

**ALIENATION AND EMOTIONAL TRIBULATION IN BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S  
"THE TIGER'S DAUGHTER"**

---

**Dr.M.Kiruthika, M.A.,M.Phil.,Ph.D**

Assistant Professor of English, Devanga Arts College, Aruppukottai.

---

My object in this paper is to show how the immigrants in Bharati Mukherjee's "The Tiger's Daughter" and try to adapt to American society and how in consequence are portrayed as rootless. In these the novelist seizes upon the moment as it is lived in all its intensity, confusion and desperation by people who broken away from their cultural and historical roots. Maya in Anita Desai's cry, the peacock finds mellifluous notes emerging from flora and fauna of India life. They are a relish of reality which enchant her senses. The world outside for kim is the reflection of his self.

The primary motivation of the novel has always been projection of the social situation and the reflection of social consciousness. In tends to reflect the contingent reality in an artistic fashion. Indian novelists have risen to the occasion and adequately reflected the various human relationships including the image of woman and man-woman relationship.

Bharati Mukherjee's Voices her presence of Indian diaspora in America. She presents a different diasporic identity in her novels and focuses on cross cultural issues. She explains in detail the cultural boundaries and conflicts in settling abroad.

Many Indian Women Novelist have explored female subjectivity in order to establish an identity that is not circumscribed by a Patriarchal society. Most of these women novelist of the nineteen-eighties and nineteen- nineties are candid and outspoken about female body. Female consciousness and sexual freedom. But the same time, they reflect a highly sensitive perception of social reality as well as keen sense of history, myth and tradition.

Theory and Practice of diasporic writing is the work of exiles , expatriates or immigrants who have experienced unsettlement at all level. Diasporas are identified as exiles, refugees, guest workers, expatriates, and immigrants and transnational. They are differently identified due to their course of migration and their response to distraction which from their sensibility in host land.

Indian diaspora concerns to Indian migration, their socio-economic and cultural experiences of adaptation and assimilation in the host societies. Literature written by these diasporic writers is clearly inspired by their personal experiences. The pain of migration and

displacement felt by two novels and stories are the tales of deep agony, nostalgia and of rootlessness where characters feel more emotionally and mentally tortured than physical fatigue.

The study will be concentrating the major issues of the diasporic consciousness in the terms of emigrant, expatriate, immigrant, migrant Transnational.

- ❖ Through the diasporic writings how the writers have dealt with the process of migration, settlement of Indians in migrated countries.
- ❖ As an Indian writers how did they write and give up their multi regional linguistic, religious and cultural identities.
- ❖ To develop self maintained organized association and maintain their Indian Identity.
- ❖ Finally how did they develop their global identity as an Indian diaspora.

Bharati Mukherjee's Novel *The Tiger's daughter* stands out as a unique fictional work by virtue of its heroine's psyche and its indubitable technical excellence.

Bharati Mukherjee's first novel "The Tiger's Daughter" gives an acute and five manifestation of diasporic experience. It is an interesting story of an Upper class Bengali Brahmin girl, Tara Banerjee who goes to America for higher studies. Though afraid of the unknown ways of America in the beginning, she tries to comprise herself by entering into the lock with an American. She refuses to India after seven years, only to find herself a total stranger in the inherited milieu she realizes that she is now neither Indian nor American in truism. She gets totally confused and lost in such situation.

In India a marriage is not simply a union of two individuals, it is a coming together of two families as well. David is hostile to genealogies and often mistakes her for family for over dependence. He asks naïve questions about Indian customs and traditions and she feels completely insecure in our alien atmosphere because 'Medison Squere was unbearable and her husband was after all a foreigner.

Bharati Mukherjee's novels are the outcome of the cultural alienation that is a world phenomenon now. The tremendous difference between two cultures, two ways of life, leads a person to a feeling of shock. When a person leaves his own culture and enters another, his old values come in conflict with the new ones he finds and sporting, reverent and naughty. But in "The Tiger Daughter". Tara finds in India nothing to her liking catelln – continental Hotel evokes emotion of escape from Calcutta. There is of course, no escape from Calcutta", For Tara, Calcutta appear to be Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* with riots in the city, buses burning and workers surrounding the war houses.

Seven years ago, Tara admired the houses of Marine drive but her stay at Vassar has changed outlook, on Indian life. They find her “Slubborn” the relatives attributed Taras’ im-properties to her seven years in America” (p-19) While on the one hand she cannot sympathize with the aunts’ religious attempts to heal her child, on the other she thinks : “ I don’t hate you, I love you and the miserable child, the crooked feet, the smoking incense holder, “ I love you al” (p-38)

Her split personality raises doubts about her husband not understanding her country through her .... probably he had not understood her either (p-50). She is convinced of her “. . . Simple request to share piety with family “ (p-54) and in consequence, she thinks “... in the end she would not stay”

For Tara it is violence and gheltos in American life that matter, but her friends do not accept the facts about American life. They want to be told about their fantasies of that life. Tara is caught in an anti-thetical tension when she realizes that admiration for her does not come from either quarter.

According to M.Sivaramkrishna “The Tigers Daughter is “visionless because it is voiceless”. It is a half-truth. The problem that arises with the critics is whether that vision has been adequately communicated? If that is so, what does Tara’s religious integration towards the close of the novel indicate? Does it show the intensity of the moment lived without any thematic relevance? Does the structure in the novel.Jasbir Jain’s division of The Tiger’s Dazy into four sections, and her observation that . .... the third section of the novel is concerned with Tara’s early experiences in America, her loneliness, her attempt to stick to Indian ways and the gradual acculturation leading to her marriage to David cart right ... miss the details included in the novel.

Tara’s predicament is enlarged are made to reflect the confused Indian ethos with its political slogans its false social rhetoric and its fossilized ritual idiom. And in a last attempt to communicate – to retrieve herself. She contemplates a state of existence where one is free from language as a distorting gesture. Tara is thus portrayed as a tigress at bay in the forests of dried up imagination and the novel ends inconclusively with Tara, on her way for her air reservations, getting caught in one of the periodic flare-ups common in Calcutta.

Bharati Mukherjee mention in an interview that My first novel “The Tiger’s Daughter” embodies the loneliness I felt but couldn’t acknowledge even to myself, as I negotiated the no man’s land between the country of my past and continent of my present. So this novel is an autobiographical manner Tara, the protagonist is in oscillation between the Americanisms and Indianans through where she is unable to come to a conclusion thus the

novel pursues an opposite direction with the relation of India of Tara, Twenty two years old daughter of a wealthy and prominent Bengali Brahmin.

As a result she cannot come to a conclusion between her eastern and western world. She decides to rejoin with her husband. So she reserves the air ticket to go to Newyork. The end of Tara remains mysterious where the novel ends with these lines.

And Tara, still locked in a car across the street from the caletti continental, wondered whether she would even get out of Calcutta and if she didn't whether David would even know that she love him fiercely.[TD-210].

#### References

Mukherjee Bharati. The Middle Man and other stories

N.Y.Viking penguin, 1988

Wife, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975

Jasmine, N.Y. Viking penguin, 1989

Darkness, Markhan Ontari O : Penguin 1985

The Tigers Daughter Pengum, 1970

Lal, Malashri, The Law of the Threshold, Shimla : Indian Institute of Advance study, 1995.