journey from expatriation to immigration.

The struggle for the self-identity experienced by the immigrants is very well portrayed by Bharti Mukherjee in her powerful novel Jasmine. Jasmine, the protagonist of the novel fights against the unfavourable circumstances comes out from them and carries out a new identity in an alien country.

She suggests that the new literature created by women is a spiritual struggle to create new ways of living in the world and a new name of the great power that provides orientation in the world. She also believes that these are two dimensions of a single struggle; her fulfilled vital personal experiences should be transferred into universe and ideal term by consciously choosing action which is expensive, creative and growth affirming.

This subsumes the process of going beyond a narrow and constructing mould (as symbolized by breaking the pitcher) to become a complete individual and to arrive self-realization through making the right choice and enlightenment.

To achieve some or all of conditions for fulfilment must therefore become the mission of every life. Bharti Mukherjee's attempts at integrating her ideas into her fiction though the portrayal of Jyoti- Jasmine- Jase-Jane to remake an existence which threatens end even before it begins.

At the age of seven, Jyoti isa helpless doom. By the shadow of a future which holds only "widowhood and exile". But she is not cowed down by fate. Even in childhood she is aware of the potency of power through which she can win all battles and establish a strong identity.

According to Bharti Mukherjee life is itself a search and struggle for the self-identity and diasporic experiences are favourable for it. Though journey from place to place one can realise its identity and make this quest satisfied.

Jasmine's attempt to reshape destiny and make it the foundation of the development of her inner potential is sheer naivety. This is brought forcefully to her mind after Prakash's murder.

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But her indomitable will surpasses each adversity and helps her to restructure her mission with a single minded zeal which impels her later success.

Conclusion

As jasmine says that there is no harmless compassionate way to remake one unique self. We have to murder whom we were so and can rebirth ourselves in the images of dreams. So the perceptions and interpretations change even if the basic faiths remain unaltered. And her scrambling ahead of Taylor is the climax of her successful quest which propels her into a new dimension of existence.

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